



Your Guide to Group Visits to

**Ely**  
and

**East Cambridgeshire**

# Visit Enchanting Ely

Located only 15 miles from Cambridge, the historic City of Ely is your ideal group visit destination. The city of Ely is rich in history, charm and beauty and the jewel in the crown of the Fens. Formerly an island and surrounded by dramatic lowland fens, Ely rises into the big wide-open skies. Dominating the skyline is one of the England's most beautiful and largest Cathedrals. This medieval cathedral known locally as the 'Ship of the Fens', is famous for its unique Octagon tower, which when lit can be seen from afar. The cathedral is also home to the only national museum dedicated to stained glass. If its history you are interested in, then Ely's Museum, housed in the old Gaol, provides an interesting insight into past life in the Fens.

Ely's most famous historical figure was Oliver Cromwell, who lived in Ely for many years before becoming Lord Protector of England. His home is open to the public and visitors can learn more about him in exhibits about 17<sup>th</sup> Century life and its turbulent times.

Ely has a splendid array of historic buildings, many dating to medieval times and is characterised by its pattern of narrow streets and monastic buildings. As you would perhaps expect from a place so attractive to tourists, there are many gift shops, craft shops, antique shops, art galleries and ubiquitous teashops not to mention a variety of restaurants to suit all tastes.

Ely has a beautiful waterside area where you can enjoy a boat trip, riverside walks or listen to music in Jubilee Gardens with all musical tastes covered during the summer weekends.

To view Ely at its very best, follow the Eel Heritage Walk, a trail depicting the story of the life of an eel cleverly portrayed in five pieces of public art. Ely is very proud of its connection with eels and the name Ely is derived from the Isle of Eels when it was surrounded by water and marshland. Eels are still caught in the Great River Ouse. Historically eels were part of the local staple diet as well as a valuable source of income. Clients came from London with the popularity of jellied eels although today this is a dwindling market. Smoked eels, now considered a delicacy, can be purchased on Ely's award winning Farmers Market and dishes such as eel stew and eel pie can be found regularly on the menu of several restaurants. Ely even holds an Eel Day each year which is a celebration of its traditions and culture. The event, held in April, starts a season of major events including the Folk Festival, Open Air Musical, Harvest Festival and Apple Day.



# Suggested Itinerary for Day Visit to Ely

**Arrival and coffee** - choose from either traditional tearooms with beautiful architecture and stunning gardens or perhaps a contemporary setting is more to your liking.

**Ely Cathedral** - Ely's top tourist attraction and it is easy to see why. Look in awe and wonder at this 12<sup>th</sup> century building in your own time or take advantage of having a more informative experience by having a guided tour. Tours also include optional visits to the Octagon and/or Lantern Towers where the spectacular view makes it well worth the climb!

**Stained Glass Museum** – housed in the South Triforium of Ely Cathedral, with its stunning collection of stained glass is the only museum dedicated to stained glass in the country. A guided tour is highly recommended as it unveils the story of stained glass.

**Lunch** – whatever your taste and budget, Ely has a host of different eateries on offer whether you choose to eat as a group or as individuals. The midday break also gives you an opportunity to visit the many gift shops, craft shops, antique shops, art galleries or market (depending on the day of your visit).

**Oliver Cromwell's House** – home to the Lord Protector, Cromwell lived in this house with his family for ten years, his only remaining home apart from Hampton Court Palace, London. For an atmospheric experience, tours using costumed guides are recommended.

**Ely Museum** – discover the story of Ely from prehistoric times to the 20<sup>th</sup> century set in a former Gaol. Tours will bring the rooms and artifacts to life.

**Time for a stroll** - following the eel trail is an excellent way of seeing the historic Ely at its best. This circular walk self-guided by brass waymarkers set in the ground, takes you past the oldest parts of Ely with its beautiful monastic buildings with stunning architecture and spectacular views.

**Time for a Meal before you leave** – many of the attractions host evening tours and/or drinks receptions. So before you leave, take advantage of the truly atmospheric experience that is created in some of Ely's oldest buildings before partaking some of Ely's finest cuisine delights.



# Out and About in the Area

Nestled in the heart of the Fens, Ely and the surrounding area boasts big skies with wide open spaces and gentle countryside. The lowland fens, which stretch for miles, display some of the most dramatic scenery you will ever experience.

In addition to the many attractions in Ely, the area has a wealth of interesting and diverse attractions which can be mixed and matched to make up a day visit or short break touring package. Attractions include two National Trust properties: Anglesey Abbey and Wicken Fen.

Anglesey Abbey is a Jacobean style house, built on the site of a 12th century Augustinian priory, which contains a priceless art collection and one of the National Trust's largest collections of clocks. It is surrounded by a 98 acre landscape garden and arboretum with over 100 pieces of sculpture and is famous for its snowdrop walks in winter and its collection of dahlias in the summer.

Wicken Fen in contrast, is the ideal place to explore the fen landscape as it once looked. This nature reserve is one of the few remaining fragments of undrained fenland, and home to rare species of plant, insects and birds. A patchwork of different habitats has encouraged a vast range of wildlife and the reserve is one of the most important wetlands in Europe.

The Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust in Welney is renowned for its visiting swans and their winter floodlit feeds. Visit the newly built, eco-friendly visitor centre, where you can explore the reserve and the fascinating Fenland Worlds discovery area.

Further Fen life information can be found at Prickwillow Steam Engine Museum which houses a collection of large historic engines and pumps, together with related memorabilia telling the story of 'The Drainage of the Fens' and artefacts used in agriculture and horticulture in the fens and surrounding areas.

If you really want to know what life was like in the Fens then a visit to Burwell Museum is a must. It has recreated scenes depicting life as a farmer, blacksmith, housewife, soldier and many more spanning the years. The most heard comment you will hear is 'I remember that'!



# Ely Cathedral

The College, Ely , Cambs, CB7 4DL

01353 667735 fax 01353 665658

receptionist@cathedral.ely.anglican.org www.cathedral.ely.anglican.org

We pride ourselves in offering a warm welcome to all visitors this magnificent building whether your interest is religious, historical and architectural or simply to explore and experience this wonderful place.

Thousands of visitors come to Ely Cathedral each year from all over the world. Few are ever disappointed, for there is something here for everyone. It gives a vision of continuity and worship down the centuries. Lovers of architecture will rejoice in the many different styles, blending to make the whole. History abounds around every corner, and the beauty created by artists in wood, stone and glass is everywhere.

## Opening Hours

7.00am – 7.00pm April – October

7.00am to 5.30pm November - March

## Tours available

Ground floor guided tours (Free)

Monastic Buildings Tours

Special Interest tours available by prior booking.

Octagon & West Tower Tours at an additional £3.20.

Spaces are limited and must be prebooked. Climbers should be physically fit & children over 10 years old.

## Group admission prices

Adult £4.80

Concession £4.30

Which includes seniors and student groups

Children under 10 free if with adult

## Minimum Group Size

15 or by arrangement.

## Maximum Group Size

Any size of group can be accommodated by arrangement.

## Eating Facilities

Refectory Café in Cathedral. Almonry Restaurant & gardens located in medieval monastic buildings in cathedral close.

## Disabled Access

Yes – All entrances

## Gift Shop

One in the Cathedral and one in, the city centre

## Coach Parking

Ample free car parking is available to visitors in official car parks within the city centre.



# The Stained Glass Museum

Susan Mathews, Curator

The Stained Glass Museum, Ely Cathedral, Ely CB7 4DL

curator@stainedglassmuseum.com

www.stainedglassmuseum.com

Tel: 01353 660347

## 'A Gem in the Fens'

The Stained Glass Museum is a hidden treasure within Ely Cathedral. An independent museum, it is uniquely dedicated to the art of stained glass. A display of over 100 original stained glass panels dating from the early 13th century to the present. Also more modern work by William Morris, John Piper and Brian Clarke.

The Museum has a well-stocked, reasonably priced, book and gift shop specialising in unique hand-made and locally-sourced glass items.

A special pre-Christmas selling exhibition draws visitors from far and wide seeking attractive Christmas presents.

The Museum is open daily and throughout the year there are regular exhibitions, workshops and events. It also works with schools to provide an entertaining educational introduction to the art and display of stained glass.

### Opening Hours

Mon-Sat 10.30 – 5.00

Saturday (winter)

10.30 – 4.30

Sunday 12 noon – 6.00

Sun (winter) 12 noon – 4.30

### Disabled Access

Not accessible by wheelchair  
(interactive visit at ground floor)

### Gift Shop

Yes. All profits go to the Museum.

### Tours available

Audio-guide (4 handsets)

Guided Tour (charge) by appointment

Tour and Glass-Painting Taster (charge)

Illustrated Talks off-site

### Eating Facilities

In Cathedral

### Group admission prices

Adults £2.50

Senior/Sudents £2.00

Children £1.00

### Group Size

10 Minimum

25 Maximum

### Coach Parking

50 metres



# Oliver Cromwell's House

29 St. Mary's Street, Ely, Cambs CB7 4HF

Tel: 01353 662062 Fax: 01353 668518

tic@eastcambs.gov.uk      www.eastcambs.gov.uk

Oliver Cromwell was born on April 25<sup>th</sup> 1599. Since his death as Lord Protector in 1658 his fascinating life, ambitions, motives and actions have been the subject of much investigation and debate.

Cromwell's family moved to Ely in 1636 and remained for some ten years. Today his home can be visited and we invite you to experience what domestic life would have been like in the 17<sup>th</sup> Century in a variety of re-created period rooms as well as exhibitions detailing the Civil War and Cromwell's connection with Fen life including a video on the draining of the fens. See Mrs Cromwell's kitchen, and meet Oliver Cromwell in his study, before visiting the Haunted Bedroom – if you dare!

## Open Hours

1<sup>st</sup> April to 31<sup>st</sup> October 10 am to 5.30 pm 7 days a week

1<sup>st</sup> November to 31<sup>st</sup> March 11 am to 4 pm (Mon-Fri and Sun)

10 am to 5 pm (Sats)

## Disabled Access

Ground Floor Only

## Eating Facilities

None

## Gift Shop

Large selection of souvenirs, gifts and books

## Tours Available

Guided Tours (with or without costumed guides)

Walking Tours of City Centre

Ghost Tours

## Group Admission Price

£3.25 adult, £2.75 concessions for admission to House

For school bookings please contact House for prices

£15 extra for guide

Walking Tours of the City £3.50 per person (£2.75 concessions)

## Group Size

Minimum 10, Maximum 20

## Coach Parking

Located 5 minutes walking distance away



# Ely Museum

The Old Gaol, Market Street, Ely, Cambs CB7 4LS

Tel: 01353 666655

admin@elymuseum.org.uk [www.elymuseum.org.uk](http://www.elymuseum.org.uk)

A bright and friendly local history museum, located in the Bishop's Gaol in the centre of the historical city. The Museum is the history centre for the Isle of Ely & the Fens and it takes you on a journey through time from prehistory to the twentieth century. Displays include original prison cells, fossils that can be touched, Roman remains and an archive film of the Fens including punt guns and eel catching. There is also a program of special events and temporary exhibitions running throughout the year.

## Open Hours

Summer: Mon-Sat 10.30 to 5.00 pm  
Sun 1.00 to 5.00 pm

Winter: Mon, Wed-Sat 10.30 to 4.00 pm  
Sun 1.00 to 4.00 pm (closed Tues)

## Disabled Access

Wheelchair available and stair lift to 1st Floor

## Eating Facilities

None

## Gift Shop

Wide range of gifts and books

## Tours Available

Guided tours of the galleries can be made available if booked in advance

## Group Admission Price

£2.00 per person, Leader Free

## Group Size

Minimum 10, Maximum 30

## Coach Parking

Ample free car parking is available to visitors in official car parks within the city centre.



# Burwell Museum

Mill Close, Burwell, Cambridgeshire

Tel: 01638 605544/742847

[museum@burwellmuseum.org](mailto:museum@burwellmuseum.org)      [www.burwellmuseum.or.uk](http://www.burwellmuseum.or.uk)

Attractively housed in a series of reconstructed historical buildings, everyday village life spanning from Stoneage to present is fascinatingly portrayed. From farming machinery to vintage cars, to Victorian school room and village shop scenes. Step back in time and be reminded of an age gone past.

## Open Hours

Easter to end of October. Sunday and Thursdays and Bank Holiday Mondays  
2 pm to 5 pm. Groups by prior appointment.

## Disabled Access

Stair climber chair to all upper levels.  
Wheelchair access to most of museum  
Disabled toilets

## Eating Facilities

Refreshments on special event days. Menu for groups on request.  
Picnic Area

## Gift Shop

Interesting selection

## Tours Available

Tours arranged for groups and organisations

## Group Admission Price

£2.00 adult  
£1.00 children  
Season tickets available  
Young groups £1.00 per head

## Group Size

Minimum 10      Maximum 60

## Coach Parking

Disabled parking and coach drop off at museum entrance



# Anglesey Abbey, Gardens & Lode Mill

Julia Sumner, Anglesey Abbey, Gardens and Lode Mill, Lode, Cambridge CB25 9EJ

Tel: 01 223 810080

angleseyabbey@nationaltrust.org.uk [www.nationaltrust.org.uk/angleseyabbey](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/angleseyabbey)

This Jacobean style house, built on the site of a 12th century Augustinian priory, contains a priceless art collection and one of the National Trust's largest collections of clocks. It is surrounded by a 40ha (98 acre) landscape garden and arboretum with over 100 pieces of sculpture. Working watermill.

## Open Hours

1 March 2007 – 29 February 2008

Garden (Winter Garden)	1 Mar – 19 Mar	10.30 – 4.30	Closed Mondays and Tuesdays * - no groups Sundays or Bank Holidays
House	21 Mar – 28 Oct	1 – 5	
Garden (Summer)	21 Mar – 28 Oct	10.30 – 5.30	
Garden (Winter Garden)	31 Oct – 23 Dec	10.30 – 4.30	
	28 Dec – 29 Feb 08	10.30 – 4.30	
Lode Mill	As garden (Winter Garden)	11 – 3.30 (Winter Garden)	
	As garden (Summer)	1 – 5 (Summer)	
Restaurant	As garden	As garden	
Shop/Plants	As garden	As garden	

\* Open Bank Holiday Mondays in summer season.

Additional openings: Tuesday in local school holidays and during the snowdrop season, Gardens, Shop, Plants & Restaurant 10.30am – 5.30pm (4.30pm during Winter season) and the Mill is open 1 – 5pm. (11am – 3.30pm during winter season) (The House is closed). 3, 10 April; 29 May; 24, 31 July; 7, 14, 21, 28 August; 23 October; 1 January 8; 22 January to 24 February 08.

## Disabled Access

Yes, but some limitations

## Eating Facilities

Licensed Restaurant and picnic area

## Gift Shop

Yes, and plant sales

## Tours Available & Group Admission Price (Booking essential)

	Adult	Child
<b>Summer Season</b>		
House, Gardens & Mill	£7.30	£3.65
Gardens & Mill	£4.40	£2.20
<b>Winter Season</b>		
Winter Garden	£3.50	£1.75

**Group Size** Minimum 15, Maximum 60 **Coach parking** 50 yards to entrance



NTPL/Nick Meers

# Wicken Fen National Nature Reserve

The National Trust, Lode Lane, Wicken, Cambridgeshire CB7 5XP

Tel: 01353 720274

wickenfen@nationaltrust.org.uk [www.wicken.org.uk](http://www.wicken.org.uk)

Wicken Fen is an internationally important wetland nature reserve, and a unique fragment of the wilderness that once covered East Anglia. It is a haven for birds, insects, plants and mammals alike. The Sedge Fen is undrained fenland, but accessible either via the Boardwalk or lush grass droves. The Adventurers' Fen has open water and a wealth of wildfowl and waders. In addition, the wooden working windpump and traditional fen cottage provide an insight into the social history of the fens.

## Open Hours

Reserve open every day (except 25<sup>th</sup> Dec), dawn – dusk

Visitor Centre open Tuesday – Sunday, and Bank Holiday Mondays, 10am - 5pm, Jan - March

Every day, 10am - 5pm, April - October

Tuesday - Sunday, 10am - 4.30pm, November - February 08

Café open

Saturday & Sunday, 10.30am - 4pm, January - February

Tuesday - Sunday, 10am - 5pm, March

Every day, 10am - 5pm, April - October

Wednesday - Sunday, 10.30am - 4.30pm, November - February 08

(other days by arrangement for groups)

## Disabled Access

¾ mile circular Boardwalk on Sedge

Fen, with access to 2 bird hides

All buildings ground floor, no steps

Hearing Induction loops in Visitor

Centre and café

## Eating Facilities

Café seats 30 inside, plus

outside tables

## Gift Shop in

### Visitor Centre

Range of wildlife books and products, local craft, and gifts

## Tours Available

Guided walks or introductory

illustrated talk – please book in

advance

## Group Admission Price

2007/08 rates

£4.00 per person (NT members free)

£5.00 per person for guided walk or talk

(NT members £1.00)

## Group Size

Minimum 12

Maximum 30

## Coach Parking

60 yards



# Prickwillow Engine Museum

Main Street, Prickwillow, Ely, Cambs CB7 4UN

Tel: 01353 688360 or 720737 07801050267 (out of hours)

[www.prickwillow-engine-museum.co.uk](http://www.prickwillow-engine-museum.co.uk) [enquiries@prickwillow-engine-museum.com](mailto:enquiries@prickwillow-engine-museum.com)

The Museum, in its picturesque setting close to Ely on the River Lark, holds a unique collection of large working diesel engines that played a vital part in maintaining the drainage of the once uninhabitable fens nearby.

Displays of artefacts, photographs and interactive media illustrate the story of fen drainage and the social history of the local area.

The highlight of a visit can be seeing and hearing one of the old engines in action and talking to engineers who have worked with the engines.

## Open Hours

May 1st–Sept 31<sup>st</sup>, Fri–Tues 11am–4.30pm

April & Oct weekends only

Tour type 3 can often be arranged outside these hours

## Disabled Access

Yes

## Gift Shop

Yes

## Eating Facilities

50 seater café serving snacks and drinks, lunches on event days and by arrangement

## Tours Available

1. basic visit (no guide)
2. guided tour with explanatory talk
3. guided tour with explanatory talk and engine run including tea/coffee and biscuits

## Group Admission Price

1. £3.00 per person/ £2.00 concessions. Minimum 20 paid as group gets 15% discount
2. £3.00 per person/ £2.00 concessions paid as group. Minimum charge £50.00
3. £3.50 per person. Minimum charge £70.00

## Group Size

Minimum 20, Maximum 50

## Coach Parking

In car park adjacent



# The National Stud

Tours Administrator, The National Stud, Newmarket, Suffolk CB8 9AA  
tours@nationalstud.co.uk    www.nationalstud.co.uk

The National Stud is set in 500 acres of beautifully laid out estate, including tree lined avenues, post and railed paddocks and purpose designed stable yards. Visitors will see behind the scenes of this historic but also modern stud farm, be shown valuable stallions, mares and foals and be informed and entertained by fascinating facts and anecdotes.

One of numerous enthusiastic visitors in 2006 commented:-

*"Excellent value for money, very informative with humour as well! Best day out for ages. We would certainly recommend it to all our friends."*

## Open Times

1st March – 30th September plus Newmarket Autumn Racedays.

Tours depart twice daily at 11.15am and 2.30pm

Other times for Groups by arrangement.

## Disabled Access

Yes

## Refreshments

The Coffee Shop will be open throughout throughout the day for light lunches, cream teas and gifts

## Gift Shop

Yes

## Tours Available

Standard Guided Tour by coach (visiting or stud coach) and on foot is of approximately 75 minutes' duration and is suitable for all.

ExtraSpecial tours for those with prior racing/breeding knowledge can also be arranged.

Group Tours for groups of 20 or more

## Admission Price for 2007

Adults £6.50

Concessions £5.00

Family ticket £20.00

Group Adult £5.50

Group Concession £4.00

(A supplement of £0.50 per person is payable for Groups using National Stud coaches)

## Group Size

Minimum: 20

Maximum: Up to coach size, but 50 is the recommended maximum

## Coach Parking

Drop-off/collection point is adjacent to reception, cafeteria and toilets.



# Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust

Welney Wetland Centre, Hundred Foot Bank, Welney, Nr. Wisbech, PE14 9TN

Tel. 01353 860711 Fax. 01353 863524

info.welney@wwt.org.uk [www.wwt.org.uk/visit/welney](http://www.wwt.org.uk/visit/welney)

Our new visitor centre is now open. The specially designed, eco-friendly, two-storey building and landscaped grounds offer some exciting features.

The improved facilities and increased space provide a fantastic base from which visitors can discover, explore and learn about the wealth of wildlife that exists on the WWT Welney reserve – including breeding birds in spring, dragonflies, butterflies and wildflowers in summer and thousands of swans, ducks and other water birds in winter.

This year sees the introduction of a new programme of exciting events and activities, including weekend guided walks and supervised pond-dipping, family trails and fun workshops every school holiday, detailed wildlife workshops and special events.

## Open Hours

Open Daily except Christmas day  
Summer Opening (March - October)  
9.30am to 6.00pm - Widgeon Café closes at 4.30pm  
& Visitor Centre/Shop closes at 5pm

Winter Opening (8th November - 24th February 2008)

Monday - Wednesday 10.00am to 5.00pm - Widgeon café closes at 4.30pm

Thursday & Friday 10.00am to 8.00pm - Widgeon café closes at 5.30pm

Saturday & Sunday 10.00am to 8.00pm - Widgeon café closes at 6.00pm

## Magnificent Swan Feeds

Swan Feeds occur daily in the Winter at 3.30pm and, from 26th December, at 12 noon.  
Floodlit feeds take place Thursday - Sunday at 6.30pm

## Facilities

Our menus incorporate local food and flavours using only the tastiest ingredients, many of which will be grown locally and organically depending on seasonality. All our food is homemade and cooked on our premises. We love our local food and hope you do too!

## Gift Shop

All profits from the gift shop and Widgeon Café go towards the conservation work of WWT Welney.

## Disabled Access

Wheelchairs are available on site with good access to the visitor centre, bridge, centrally-heated main observatory and many hides and walkways. A hearing loop exists in the visitor centre and main observatory.



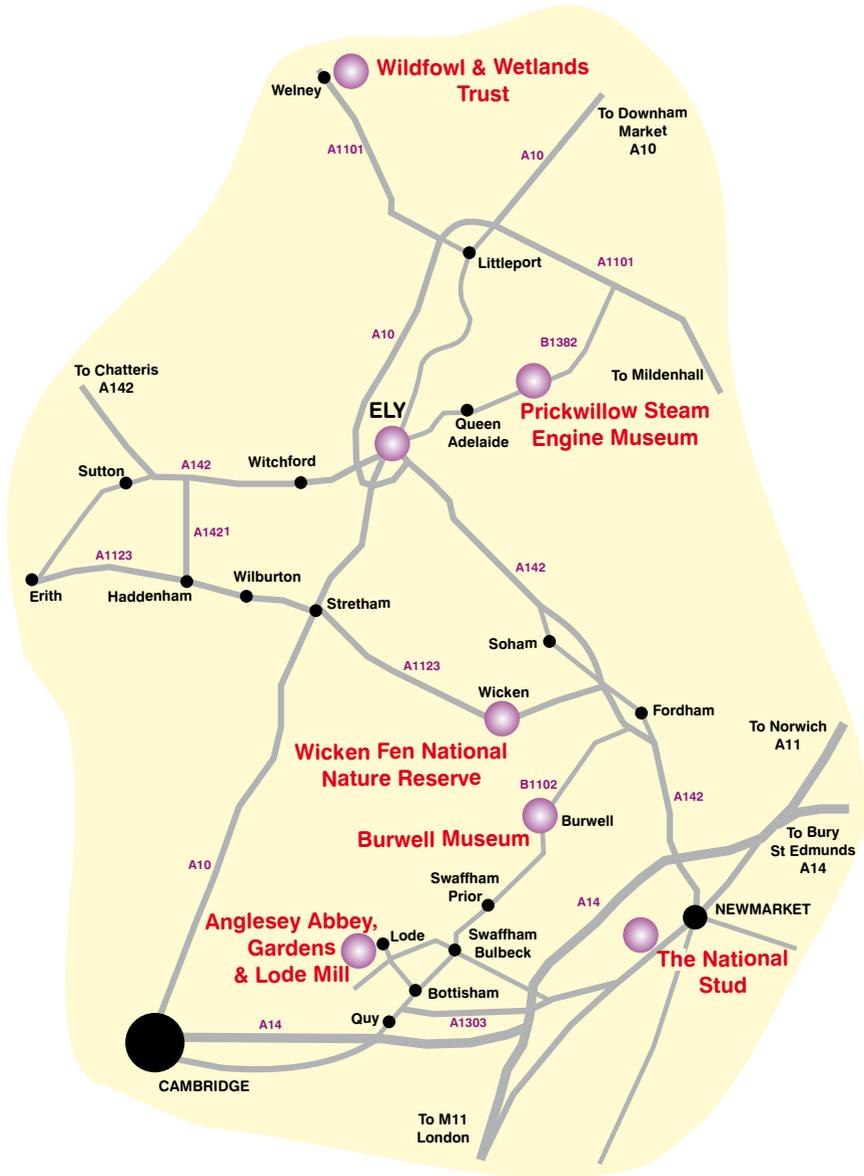
# How to Reach Us

Ely is easily accessed by road via the A10 or A142 off the A14. There is also a centrally located railway station, with good links to the rest of the region and London.

## Ely City Centre Map



# East Cambridgeshire Map



Reprographic Services – East Cambridgeshire District Council

For further information contact:  
Ely's Tourist Information Centre, Oliver Cromwell's House,  
29 St. Mary's Street, Ely, Cambridgeshire CB7 4HF  
Email: [tic@eastcamb.gov.uk](mailto:tic@eastcamb.gov.uk) [www.eastcamb.gov.uk/tourism](http://www.eastcamb.gov.uk/tourism)  
Tel: 01353 662062 Fax: 01353 668518