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**HEREWARD**  
Community Rail Partnership

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Community  
Rail Network

# Visit Peterborough

*Gateway to the Hereward Line*

PETERBOROUGH





*Located on the main East Coast line, Peterborough is a vibrant cathedral city with a rich history, array of culture and nature.*

**Key destinations which can be reached directly by long-distance trains include, York, Leeds, Newcastle, Edinburgh, and London. LNER, the station operator, provides many of these services.**

Other principal destinations served by hourly direct CrossCountry trains from Peterborough include Birmingham, Cambridge, and Leicester, with East Midlands Railway also providing hourly direct services to Sheffield, Manchester and Liverpool. It is also possible to travel directly to Gatwick Airport and Horsham using Great Northern services.

Peterborough is also the gateway to The Hereward Line and East Anglia, where many other destinations can be reached using Greater Anglia services.

A regular bus service also departs from directly outside of the station offering an hourly service to Norwich via Wisbech, Kings Lynn, Swaffham and Dereham.



The railway station is a short walk from the city centre and its attractions, which include the museum, theatres, outdoor Lido swimming pool, and an array of shopping and eating options, as well as the majestic Norman Cathedral.

It began life as a monastic community in around 654AD and after it's decimation by Viking invaders in 870AD, and the takeover by local hero Hereward the Wake in 1070, finally in 1118, the replacement monastic church - the present Cathedral building, was rebuilt.

In order to support the building of the new monastic church, Abbot Martin de Bec created a new market area to the west of the precincts, which consisted of new commercial streets around the outside. These led to the creation of the first "new town" development in Peterborough and this street plan still exists in the city centre today.

In 1216, whilst staying at the monastery, King John is thought to have left a draft copy of the Magna Carta at the site, and hence the inclusion of one in one of the monastery's cartularies, which are known today as "The Black Book of Peterborough".

The new monastic church was consecrated in 1238, and during a visit in 1268, King Henry III granted the rights for a town fair.

Katherine of Aragon, first wife of King Henry VIII was buried in the monastic church in 1536 following her death at nearby Kimbolton Castle. Her tomb was restored in 1895 and her memorial slab are still visible today and she is celebrated annually, around the time of her burial, with a series of commemorative events.



*Katherine of Aragon*

Henry VIII closed the abbey in 1539, and, in a bid to increase his control over the church in the area, he created a new bishop in 1541. In doing so, Peterborough abbey church became Peterborough Cathedral.



In 1643, the Cathedral was savaged during the English Civil War, as Peterborough, was taken by Colonel Oliver Cromwell. It was many years and an outbreak of the plague struck the city before the damage was gradually repaired and rebuilt between 1822-1830. Sadly, much of this restoration work was undone during the 1880's when the Cathedral underwent further restoration work and the Central Tower was rebuilt for a second time followed by the whole central and eastern area of the church which were in need of refurbishment.



As well as historical tours and events, Peterborough Cathedral today plays host to an array of exhibits, musical concerts and special events throughout the year.

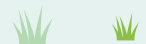
Details of all of these can be found at:

[www.peterborough-cathedral.org.uk/events.aspx](http://www.peterborough-cathedral.org.uk/events.aspx)

The street plan which was created back in 1118 is still evident today and Peterborough city's compact layout means that many of its attractions and facilities are within striking distance of the Cathedral.

The city's museum is a short 5-minute walk away from Cathedral Square and offers visitors the chance to explore collections spanning 150 million years of Peterborough's history, culture and environment:

[www.peterboroughmuseum.org.uk](http://www.peterboroughmuseum.org.uk)



As well as covered in shopping precincts, including Queensgate, Westgate and Rivergate arcades, Peterborough market offers visitors an array of individual stalls located along Bridge Street, right in the beating heart of the city centre.

In Summer, the city's Lido attracts visitors to its Art Deco style 50m swimming pool with sun terraces, grassed lawn and play area - perfect for a family day out!

Within easy walk of the city centre and railway station are two of Peterborough's prime entertainment venues - The Key Theatre (located on The Embankment) and The New Theatre (located on Broadway). Both offer an eclectic mix of theatrical, musical and comedy shows and events throughout the year - something for every taste!

If you visit the city and are in need of some wide open space and peace and quiet, then Nene Park, incorporating Ferry Meadows Country Park is sure to tick the box. As well as quiet waterside walks, play areas and wide open spaces, the park offers the thrill seekers an array of water sports.

Regular buses serve Ferry Meadows station from the city centre bus station in Queensgate, or, for a more nostalgic journey, you can walk from the railway station and hop on the heritage Nene Valley Railway Line from the city to either Ferry Meadows or Orton Mere.

Details of services can be found at: [www.nvr.org.uk](http://www.nvr.org.uk)



**Peterborough**  
 Gateway to the East of England  
 Gateway to England & Scotland,  
 directly or with one change of train

Inverness  
 Aberdeen

Fort William  
 Dundee  
 Perth

Stirling  
 Glasgow  
 Edinburgh

Carlisle  
 Newcastle  
 Sunderland  
 Darlington  
 Middlesbrough

Barrow-in-Furness  
 Blackpool  
 Preston  
 Bradford  
 Leeds  
 York  
 Scarborough  
 Hull

Holyhead  
 Liverpool  
 Manchester  
 Doncaster  
 Sheffield  
 OSheffield  
 Lincoln  
 Grimsby  
 Cleethorpes

Stoke-on-Trent  
 Derby  
 Nottingham  
 Leicester  
 Shrewsbury  
 Stafford  
 Wolverhampton  
 Coventry  
 Birmingham  
 Worcester

Hereford  
 Gloucester  
 Cheltenham  
 Oxford  
 Milton Keynes  
 Reading  
 London  
 Ipswich  
 Colchester  
 Harwich  
 Norwich

Swansea  
 Newport  
 Cardiff  
 Bristol  
 Bath  
 Basingstoke  
 Salisbury  
 Southampton  
 Portsmouth  
 Brighton  
 Eastbourne  
 Ashford  
 Dover

Exeter  
 Plymouth  
 Penzance

PONTSMOUTH - CHERBOURG  
 PORTSMOUTH - CAEN  
 PORTSMOUTH - LE HAVRE  
 ROSSLAKE - FISHLAND  
 LIVERPOOL - BELFAST  
 NEWCASTLE - AMSTERDAM  
 HULL - ROTTERDAM  
 HARWICH - HOOK OF HOLLAND  
 DOVER - CALAIS



WHITTLESEY

MARCH

*Whittlesey offers visitors a wide range of architecture and interesting buildings, alongside peaceful nature reserves and green spaces.*

For those wishing to learn more about the town's rich history, then **The Whittlesey Heritage Walk** is a must. Starting from the Buttermarket in the heart of the town, a short and longer walk option are available and both take in the town's landmarks and transport links, so making it a popular stop-off point.

A short stroll from the railway station takes you into the peaceful Lattersey Nature Reserve, where an array of wildlife, flora and fauna can be found.

Once every year, in January, the town comes alive with the buzz of the world-famous "Straw Bear Festival" - a colourful extravaganza festival filled with music, dancing, and dazzling spectacles to celebrate the ancient dancing and then eventual burning of the Straw Bear.

More details of the walks around Whittlesey can be found at:

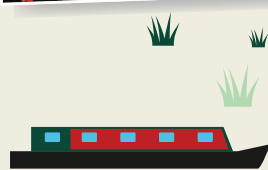
[www.herewardcrp.org/  
events-and-activities/  
whittlesey-heritage-walk/](http://www.herewardcrp.org/events-and-activities/whittlesey-heritage-walk/)



*Next stop along the Hereward Line is the market town of March.*

Once a buzzing trading place for cargo along the River Nene, the town hosts a regular twice weekly market and offers visitors the chance to enjoy the riverside setting alongside an array of café's restaurants and pubs. The town's small museum is also well worth a visit for those wishing to learn more about the people who shaped the town and its rich railway history.

As the shift in demand for freight and cargo moved away from the river, so the demand for rail grew, and March's Whitemoor yard grew vastly, soon becoming the largest of its kind in the UK. It played a pivotal role in the efforts during the second World War.



When departing March, the final stop along the Hereward Line before Ely is the pretty fenland village of Manea



Situated in the heart of the Fenslands, Manea offers a quiet place to stop and rest a while.



MANEA



A pleasant walk into the village and you can discover the haven that is Manea Pit. Here you can enjoy waterside walks and an array of birdlife or just sit and relax and enjoy the peace and tranquillity.

For those feeling more energetic, or if you have bicycles with you, you can take a longer trip from the station to enjoy either Purls Bridge or Welches Dam or in the opposite direction, the world famous Welney Wetland Centre. Most famous for its thousands of wintering migrating swans who populate the area during the colder climes, Welney is a place to visit in any season, offering a vast assortment of ground nesting birds, dragonflies, damselflies, and wildflowers and butterflies all year long.

The final destination on The Hereward Line is the cathedral city of Ely



Nesting on the highest land in the Fens, Ely's stunning medieval Cathedral can best be seen from your seat on the train as it enters the pocket city. The cathedral is affectionately known as "The Ship of the Fens" due to its prominent position.

As well as offering a pretty riverside with boat trips and waterside walks, Ely hosts regular and varied daily markets and special events in its bustling Market Square which is surrounded by a wide variety of branded and independent shops. Oliver Cromwell's House is close by, and along with the Cathedral and Museum, there is plenty to see and do.

Ely offers excellent transport links and it is from here that a change of train can open up other destinations in East Anglia such as the stunning city of Cambridge along with popular Norfolk and Suffolk coastal destinations including Sheringham, Cromer, Great Yarmouth, Felixstowe, Lowestoft, Clacton, and Harwich.

Ely Cathedral "The Ship of the Fens"



ELY





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Funding for this brochure came jointly through Community Rail Network, The Department for Transport's Community Rail Development Fund (CRDF), East Midlands Railway's Community Fund, and CrossCountry's Community Engagement Fund.



The Hereward Line running between the Cathedral Cities of Peterborough to Ely.  
For more information and how to contact us, visit our website or scan the QR code:  
[www.herewardcrp.org](http://www.herewardcrp.org)



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