HARWICH



HISTORIC
HARWICH
HOME OF THE MAYFLOWER

HARWICH & DOVERCOURT TOURIST GUIDE 2017

Whatever your interest, be it shopping, heritage, coastal walking, cycling, relaxing on a beach, watching the ships and boats in the harbour or sampling great food and drink, both towns can offer them all in abundance. The map overleaf will help ensure you find all the places of interest.

@HistoricHarwich



HARWICH

A traditional historic maritime town, which was built on a grid pattern in the 13th Century by the Earl of Norfolk to exploit its strategic position at the mouth of the Stour/Orwell estuary.

The town of course is perhaps most well known for being the home of Christopher Jones, Captain of the Mayflower, who in 1620 took the first pilgrims to America. 2020 sees the 400th anniversary of this incredible journey and from now until then, Harwich will be participating in the many celebrations planned. Harwich beaches offer excellent views and are popular spots for walks and exploring.

There are also numerous attractions to visit in and around the town including the High and Low Lighthouses, the Treadwheel Crane, the Redoubt Fort (a truly spectacular Napoleonic circular fort and moat) and The Electric Palace Theatre, one of the UK's oldest operational cinemas.

One of the best ways to discover its history and all these attractions is to follow its 'Maritime Heritage Trail'. See map overleaf.

DOVERCOURT BAY

Dovercourt Bay is a superb stretch of sandy beach and has a 'Blue Flag' Beach award. With a promenade that stretches for miles, walking, cycling and water-based activities can be enjoyed. There are also spectacular views of Felixstowe as well as the Harwich and Languard Forts.

The town centre itself is home to a number of historic and character buildings which also reflects the towns' rich past, including being recorded in the Doomsday Book of 1086. The High Street is not dominated by chain retailers, rather a great selection of independent, family run businesses and shops which include specialist food, gift, crafts, clothing, florist and electrical goods. The town also hosts a regular market every Friday in the High Street.

OUT AND ABOUT

Walking

There are many great walks one can do which take in some fantastic history and picturesque countryside. Alternatively, take a stroll along Dovercourt Bay beach.

The Essex Way is a long distance footpath stretching for 82 miles right across Essex. Although it officially starts in Epping and ends in Harwich it is signposted both ways!

If you only wanted to do part of, a 16 mile walk will take you to Manningtree, where you can pick up a train to return you to Harwich. This route will take you cross country to the Stour estuary, with views across to Suffolk and then through to Wrabness. This will take you through Copperas Wood, a 12 hectare nature reserve that has been traditionally used for Sweet Chestnut and Hornbeam coppicing. You'll also pass Grayson Perry's innovative house known as 'A House for Essex', which is on Black Bouy Lane.

Cycling

There are plenty of opportunities for cyclists to ride in and around both towns as well as from further afield. The local train service, operated by Greater Anglia, also welcomes cyclists, so whatever your route, experience or stamina, there is always the choice of going home by train!

Route 51 of The National Cycle Network is a long distance ride, suitable for the more energetic and adventurous cyclists and which passes through Oxfordshire, Buckinghamshire, Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Suffolk and Essex, finishing in Harwich.

Part of the route is a 25 miles ride, which forms part of North Sea Cycle Route, starts in Colchester by the tourist information centre and heads to Wivenhoe along the River Colne. The route then proceeds to Harwich along country roads. The final off road stretch takes you through the town of Dovercourt before finishing by Harwich Pier.



Harwich sunset

Beaches

If you like a peaceful seafront location with amazing sandy beaches, then head to the award winning Blue Flag beach at Dovercourt Bay. Harwich Beach offers excellent views and is a popular spot for walks and exploration.

Activities

There are a wide range of family activities available along the promenade, including an impressive range of sport and leisure facilities, which can be found at Dovercourt Leisure Centre.

Dovercourt can boast its own Skating Rink, which is suitable for all ages and great fun for all. Skate hire is available and details of opening hours can be found on their web site. www.simplyskating.co.uk Tel: 01255 551296

Alternatively, Dovercourt skate park, which is situated alongside the leisure centre, is free and open all the year round.

If you fancy a go at windsurfing, paddle boarding or other water based activities, then head to the Quiver Windsurfing Centre in Dovercourt Bay. Tuition and the hire of windsurfers is available, as well as SUP, Kayak & Pedalos.

www.quiverwindsurfing.co.uk

Harwich Parkrun

'Parkrun' organise free, weekly, 5km timed runs around the world. They are open to everyone and are free, safe and easy to take part in.
Every Saturday at 9.00am. The event takes place in Cliff Park, Dovercourt, Harwich, CO12 3LJ. Please register before your first run. www.parkrun.org.uk

Nature

The areas nature reserves and bird sanctuaries provide excellent opportunities for bird watchers and wildlife enthusiasts. Bobbit's Hole, Dovercourt, is a small freshwater lake bounded by secondary woodland and is a valuable wildlife pocket attracting a number of bird species, including the Kingfisher.



Dovercourt beach huts

Further information

Harwich Maritime Trail
The Harwich Society offers guided walking tours of Harwich throughout the year, which takes you to the hidden gems and historical sites of Harwich. Tours start at the Ha'penny Pier.

Tel 01255 553610/504590 www.harwich-society.co.uk

Harwich Harbour Foot Ferry
The ferry, which can accommodate up to 58 people on a brand new boat, takes foot passengers and cyclists from the H'Penny Pier across the Harbour to Shotley and Felixstowe.
Daily services operate seasonally, with the first ferry starting on 1st April 2017 Additionally they offer river trips/sun downers starting from Harwich, Felixstowe or Shotley or anywhere on River Orwell or River Stour. Information about the service is displayed on the Ha'penny Pier.

Tel: 01728 666329 www.harwichharbourferry.com

Ha'Penny Pier Visitor Centre
The Quay, Harwich (Seasonal Opening)
Not only will you find a fascinating exhibition about the Mayflower, this is where the Harwich Society volunteers are based and where the guided walks of the Harwich Maritime Trail starts.

Tel: 01255 553610

The Guildhall
Church Street, Harwich
(Open 9.30am – 1.00pm Mon, Wed & Fri)
This is the towns only Grade I Listed Building and its present design dates from 1769 and remains the meeting place and administrative home of the Harwich Town Council. The Carvings Room was once used to hold prisoners waiting to be tried or sentenced and etched into the bare, wooden walls of the room are elaborate carvings of ships, gallows and symbols to ward off evil spirits, all of which date from the late 18th century. Guided tours are available by prior arrangement.

Tel: 01255 507211

Dovercourt Library
A "community hub" is situated within the Library on Kingsway where you can take part in a host of activities such as workshops and see how the local community works together to celebrate its uniqueness. Here you can find a whole host of information and interesting facts about the local area, details of seasonal town celebrations and events as well as information on places to visit. Tickets for many of the events can be booked here. Free WIFI is also available. Open everyday (except Weds and Sun)

Tel: 01255 503499

The Harwich Mayflower Project
With the 400th anniversary coming up in 2020. When the Mayflower sailed with the Pilgrim Fathers to America, a replica ship is being built in Harwich. Next to Harwich Town Station, the beginnings of the ship can be seen. There is also an exhibition about the ships journey in the Visitor Centre at the Ha'penny Pier. The Mayflower Project site and visitor centre is open from 9am–5pm weekdays. (Weekends and other times by appointment).

Tel: 01255 318023 www.harwichmayflower.com

FOOD & DRINK

There is an excellent choice of cafes, restaurants and traditional pubs in the streets of Harwich as well as Dovercourt. You will even find some superb traditional beers that are brewed in the town.

Restaurants, cafes and bars in Harwich

British Flag - 55 West Street
Café on the Pier - Ha'penny Pier
Costa - Retail Park
Domino Pizza - Retail Park
Hanover Inn - 65 Church Street
Navyärd Bar at The Pier - The Quay
New Bell Inn - Outpart Eastward
Pieseas Chippie - 76 West Street
Saif Tandoori - 51 Church Street
Samuel Pepys - 31 Church Street
Shakers Bar - 12 West Street
Skippers Fish & Chips - 21 Garland Road
Thai up at the Quay - 1 East Gate Street
The Alma Inn - 25 Kings Head Street
The Captain Fryatt / **Mama Rita Pizza** - 65 Garland Road
The Crown Post - 57 Church Street
The Globe - Castle Gate Street
The Pier Restaurant - The Quay
The Stingray - 56 Church Street
Treo Bar & Café - 17 George Street

Restaurants, cafes and bars in Dovercourt

Deano's Wine Bar - 162 High Street
Rainbow Café - 12 Wick Lane
Café on the Green - 114 High Street
Corner Café & Pizzeria - 2 Kingsway
Mandarin House - 614 Main Road
Muppets Restaurant - 286 High Street
Ocean Fish Bar - 612 Main Road
Oxleys of Dovercourt - 141 High Street
Peking Chinese Restaurant - 192 High Street
Pizzeria Napoli - 1 High Street
Station Road Café - 190 High Street
Tasty Chinese - 161 High Street
The Fish House Restaurant - 184 High Street
The Royal - 387 Main Road
The Royal Oak - Main Road
The Kings Arms - 178 High Street
The Waterfront - Lower Marine Parade
The White Coffee House - 11 Kingsway
Turkish Meze Café/Restaurant - 204 High Street
USA Fried Chicken - High Street
Wetherspoon - The Bottle Kiln, 60 Kingsway

ACCOMMODATION

Whether you're looking for a hotel, a bed and breakfast or perhaps a stay in a caravan with views of the sea, the choice is yours. There are plenty to choose from and are marked with a on the map overleaf.

Harwich

Captain Fryatt - 65 Garland Road
Paston Lodge - 1 Una Road
Premier Inn - Parkestone Road
Samuel Pepys - 31 Church Street
The Alma Inn - 25 Kings Head Street
The Pier at Harwich - The Quay
The Stingray - 56 Church Street
1912 Centre - off Kings Quay Street

Dovercourt

Oceanview - 86 Main Road
The Goodlife - 162 High Street
The Tower Hotel - Main Road, Harwich
Wetherspoon - The Bottle Kiln, 60 Kingsway

Dovercourt Caravan Park - Main Road
Greenacres Caravan Park - off West End Lane

CAR PARKING

There is plenty of 'on street' free car parking in both Harwich & Dovercourt. You will also find a 'Pay & Display' car park at Bagshaw/Milton Road in Dovercourt town centre and in Harwich there is parking along the quayside and at the 'Pay & Display' car park on Wellington Road.
(See map overleaf for details)

USEFUL WEB SITES

www.historicharwich.co.uk
www.essex-sunshine-coast.org.uk
www.visitessex.com
www.harwich-society.co.uk

The Essex Way - Walking Routes in Essex
www.essexwalks.com

Harwich International Port
www.harwich.co.uk

Harwich Town Council
www.harwichtowncouncil.co.uk

GETTING THERE

By Car

From the A12 / A14: Join the A120 at Colchester. Once on the A120 follow the signs to Harwich and Harwich International Port. On approaching Harwich, to visit Dovercourt, follow the signs to Dovercourt Town Centre and for Harwich, follow the brown tourism signs to 'Historic Harwich'.

From the M11: Leave at junction 8 and join the A120 eastwards, heading for Braintree and Colchester. Once at Colchester take the A12 towards Ipswich, but take the A120 signed to Harwich.

From the M25: At junction 28, take the A12 and then join the A120 at Colchester.

By Train

Regular train services provide a fast, convenient service to both Harwich and Dovercourt on 'The Mayflower Line' from Colchester, Ipswich, Chelmsford and London Liverpool Street.

www.greateranglia.co.uk
To purchase tickets: 0345 600 7245
For all other routes contact National Rail Enquiries
www.nationalrail.co.uk
Tel: 0345 748 4950

By Bus

Not only do regular services run from the surrounding area to Dovercourt Town Centre, Harwich and Harwich International Port with First Group, other operators also operate a good bus service from other parts of the country. Details & timetables can be found in the Guildhall and at the Ha'penny Visitor Centre on Harwich Quay.

www.firstgroup.com/essex
Customer Service: 0345 602 0121
Traveline: 0871 200 2233

By Bicycle

Route 51, of the The National Cycle Network a long distance ride, passes through Oxfordshire, Buckinghamshire, Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Suffolk and Essex, finishing in Harwich. (The section between Harwich and Colchester also forms part of the North Sea Cycle Route, known as EuroVelo 12.)

www.sustrans.org.uk

By Air

London (Stansted) Airport is within easy reach of Harwich (50 minutes by car or taxi), with Heathrow and Gatwick being only 2 hours' drive away.

By Sea

Stenaline operate regular day and night crossings on the Stena Hollandica and Stena Britannica from the Hook of Holland to Harwich.

www.stenaline.co.uk

DID YOU KNOW?

- Hi De Hi, the popular comedy series was filmed at Warner's Holiday Camp, Dovercourt between October 1979 and October 1987.
- Roy Francesco Salvadori, English motor racing driver and manager, was born in Dovercourt to parents of Italian descent and was living at 117 High Street from 1922-1929.
- Sir Thomas Lipton, Tea millionaire, owned a shop in Market Street.
- Dovercourt was recorded in the Doomsday Book and was a very small village with a population of about 120. The inhabitants were peasants who farmed the land around a cluster of wooden huts.
- As far as is known, Harwich has the only British example of a two-wheel man operated Treadwheel crane, which dates from 1667.
- The Pier Hotel on Harwich quay has been open since September 1860.
- In the 1660's, Samuel Pepys was First Secretary to the Admiralty and was also the town's MP.
- In the 1720s the writer Daniel Defoe visited Harwich and said it was 'a town of hurry and business, not much of gaiety and pleasure; yet the inhabitants seem warm in their nests and some of them are very rich'.
- Christopher Jones was born in Harwich in about 1570. Jones married Sarah Twitt in December 1593 and had one child. However Sarah died very young, he married again in St Nicholas Church in November 1603.
- Christopher Newport was born in Harwich and in 1607 he was overall captain of a small flotilla comprising three ships, the Discovery, the Godspeed and the Susan Constant, which dropped anchor in Chesapeake Bay near the mouth of the James River.
- The first 'Kindertransport' arrived in Harwich in 1938, bringing some 200 children from a Jewish orphanage in Berlin. Children with sponsors went to London but those without sponsors were housed in a summer camp in Dovercourt Bay.
- Captain Charles Fryatt, master of the SS Brussels and who was executed by the Germans in 1916 is buried in All Saints Church, Dovercourt. The Fryatt Memorial Hospital was named after him.
- German UBoats surrendered here after World War 1.
- The Headquarters of Trinity House is based here. They control all lighthouses and buoys around the country.



WHAT'S ON IN 2017

APRIL 2017	
Thurs 27 April – Mon 1 May	**Harwich Ale Trail** www.facebook.com/harwichaletrail
MAY 2017	
Sun 14 May	**Tour De Tendring** www.bikeevents.com
Thurs 18 May	**Mayor Making Ceremony**
JUNE 2017	
Thurs 22 June – Sun 2 July	**Harwich Festival of the Arts** www.harwichfestival.co.uk
JULY 2017	
Sat 1 July	**Pin Mill Barge March** www.pmsc.org.uk
Sat 15 & Sun 16 July	**Harwich Secret Gardens** www.opengardens.co.uk
Mon 24 – Sun 30 July	**Harwich Lifeboat Week** www.facebook.com/RNLIHarwich
Thurs 27 – Sat 29 July	**Harwich Beer Festival, The Redoubt Fort** www.harwichtown.co.uk
Sun 30 July	**Harwich Sea Festival** www.harwichseafestival.co.uk
AUGUST 2017	
Sat 5 August	**Wrabfest** www.wrabfest.co.uk
Sat 5 & Sun 6 August	**Essex Festival at Harwich Redoubt** www.harwich-society.co.uk
Sun 6 August	**Bobbits Hole Charity Stroll in Dovercourt** www.harwich-society.co.uk
Sun 13 August	**Beside The Seaside Dovercourt Bay** www.historicharwich.co.uk
SEPTEMBER 2017	
Thurs 7 – Sun 10 September	**Heritage Open Days** www.heritageopendays.org.uk
Sun 10 September	**Harwich Motorcycle** www.essexairambulance.uk.com
OCTOBER 2017	
Fri 13 – Sun 15 October	**International Shanty Festival** www.harwichshantyfestival.co.uk
Sat 28 October	**Harwich Guy Carnival Procession**
NOVEMBER 2017	
Sat 4 November	**Sausage Festival** www.tendringcamra.org.uk
Fri 24 November	**Mayflower 400 Illuminate Festival** www.historicharwich.com
Sun 26 Nov	**Kings Head Street Christmas Market** www.htra.co.uk
DECEMBER 2017	
Fri 1 December	**Dovercourt Christmas Lights Event**
Mon 4 December	**St Nicholas visits Harwich**
Wed 6 – Sat 9 December	**Winter Ale Festival** www.tendringcamra.org.uk
Sun 31 December	**New Years' Eve Fireworks Display**

greateranglia Tendring District Council

For further information visit: **www.historicharwich.com**
This guide is supported by Greater Anglia **www.greateranglia.co.uk**

POINTS OF INTEREST ON MAP

A **Queen Victoria Statue** – Life-size figure of Queen Victoria (1837-1901) formed in white carrara marble standing on a granite plinth, erected in 1904 in a prominent seafront position looking towards Dovercourt Town Centre.

B **Cliff Park** – Situated on the seafront and just a few minutes walk from Dovercourt Town Centre, the grounds contain mature trees and formal gardens, space to relax, a play area, bandstand, seating and great views out across Dovercourt Bay.

C **Mayor's Garden** – Restful public garden containing colourful floral beds during the summer, shrubs and trees.

D **Redoubt Fort** – A spectacular Napoleonic circular fort and moat built between 1808 and 1810 to protect the port of Harwich against the threat of invasion. It houses museums showing how the once derelict building was refurbished by volunteers, old artillery pieces and period exhibits through its life.

E **High Lighthouse** – Built in 1818 by John Rennie to replace a light over the Town Gate. The High Lighthouse houses an exhibition on the history of the lighthouse. This and the Low Lighthouse (see P) provided a transit line to guide ships safely into Harwich harbour. Housing a radio museum it also marks the end of 'The Essex Way', an 82 mile walking route through the Essex countryside.

F **Ha'penny Pier** – A great vantage point to view the harbour and waterfront buildings. Its name originates from the ½d (half an old penny) toll charged when the pier opened in 1853 to accommodate continental ferries. The Harwich Society's seasonal Visitor Centre on the pier provides tourist information and houses an exhibition recording the voyages of Christopher Jones and Christopher Newport to the New World.

G **Lightship LV18** – The last manned light ship in the UK, now moored permanently near Ha'penny Pier, as a Museum Ship, that welcomes visitors to tour the vessel and view its exhibits including Pirate Radio Station memorabilia.

H **Lifeboats** – The Harwich Lifeboat Station of the RNLI has two modern lifeboats which are a key rescue service for North Sea seafarers. Visitors are welcome to view the inshore boat housed in the building and the offshore lifeboat can be seen afloat on the waterfront.

I **Navyard** – In former times this commercial dock was a Naval Yard. Numerous wooden warships were built on the site for the Royal Navy during the time of Samuel Pepys and Nelson. On the frontage you can view the original 1666 Dockyard Bell and the list of fighting ships built here.

J **Street Murals** – Stroll along Wellington Street to view a colourful range of street murals on buildings and walls, including barges, ships, local features and seaside postcards.

K **Electric Palace Cinema** – Built in 1911, it is one of the oldest operational cinemas in the UK, with a glorious front facade, traditional interior and great film programmes.

L **St Nicholas Church** – The graceful Church built in 1822 is a good example of industrial architecture. Its simple neo-Gothic style incorporates slender iron columns, a wonderful organ and interesting monuments to seafarers. Designed to seat 1,500 people, the largest church in the district, it is often open to visitors.

M **Mayflower Project** – Work is underway to construct a replica of the Mayflower – the ship that took the Pilgrim Fathers to America in 1620. It has a public viewing area. Nearby there is a plaque on the wall of 21 Kings Head Street, a private historic house, that was the former home of Christopher Jones, Master of the Mayflower (see U).

N **Life Boat Museum** - The attractive old Lifeboat station on the waterfront now houses the "Valentine Wyndham-Quin", an offshore lifeboat which was in service between 1968 -1984, and other exhibits.

O **Treadwheel Crane** – A rare historic crane built in 1667, used at the Naval Yard, moved to its present site on Harwich Green in about 1932. The crane was worked by men walking in the interior of two large wheels to raise and lower goods and materials.

P **Low Lighthouse Museum** – Built in 1818 as the forward of two transit light houses (see also E), it now houses a maritime museum and is a great vantage point to view the harbour from the lantern.

Q **Children's Play Grounds** – Play equipment for youngsters situated in parks adjacent to the seafront promenade.

R **Leisure Centre & Swimming Pool** – The Dovercourt indoor heated swimming pool and new gym is open to the public throughout the year.

S **Leisure Activities** – The Dovercourt Low Road leisure area, adjacent to the beach and seafront promenade, provides a range of facilities including a boating lake, skate park, putting green and tennis courts.

T **The Guildhall** – in a classical Georgian style, this Grade I Listed Building houses Harwich Town Council Chamber and a prison cell with ship carvings dating back to Napoleonic times

U **Christopher Jones's House and plaque**

V **Harwich Brewery**

Getting around - Walking Routes

Route 1: 35/45 minutes (2.75km / 1¾ miles)
Harwich International Port - Dovercourt Town Centre

Route 2: 20/30 minutes (1.25km / ¾ mile)
Harwich - Dovercourt Town Centre via Main Road

Route 3: 30/35 minutes (2km / 1¼ miles)
Harwich - Dovercourt Town Centre via coastal route

Route 4: 15/20 minutes (1km / ½ mile)
Dovercourt Town Centre - Leisure Centre via promenade

Cycling route
Sustrans Cycle route No 51

HISTORIC HARWICH
HOME OF THE MAYFLOWER

HARWICH - DENMARK/HOLLAND

SHOTLEY - FELIXSTOWE FOO

HARWICH INTERNATIONAL PORT
CRUISE AND FERRY TERMINAL

Historic Harwich

HA'PENNY PIER
KINGS QUAY STREET
KINGS HEAD STREET
CHURCH STREET
WEST STREET
GEORGE STREET
WELLINGTON ROAD
MAIN ROAD
HARWICH TOWN
HARWICH GREEN

Historic Harwich

CHURCH STREET
GEORGE STREET

Train Station
Parking
Toilets
Information Centre
Police Station
Bus Stop
Accommodation
Floating Pontoon
Hospital
Blue Flag Beach
Caravan Park
View

HARWICH RETAIL PARK
STATION ROAD
A120
THE HANGINGS FOOTPATH / CYCLE ROUTE
A120 FROM COLCHESTER/LONDON
PARKESTON ROAD
MAIN ROAD
HIGH STREET
NOT 24 HOURS
HIGHFIELD AVENUE
THE DRIVE
HALL LANE
WICK LANE
LOW ROAD
WEST END LANE
BEACH ROAD
LOWER MARINE PARADE
MARINE PARADE
CLIFF ROAD
DOVERCOURT BAY

Dovercourt Town Centre

DOVERCOURT
HIGH STREET
CLIFF ROAD
MAIN ROAD
BARRACK LANE
HARBOUR CRESCENT

Dovercourt Town Centre

DOVERCOURT
VICTORIA STREET
STATION ROAD
MINSMERE
HIGH STREET
CLIFF PARK
ORWELL ROAD
BAGSHAW ROAD
BAY ROAD
MILTON ROAD
HORDLE ROAD
TIMES WAY
MARINE ROAD
CLIFF ROAD

SCALE
200m
200yds