

Visit the magnificent cathedral (built 1118-1238), noted for its painted wooden nave roof and three-arched west front. *Katherine of Aragon* is buried in the north choir aisle. Another tragic queen, Mary, Queen of Scots was buried here in 1587, but her remains were later moved to London.

*Peterborough Cathedral*

**Afternoon tea:** Peterborough

**Overnight** - Peterborough



**DAY 4** - Peterborough to Newmarket (86m/138km)

**MORNING** - Castle Rising Castle

→ Take the A47 to King's Lynn. Then head north along the A149 for 5 miles to Castle Rising.



Castle Rising Castle

**Castle Rising Castle** - a fine 12<sup>th</sup> C. domestic keep, set amid huge defensive earthworks. Once the palace and home to Isabella, the 'She Wolf' of France, dowager Queen of England. The keep walls stand to their original height.

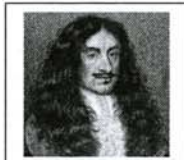
**Morning coffee:** Castle Rising

→ Retrace your steps along the A149 to the roundabout at King's Lynn. Take the A10 south to Ely, then the A142 to Newmarket.

**Lunch:** Newmarket

**AFTERNOON** - Newmarket

Historical home - and the current powerhouse of British horseracing. Over 2,500 racehorses, some seventy licensed trainers and more than sixty stud farms. *Market* - Tues, Sat. *Tourist Information Centre* - Palace House, Palace Street +44 (0)1638 667200.



Charles II

Royal patronage was bestowed upon the town by *James I* in the 17<sup>th</sup> C. - but it was through *Charles II* that Newmarket really became the centre for the 'Sport of Kings'. He set up his court here, established regular race meetings, and also rode his own horse to victory in a race. Don't miss the *National Horseracing Museum*, where you can ride a horse simulator. Then enjoy a guided tour of the *National Stud*, to see top class stallions.

**Afternoon tea:** Newmarket

**Overnight** - Newmarket

**DAY 5** - Newmarket to Cressing Temple (33m/54km)

**MORNING** - Newmarket (Equine Tour)

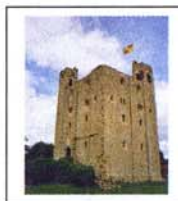
Be up early to enjoy a unique equine tour of the town, and go 'behind the scenes' of the horseracing industry. Visit a training yard and see the equine swimming pool.

**Morning coffee and lunch:** Newmarket

→ Take the B1061 south to Sturmer (14 miles). At the junction with the A1017, turn left to Castle Hedingham.

**AFTERNOON** - Castle Hedingham and Cressing Temple

**Castle Hedingham** - a former market town, with timber-framed buildings and elegant Georgian houses. Explore the finest Norman castle keep in England, built in 1140 by the de Veres, Earls of Oxford. It has been besieged by King John, and visited by Henry VII, Henry VIII and Queen Elizabeth I.



Hedingham Castle

→ Remain on the A1017 towards Braintree. At the junction with the A131, turn right. Then at the first roundabout you reach, turn left. At the second one, go straight ahead onto the A120. Then at the third roundabout, turn left onto the B1018 to Cressing Temple.

**Cressing Temple** - the site of an ancient 12<sup>th</sup> C. farmstead, including two magnificent 13<sup>th</sup> C. timber-timbered barns. They were built by the Knights Templar, an elite fighting force, whose aim was to protect pilgrims travelling to the Holy Land. Tudor walled garden and exhibition.

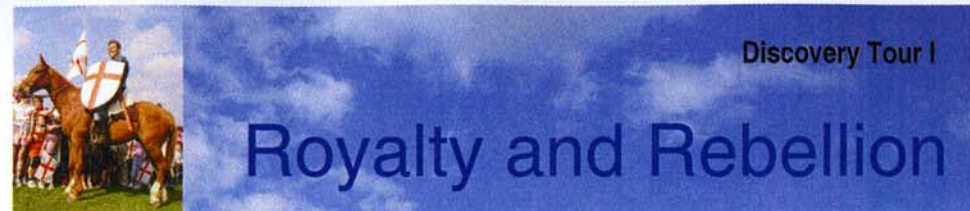
**Afternoon tea:** Cressing Temple

— END OF TOUR —



## Royalty and Rebellion Discovery Tour I

For further information on this tour (including opening times of attractions listed), please contact the **East of England Tourist Board** on +44 (0)870 225 4800, or visit [www.visiteastofengland.com](http://www.visiteastofengland.com)



*Sieges, imprisonment, beheadings and revolutions. Discover a little of England's turbulent history on this fascinating tour. Follow in the footsteps of John Bunyan, Oliver Cromwell and Queen Katherine of Aragon. Then visit the thoroughbred home of the 'Sport of Kings', and the farmstead of the Knights Templar.*



**Starting point:** Bedford (Bedfordshire)

**Duration:** Five days **Mileage:** 220 miles/354 kilometres

**Route of tour:**

- Day 1: Bedford and Elstow - Cambridge (overnight)
- Day 2: Cambridge - Ely - St. Ives - Huntingdon (overnight)
- Day 3: Huntingdon - Buckden Towers - Kimbolton - Peterborough (overnight)
- Day 4: Peterborough - Castle Rising Castle - Newmarket (overnight)
- Day 5: Newmarket - Castle Hedingham - Cressing Temple



[visiteastofengland.com](http://visiteastofengland.com)

Discovery Tour I

# Royalty and Rebellion

**DAY 1** - Bedford to Cambridge (30m/48km)

**MORNING** - Bedford and Elstow



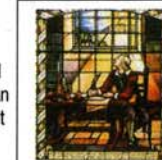
*John Bunyan* (1628-1688) rose from humble origins (the son of a tinker) to become one of the world's most widely-read Christian writers. He lived most of his life in and around the town of *Bedford* (Bedfordshire).

→ Follow the *Bunyan Trail* - start in the village of *Elstow*, located to the south of Bedford, just off the A6/A421. Then explore the connections in *Bedford Town Centre*.

**Elstow** - John Bunyan was born in this parish in 1628, and the site of the birthplace is now marked with a stone. He was baptised at the *Abbey Church* here, where there are two windows depicting scenes from *The Pilgrim's Progress*. His father, mother and sister are also buried here. As a child, Bunyan played on the green outside the *Moot Hall*. Inside are translations of his works. Bunyan worked with his father, but when the Civil War broke out, he joined the Parliamentary forces against the King.

**Bedford** - this ancient county town is renowned for one of the country's finest river settings. *Market* - Wed, Sat. *Tourist Information Centre* - 10 St. Pauls Square +44 (0)1234 215226.

With the war over, its repercussions were still being felt throughout the country. One gradual change was the increasing demand for a simple form of worship, and the emergence of many Independent Congregations. In the early 1650's, Bunyan joined one of the new groups in *Bedford*, and soon discovered he was a gifted preacher. But in 1660, the monarchy was restored - and in the belief that national unity could only be achieved by religious uniformity, the State attempted to restrain the developing Independent Congregations by forbidding preaching. Bunyan refused to be silenced - and was arrested and sentenced to the County Gaol until he would conform. All in all, Bunyan spent the next 12 years in prison. It was during this time that he wrote his spiritual allegory *The Pilgrim's*



Progress. Published in 1678, it has since become a world classic, translated into over 200 languages. In 1672, King Charles II issued the Declaration of Religious Independence, and Bunyan was set free. He was immediately made pastor of the Independent Congregation, which met in a barn, on the site of the present *Bunyan Meeting Free Church and Museum*. This contains artefacts and translations of his works. But in 1673 the King withdrew the declaration, and Bunyan was returned to prison. On his release in 1677, he travelled extensively, writing and preaching the gospel. He died in August 1688, and is buried in London. A statue stands on St. Peter's Green in Bedford.

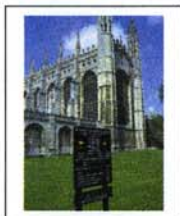
**Morning coffee and lunch:** Bedford



**AFTERNOON - Cambridge**

→ From Bedford take the A421 east to the A1. Head north along the A1 for just over one mile, then take the A428 to Cambridge.

**Cambridge** - spend the rest of the day in this famous University city. Explore the historic colleges, and the magnificent King's College Chapel. Enjoy a punt trip on the river. *Market - Mon to Sat.*  
Tourist Information Centre - Wheeler Street +44 (0)906 586 2526.



King's College Chapel

The University was started after a rebellion in 'rival' Oxford in 1209. Here riots broke out between the townspeople and students, resulting in three of the latter being hanged. Because of the violence, many students and masters looked for a new place of learning, and Cambridge was chosen. The first college was Peterhouse, established in 1284 by Hugh de Balsham, Bishop of Ely. Over the next 300 years, kings and queens, bishops and nobles added more.

- > The first royal foundation was Edward II's *King's Hall* in 1317. Two centuries later it became part of Trinity College.
- > University Hall was re-founded in 1338, as *Clare College*, by the granddaughter of Edward I, Elizabeth de Clare.
- > *King's College* was established by Henry VI in 1441. But it was almost a century before the chapel - one of the finest late medieval buildings in Europe - was completed. It was left to his successors, Henry VII and Henry VIII to see the addition of the superb fan-vaulted roof and wooden screens.
- > *Queens' College* owes its foundation to two Queens of England. First was Margaret of Anjou (wife of Henry VI) in 1448. Her replacement was Elizabeth Woodville (wife of Edward IV) who continued the royal patronage in 1465.
- > *Trinity College* is the largest of the Cambridge colleges, founded by Henry VIII in 1546. Look out for his little statue on the Great Gate.

Famous students (royalty and rebels)

- > *King Edward VII, Queen Margarethe of Denmark*, the present *Prince of Wales (Charles)* and *Prince Edward*.
- > *Lord Byron* became a student at Trinity College in 1805. He caused quite a stir by attending wild parties, and when students were not allowed dogs, he got himself a pet bear!
- > *Oliver Cromwell* arrived in April 1616 to study at Sidney Sussex College, but had to leave a year later after the death of his father. Later he became MP for the city (1640-53). After his death, the restored monarchy took their revenge, digging up his body and removing his head. This was eventually bequeathed to his old college, and since 1960 has been buried near the chapel (marked by a plaque).

**Afternoon tea:** Cambridge



**Overnight - Cambridge**

**DAY 2 - Cambridge to Huntingdon (37m/60km)**

MORNING - Ely and St. Ives

→ Leave Cambridge on the A10 north to Ely.

**Ely** - one of England's most beautiful cities, dominated by its spectacular cathedral. Narrow streets and lanes are lined with historic buildings. Attractive riverside area. *Market - Thurs, Sat.*  
Tourist Information Centre - Oliver Cromwell's House, 29 St. Mary's Street +44 (0)1353 662062.



Oliver Cromwell

In 1636, *Oliver Cromwell* inherited property at Ely, and together with his family moved into the house at 29 St. Mary's Street. They remained here for 10 years. The house is now a visitor centre, furnished in Cromwellian style. It was during this period that the country entered the English Civil Wars (1642-51).

Cromwell now found fame as a military and political leader for the Parliamentary cause (against the King). Before leaving Ely, visit the cathedral. Cromwell was opposed to the power of the church, so in 1644 he had it closed for 17 years.

Ely is also connected to *Hereward the Wake* - the legendary Saxon hero - and leader of the English resistance against the Norman invaders. He had been incensed by the death of his brother at their hands, whilst protecting his family and estate. The seat of his resistance was the Isle of Ely. In 1071, after constant attacks - Hereward was betrayed by the local monks who led the Normans into the city. He managed to escape, but his fate is unknown.



Hereward the Wake

**Morning coffee:** Ely.

→ Take the A142 towards Chatteris. After four miles, turn left onto the A1421 to Haddenham. Here you turn right onto the A1123 to St. Ives

**St. Ives** - riverside market town. *Oliver Cromwell* lived here as a farmer from 1631-36, and a statue of him stands in the Market Place. The Norris Museum has a bust of Cromwell, and a replica of his death mask. *Market - Mon, Fri.*

**Lunch:** St. Ives



AFTERNOON - Huntingdon

→ Remain on the A1123 to Huntingdon.

**Huntingdon** - historic market town which grew up around an important crossing of the river Great Ouse. From the 16-18<sup>th</sup> C. it prospered as a coaching stop. *Market - Wed, Sat.*  
Tourist Information Centre - The Library, Princes Street +44 (0)1480 388588.

*Oliver Cromwell* (1599-1658) rose to become the most powerful man in Britain. During his lifetime, the country entered a time of religious and political turmoil, culminating in the English Civil Wars (1642-51), and the execution of King Charles I in 1649. The country became a Commonwealth, and Cromwell took the position of 'Lord Protector' - the head of state from 1653-1658.

*Cromwell Museum, Huntingdon*



Cromwell was born in Huntingdon on the 25 April 1599. The grammar school which he attended is now the Cromwell Museum. Inside are displays and memorabilia, including his hat and personal seal. In 1616, Cromwell went to study at Sidney Sussex College in Cambridge - then onto the Inns of Court in London. In 1620 he returned to Huntingdon, and became involved in local politics - and for a brief while was the town's MP. In 1631 he moved to St. Ives. But he would return to Huntingdon later in his life, when the Falcon Inn became his Civil War headquarters. Just outside the town is Hinchbrooke House (now a school). Although it was never Cromwell's home, it was his family's ancestral home from 1539-1627. It is reputed that a five year old Oliver gave the infant Charles I a bloody nose here in 1603.

**Afternoon tea:** Huntingdon

**Overnight - Huntingdon**



**DAY 3 - Huntingdon to Peterborough (37m/60km)**

MORNING - Buckden and Kimbolton

*Katherine of Aragon* (1485-1536) was the daughter of the King of Spain. She married twice, first to Prince Arthur Tudor in 1501, then to his brother, Henry VIII in 1509. She became the first wife of the most famous king in British history, and bore him six children, although only one survived (Mary I). But because Henry was desperate for a male heir, he eventually grew tired of her and demanded a divorce. To begin with she refused, but his former affection turned to hate and she gave in to his demands in 1533.



Katherine of Aragon

→ Take the A14/A1 south to Buckden.



Henry VIII

**Buckden Towers** - the former palace of the Bishops of Lincoln (1186-1842). *Katherine of Aragon* was held here in 1533, prior to the annulment of her marriage. But fearing that his popular Queen might start a rebellion against him, Henry VIII had her moved to Kimbolton Castle in 1534.

**Morning coffee:** Buckden

→ From the A1 roundabout, take the B661 to the village of Great Staughton. Turn right here onto the B645.

**Kimbolton** - once an important medieval town, with 17/18<sup>th</sup> C. buildings displaying Georgian facades. Kimbolton Castle is a Tudor house remodelled in 1707 by Sir John Vanburgh. It is reputedly haunted by *Katherine of Aragon*, who spent her last two years here, dying as a prisoner in 1536. The castle has been a school since 1950.

**Lunch:** Kimbolton



AFTERNOON - Peterborough

→ Take the B660 north for 16 miles, crossing over the A14 and A1. In the village of Holme, turn left onto an unclassified road to Yaxley. Here you turn right onto the A15 to Peterborough.

**Peterborough** - steeped in history, this city was originally founded around a Saxon monastery. It tastefully combines the old and with the new. *Market - Tues to Sat.*

Tourist Information Centre - 3-5 Minster Precincts +44 (0)1733 452336.