

**AFTERNOON - 100<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group Memorial Museum (Dickleburgh) and Norfolk and Suffolk Aviation Museum (Flixton)**

→ Take the A140 south towards Ipswich. After 17 miles turn left to Dickleburgh.

**100<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group Memorial Museum (Dickleburgh)** - a former World War II airfield, home of the USAAF 100<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group (the famous Bloody Hundredth) from June 1943 to December 1945. Housed in the original control tower are 8<sup>th</sup> Air Force exhibits.

→ Follow the unclassified road to Thorpe Abbots. Pass through the village to reach the A143. Here you turn left towards Lowestoft. After 8 miles, turn right onto the B1062 to Flixton.

**Norfolk and Suffolk Aviation Museum (Flixton)** - this is East Anglia's aviation heritage centre, with a collection of 40 aircraft, engines, uniforms, models and exhibits, dating from pre-WWI to the present day. Also museums of the Royal Observer Corps and USAAF 446<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group.

**Afternoon tea:** Norfolk and Suffolk Aviation Museum

→ Remain on the B1062 to Bungay.

**Overnight - Bungay area**  
Unspoilt market town. Impressive remains of Norman castle, built in the 12<sup>th</sup> C. by the powerful Bigod family (Earls of Norfolk). Massive gatehouse and curtain walls.



**DAY 5 - Bungay to Orford (38m/61km)**

**MORNING - Framlingham**

→ Leave Bungay on the A143 to Harleston. Then take the B1116 south to Framlingham (about 13 miles).

**Framlingham** - ancient market town. St. Michael's Church contains magnificent tombs and effigies. The superb 12<sup>th</sup> C. castle was built by the powerful Bigod family (Earls of Norfolk). The well preserved curtain wall links 13 towers offering superb views. The castle has been a fortress, a poor house, an Elizabethan prison and school. Home of Mary Tudor in 1553. *Market - Sat.*

**Morning coffee and lunch:** Framlingham

Wander in the footsteps of Mary Tudor at Framlingham



**AFTERNOON - Parham Airfield Museum and Orford**

→ Leave Framlingham on the B1116 towards Wickham Market. After 2½ miles (in the village of Parham), turn left on an unclassified road. 1½ miles later you reach a T-junction, where you turn left to Great Glemham. Shortly on your left is the Parham Airfield Museum.

**Parham Airfield Museum** - a former World War II airfield, home of the USAAF 390<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group from July 1943 to August 1945. Housed in the restored control tower are exhibits and memorabilia, including the only museum to the little known British Resistance Organisation.

→ Retrace your steps to the B1116, and turn left. After 2½ miles, you reach a roundabout, where you go straight ahead on the B1078 to Orford.

**Orford** - this attractive town has brick and timber buildings leading to its little quayside. It is dominated by its castle, built in the 12<sup>th</sup> C. by Henry II for coastal defence. Only the magnificent keep survives, with three immense towers reaching to 90ft (30 metres). From the top there are spectacular views. Inside a spiral staircase leads to a maze of passageways/rooms.

**Afternoon tea:** Orford

----- END OF TOUR -----



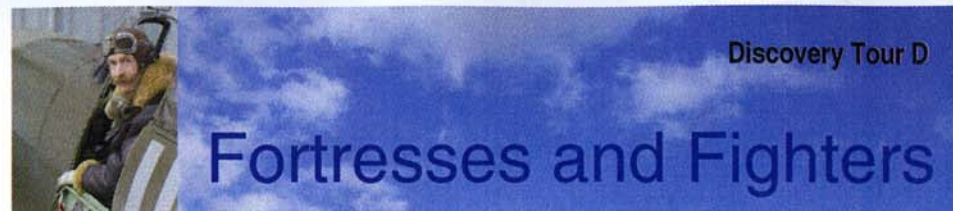
Climb the castle at Orford

**The Friendly Invasion**

During the Second World War, the East of England played an important role - its flat landscape and proximity to Europe, excellent for the construction of airfields. It was one of the RAF's launching pads for the Battle of Britain, then later for the United States Army Air Force (USAAF). They became part of the 'friendly invasion' of the region - so by 1943, there were over 100,000 US airmen based in Britain. The largest concentration was in the East of England, where most of the 8<sup>th</sup> Air Force and some of the 9<sup>th</sup> were located on near a hundred bases. Old airfields, control towers and memorials are a reminder of these times - and a special **Aviation Heritage (USAAF) Map** has been produced by the East of England Tourist Board.

**Fortresses and Fighters Discovery Tour D**

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)



**Discovery Tour D**

**Fortresses and Fighters**

From ancient fortresses to airborne fighters, this tour gives you an intriguing insight into the defence of the realm over the centuries. Explore the mighty strongholds of William the Conqueror, alongside some of Europe's finest collections of aircraft and tanks. Spitfires, motte-and-bailey castles and rides aboard a Gama Goat.

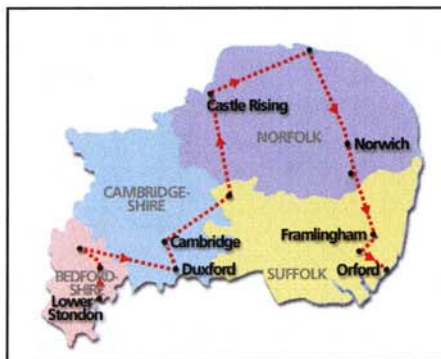


**Starting point:** Hitchin (Hertfordshire)

**Duration:** Five days **Mileage:** 284 miles/457 kilometres

**Route of tour:**

- Day 1: Hitchin - Stondon Transport Museum (Lower Stondon) - The Shuttleworth Collection (Old Warden) - Cardington - Bedford (overnight)
- Day 2: Bedford - Imperial War Museum (Duxford) - American Military Cemetery (Maddingley) - Cambridge (overnight)
- Day 3: Cambridge - RAF Mildenhall and Lakenheath - Castle Rising Castle - Holt - Baconsthorpe Castle - The Muckleburgh Collection (Weybourne) - Norwich (overnight)
- Day 4: Norwich - 100<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group Memorial Museum (Dickleburgh) - Norfolk and Suffolk Aviation Museum (Flixton) - Bungay (overnight)
- Day 5: Bungay - Framlingham - Parham Airfield Museum - Orford



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

**DAY 1 - Hitchin to Bedford (22m/35km)**

**MORNING - Stondon Museum (Lower Stondon)**

→ Leave Hitchin on the A600 north towards Bedford. 4 miles later (at the roundabout), turn left onto the unclassified road to Lower Stondon.

**Stondon Transport Museum (Lower Stondon)** - this is the largest private collection of bygone vehicles in England, from the start of the last century up to modern day classics (around 300 exhibits). Cars, motorbikes and aircraft, even a full size replica of Captain Cook's ship 'Endeavour'.



Transport treasures at Stondon

**Morning coffee:** Stondon Museum

→ Return to the roundabout with the A600, and turn left. Then at the next roundabout, go straight across into Shefford. Follow the road through the village, then at the T-j with the B658, turn right towards Biggleswade. 4 miles later (at the roundabout), turn left onto the unclassified road to Old Warden.

**Lunch:** Old Warden

**AFTERNOON - The Shuttleworth Collection (Old Warden), Cardington and Bedford**

**The Shuttleworth Collection (Old Warden)** - a unique historical collection of 40 aircraft, from a 1909 Bleriot to a 1942 Spitfire (all in working order). Also vintage and veteran cars, motorcycles and carriages. Regular series of flying displays during the summer months.

→ Turn left from the entrance, and follow the road through Old Warden, and onto Cardington.

**Cardington** - attractive village, dominated by the two former airship sheds, once home of the R100 and R101. The site at Cardington was developed from 1916 for the purpose of airship research and production. Inside St. Mary's Church is the ensign of the R101, which crashed over France on his maiden voyage in 1930.

The tragic R101 airship



→ In the village (beside the green), turn left, passing the church. When you reach the roundabout, take the A603 into Bedford.

**Bedford** - ancient county town set on the River Great Ouse. Just after the Norman Conquest, a wooden motte-and-bailey castle was built here. In 1224, Henry III ordered its surrender, but when the owner refused, it was besieged for two months, then dismantled. Today only the mound is visible. *Market - Wed, Sat.*  
**Tourist Information Centre** - St. Pauls Square +44 (0)1234 215226.

The town is also noted for its connections to Glenn Miller, the famous US bandleader (1904-1944). During World War II, Miller and his band were brought to Europe to entertain the US troops. It was in Bedford, that the BBC set up a special radio service, featuring live broadcasts by the band. A bust of Miller can be seen outside the Corn Exchange.



Glenn Miller

**Afternoon tea:** Bedford

**Overnight** - Bedford

**DAY 2** - Bedford to Cambridge (48m/77km)

**MORNING** - Imperial War Museum (Duxford)

→ Leave Bedford on the A603 to Sandy. Here you join the A1 south to junction 10. Follow the road into Baldock, then at the traffic lights in the town centre, turn left onto the A505.

**Imperial War Museum (Duxford)** - this former Battle of Britain fighter station is now one of the world's most spectacular aviation heritage complexes, with almost 200 aircraft on display - First World War bi-planes, Spitfires, Concorde, a F-15 Eagle and the SR-71 Blackbird. Superb American Air Museum. Special exhibitions, pleasure flights and airshows during the year.

**Morning coffee and lunch:** Imperial War Museum

Discover Europe's premier aviation museum



**AFTERNOON** - American Military Cemetery (Madingley) and Cambridge

→ Take the M11 north to junction 13, and turn left onto the A1303 to the American Military Cemetery.

**American Military Cemetery (Madingley)** - the only Second World War American military cemetery and memorial in Britain, first established in December 1943. Buried here are 3,811 war dead, many of whom flew from the area's airfields. The Memorial has a chapel and museum room, with a vast map illustrating the sea and air assault on Europe. Operated and maintained by the American Battle Monuments Commission.

→ Follow the A1303 into 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** - The Old Library, Wheeler Street +44 (0)906 586 2526.

Just off Castle Street stands the grassy motte of William the Conqueror's castle, from which his forces defeated the Saxon rebel Hereward the Wake. Sadly the castle itself has long since vanished, but the mound can still be climbed.

**Afternoon tea:** enjoy a pint in the 17<sup>th</sup> C. Eagle pub. It is noted for its 'Air Force Bar' - where during World War II, US and Allied servicemen burnt their names onto the ceiling, using candle smoke and cigarette-lighter

**Overnight** - Cambridge



**DAY 3** - Cambridge to Norwich (143m/224km)

**MORNING** - RAF Mildenhall/Lakenheath and Castle Rising Castle

→ Leave Cambridge on the A14 east towards Bury St. Edmunds. After 15 miles, bear onto

the A11 towards Norwich. 6 miles later, you reach the roundabout at Barton Mills. At this point, you can take a quick detour along the A1101 to view RAF Mildenhall.

**RAF Mildenhall** - officially opened in October 1934, the site first hosted American airmen in 1950. In 1959, it became the 'Gateway to the UK' for US forces, and later the HQ of the Third Air Force. Today Mildenhall controls all USAF activities in Britain - it's work includes aerial refuelling, special operations and reconnaissance.

→ Retrace your steps to the Barton Mills roundabout, and take the A1065 to Brandon. Along the way you past RAF Lakenheath.

**RAF Lakenheath** - began life as a decoy airfield. It first hosted US servicemen in 1948. Today it is England's largest US Air Force operated fighter base - the 48<sup>th</sup> Tactical Fighter Wing based here, flying F-15 Eagles.

→ Remain on the A1065, through Brandon, and onto the roundabout at Mundford. Turn left here onto the A134. After 17 miles you reach the T-junction with the A10, turn right to King's Lynn. Then at the large roundabout on the outskirts of the town, take the A149 north for 5 miles to the village of Castle Rising.

**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



Castle Rising Castle - prison of Queen Isabella

→ Retrace your steps along the A149 (about a mile) to the first roundabout. Turn left here onto the A148 to Holt (about 40 miles).

**Lunch:** Holt



**AFTERNOON** - Baconsthorpe Castle and The Muckleburgh Collection (Weybourne)

→ From Holt, take the unclassified road east to the village of Baconsthorpe.

**Baconsthorpe Castle** - this moated, semi-fortified house was built by the Heydon Family between 1450-1486. There are remains of the inner/outer gatehouses and curtain wall. Also mere with swans.

→ Return to Holt, and take the A148 towards Cromer. After 2 miles (just before the village of Bodham), turn left onto the unclassified road to Weybourne.

**The Muckleburgh Collection (Weybourne)** - this is the UK's largest privately owned working military museum. Over 3,000 exhibits, including tanks and armoured cars. Harrier GR3, model ships and rides aboard the Gama Goat.



Take a ride aboard the Gama Goat at Muckleburgh

→ Take the A149 to Cromer, then take the A140 south to Norwich.

**Overnight** - Norwich

**DAY 4** - Norwich to Bungay (33m/53km)



**MORNING** - Norwich

One of Britain's best-preserved medieval centres. Surrounded by its old walls are historic buildings, parks, churches and an intricate pattern of streets and lanes, such as cobbled Elm Hill. Norwich is dominated by its magnificent Norman cathedral and castle. *Market - Mon to Sat.*  
**Tourist Information Centre** - The Forum, Millennium Plain +44 (0)1603 727927.

Just after the Norman Conquest, a royal castle was built here on an artificial mound. The first building was of timber and earth construction. Then in the 12<sup>th</sup> C. the present stone keep was built. In the 19<sup>th</sup> C. it was converted into a museum. Tours of the dungeons and battlements.

4 miles to the north, at Horsham St. Faith, is the **City of Norwich Aviation Museum**. Based beside Norwich Airport (a former RAF station), you can explore Norfolk's aviation heritage, and sit within the cockpit of a real Vulcan Bomber.

**Morning coffee and lunch:** Norwich



Vulcan Bomber