

Witham

Located at the very heart of Essex, and standing on the River Brain, the manor of Witham was given to the Knights Templar in 1148. It has been a cloth making centre, spa and coaching town. There has been a market held in Witham since 1215 and a weekly market is still held today on a Saturday as well as a regular farmers' market. Witham was also the home of the novelist, theologian and Dante scholar, Dorothy L Sayers and a centre has been dedicated to her. Visit the Heritage Centre in the Town Hall to find out more about this fascinating town and its history.

Feering and Kelvedon

Kelvedon had a Roman settlement called Canonum on the south-east side of the High Street, flanked by the Roman road from Colchester to London. It eventually became a village with many shops, maltings and inns, which catered for travellers. Owing to its close proximity, Feering is linked with Kelvedon but retains a separate identity. Feering has always been a corn growing area and later a centre for seed growing and market gardens.

The Feering and Kelvedon Local History Museum was opened in 1975, sharing the building with the library. It houses items of archaeological interest, social and local history.

Coggeshall

Coggeshall is a lovely little 'olde worlde' town with a lot to offer. Coggeshall's attractive centre is made up of nearly 200 listed buildings, many are timber-framed dating as far back as the 14th century. Paycocke's House is an exceptional example of a 16th century wealthy clothier's house. Like many of the towns in the area, Coggeshall had a wool and cloth trade and then subsequently industries of silk and velvet weaving, tambour lace making and brewing. Bizarre and obscure events in the past have been attributed to ley lines crossing in the town. These powerful beams of energy linked to the earth's magnetic field have attracted the investigations of ghost hunters from across the country. Local people believe the stories are myths, but they certainly inspire the imagination.

Silver End

Frank Crittall, the owner of a company that made metal-framed windows, built Silver End in 1926 for his employees. The village was designed to be completely self-sufficient, with its own water supply and drainage, shops, schools and churches. A farm was also established which sold produce direct to the village. The factory even generated the village's electricity. It remains a nationally important village of 'modern movement' architecture.

Attractions along the route:

1. Dorothy L Sayers Centre

This centre, based in the Library, houses a collection of books by and about Dorothy L Sayer, novelist, theologian and Dante scholar, who lived in Witham for many years.

Tel: 01376 519625

2. St Mary & All Saints Church

This Saxon church is on the site of a Roman villa. The Victorians gave the church its present appearance and its greatest treasure, French stained glass from the 12th century.

Tel: 01376 512781

www.rivenhall.org.uk

3. Feeringbury Manor Garden

A stunning ten acre garden filled with rare and interesting plants. Gorgeous tulips in May, a mass of flower in June and July with an exuberant display of Michaelmas Daisies in late September. There is a small kitchen garden and there are always new and different plantings to be seen in the garden with annuals, perennials, shrubs and old-fashioned and rambling roses.

Tel: 01376 561946

4. Paycocke's House

A merchant's house, dating from c1500 and containing unusually rich panelling and wood carving. Coggeshall was famous for its lace, examples of which are displayed inside the house. There is also a very attractive cottage garden.

Tel: 01376 561305

www.nationaltrust.org.uk

5. Coggeshall Grange Barn

A National Trust property, this magnificent timber framed barn, dating from the 13th century, was constructed for the monks of the nearby Cistercian Abbey. Exhibition of history and collection of farm wagons and carts.

Tel: 01376 562266

www.nationaltrust.org.uk

6. Coggeshall Museum & Heritage Centre

This Museum and Heritage Centre displays local history including Coggeshall lace, supplemented by exhibitions relating to the past of this historic wool town. There is an authentic working wool loom. Town tours can also be organised with a local historian.

Tel: 01376 563003

www.geocities.com/coggeshallmuseum

7. Marks Hall Gardens and Arboretum

Enjoy the estate that includes the largest surviving ancient woodlands in Essex, ornamental lakes, walled gardens, cascades and mature avenues of oaks, limes and horse chestnuts.

Tel: 01376 563796

www.markshall.org.uk

8. Cressing Temple

Cressing Temple was home to the elite warrior monks, The Knights Templar, founded in 1119 to protect pilgrims travelling to the Holy Land. They were granted the Cressing site in 1137 and it became the largest and most important estate in Essex. The Templars' were extremely powerful and acquired vast wealth, so it was here they commissioned two of the most spectacular surviving medieval timber barns in Europe.

Tel: 01376 584903

www.cressingtemple.org.uk

9. Chelmer & Blackwater Navigation – Paper Mill Lock

The Chelmer & Blackwater Navigation has a long unbroken history starting in June 1793 when an Act of Parliament was passed authorising the making and maintaining of a navigable waterway between Chelmsford and Colliers Reach. Today you can take canal cruises along the unspoilt navigation aboard the motorboat Victoria or the Caffel. You can also hire a row boat and explore the area yourself.

Tel: 01245 225520

www.papermilllock.co.uk

10. Museum of Power

The Museum of Power, housed in the steam pumping station at Langford, was set up to exhibit and demonstrate working examples of power sources of all types and chronicle the major roles that they have played in history. A miniature railway runs on special events days.

Tel: 01621 843183

www.museumofpower.org.uk

11. Combined Military Services Museum

The Museum has collections of British military artefacts and a number of items on display are of national importance for example: the only surviving MK2 'Cockle' canoe as used in the "Cockleshell Heroes" raid.

Tel: 01621 841826

www.cmsm.co.uk

12. Maeldune Heritage Centre

Acclaimed 42 foot long Maldon Embroidery celebrating 1000th anniversary of the famous Battle of Maldon depicting historic scenes and personalities in stunning colour and detail. Also art gallery and souvenir shop.

Tel: 01621 851628

www.maldonembroidery.co.uk

13. Maldon District Museum

Traditional Museum within Promenade Park housing a changing exhibition of objects associated with the area and people of Maldon. The collection's origins were in the pre-war Maldon Borough Museum.

Tel: 01621 842688

www.maldonmuseum.org.uk

14. Promenade Park

100 year old Edwardian park with ornamental lake, magnificent river views and walks. Large free water Splash Park, sandpits, galleon play ship and aerial zip-wire, picnic areas and numerous events held throughout the year.

Tel: 01621 856503

www.maldon.gov.uk

15. The Moot Hall

15th century early brick building with a unique spiral staircase, Dickensian well court, Georgian dado panelled council chamber and remnants of old borough gaol with prisoners exercise yard. Views of Maldon from the roof.

Tel: 01621 857373

www.maldonmoothall.org.uk

16. Topsail Charters

River cruises onboard our fleet of historic Thames Barges for individuals and groups, 2 hour cruises, day sails, weekends away and static parties.

Tel: 01621 857567

www.top-sail.co.uk

17. Wilkin and Sons Museum

The museum contains a collection of preserve making paraphernalia, pictures, documents and redundant machines. Finish your tour with an afternoon cream tea and a visit to the jam shop in the grounds of the famous Tiptree Jam factory.

Tel: 01621 814524

www.tiptree.com

18. Layer Marney Tower (shown below)

England's tallest Tudor gatehouse offers visitors magnificent views to the Blackwater Estuary and beyond. On a clear day you can even see St Cedd's Chapel on the Dengie peninsula. Stop at the History Room to learn more about the building's past and see the model of how Layer Marney Tower might have looked had Lord Marney lived to complete his palace.

Tel: 01206 330784

www.layermarneytower.co.uk



Getting to Witham

Arriving by Train

Witham is served by a regular service by National Express East Anglia www.nationalexpreseastanglia.com tel: 0845 600 7245 directly from London Liverpool Street.

Arriving by Road

If your travel from London or the south, take the A12 from junction 28 of the M25. Leave the A12 at junction 21, then merge onto the B1389 signposted Witham. From the north Witham is accessed via the M11. At junction 8 take the A120 and at Galleys Corner roundabout take the 4th exit onto the B1018 signposted Witham.

Getting to Maldon

Arriving by Train

The nearest stations are Chelmsford and Hatfield Peverel, which are served by a regular service by National Express East Anglia. Continue the journey by bike.

For detailed travel information call 0871 200 2233 or visit www.traveline.org.uk

Essex



Arriving by Road

Travel on the A12 to Chelmsford if travelling from London, the south or east, then take the A414 or B1019.

For Witham area please contact the following:

Witham Tourist Information Centre

Telephone 01376 502674

www.enjoybraintreedistrict.co.uk

For Maldon area please contact the following:

Maldon Tourist Information Centre

Telephone 01621 856503

tic@maldon.gov.uk

www.visitmaldondistrict.co.uk

Other useful information

There are a number of Tourist Information Centres throughout the county. Friendly staff will be able to assist you with in-depth knowledge of their particular area and book accommodation should you require it.

For Witham area please contact the following:

Witham Tourist Information Centre

Telephone 01376 502674

www.enjoybraintreedistrict.co.uk

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Essex County Council



Essex County Council

Witham and Maldon Routes

Maldon Town Centre

