

Ford RideLondon-Essex

Local landmarks and sights to discover along the route



What is Ford-RideLondon-Essex?

RideLondon is a legacy event from the London 2012 Olympic Games. Essex will welcome 25,000 cyclists on Sunday 26th May as RideLondon, the world's greatest festival of cycling, returns to the county for its third year in a partnership between RideLondon and Essex County Council.

The partnership brings the Ford RideLondon-Essex 100 and 60 mass participation rides into the county. Local authorities in Essex will also host two stages of the RideLondon Classique; a three-day UCI Women's WorldTour stage race for the best female riders in the world, on Friday 24 May and Saturday 25 May.



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Summer events after RideLondon-Essex

Friday – Classique Stage 1

📍 Saffron Walden to Colchester - UCI Women's World Tour Stage Race



Key Landmarks along the route

Audley End

A hidden treasure house where you can explore life above and below stairs at this decadent mansion. Explore the impressive house and uncover the story behind the Braybrooke's unique natural history collection. Great houses need an army of staff to keep everything running smoothly, and you can meet Audley's in the Victorian Service Wing and nursery.

Finchingfield

Finchingfield is on the B1052 Braintree to Saffron Walden road, fifty-four miles from London and close to Constable Country. In the time of William the Conqueror it was called Phincingfelda. A textbook example of the traditional English village, Finchingfield is described as the 'most photographed village in England,' Finchingfield has won awards for its traditional picturesque setting.

Colchester Castle

Colchester Castle is one of England's most important heritage sites and is the largest Norman Keep in Europe. Built on the foundations of the Roman Temple of Claudius, today it houses the Castle Museum which is home to archaeological collections of international quality covering 2,500 years of history, including many of the most important Roman finds in Britain.



Activation Zones

📍 Saffron Walden
Start of the race
9:30am-12pm

Saffron Walden Town council will be providing an opportunity for local residents to come together and socialise around the start of the race. SWTC will provide refreshments and facilities for local residents and visitors to showcase the town to new audiences and inspire activity.

📅 Colchester Castle Park
Friday 24th May
11am-4pm

In Castle Park, the activation zone will host local community groups and organisations with a market stall of local opportunities. Activities will be taking place and entertainment for visitors. On the closed section of the high street, Essex Pedal Power will lead a led ride to showcase the project and its successes.

Did you know...

💡 Colchester is Britain's First City with the oldest town walls in Britain

💡 Roman Colchester had the only known Roman Chariot Racing Arena in Britain



Places To Watch

The race will begin at 11:00 at Market Square in Saffron Walden and will travel east across the county through the picturesque town of Finchingfield. Head to Halsted High Street for the timed sprint, and if you're local to Colchester watch the best women riders in the world fly through Dedham and Manningtree, before crossing the finish line on East Hill in Colchester City Centre around 15:00.



Places To Stay

- The Cricketers, Saffron Walden
- Great Sampford B&B, Saffron Walden
- The Marks Tey Hotel, Colchester
- Greyfriars Hotel, Colchester



Key Attractions

- Colchester Zoo, Stanway
- Layer Marney Tower, Colchester
- Audley End Miniature Railway
- Bridge End Gardens



Saturday – Classique Stage 2



Key Landmarks along the route

The Moot Hall

Located in Maldon centre, Moot Hall is a unique Grade I listed heritage building offering guided tours and providing a 360° view from the highest vantage point in the town, offering picturesque views. Thought to have been built around 1420, the tower is part of a brick-built extension to an existing timber manor house known as D'arcy Mansion – the family home of Sir Robert D'arcy (1391-1448).

Promenade Park

Promenade Park is the largest waterside park in Essex, providing a fun-filled, family friendly destination all year round with amazing events and activities throughout the year. Nestled between the historic high street and Blackwater Estuary, the park features a water Splash Park, beach huts and deckchairs for hire, sandpits, galleon play ship and aerial zip-wire, model boating and crabbing lake as well as cafe kiosks and picnic areas.



Places To Watch

Maldon High Street

The race will begin at 11:00 from Promenade Park when the riders will head up the High Street and down Market Hill ready for the official start in Goldhanger Road at 11:05. The riders are expected to come through the town again just after 13:00, for the first of three laps. The final climb up Market Hill is expected to take place around 14:15.

Once Maldon stood as a bastion against raiding Viking forces. Today the backdrop of sky, saltmarsh and water make this area of Essex a beautiful haven for wildlife, enriched by a resounding history. The majestic Thames Sailing Barges which cluster around the Hythe Quay evoke the days of traditional sail.

[Discover more family activities, landmarks and sights with Visit Essex here.](#)

Did you know...



Sea-salt has been harvested in Maldon for more than 2000 years, and Maldon Sea Salt is still widely available in local supermarkets



Maldon is the birthplace of 'Sam Ryder' who came 2nd in Eurovision 2022 with his song 'Space Man'



The Battle of Maldon took place on 11th August 991 AD near Maldon beside the River Blackwater and between the Saxons and Danes



Key Attractions

- [Thomas Plume's Library](#)
- [Beeleigh Steam Mill](#)
- [Maldon Beach Huts](#)
- [Museum of Power](#)
- [Maldon Petting Zoo](#)
- [Maldon Wick Reserve](#)
- [Maldon Park Museum](#)
- [Crouch Ridge Vineyard](#)



Places To Stay

- [Hall Farm Cottages, Althorne](#)
- [Chigborough Farm](#)



Activation Zones



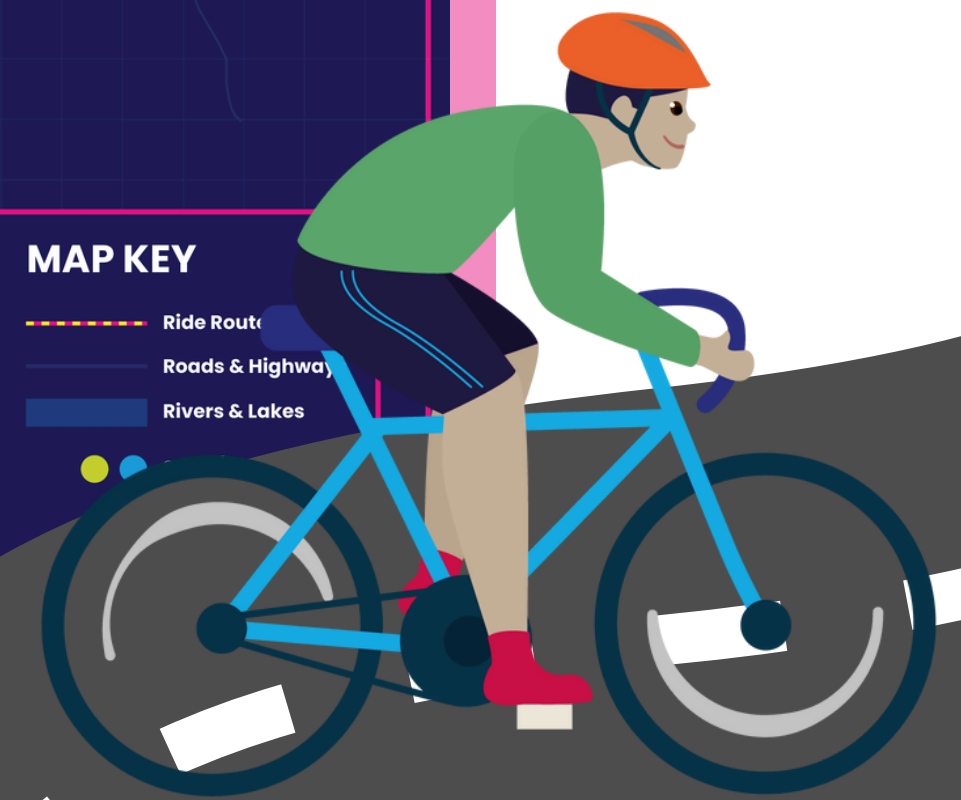
Promenade Park
Saturday 25th May
9am-12:30pm

Come down to [Promenade Park](#) for a morning of family friendly fun, with local clubs, classes and groups providing activities to take part in. Dr. Bike will be offering FREE bike repairs to visitors and the MDC Safety Partnership will be offering bike security marking to help protect against bike theft.

Discover The Sunday Route



Essex County Council



Sunday – Ford RideLondon-Essex 100

 Epping and Ongar

Key Landmarks along the route

Chigwell

Chigwell is a nearby town with historical significance. Take a walk in Hainault Forest and enjoy what nature has to offer, or visit Fox Burrow Farm with the family. Famous novelist Charles Dickens once described Chigwell as "the greatest place in the world" in his book Barnaby Rudge.



Epping Forest

On route, Epping Forest is an ancient woodland that has been managed since Neolithic times, making it one of the oldest managed landscapes in the world! It's a haven for people and wildlife, offering open grasslands, majestic woodlands, deep ponds and the sounds of birds and insects.



Ongar Castle and Railway

On route, Ongar Castle, also known as Ongar Motte, is a medieval motte-and-bailey castle believed to have been built in the 11th century. The Epping Ongar Railway is a heritage railway line that operates vintage steam and diesel trains, offering visitors a nostalgic journey through the countryside.



Places To Stay

- [Delta Hotel, Waltham Abbey](#)
- [Lee Valley Campsite, Epping](#)
- [George and Dragon, Epping](#)
- [The Black Bull, Fyfield](#)
- [The Woodbine Inn, Waltham Abbey](#)



Cafes

- Tea in the Park, Epping
- The Larder at Butlers Retreat, Chingford
- KG Coffee, Chipping Ongar



Walks

- Epping Forest Centenary Walk
- Theydon Bois Circular Walk
- Connaught Water Walk

Steeped in history, full of character and jewelled with green spaces, every season offers all the right ingredient for a short break in the Epping Forest District. Find places to eat and drink, events and activities and offers and promotions on the free [Discover App](#) or over on the website [here](#).

Activation Zones



[Epping High Street](#)
Sunday 26 May 2024
8:00am – 12:30pm

Epping High Street is the breakfast stop for riders with activities on offer for spectators and an opportunity to catch up with participants in the race. With smoothie bikes, a live stage, stalls, pavement art, face painting and plenty of activities for the whole family to enjoy, this is a key location to watch the race and soak in the atmosphere.



[Ongar High Street](#)

Ongar festival organisers are set with plenty of activities on offer including a treasure hunt, inflatables, smoothie bikes, arts and crafts and the opportunity to explore a vintage open top bus. Local businesses along the high street will be open offering refreshments and snacks for spectators and participants.

Community Activation

To celebrate Ford RideLondon-Essex returning to the district for its third year, join one of the community cycling rides across the district ahead of the weekend [here](#).

Join us at the [Epping Community Fete](#) to support the Ford RideLondon-Essex riders and take part in a range of fun activities!



Sunday – Ford RideLondon–Essex 100

📍 Uttlesford and Great Dunmow



Key Landmarks along the route

The Rodings

The Rodings are a collection of eight villages originating from the Saxon invasion of the sixth century. The area is rich in timber-framed manor houses, farms and thatched cottages. It was once an area with an abundance of windmills but today only one remains with the sails still turning at Aythorpe Roding.

Great Dunmow

Great Dunmow is the halfway point of the ride, including a Pit Stop at the top of Braintree Road (CM6 1AP) which will feature:

- Toilets and water stop
- Refreshments and entertainment
- Bike repair/maintenance

The town is steeped in history, dating back to Roman times, and is famous for its “Flitch Trials” which take place on every leap year. Mentioned in Chaucer’s The Canterbury Tales, couples must convince a jury of six local bachelors and six local maidens that they have never wished themselves un-wed for a year and a day. If successful, the couple receive a flitch of bacon as a prize.

Felstead

A few miles further on, you’ll be able to enjoy the atmosphere of Felsted, a picturesque village most famous for its school, which has links to Oliver Cromwell, who sent his sons there. More recently, Felsted was one of the villages Stage Three of the Tour de France passed through in 2014 when the event came to the UK.

Did you know...



Great Dunmow is a small market town dating back to Roman times



The Gardens of Easton Lodge are idyllic Grade II listed gardens



Places To Watch

Braintree Road, Great Dunmow

A great spectator spot with the High Street boasting unique independent retailers, only a short walk away.



Places To Stay

- Down Hall Hotel & Spa, Hatfield Heath
- The Old Thatch, Takeley
- Talliston House & Gardens, Great Dunmow
- Saracen’s Head Hotel, Great Dunmow
- Pig and Truffle, Little Dunmow



In Uttlesford you can explore quintessentially English villages brimming with chocolate box thatched cottages; take in splendid, lively market towns; visit castles and country houses; marvel at the beauty of our natural heritage and walk in the footsteps of history through our town and village centres.

[Discover more family activities, landmarks and sights with Visit Essex here.](#)



Activation Zones



Dunmow Town
Sunday 26th May 2024
9am-4pm

A number of family activities will take place such as balance bike sessions, face painting, smoothie bikes, street entertainers alongside an offer of refreshments, bike repairs and physio’s to participants.

Sunday – Ford Ride London–Essex 100

📍 Braintree and Chelmsford

Key Landmarks along the route

Hylands House

Hylands Estate is a prestigious Grade II* listed public park encompassing 574 acres of historic parkland. The beautifully renovated Neo-Classical elegant villa Hylands House include formal Victorian Gardens and ancient woodlands, also an award winning accessible children's Adventure Playground.



Great Notley Country Park

The Country Park covers some 100 acres of open space. The site is home to Sky Ropes and Essex's longest play trail. Explore the 1.2km play trail featuring a giant see-saw, climbing forest, tyre swings, sand play area, rope climbers, slides, forts and much more.



Chelmsford Museum

Chelmsford Museum reopened in 2019 to take you through Chelmsford's history, from the Ice Age, right through to the present day. From the chance to see a mammoth, or watch a princely Anglo-Saxon burial, to finding out what used to be on your street, the museum has something for everyone.

Did you know...

- 💡 Braintree dates back to around 4,000 years ago
- 💡 The Braintree district has a population of around 155,300 people
- 💡 Braintree covers 236 square miles of mostly rural land



★ Key Attractions

Braintree

- [Hedingham Castle](#)
- [Marshall Estate](#)
- [Creasing Temple Barns](#)
- [Bocking Windmill](#)
- [Braintree District Museum](#)
- [Tuffon Hall Vineyard](#)
- [Finchingfield Post Mill](#)
- [Blake House Craft Centre](#)
- [Colne Valley Railway](#)
- [Spains Hall](#)

Chelmsford

- [Hanningfield Reservoir](#)
- [RHS Hyde Hall](#)
- [Chelmsford Cathedral](#)
- [Ninja Warrior](#)
- [Air Hop](#)
- [Danbury Outdoors](#)
- [Go Ape - Hylands Estate](#)
- [Hylands Estate](#)
- [Essex Police Museum](#)
- [Chelmsford Mini Railway](#)

🏠 Places To Stay

Braintree

- [Wakes Hall Cottages, Wakes Colne](#)
- [Greenlands Barn, Earls Colne](#)
- [The Old Farmhouse, Finchingfield](#)
- [Kings Arms, Coggeshall](#)

Chelmsford

- [County Hotel, Chelmsford](#)
- [Premier Inn, Chelmsford City Centre](#)
- [Lion Inn Hotel, Chelmsford](#)
- [Downham Hall, Billericay](#)



Activation Zones

Writtle

Head down to Writtle Green from 10am to enjoy different activities and refreshments for participants, as well as free led rides, community rides and learn to ride sessions.



Summer Events after RideLondon

Fancy visiting Essex after RideLondon? With so much happening across the county during the warmer months, from festivals to community events and family days out, take a look at some of the local fun happening below!



Braintree

- 2nd & 20th June – Hawk & Friends at Hedingham Castle
- 8th June – Coggeshall Summer Festival, Coggeshall Recreation Ground
- 18th August – Classic & Vintage Car Show at Hedingham Castle

Colchester

- 1st June 2024 – Roman & Medieval Festival, Castle Park
- 29th June 2024 – Colchester Food & Drink Festival, Castle Park
- 12th July 2024 – Ibiza Orchestra Experience, Castle Park
- 13th July 2024 – Sausage & Cider Festival, Castle Park
- 10th August – Gin & Rum Festival, Castle Park
- 21st September – Family Fun Festival, Castle Park
- 22nd September – Essex Classic Car Show, Castle Park

Maldon

- 2nd June – Maldon Mud Race, Promenade Park
- 7th June – Classic Ibiza Maldon, Promenade Park
- 6th July – The Maldon Doggie Weekend, Promenade Park
- 21st July – Langford County Fair & Classic Car Show, Museum of Power
- 18th August – Smoke & Fire Festival, Promenade Park

Uttlesford

- 21 June – 14 July – Thaxted Music Festival
- 13 July – Dunmow Flitch Trials
- 13 July – Summer Craft Fair, Cammas Hall
- 3 August – Heritage Live: Richard Ashcroft at Audley End House and Gardens
- 10 August – Dino Day at Little Easton Manor
- 21 September – Great Dunmow Carnival