

In Burnham-on-Crouch, the major town of the Dengie, you get the lot – great places to stay and eat, riverside walks and pubs, art galleries, gorgeous Georgian homes and even an eccentric octagonal bell tower

#### Getting to Burnham-on-Crouch

## Arriving by Road

If you are travelling from London or the south, take the A12 from junction 28 of the M25. Leave the A12 at junction 18 and take the A414 towards Danbury followed by the B1010 to Burnham-on-Crouch.

## **Arriving by Train**

Burnham is served by a regular National Express East Anglia rail service directly from London Liverpool Street. For more information please call 0845 600 7245 or visit www.nationalexpresseastanglia.com

Travel information can also be obtained by calling 0871 200 2233 or visiting www.traveline.org.uk

## Accommodation

1 Mangapp Manor ★★★★ Silver Award B&B Burnham-on-Crouch CM0 8QQ Tel: 07769 676735

2 The Railway Hotel ★★★★ Silver Award B&B Burnham-on-Crouch CM0 8BQ Tel 01621 786868 www.therailwayhotelburnham.co.uk

# **Tourist information**

**Burnham Tourist Information Centre** Tel: 01621 784962 www.visitmaldondistrict.co.uk

3 The Oyster Smack Motel \*\*\*\* Inn Burnham-on-Crouch CM0 8HR Tel 01621 786496

www.theoystersmackinn.co.u





By Paul Gogarty, one of the country's leading travel writers and author of The Coast Road – A 3,000 mile journey round the edge of England

Bounded by the North Sea and the rivers Crouch and Blackwater, the Dengie is a beguiling mix of the country's richest arable farming, thatched and weatherboarded villages like the sublime Tillingham, and moody end-of-the-earth saltmarshes.

In centuries long gone, Dengie Fever was something farmers' wives worried about contracting as they assisted their husbands in the mosquito-infested swamps. Nowadays Dengie fever is something everyone, happily contracts as soon as they step into this wonderfully remote land of mussels, markets and



#### **Activities**

1. Royal Corinthian Yacht Club Designed by Joseph Emberton in 1930 winning national architectural award offering magnificent views of the River Crouch. Racing for dayboats and dinghies, training for cadets and optimists - strong Junior Club. Large restaurant and bar with terrace. Visiting yachtsmen welcome. Tel: 01621 782105 www.royalcorinthian.co.uk

#### 2. Royal Burnham Yacht Club

The most prestigious yacht club in south east England with a magnificent view over the river Crouch, open 7 days a week all year. Active junior section with a full programme of sail & seamanship training. Visiting yachtsmen always welcome. Tel: 01621 782044 www.rbyc.org.uk

#### 3. Burnham Sailing Club

Family club with pleasant and friendly atmosphere. Excellent training for strong junior section. Competitive Wednesday evening racing for cruisers, dayboats and dinghies. Varried social programme. Good facilities and views of the river. Tel: 01621 782624 www.burnhamsc.org

marshland whether they're writers, painters, filmmakers or holidaymakers (the landscape reputedly gave Hitchcock the idea of The Birds, & Orwell used it as setting for Martian landing in War of the Worlds).

For the active, there's walking, cycling, horseriding and aquatic sports at the Bradwell Outdoor Centre. For foodies there's some of the country's finest seafood and a food trail linking local farm producers. And in Burnham-on-Crouch, the major town of the Dengie, you get the lot – great places to stay and eat, riverside walks and pubs, art galleries, gorgeous Georgian homes and even an eccentric octagonal bell tower, Burnham's best known landmark, you have to duck your head under on the High Street. Burnham is the major yachting centre on the eastern



#### 4. Mistral Yachts

Bareboat or skippered charter of modern yachts for up to 8 persons. Evening cruises from Burnham-on-Crouch. Tel: 01621 743853 www.mistralyachts.co.uk

5. Burnham-On-Crouch Golf Club Superb 18 hole riverside course with stunning views over the River Crouch. Tel: 01621 782282 www.burnhamgolfclub.co.uk

#### 6. Elmwood Equestrian Centre

Qualified instructors cater for all ages and stages. Very good hacking, long distance and beach rides. Introduction to riding lead rein for the very young. Tel: 01621 784330

7. Medway Farm Equestrian Centre Indoor / outdoor menage and hacks mostly off road. Tel: 01621 744277 www.medwayfarm.com

## www.visitessex.com

Essex County Council



seaboard and nicknamed the Cowes of the Fast, hence it comes as no surprise that it has four yachting clubs (and the Royal Corinthian Yacht Club's home is considered an Art Deco masterpiece).

To get a real feel for the very special beauty of the area I strongly recommend a walk along the northernmost promontory where the misanthropic Saxon chapel of St Peter's (or St Peteron-the-Wall) at Bradwell looks out over mudflats, cockle spits and hovering kestrels and hen harriers. St Peter Ad Murum is reputedly the oldest complete church in England that is still in regular use and is the scene of an annual ecumenical pilgrimage on the first Saturday of July each year. Its construction by St Cedd, who sailed from Lindisfarne to preach here, marked both an end to Saxon pirateering and the first foothold of Christianity in the South. The chapel was built from the walls of the Roman fort of Othona in 654AD - an intimidating fortress at the mouth of the Blackwater that was erected to protect the estuary from the Saxon pirates. Today, the location of Othona remains a major archaeological site and part of the Dengie National Nature Reserve.



#### 8. Bradwell Outdoors

Land based activities including: archery, mountain biking, canoeing, crabbing, sailing available for young people and adults at our waterside site. Dinghy, offshore and powerboat training also available. Tel: 01621 776256

www.essexoutdoors.org/bradwell.php

The atmosphere here is like no other and the saint's word - "In this place the word is revealed to you" - still reverberates. A six-mile waymarked Wildside Walk round the promontory leads through the SSSI, passing grazing ponies, rare coastal flora, breeding coastal birds (the Bradwell Bird Observatory is located close to the chapel), old WWII pillboxes, 7th century fish traps and Shell Beach - a 30-acre treasure trove of mostly oyster and cockle shells. Today, the location of Othona remains a major archaeological site and part of the Dengie National Nature Reserve. It's a hugely important conservation area with 750 acres lying below sea level and protected by sea walls. The starting and end point for the circular walk is the car park for St Peter's chapel.

# Attractions along the route

1. Burnham-on-Crouch Museum A local museum, situated on the Quay, devoted to the history of the Dengie Hundred area from Neolithix to the present. The museum consists of two floors of exhibits of maritime, agricultural, industrial and social history. The archive contains photographs, drawings and documents. There is a regular programme of special exhibitions. Tel: 01621 782184 www.burnham.org.uk/museum.htm





#### Wildlife Trips Lady Essex

The seal and wildlife trips organised in conjunction with the RSPB who provide a guide for some of the trips. They are ideal for those who don't like rough seas as the creeks are very sheltered. Private hire for wildlife and photography trips as well as fishing trips for the more adventurous. Tel: 01702 258666 www.ladyessex.com

#### **Nature Break**

Explore the wealth of wildlife in and around Foulness Island and nearby Wallasea Island aboard an ex RNLI Lifeboat. The trips are escorted and are suitable for all ages. You will cruise to parts not accessible by car or on foot where you can enjoy birds and seals in their own environment without disturbance.

Tel: 01268 491540 http://beehive.thisisessex.co.uk/ wildlifecruises





#### 2. Creeksea church

Rebuilt in 1878 to a design by F Chancellor but incorporating some features of the 14th Century Church in the south porch and doorway. The interior has a 15th Century font and a brass and sword of Sir Arthur Harris who died in 1631.

#### 3. St Mary's church

It has often been referred to as the cathedral of the marshes. A church was first recorded on this site in 1155 although the current St Mary's Church is of 14th century origin. Construction was mainly of ragstone although there are traces of roman bricks which may have come from a roman villa which is rumoured to have stood nearby.

#### 4. Mangapps Railway Museum

Extensive collection of railway relics of all kinds, working steam and diesel locos, carriages, wagon, historic buildings and 1 of the largest collections of signalling equipment open to the public. Most of the collection is under cover. Train rides through pleasant countryside. Special events include Santa special trains during December. Tel: 01621 784898

www.mangapps.co.uk



5. St Lawrence Rural Discovery Church This active rural parish church, situated on a hilltop overlooking the Blackwater Estuary provides exhibitions and community activities. Light refreshments available Tel: 01621 779319

#### 6. St Peter-on-the-Wall

St Peter's on the Wall is probably the oldest surviving church in England. It is also the sole monument to Celtic Christianity in Essex (the former kingdom of the East Saxons). The chapel was built by Bishop Cedd around 654AD, almost entirely of Roman material from the fort of Othona (a small display inside explains its history). Othona was one of the nine Roman forts built along the south east coast to repel Saxon invaders. The fort has long since been eroded by the sea and buried inland. Evening services are held every Sunday during July and August at 18.30 hrs. Tel: 01621 776203

www.bradwellchapel.org



www.visitessex.com



# Sensational saltmarshes and blissful sailing The Dengie peninsula

# Total distance of main route is 21.6km/13.4miles



# Short walks

- A 10km/6.2miles
- **B** 9.1km/5.6miles
- C 13.1km/8.1miles
- D 17.8km/11.1miles
- E 23.1km/14.3miles
- F 16.5km/10.2miles
- G 8km/4.9miles

# Attractions along this route

- Burnham-on-Crouch Museum
- 2 Creeksea Church
- 3 St Mary's Church
- 4 Mangapps Railway Museum
- 6 St Lawrence Rural Discovery Church
- **6** St Peter-on-the-Wall

# **Activities**

- Royal Corinthian Yacht Club
- **2** Royal Burnham Yacht Club
- **8** Burnham Sailing Club
- 4 **Mistral Yachts**
- 6 Burnham-on-Crouch Golf Club
- 6 Elmwood Equestrian Centre
- 0 Medway Farm Equestrian Centre
- **Bradwell Outdoors**

# Accommodation

for details see overleaf

- The Oyster Smack Motel
- 2 The Railway Hotel
- 3 Mangapp Manor

# Places to eat

- The Contented Sole Tel: 01621 786900 www.contentedsole.co.uk
- The Quayside Restaurant Tel: 01621 783350 www.quaysiderestaurant.co.uk
- <sup>3</sup> The Galley Tel: 01621 786496 www.thegalley.biz
- The Green Man **4** Tel: 01621 776226 www.greenmanbradwellonsea.co.uk

This map is intended as a guide only. Please refer to relevant OS Explorer maps for specific details.

Key Walking Route 1 Short walks here Place of worship Telephone in rural area Public House National Rail Accommodation Restaurants