

TEN THINGS TO SEE AND DO WHILST STAYING IN THE LINCOLNSHIRE WOLDS

1 Outdoor Activities

The Lincolnshire Wolds is an ideal destination offering stunning scenery, endless outdoor space and activities such as walking, cycling, horse riding, golf and fishing. Within an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and 50 miles of coastline, there's a rich choice of natural environments to explore on foot, two wheels or horseback.

Walking

We're very proud of our big skies here in Lincolnshire. What better way to enjoy their stunning beauty than gazing at the horizon on a pleasant stroll in the countryside? A haven for ramblers, **The Viking Way** lends itself to many an adventurous hiker across the picturesque Lincolnshire Wolds – one of the most unexpected yet beautiful features of the county's diverse landscape.

Explore hidden valleys and soak up the views during the annual **Lincolnshire Wolds Walking Festival**. Follow in the footsteps of one of the most famous poetic voices of the 19th century on the **Tennyson Trail** weaving around Lincolnshire's rolling landscapes that inspired **Alfred Lord Tennyson**, who was born and brought up in the county.

Or try the **Water Rail Way**, a traffic-free path along the former Lincoln to Boston railway, brought to life with unique works of art, including Lincoln Red cows – as well as more inspiring sculpture celebrating Tennyson.

For woodland walks, the **Lincolnshire Limewoods**, particularly Chambers Farm Wood, offer glorious walking throughout the year while the ancient woods within **Grimsthorpe Park** are where King Henry VIII once hunted deer.

Or how about a city tour? Join a Lincoln city guide on a **Cathedral Quarter** walking tour – or one with a twist, a **Lincoln Ghost** or **Roman Walk**.



Cycling

Pedal power your way to relaxation! Take your pick from challenging trails for serious cyclists to fun easy-riding cycle routes, whether in the gently rolling **Lincolnshire Wolds**, coastal tracks and waterway trails.

And, of course, there are plenty of village pubs and traditional cafes for resting weary legs.

For a gentle, more leisurely ride stick to the flat country lanes and ancient bridleways, or try one of the less challenging **Lincolnshire Wolds Cycle Routes**, six trails suitable for cyclists of all abilities, from the beginner to the more advanced. For another cycle route that is on a flat surface try the **Spa Trail** that follows the mid section of the old Horncastle to Woodhall Junction railway line and part of the Horncastle Canal and also part of the **Viking Way**.

Or how about cycling past Lincoln Red cattle, Lincoln Longwool sheep and Curly Coatpigs and a Viking long ship? Find them on the **Water Rail Way**, a traffic-free cycle path along the former Lincoln to Boston railway dotted with inspirational sculptures celebrating Lincolnshire wildlife as well as the words of Lincolnshire poet **Alfred, Lord Tennyson**.

Horse Riding

Lincolnshire is simply perfect country for horse riders of all abilities. Our rural expanses and network of quiet lanes offer easy and safe horse riding trails. Bridleways have few gates and there's very little traffic on the leafy country lanes, many of which are old drover roads with wide grass verges.

For Lincolnshire's version of Big Country riding, it's hard to beat horse trekking through the **Lincolnshire Wolds** with its rolling hills, wonderful countryside, ancient tracks and country lanes. Blast away those cobwebs with a dose of fresh air as you gallop along a deserted beach.

You can even bring your own horse on holiday and stay here at **Grange Farm**.

For a horse themed day out, try **Northcote Heavy Horse Centre**, a visitor attraction and animal sanctuary providing a permanent home for horses and ponies that have nowhere else to go. As well as meeting the horses, there's also a chance to go on a day ride and special annual medieval pageants, with horses and riders dressed for the occasion!

And Lincolnshire can also claim one of the England's most picturesque horse riding racetracks. Set in its rural surroundings on the edge of the wolds, **Market Rasen Racecourse** offers a friendly family atmosphere, quality racing and amazing views unmatched anywhere in the country.

Bird Watching

Here at Grange Farm we have many species of gardens birds as well as woodpeckers, barn owls and kingfishers.

Across Lincolnshire there are over 100 nature reserves dedicated to conserving the wildlife and wild places of the county, with habitats ranging from grassland, heathland, scrub and woodland to coastland, marshes and wetlands.

Enjoy the wide variety of species thriving in their natural habitats along Lincolnshire's 50 miles of coastline – from ospreys and rare birds to seals and even sharks. A pair of binoculars is a must!

Gibraltar Point National Nature Reserve covers three miles of coast from Skegness to The Wash. Major habitats include sandy and muddy seashore, sand dunes, saltmarsh and freshwater marsh with ponds and lagoons.

RSPB Freiston Shore Nature Reserve is a fantastic spot for bird watching throughout the seasons. Species at the reserve include avocets, redshanks, merlins and brent geese.

Far Ings National Nature Reserve at Barton upon Humber was reclaimed by the Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust in the 1980's. Since then the Trust has developed the reed beds into a thriving reserve where species such as bitterns and kingfishers can be seen.

Many leaflets are displayed in our Tourist Information room – please help yourselves.

2 Visit Market Towns

Horncastle

The Romans built a fort at Horncastle which possibly became a Saxon Shore Fort. Although fortified, Horncastle was not on any important Roman roads which suggests that the River Bain was the principal route of access.

Roman Horncastle became known as Banovallum (ie “Wall on the River Bain”) – this name has been adopted by several local businesses and by the town’s secondary modern school – but in fact the actual Roman name for the settlement is not definitely known. Banovallum was suggested in the 19th century through an interpretation of the Ravenna Cosmography, a 7th century list of Roman towns and road stations – Banovallum may in fact have been Caistor.

The walls of the Roman fort remain in places – one section is on display in the town’s library, which is built over the top of the wall. The Saxons called the town Hymecastre from whence its modern name arose.

Horncastle is mentioned in the Domesday Book of 1086, when it was listed as consisting of 41 households including 29 villagers and 12 smallholders and had 100 acres of meadow and two mills, all belonging to King William

Dating from the 13th century, the parish church is dedicated to Saint Mary. It is a grade II listed building which was heavily restored between 1859 and 1861 by Ewan Christian.

Horncastle was given its market charter in the 13th century. It was formerly known for its great August Horse Fair – an internationally famous annual trading event which lasted until the early 20th century.



The town is now known as a centre for the antiques trade and is well worth a wander. The town has supermarkets, greengrocers, butchers, bakers, banks, post office, gift shops and lovely coffee shops. One of our favourite coffee shops is The Old Stables, just off the market place – stop off for a coffee and enjoy the ambience. Be sure to tell them we sent you!

Markets are held on Thursday and Saturday with an auctioneer being at the market every 1st and 3rd Saturday of the month. There is also a Farmers Market held every 4th Saturday of the month.

Louth

Known as the “capital of the Lincolnshire Wolds” it is situated where the ancient trackway Barton Street crosses the River Lud. The Greenwich Meridian crosses Eastgate and this point is marked with a plaque on the north side of the street, just east of the junction with Northgate.

Historically, the town is most noted as the origin of the Lincolnshire Rising, the forerunner of Pilgrimage of Grace on 1st October 1536, starting in St James Church, Louth. A flood occurred in the town on 29th May 1920, causing 23 deaths. Several stone plaques in the town show the high water level reached. The town’s skyline is dominated by St James Church the spire of which is 295 feet (90m) tall, though shorter than both Norwich Cathedral and Salisbury Cathedral, in terms of spire height it is reputedly the tallest Anglican parish church in the United Kingdom. The church was built in 1515.

Louth museum has a Panorama Gallery which features two back-lit replicas of William Brown’s Panorama of Louth viewed from the top of St James spire in 1844. The two original paintings that together form the panorama hang side-by-side in the Council Chamber of the Town Hall on Little Eastgate. The panorama gives a unique and vivid representation of the streets, businesses, homes and people of the town and the landscape as far as the North Sea to the east and northwards to the Humber estuary and beyond.

Much of the town centre is lined with brick buildings from the 17th and 18th centuries. **Alfred, Lord Tennyson** was educated at King Edward VI Grammar School and a stone inscription to commemorate this forms part of a wall on Schoolhouse Lane.

Louth is noted for the wide selection of independent retailers in the town, in particular specialist grocers. Louth is also home to **The Cheese Shop** which has gained nationwide recognition with features in newspapers, The Hairy Bikers Food Tour of Britain, BBC Lincolnshire and BBC Look North and in works by Mary Portas.

Just off the Market Place is the department store Eve and Ranshaw, whose history can be traced back to 1781, whilst Eastgate is noted for its range of local shops including award winning butchers and an independent chain of “Dragonfly” shops.



Market days are on Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays. There is a farmers market on the 4th Wednesday of each month. A cattle market is held each Thursday at the Louth Livestock Centre on Newmarket.

Market Rasen

Market Rasen is a small market town on the edge of the Lincolnshire Wolds. Originally “Rasen”, as it is known locally, was called “East Rasen”, “Rasen Parva” or “Little Rasen”. The town centre has a homogeneous 19th-century red-brick appearance of mainly Georgian and Victorian architecture centred around a market place with a medieval church restored in the 19th century.

The River Rase flows through the town and is crossed by Jameson Bridge, Caistor Road Bridge and Crane Bridge.

Market Rasen’s community fire and police station opened December 2005. It is one of the first purpose-built combined fire and police stations in the UK.

Market Rasen racecourse is a National Hunt racecourse and stages a year round programme of racing.

Market days are Tuesdays, Fridays and Saturdays. On each Tuesday there is an auction of goods and produce, and on the first Tuesday of every month, a farmers’ market. Every Friday the Women’s Institute holds a country market.

3. Aviation

Lincolnshire Aviation Heritage Centre, East Kirkby

Relive a World War Two bomber airfield at East Kirkby. Experience the sights and sounds, smells and atmosphere of a bomber airfield.

The only place in the country to see a Lancaster Bomber on an original wartime airfield, and ride in it! (pre book only). Including original Control Tower, welcoming NAAFI and an emotionally evocative Memorial Chapel containing the 848 names of personnel who gave their lives from this airfield.

The largest Bomber Command museum in the country.

Battle of Britain Memorial Flight Visitor Centre, RAF Coningsby

The Battle of Britain Memorial Flight operates a Lancaster, six Spitfires, two Hurricanes, two Chipmunks and a Dakota. A partnership between Lincolnshire County Council and the Royal Air Force makes it possible to view these historic aircraft at their base at RAF Coningsby.

The Visitor Centre has welcomed over 300,000 people to its permanent gallery, temporary exhibitions space and excellent shop. Visitors who take a guided tour, have the rare opportunity to visit the flight on its home territory, where you can watch technicians who have learnt skills all but lost working on these magnificent aircraft.

The aircraft are no museum pieces, they are all still flying and can be seen at a variety of air shows in the summer months.



4. Famous Connections

The American Connection

Modern America took root on the banks of the James River at Jamestown, Virginia, in 1607, a decade before the Pilgrim Fathers founded Plymouth in Massachusetts.

Follow in the steps of Lincolnshire soldier of fortune Capt John Smith who led the Jamestown settlers' and become president of Virginia. Visit Willoughby, his birthplace, and Louth where he went to school or red-bricked Tattershall Castle, one of the earliest brick buildings in England, where Smith learnt horsemanship,

Alford - a lovely market town with a magnificent Manor House - has connections with not only Capt Smith, but also Anne Hutchinson, the famous female preacher and founder of Rhode Island, and Thomas Paine, author of the influential "Rights of Man" and who helped inspire the American revolution.

Boston, capital of the Fens, is the location of the first failed attempt by the Mayflower Pilgrim Fathers to flee England in 1602 and said to have been imprisoned at Boston Guildhall, now a museum. It was also home to preacher John Cotton who sought religious freedom in America - later founding the city of Boston, Massachusetts. A memorial in St Botolph's Church celebrates the five men from the town who became early governors of Massachusetts

The Pilgrim Fathers finally fled England in 1608 from north Lincolnshire and as well as a memorial stone close to the actual departure spot, Immingham Museum also has a small exhibition on the Pilgrims.

The Australian Connection

Re-discover the roots of a nation by retracing the footsteps of men who helped put Australia on the map... literally.

Navigator and cartographer Matthew Flinders, who named Australia, was born and brought up here, one reason why the city of Lincoln is twinned with Port Lincoln, Australia.

Fellow early settlers - such as explorers Flinders and George Bass and colonial administrator John Franklin - all came from Lincolnshire, as did Horncastle explorer and naturalist Sir Joseph Banks who joined Captain James Cook on a voyage around the world in 1768.

St Marys Church in Donington hosts a display dedicated to Flinders while the market place of Franklin's hometown of Spilsby is dominated by a statue of the explorer.

Each year Australia is commemorated by local folk with the annual Great Australian Breakfast held each January while in March a service for Flinders' birthday is staged in Lincoln Cathedral. While in Lincoln, visit the Sir Joseph Banks Conservatory, a tropical conservatory commemorating the species collected by him on Cook's voyage to Australia.

Alfred Tennyson

"To strive, to seek, to find, and not to yield"...

These were words from Lincolnshire-born Alfred Lord Tennyson, one of England's most popular poets, engraved at the London 2012 Olympic village.

Follow in his footsteps on the Tennyson Trail and be inspired by countryside that landscapes includes Somersby, where Tennyson was born and raised.

Try out The Water Rail Way walk with innovative sculptures dotted along its path, including some inspired by Tennyson's words, or visit 18th century Gunby Hall near to Burgh le Marsh, said to be Tennyson's 'haunt of ancient peace',

Find out more at The Tennyson Research Centre at Lincoln Central Library, the most significant collection relating to Tennyson in the world.



Sir Isaac Newton

And the art of science? Lincolnshire has close connections to the greatest scientist of his era, a great British inventor and the man who discovered gravity.

Sir Isaac Newton was born and brought up at [Woolsthorpe Manor](#) near Grantham and today visitors can discover more about Newton and his discoveries at this 17th-century farmhouse - including mathematic graffiti that he scribbled on walls.

In the grounds see the famous apple tree that inspired his thoughts on gravity.

5. Film Connections

Whether Hollywood blockbuster or classic TV oldie, Lincolnshire is where movie producers head off to find great locations.

[Burghley House](#) and neighbouring [Stamford](#) were given the star treatment when Keira Knightley, Dame Judi Dench, Donald Sutherland and Matthew Macfadyen filmed a movie remake of *Pride and Prejudice* there in summer 2004. And double Oscar-winning actor Tom Hanks enjoyed a Lincolnshire stay after Hollywood returned to the county in summer 2005 to shoot a big budget film version of best-selling novel *The Da Vinci Code*.

[Lincoln Cathedral](#) was used as a double for London's Westminster Abbey in that movie and again when Emily Blunt filmed scenes for 2009 movie *The Young Victoria* at the Cathedral - with Princess Beatrice in a cameo role.

[Lincoln Castle](#) was also used for the prison scenes in the recent 2012 series, *Downton Abbey*.

But Lincolnshire offers plenty more big screen and TV locations.

[Stamford](#) still proves a draw for fans of the 1994 BBC TV costume drama *Middlemarch*, the TV adaptation of George Eliot's story, which was filmed largely there and at [Grimsthorpe Castle](#).

Much of wartime movie *Memphis Belle* (1990) was filmed at RAF Binbrook in north Lincolnshire while Helen Cresswell's *Moondial*, a 1987 BBC TV children's series, was set around [Belton House](#).



Burghley House

6. Kinema in the Woods, Woodhall Spa

History of The Kinema

The Kinema in the Woods started life as a sports and entertainment pavilion dated from the late 19th Century. The pavilion sat in the grounds of The Victoria Hotel, looking over tennis courts, croquet lawns and gardens, until The Victoria Hotel burnt down on Easter Sunday 1920, this led to the relationship between the hotel and the pavilion being severed.

In 1922, Sir Archibald and Lady Weigall purchased the Victoria Hotel ruins including the sports pavilion and, with the assistance of Captain Carleton Cole Allport, the pavilion was transformed into a cinema which opened its doors on Monday September 11th 1922 at 7pm. The first film to be shown was intended to be "The Lion Eaters", however the film failed to arrive and a Charlie Chaplin film was shown in its place.

Due to the roof trusses in the building, which are too low for an image to be projected from the back of the auditorium, films in Screen One at The Kinema are projected from behind the screen and on to a mirror to flip the image. This is then shown on the back of the screen. The Kinema is believed to be the only full-time cinema in the UK still using rear projection.



Most of the auditorium (the current Screen One) was fitted with tip-up seats, however the front six rows were deck chairs. These seats were much sought after at 1s 6d (other seats ranged from 1s 3d to 6d). The deck chairs remained in The Kinema until 1953.

The first sound projector was installed in The Kinema in 1928 and was replaced in 1978 by two electronically controlled projectors. Major C. C. Allport ran the cinema for over 50 years, until 1973 when it was taken over by the present owner, James Green. In June 1987 James Green installed a Compton Kinestra organ in The Kinema, which features an ornate lacquered red and gold console with an eighteenth century oriental design. The organ is still situated in Screen One and played regularly by The Kinema's resident organist, Alan Underwood .

A 92-seat auditorium, Kinema Two, was opened on Friday July 8th 1994 with a screening of "Four Weddings and A Funeral". The auditorium walls of Screen Two depict scenes of rural Lincolnshire in trompe l'oeil style painted by Canadian artist Murray Hubick.

The Kinema in the Woods is currently open seven evenings a week with matinee showings on Saturdays, Sundays and during the school holidays.

7. Coast

Why look anywhere else for a traditional seaside holiday?

Skegness, Mablethorpe, Cleethorpes and Sutton on Sea offer clean and safe sandy beaches.... perfect for cherished holiday memories. Miles of golden sand, beachside amusements, indoor attractions and good old-fashioned fun make Lincolnshire a firm family favourite, come rain or shine.

[Skegness](#) is one of England's favourite seaside resorts, [Mablethorpe](#) has blue flag beaches stretching for miles and [Cleethorpes](#) offers endless fun and excitement.

Stroll the boardwalk at [Skegness Pier](#), one of the east coast's largest family entertainment centres. Feed the seals and have a great day out at [Natureland Seal Sanctuary](#). Brave a white-knuckle ride at Pleasure Island, Cleethorpes. Grab a seat on the Mablethorpe Sand Train or cool off in the Maple Leaf shaped children's paddling pool at Sutton on Sea. And no trip to the seaside would be complete without a donkey ride on the beach.

Join in the annual [Skegness SO Festival](#) held in June or enjoy Europe's largest linear coastal arts festival, based around uniquely designed 'Bathing Beauties' beach huts at Mablethorpe during September.



But this is also a coast for nature lovers and birdwatchers.

Lincolnshire's Natural Coast attracts around a million migrating birds each year and the curved 'Round & Round House', at Anderby, offers a perfect vantage point.

At unspoilt Anderby Creek beach, grab a new perspective on nature - at the UK's first purpose-built cloud viewing platform nestling amidst sand dunes.

Step out into a different world at Huttoft - where you can park your car almost at the water's edge - or at the [Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe National Nature Reserve](#) boasting striking summer displays of sea lavender.

Near Skegness lies [Gibraltar Point](#), a 1,300-acre wildlife reserve hosting many breeding colonies of birds, while to the north Donna Nook Reserve has one of the UK's most accessible breeding colonies of grey seals during November and December.

8. Visit Lincoln

As you approach the City of Lincoln, from any direction, you are drawn to the magnificent silhouette of the Cathedral stretching to the sky. As one of the finest Gothic buildings in Europe, Lincoln Cathedral towers above the city as a prominent landmark visible up to 25 miles away. With its awe-inspiring Romanesque West Front the Cathedral has been a place of worship for almost 1000 years and it provides an area of peace and contemplation for all. The Cathedral has a rich and varied history, with two very different love stories commemorated there and visitors are encouraged to try and spy the famous Lincoln Imp while visiting. All scheduled tours are free with entry tickets.

William the Conqueror ordered a [Castle](#) to be built in 1068, closely followed in 1072 by the [Cathedral](#). Experience nearly one thousand years of jaw-dropping history at Lincoln Castle from battles, to the hangings of criminals and ghostly tales. On your visit to Lincoln Castle discover a site steeped in history spanning the centuries from 60 AD to the present day. View the Magna Carta - one of the four surviving originals sealed by King John in 1215 and experience the only Victorian prison chapel of its kind, providing a haunting reminder of its past. There are amazing plans for the [Castle](#) over the next few years and new areas will be opened up to tell more stories of its battles and prisoners held captive.

Lincoln's heritage dates back to Roman times and there are many fascinating buildings to discover. Visit the [Museum of Lincolnshire Life](#) for a hands-on experience and learn about the people of Lincolnshire and see displays of art and archaeology at [The Collection](#).

Shopping is great too, with lots of quirky, individual shops, particularly in the Bailgate area, but head down the aptly names Steep Hill to discover [Brayford Pool](#). Here you can take a leisurely boat trip or ride your bike on one of the new riverside paths.



9. Visit Windmills

As a county famous for food and farming, Lincolnshire was once home to many impressive working windmills.

Only a few remain, including the only left-handed sailed windmill in England at Burgh Le Marsh. To witness the magic of making flour head to [Ellis Mill, Alford](#) [Five Sailed Windmill](#) or [Mount Pleasant Windmill](#).



Or, if you want to see a working water mill visit [Cogglesford Mill](#) where millers have been producing flour on site for over 1000 years.

10. Ludborough Steam Train Collection

The LWR is situated in a beautiful part of the Lincolnshire countryside between the Wolds and the coast, and is only a short distance from Grimsby, the seaside resort of Cleethorpes and the historic market town of Louth.

The railway operates on a stretch of line that used to be part of the Great Northern route from Boston to Grimsby.

After the last section of line was closed by BR in 1980, a preservation society was formed with the aim of restoring it. Heritage steam trains once again run between Ludborough and North Thoresby and work is now in progress to extend the line southwards towards Louth.

What visitors to the railway see today is a result of all the time and effort that a small, but dedicated band of volunteers have put in over many years.

