



# MALTING FARM



## ESSEX & SUFFOLK GUIDE



# EXPLORE ESSEX & SUFFOLK

## Inspiration For Your Stay



Our little bit of Essex is jam packed with picturesque views, fascinating history and breath taking coast. It's also just a short hop over the boarder to Suffolk. Our peaceful and relaxed location offers you the perfect place to start exploring this absorbing and beautifully unique British countryside.

So whether you're looking for adrenaline filled adventure or a more relaxing breath of fresh air; you'll find a truly entrancing Essex on your doorstep just waiting to be discovered.

...found something we should know about? If you find an activity, adventure, experience or restaurant that you think we should be telling our other guests about please let us know and we'll get it added.



# MALTING FARM

We may be a tad biased, but we think our little corner of North East Essex boasts some of the most beautiful countryside that the British Isles has to offer! Our rich farmland and local countryside is crisscrossed with meandering waterways and footpaths, which offers plenty of walking, cycling and boating fun for those of all ages.

**Malting Farm Nature Trail:** Pick up a free map in your accommodation or from reception and then hit our fun farm nature trail that will take you around the site.

**Fire Pit & Communal Dining Area:** make the most of your evenings round the communal fire pit and dining area at the site.

**Fishing:** Our stunning reservoir is regularly re-stocked with fish and we welcome you to bring your fishing equipment with you when you come to stay. Fishing is free on the reservoir, but please be aware that paddleboarders and swimmers take priority (even if you are already there fishing). If you fancy casting a line during your stay, please make sure you've packed your own equipment and bait.

**Paddle Boarding:** If you're looking for a fun, energetic activity right on your doorstep; why not try your hand at a spot of paddleboarding on our beautiful, water tested reservoir? You can pre-book book your life-jackets and paddleboards for a 2-hour slot when you make your booking or on arrival, but please note that hire is on a first come, first serve basis. We also ask you to ensure children are supervised on and around the reservoir at all times, that life jackets **MUST** be worn on the Paddleboards and that paddleboards are not taken off of the farm.

**Egg Collecting:** Help care for and collect eggs daily from our cheerful choocks in the communal chicken coop.

**Cycling:** If you'd like to explore our local countryside on two wheels, we have a small range of both children's and adult's bikes available to hire from reception. Our bikes are available to hire for a morning or afternoon sessions, or for those wanting to go a little further afield, you can hire them for a full day. To reserve your bikes, simply add them to your booking, or alternatively book them on arrival. Please note that you must bring your own helmets and that bike hire is available on a first come, first serve basis

**Brook Meadow Menagerie:** If you're keen to get up close and personal to some farm animals or some small furry and feathered friends; then take a trip to Brook Meadow Farm Menagerie. Within walking distance of your cabin, it's a great experience on our doorstep. To visit, simply walk up to the top of the meadow from the front your cabin!

**Pony & Unicorn Days:** If you have a pony mad person in your group; arrange a fabulously fun unicorn party or a farm pony pamper session. During these sessions you'll get to ride, groom, care for and learn what's involved in looking after a pony. Please contact Claire directly on 07730425055 or [www.claireponyparties.co.uk](http://www.claireponyparties.co.uk)



# LOCAL BEACHES



We have a rich and varied coastline for you to explore; so grab your bucket and spade and head to our stunning beaches for a fabulous day out. From the sandy expanses and beach huts at Frinton-on-the-Sea, to fossil hunting and dramatic views at Walton-on-the-Naze; we've got a beach to match your mood!

**Frinton-on-the-Sea (9.9 miles – 19 mins):** This sandy beach crowned with its colourful line of beach huts is perfect for those looking to build sand castles and dip their toes in the water. Easy to get to, with lots of facilities it's great for families.

**Clacton-on-Sea (9.4 miles – 16 mins):** Famous for its big sandy beach and its beautiful pier, Clacton offers a variety of seaside amusements as well as a yearly air show in August.

**Walton-on-the-Naze (10.5 miles – 20 mins):** The big open, sandy beaches here are beautiful and accessible. You can also book a boat trip around the beautiful nature reserve to spot the local common and grey seals.

**Brightlingsea (8.9 miles – 19 mins):** At the mouth to the River Stour this sandy beach is marked by Batemans Tower. Its accessible coast is great for sailing and crabbing!

**Fossil Hunting at The Naze (12.1 – 26 mins):** You'll find this fascinating Essex Wildlife Trust beach at the top of Walton-on-the-Naze. The dramatic cliffs that tower above the beach are home to an abundance of flora and fauna. While the beach itself offers the enticing chance of finding your own fossil. Though access is down some steps, the visitors centre and café offer great facilities for families...ensure you check the tides, low tide is best for rock-pool hunting and fossil collecting.

**Harwich (9.8 miles – 13 mins):** Start your trip by hopping aboard a boat at the Ha'penny pier to take a closer look at the growing population of seals and bird life, and then warm up with delicious Fish & Chips at The Pier.

**Mersea Island (16.5 miles – 28 mins):** Famous for its oysters and delicious seafood, Mersea Island is a great place to try your hand at crabbing or sailing...but don't forget to check the tide times!



# PLACES TO VISIT

Though firmly based in the countryside, the town of Colchester along with a huge variety of attractions are within easy reach of Malting Farm. From iconic historical properties and artistic landscapes to wild days at the zoo; there's something for every member of the family. So make the most of your visit and explore some of Essex & Suffolk's wonderful attractions.

**Colchester & Colchester Castle (10.7 miles- 19 mins):** Colchester is England's oldest recorded town and is steeped in history. Whilst there visit the wonderfully interactive Colchester Castle that will help you explore our colourful history. From Boudicca's famous burning to our more recent past, there's plenty of exhibits to keep you entertained.

**Colchester Zoo (15.8 miles – 20 mins):** This world renowned zoo is a great day out for animal lovers of all ages. On top of the amazing animal exhibits, you'll also find interactive areas, animal feeding, keeper talks, activities, plenty of places to eat and a train!

**Beth Chatto Gardens (4.6 miles – 11 mins):** Take a walk through the beautifully designed and maintained gardens, before stopping for a delicious slice of cake at their horticulturally Inspired café.

**Flatford (5.2 miles -21 mins):** This National Trust property allows you to see the place where John Constable famously painted The Haywain. The museum, tea rooms, RSPB garden, boat hire and accessible walks along the river offer a fun packed day out.

**Jimmy's Farm (13.9 miles -26 mins):** A little further afield, but a great day out for all the family. Meet a huge range of animals, build dens and of course sample their award winning sausages.

**Constable Country & Dedham Vale (7.2 miles – 20 mins):** Made famous by John Constables paintings; Constable Country covers most of Flatford and the Dedham Vale. In Dedham you can enjoy gentle riverside walks, quintessential cream tea's, galleries and boating on the river.

**Manningtree & Mistley (4.7 miles -11 mins):** Delightfully situated on the Stour Estuary, Manningtree is the UK's smallest town. This historic tidal town and its neighbour Mistley are synonymous with Matthew Hopkins (the infamous Witch Finder General!), but you're more likely to find good food, plenty of wild fowl and stunning views across the river to Suffolk than any witch trials.

**Kentwell Hall (27.2 miles – 44 mins):** This stunning moated Tudor house hosts fabulous re-enactments and events that both inspire and educate. The beautiful house and gardens are well worth a visit, as is their tea room!

**Sutton Hoo (34.4 miles- 42 mins):** Visit this fascinating Anglo Saxon site made famous by the recent hit film "The Dig". Explore the interactive visitor centre and stroll round the iconic mounds in Basil Browns footsteps.



# ACTIVITIES



Locally you'll find a lot of different activities available. From delicious cooking classes in Mistley, to a more energetic day learning to sail; we can help you tailor your stay with us to suit you.

**UK Paintball (1.2 miles- 5 mins):** This high adrenaline experience is great fun for the whole party. Within walking distance of Malting Farm, it's a great way to burn off some energy or even any scores!!!  
08001 701555

**Clay Pigeon Shooting (8.8 miles - 16 mins):** If you've always fancied yourself as a crack shot or just need a little practice, full tuition and hire is available from the brilliant Parkford team.  
01255 820922

**Dedham Boats (7.2 miles – 20 mins):** During spring and summer, row boats are available from the Dedham Boathouse. Splash your way up the River Stour taking in the picturesque surroundings that inspired John Constable and Alfred Munnings.  
01473 328408

**Water sports at Alton Water (13.6 miles – 28 mins):** From sailing and Power boating to windsurfing and kayaking; you can book lessons or hire equipment at Alton Water. It's a great way to dip your toe in the water and have a taster of some new water sports.

**Fletchers Farm Riding School (15.9 miles – 21 mins):** Superb range of lessons, hacking and camps for riders of all ages and all abilities.  
01206 242210

**Mistley Kitchen (5.6 miles – 10 mins):** If you're looking to brush up on your culinary skills or try something new, Mistley Kitchen offers a range of cooking courses and workshops that cater for complete beginners to experienced chefs.  
01206 391024



# ART & CULTURE

Our varied landscape and rich history has inspired some renowned artists and performers over the years. Colchester offers a wide range of gallery's, studios and theatre. But a little further afield you'll be able to discover more about our local famous artists. In Dedham you can explore Munnings effortless style, before you walk up to Flatford to experience Constables famous Haywain.



**Alfred Munnings & Dedham Vale (7.2 miles – 20 mins):** The Munnings Museum offers you a unique opportunity to view this fabulous artist's work in his own home before you explore Dedham and the surrounding area.

**John Constable and Flatford (5.2 miles -21 mins):** Visit the location where the Haywain was painted and immerse yourself in the landscape that shaped this romantic artist's paintings. This National Trust property hosts a museum, café, boat hire and RSPB garden.

**Theatres in Colchester (9.5 miles – 19 mins):** You'll find regular live theatre performances at the Mercury Theatre, as well as a variety of other venues offering comedy and open air drama.

**Curzon Cinema (8.6 miles – 17 mins):** This small cinema offers a more grown-up space to watch box office hits and more fringe cinematic titles from.

**Firstsite (8.6 miles – 17 mins):** Located in the heart of Colchester, this space hosts a range of different exhibitions, workshops and performances.



# FOOD & DRINK



We're so lucky to be surrounded by a plethora of wonderful cafes, bistros, pubs and restaurants. A lot of our favourite places to eat are helpfully found close to local places of interest or attractions.

**LUCCA, Manningtree:** Delicious pasta and stone baked pizza restaurant and take away. Great for hungry families after a busy day!  
CO11 1 AH | 01206 390044

**The Mistley Thorn, Mistley:** Fabulous fish restaurant serving up super fresh catch...in days gone past The Thorn was also reputedly owned by the Witch Finder General!  
CO11 1HE | 01206 392821

**The Sun, Dedham:** Fabulous Italian classics and delicious bar food, served up in a stunning coaching inn.  
CO7 6DF | 01206 323351

**The Boathouse, Dedham:** Delicious food served overlooking the Stour River...this is also where you can hire boats from.  
CO7 6DH | 01206 323153

**The Strangers, Bradfield:** Family friendly pub that also has a play area for younger guests  
CO11 2US | 01255 870304

**Milsoms Restaurant, Dedham:** An extensive and tasty menu in a beautiful setting. Tables can't be booked, but you can relax in the garden with a cool cocktail while you wait.  
CO7 6HW | 01206 322795

**The Pier, Harwich:** Specialising in deliciously fresh fish straight from the boats, this restaurant commands a fabulous position opposite the Ha'penny pier in Harwich.  
CO12 3HH | 01255 241212

**The Bricklayers Arms, Little Bentley Green (a short walk from Malting Farm):** Our 'local' within easy walking distance of the farm. Serves a great pint and a good Sunday Roast.  
CO7 8SL |

**The Bicycle, Tendring:** Superb food and service. Great food menu and extensive gin menu!!! Please note that this restaurant doesn't accommodate children and so is perfect for a grown up night!  
CO16 9AP | 01255 830340





# TAKE-AWAY OPTIONS



If you're like us, the last thing you want to do when you're away is cook and after a busy day adventuring you may not want to eat out either. So here is our range of local take-away options that are sure to hit the spot!

**LUCCA, Manningtree:** Delicious pasta and stone baked pizza restaurant and take away. Great for hungry families after a busy day! Easy on-line booking is also available.  
CO11 1 AH | 01206 390044

**Simply Thai, Manningtree:** Fabulous range of traditional Thai dishes. We highly recommend the Gai Krob!  
CO11 1AA | 01206 396060

**Dragon House, Manningtree:** Chinese takeaway. Huge range of dishes available.  
CO11 1BG | 01206 393539

**Riverside Fish & Chips, Manningtree:** Super fresh, delicious fish and chips...they even use locally sourced potatoes!  
CO11 1UN | 01206 393939

**The Mogul, Manningtree:** A delicious range of Indian dishes and curries.  
CO11 1BA | 01206 394102

**The Pizza Place at The Red Lion, Manningtree:** Good local pub, that also creates stone baked pizza  
CO11 1BG | 01206 391880

**Nirala Tandoori, Manningtree:** Fantastic menu with lots of tasty dishes. We highly recommend the Chicken Al Badami (a favourite dish of Emperor Babor none the less!).  
CO11 1DR | 01206 392735

*Please Note: at the moment we don't have any take-away options that offer delivery and order apps aren't available, so take-away options will need to be collected.*



# LOCAL SHOPS

We have a well-stocked honesty shop at Malting Farm, with everything from milk to tasty BBQ meat options. But, if you're looking for extra supplies or tasty treats during your stay, we have some great local shops that provide a range of foods and services.

**Becky's Butchers, Great Bromley (3.8 miles- 7 mins):** A fantastic family butcher that specialises in her own farm reared beef, lamb and pork...We highly recommend Becky's delicious homemade pies and sausage rolls! Only open Wednesday, Friday and Saturday  
CO7 7UU | 07720833207

**Brookelynn Farm Shop, St. Osyth (8.8 miles -19 mins):** A great family run farm shop full of fresh produce and plenty of tasty treats to make your stay even more delicious.  
CO16 0AR | 01255 862184

**The Coop, Manningtree (5.4 miles- 14 mins):** If you need urgent supplies, our nearest small supermarket is in Manningtree. Here you can pick up any essentials that you may have forgotten. There's also a bakery, wholefood shop, deli and butchers in Manningtree.  
CO11 1US | 01206 39700

**Tesco Express, Great Bentley (4.1 miles- 9 mins):** Small and easy to get to Tesco Express that stocks good basics. Parking is on the road outside or around the village green.  
CO7 8LA | 03450 269205

**Tesco Express, Manningtree (5.0 miles- 10 mins):** Small Tesco express, perfect for any little basics that you may need during your stay. Limited parking is available opposite the shop or in the co-op carpark.  
CO11 1AJ | 03450 269401

**Pharmacy, Great Bentley (3.9 miles- 8 mins):** Fully stocked pharmacy that's easy to get to.  
CO7 8PJ | 01206 250120

**Boots, Manningtree (4.9 miles- 9 mins):** A small Boots store, with a fully pharmacy.  
CO11 1AA | 01206 393134

**Morrisons, Little Clacton (7.9 miles- 14 mins):** Large supermarket, complete with café. Great for picking up any extras that you may need.  
CO16 9SB | 03456 116111

**Tesco, Clacton (8.3 miles- 14 mins):** Large supermarket where you can get anything you may need during your stay.  
CO15 4EF | 03456 779854

