



The Suffolk Lieutenancy

Suffolk Day Proclamation 2026

On behalf of the Lord Lieutenant and all the civic leaders in Suffolk, we would like to tell you about the historical and cultural hub that is Bury St Edmunds. A town that welcomes the world, and is proud to be at a jewel of our county. Here, food and art and music flourish, leaving visitors spoilt for choice, whilst our rich history inspires many.

The namesake of this market town is England's first Patron Saint, Edmund whose legendary martyrdom has inspired many art installations, bringing personality and colour. And it was here in 1214 that twenty-five Barons swore an oath to compel King John to accept a 'Charter of Liberties' also known as the Magna Carta. This charter, from our town, has become a foundation for global democracy.

There's something for everyone in Bury st Edmunds; Abbey Gardens blends history and nature together, where 11th century ruins, a sensory garden, and a children's playground can all be found in one place.

Bury St Edmunds' range of attractions extends far beyond a simple tourist trip. This historic town mixes rich heritage with entertainment and the arts, a prime example being Theatre Royal, which is the last remaining Regency playhouse in England.

Suffolk is home to many global artists and performers and Bury St Edmunds is home to a thriving live music culture, where our venues provide a hub for bands and musicians across the county. From Bury to Ipswich, Haverhill to Lowestoft, Newmarket to Aldeburgh, music is a shared passion for all ages.

Our biweekly market really earns Bury St Edmunds its title as a "jewel in the crown of Suffolk", with up to 70 regular stalls attracting thousands, and boasting a unique range of specialities from the rich tastes of local food to bright hand-picked bouquets.

Come sunshine or snow, in Bury St Edmunds there is always somewhere to hunker down and enjoy a lovely meal. For example, our very own Pea Porridge, a Michelin star winning, Mediterranean-influenced restaurant loved by many. Or perhaps the historic Angel Hotel, or Maison Bleue, or a more relaxed setting like Wrights, John's, Folk or the Suffolk Café for a cosy warm drink with friends.

On the outskirts of this bustling town in rich farmland, deer and hares can be seen frolicking in fields of sugar beet. This beet soon travels its way to our iconic sugar factory, sometimes referred to as the 'cloud factory', marking the way home for many Suffolk folk.

Together, we celebrate the past, and the present, and we use the history and heritage from our vibrant town as model for the future.