

## The Gainsborough Line Marks Tey to Sudbury

**Ideal for:**  
Visiting the area  
Trips to the coast  
Sightseeing in London  
Regional Entertainment  
Shopping in East Anglia



Why not visit the Coffeelink at Marks Tey station, an espresso bar selling a large variety of coffee and teas, snacks, soft drinks, confectionery and newspapers and magazines.

Open Mon to Fri: 5.30am to 7pm Saturday 8am to 6pm

### Your ticket to a great day out in East Anglia by train

Take a walk between the line's stations, or visit a local pub or restaurant. Perhaps follow the town trail in Sudbury, go boating on the river Stour or follow the Stour Valley Trail (old railway line) to Long Melford.

Or maybe take the train from Sudbury and go sightseeing in London, visiting one of the many free museums - go shopping in Norwich - the capital of East Anglia, or take a walk along the modern riverfront in Ipswich.

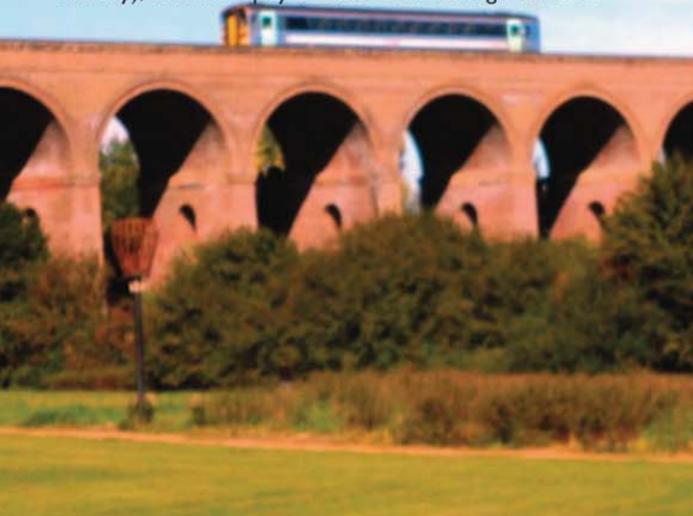
Wherever you feel like going - go by train.

### The Colne and Stour Valleys

A delightful rural journey running through landscape straight out of Constable's paintings.

The Gainsborough Line runs through leafy cuttings and emerges to cross the great 32 arch Chappel viaduct, striding high above the River Colne and the twin villages of Chappel and Wakes Colne.

The line crosses from Essex to Suffolk, with typical Constable views along the Stour Valley. After Bures, the train reaches Sudbury, with its old Corn Exchange (now a Library), Victorian quay and the Gainsborough Museum.



### Visit London

Looking for a day out in the capital? London has many attractions to keep all the family entertained.

Purchase a Travelcard and enjoy unlimited use of the underground, DLR and buses all day. See the London 2FOR1 Publicity and get two for one entry at top London attractions when you travel by train.



Now with a later train back from Liverpool Street at 22:02, you can also make an evening of it.

## Tickets and Travel Information

Latest information on train times and fares for any rail operator in the UK can be obtained from National Rail Enquiries on 08457 484950 or via the website [www.nationalrail.co.uk](http://www.nationalrail.co.uk)

### Tickets & Fares

Tickets can be purchased from ticket offices, or ticket machines (where available) or from the Conductor on the Gainsborough Line train. If travelling from a station with ticket selling facilities you must purchase your ticket before you board. For certain ticket types it is cheaper to book in advance online.

### Off Peak Tickets

Travel after 8.45 on weekdays. Off-Peak Day tickets do not have evening peak restrictions so the return journey can be made at any time, including from London. There are also special tickets available off peak

### Super Off-Peak Day Tickets

When travelling to London or Stratford these tickets are valid on the first train that arrives in London after 12.00 on Mondays to Fridays. From Sudbury the first available connecting train is the 11.26 (Bures 11.33, Chappel 11.39). The return journey from London may not be made between 1600 and 1900 inclusive. On local journeys, Super Off-peak tickets may be used at any time after 12.00. No return restrictions apply from stations outside London.

At weekends Super Off-peak tickets may be used at any time of day so are the best value option.

### GroupSave Tickets

Groups of three or four travelling together can travel for the price of two to any station in the local area (including London Liverpool Street).

### Child Tickets

Children aged 5-15 travel for half price and children under 5 travel free.

### Railcards

Various railcards are available where you can get up to a third off the price of off-peak tickets.

16 - 25 Railcard - for anyone aged 16 - 25

Senior Railcard - for anyone aged 60 and over.

Friends and Family Railcard - for family groups.

Network Card - Anyone aged 16+ travelling in the South East (minimum fare applies weekdays).

2FOR1 offers at London attractions, theatre, restaurants, galleries, museums, tours and events.  
Visit [www.greateranglia.co.uk/2for1](http://www.greateranglia.co.uk/2for1)

Full details of Greater Anglia services, train times and ticket bookings can be found at [www.greateranglia.co.uk](http://www.greateranglia.co.uk)

# The Gainsborough Line

Your guide to the Marks Tey -  
Sudbury Line and surrounding  
area, for a great day out by train



**GreaterAnglia**

## Welcome to the Gainsborough Line, Marks Tey to Sudbury

### History of the Line

The present day railway line operates between Marks Tey and Sudbury. The line was fully opened for traffic on 2nd July 1849, and its primary use was to bring farm and loom produce from Sudbury to Colchester and the riverside port at Hythe. The original train service comprised four trains in each direction, only on weekdays.

The greatest obstacle in completing the line was crossing the Colne Valley at Chappel. Construction of the viaduct began in 1847; the original plan was to span the valley with a timber arch on brick piers, but this was changed when brickearth was found on site to enable the viaduct's 7 million bricks to be made. The structure was completed in 1849. The viaduct is 1,066ft long, comprising 32 arches each of a 30ft span at a height of 75ft.

Thomas Gainsborough was arguably the most famous son of Sudbury and it is appropriate that he is commemorated by having the line named after him. He surely would have appreciated the splendid vistas to be viewed from the train as it crosses the Colne Valley, and then the Stour Valley as the train enters Suffolk, as well as the beauty of the engineering feat that is the Chappel Viaduct.



### Your Local Train Service

The Gainsborough Line isn't just for tourists visiting the area - services operate seven days a week, 363 days per year. Services depart Sudbury at hourly or more frequent intervals, calling at Bures, Chappel & Wakes Colne, then Marks Tey for mainline connections to Colchester, Chelmsford, London or beyond.

### Travel for Business or Leisure

With services enabling you to get into London before 7am, why not commute from Sudbury? - It's cheaper than driving to, and parking at, a mainline station. Season tickets are available for a week, a month or a year - these give you a huge saving over Anytime Tickets.

There are also special tickets during 'off-peak' to allow you to spend the day out by train, including GroupSave, where three or four people travel for the price of two. Off Peak Tickets are valid after 8.45am on weekdays and anytime during weekends and Bank holidays. A railcard could also help you get a 33% reduction on Off Peak Tickets.

Super off-peak tickets are available for services arriving into London after midday and not returning between 16:00 - 19:00 from London. These tickets give you even cheaper travel to London, ideal if travelling to see a show in London.

### Visit Local Attractions by Train

The Gainsborough Line is part of the National Rail network. The destinations are endless - but why not go somewhere local for a day out? Try shopping in Colchester, or head down to the beach at Clacton or Walton - or try a maritime walk around Harwich.



# Days out on the Gainsborough line, Marks Tey to Sudbury

## Marks Tey

The village of Marks Tey is one of the villages known locally as "The Teys" being Marks Tey, Great Tey and Little Tey. It is situated just five miles west of Colchester on the A120 and the station is the junction with the main London - Colchester line. The village, has a blend of old and new houses, has buildings dating back to the 16th and 17th centuries. There are a number of local businesses in the area and a bus/coach may be taken for Coggeshall and Stansted airport from across the road from the station.

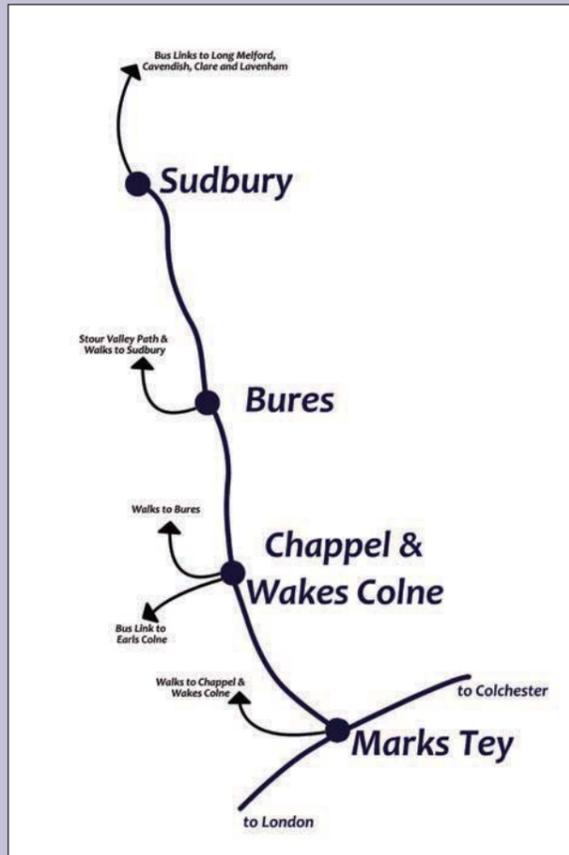


## Chappel & Wakes Colne

The two villages of Chappel and Wakes Colne lie in the valley on opposite sides of the River Colne. Chappel and Wakes Colne Station house was built in 1849, with the white part of the building forming the original station. The red brick two storey building was added in 1900 to form the Station Master's house. Today the station is home to the East Anglian Railway Museum. Places of interest in the villages include the church of St Barnabas, Chappel, which is possibly of Norman origin and was consecrated in 1352, the Chappel Viaduct and the Swan Public House. The Swan dates back to 1390 and has a 16th century chimney and a medieval kitchen which is one of the best preserved in Essex. The Millennium Field is worthy of a visit, annual events are held here to raise funds for local charities.



The Railway Museum at the station has a wide range of rolling stock and exhibits for you to view, as well as many special events, including the popular Beer and Cider Festivals. Present your valid Gainsborough Line rail ticket for a 10% discount on Museum Admission (restrictions apply on some event days). Search online for Chappel & Wakes Colne and EARM.



### Explore the Gainsborough Line Ale Trail

As you travel along the Gainsborough Line, why not stop off for a pint or two, or maybe a spot of lunch? There are some delightful pubs to drop in to, all of which are a short walk or bus ride from the stations including many welcoming establishments in the town of Sudbury.

### Onward Connections by Bus

There are a number of local bus operators offering onward connections to Long Melford, Lavenham, Clare and Cavendish as well as many other destinations, contact Traveline for details. **0871 200 22 33** or visit [www.traveline.info](http://www.traveline.info)

## Bures

Leaving the Colne Valley towards Sudbury, the train crosses higher ground for Bures and the River Stour. From the station the village is a short walk down the hill. The tanning yard immediately on your left as you cross the Stour, was closed in 1909, but you can still see parts of the frame of the old buildings which are incorporated into the present Bridge House. Bures is an excellent place to start a walk through the Stour Valley to Sudbury or along the Stour Valley path to Wormingford Mill and church. There is also the choice of three pubs in the centre of Bures for a drink or some lunch. [Bures-online.co.uk](http://Bures-online.co.uk) contains a wealth of information about Bures, past and present.



## Sudbury

From Bures, the train follows the valley of the River Stour. Sudbury sits in a loop in the river and is surrounded by the attractive countryside and quintessentially English villages, so often painted by Constable and Gainsborough. The meadows around Sudbury are the oldest continuously grazed land in England. For centuries the weaving and silk industries have prospered here and many great houses and churches have been built giving the town a major historical legacy. Indeed the birthplace of Gainsborough, a red brick building, can be seen in Gainsborough Street. This is now an art gallery displaying more of his paintings, drawings and prints than anywhere else. Sudbury still has many independent shops, as well as the usual high street stores found across the UK.



In addition there is a sports and leisure centre, plus many pubs and cafes to enjoy. The library houses the Tourist Information Office, which can provide details of local attractions, including the Sudbury Heritage Centre where you can explore Sudbury's history and view many photographs and exhibits from Sudbury's past. Sudbury is also the interchange point for local buses to the delightful villages of Long Melford, Clare, Lavenham and Cavendish. Search online for [sudburysuffolk.co.uk](http://sudburysuffolk.co.uk) to show what Sudbury and its surroundings has to offer.



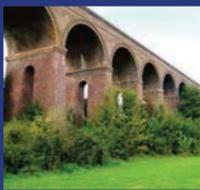
## The Gainsborough Line Walks

There are a number of walks from the stations along the Gainsborough Line. All of the walks start at one station and end at another to save you retracing your steps. Eight walk leaflets may be downloaded from the ESSCRP website ([esscrp.org.uk](http://esscrp.org.uk)) but some are highlighted below.

### Marks Tey to Chappel & Wakes Colne (5 miles)

**OS Explorer map 184 and 196 (1:25,000)**

This walk explores the small rural communities scattered across the high plateau of North East Essex. It offers sweeping views across the valleys of the River Colne before passing underneath the imposing Chappel viaduct. The walk ends at the beautifully restored Chappel & Wakes Colne Station.



### Chappel & Wakes Colne to Bures (5 miles)

**OS Explorer map 195 and 196 (1:25,000)**

This walk explores the rolling countryside bordering the western flank of the River Stour Valley and offers sweeping views of the landscape favoured by both Gainsborough and Constable.

### Bures to Sudbury (8 miles)

**OS Explorer map 196 (1:25,000)**

This walk follows the heights bordering the eastern side of the Stour Valley through a countryside unspoilt by factory farming. Crossing to the western ridge for a few miles, explore the picturesque hamlet of Middleton and its surroundings before reaching Sudbury via the beautiful water meadows bordering the River Stour and Valley Trail, apart of the old route of the railway between Sudbury and Long Melford. There are many more walks between stations, please search online for Gainsborough Line Walks.



### Cycling in the Stour Valley

The Stour Valley area offers superb opportunities for cycling and getting out into the country. Cycles may be taken on the Gainsborough Line train free of charge. So take an opportunity to enjoy the beautiful Essex and Suffolk countryside. Information on cycle routes can be obtained from: [www.nationalcyclenetwork.org.uk](http://www.nationalcyclenetwork.org.uk) or [www.sustrans.org.uk](http://www.sustrans.org.uk)

## Gainsborough House

The Museum and Gallery marks the birthplace of Thomas Gainsborough and shows an outstanding collection of his work. A varied programme of temporary exhibitions is also on show throughout the year. Gift, coffee shop and garden.



Travel by train to Gainsborough's House and take advantage of the 2FOR1 admissions offer.

See the Greater Anglia website <http://www.greateranglia.co.uk/places-to-visit/east-anglia/offer/2-for-1-historic-sites/gainsboroughs-house>

The house is approx half a mile from Sudbury Station and further information is available on the website above.

## Sudbury Heritage Centre & Museum

A permanent display of the town's history from ancient times to present day is located behind Sudbury Town Hall in Gaol Lane. Open Monday to Friday 10am to 4pm, with free admission for the public. An interesting display taking you from earliest times when man was attracted to settle on the high ground overlooking the flood plain of the River Stour right through to current times.

## Essex & South Suffolk Community Rail Partnership

Established in 1998, the Partnership brings together 8 partners with the aim of promoting train travel and securing the future of our 5 branch lines. The Gainsborough Line from Marks Tey to Sudbury is looked after by a very active line group. Each station has a station adopter who care for the station, in partnership with Greater Anglia providing the colourful flowers and shrubs you will see on your journey when stopping at Marks Tey, Chappel & Wakes Colne, Bures and Sudbury.



For more information on the ESSCRP work please look at our website [www.esscrp.org.uk](http://www.esscrp.org.uk)

