



IPSWICH TOWN V COVENTRY CITY
SATURDAY 7 MARCH 2020, KICK OFF 15:00
INFORMATION FOR AWAY FANS

Information in this guide is correct as at 5 March 2020.

Welcome to Ipswich! This is a short guide, designed to answer the kind of questions that we often get from visiting fans, and provide the information that we find useful when we're travelling away ourselves.

For any further information, or if you have any feedback on our guide, please contact Elizabeth Edwards, Supporter Liaison Officer, on slo@itfc.co.uk or 07968 876504 or via Twitter on @ITFC_SLO.

IPSWICH TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB

Address: Ipswich Town Football Club, Portman Road, Ipswich, IP12DA
Website: www.itfc.co.uk
Club Telephone Number: 01473 400500
Ticket Office Number: 03330 050503
Supporter Liaison Officer: Elizabeth Edwards, slo@itfc.co.uk, 07968 876504, @ITFC_SLO
Disability Liaison Officer: Lee Smith, disability@itfc.co.uk 01473 400556
Customer Services: customerservice@itfc.co.uk
Twitter: @IpswichTown

IF YOU HAVE AN HOUR OR TWO PRE-MATCH IN IPSWICH

The stadium is just a short, 5-10 minute, walk to the town centre, with shops, cafes and restaurants. The waterfront area is around a 15-minute walk from the ground, with a yachting marina and a range of cafes and restaurants. Note that the designated away pub is the Station Hotel (details below). Many pubs and bars in the town centre are strictly home fans only (more info below), whilst others are more relaxed – this does vary from match to match though. A number of pubs around the town will welcome small numbers of away fans, especially those looking for a chat and a quiet pint. Just beyond the town centre, 15 minutes' walk from the ground, is the beautiful Christchurch Park, with a renowned art gallery within the Tudor mansion building. This is currently housing a special free temporary exhibition – Made in Suffolk – which is about Ed Sheeran's life and career.

More information on the exhibition and details for booking tickets (free) can be found here:

www.ipswich.cimuseums.org.uk/exhibitions/madeinsuffolk/

HOW TO GET TO THE STADIUM

Back in 2003, we hosted an England international v Croatia. On the England fans message board, someone asked “how do I get from the station to the ground?” The response was simple: “Come out of the station and look straight ahead. The ground is the oblong structure with floodlights at each corner.”

- **BY CAR**

Note 1: There are long-term roadworks on the A14 (several miles either side of Cambridge) which are resulting in evening and weekend road closures and considerable delays, as it is a very busy road. These are not normally announced until just a day or two in advance. We recommend that you keep an eye on @A14C2H on Twitter – any closures are announced here.

Note 2: A new stretch of the A14 is now open, from the A1 to about 5 miles west of Cambridge, so you must follow road signs and not your Sat Nav - the A14 now continues uninterrupted across the A1 in both directions. On your return trip, the junction of the A14 / A428 / M11 on the edge of Cambridge is not well signposted, so take it slowly, and beware of even locals getting confused and doing late lane changes!

The address is Portman Road, Ipswich, IP1 2DA.

From Coventry you take the M6 and then continue onto the A14 about 15 minutes past Coventry. If you have an older Sat Nav, beware, as the M6/A14 junction has changed in recent years, so take care to follow road signs. You then take the A14 to the outskirts of Ipswich and follow the ‘last few miles’ below.

As noted above there are major long-term roadworks on the A14 for several miles either side of Cambridge with a 40mph limit policed by cameras.

The journey time is at least 3 hours. Unless you live very close to Suffolk, we generally recommend allowing at least an hour beyond the AA / Google / Sat Nav suggested journey time. If there are weekend closures of the A14 around Cambridge / Huntington, then the diversions could add another 30-60 minutes to normal journey times.

The last few miles

Sat Navs vary in their recommended route into town, but whichever way you go, it shouldn’t take more than 15 minutes from the A14 to the ground.

For those without Sat Nav, once you reach the junction of the A14 and A12, just south of Ipswich, take the A1214 (London Road) for a couple of miles into town. As you approach the town centre area, there’s a Sainsbury’s supermarket on the left – at this point, go straight on past Sainsbury’s and then almost immediately right onto West End road. Take the first left (after about half a mile) onto Sir Alf Ramsey Way and you’ve arrived.

Note that the roads immediately behind the Cobbold and Sir Bobby Robson stands are closed about 90 minutes before the game, so to access the NCP car park on Portman Road you will need to continue on London Road, straight on to Handford Road and then turn right at a set of traffic lights onto Portman Road (if you miss the turning, just do a U-turn at the roundabout with Civic Drive, turning back onto Handford Road, then taking the first left into Portman Road).

- **PARKING**

There is no official stadium car park, but there is parking all around the ground. The closest is a large NCP on Portman Road (right by the away end), which usually has spaces up to around 45 minutes before kick-off. There's also a large car park on West End Road (5 minutes' walk away) and at the railway station (less than 10 minutes). The town centre is less than 10 minutes' walk, and has numerous car parks, as you'd expect. Being a town centre ground, most streets are controlled (residents only) parking, so free on-road parking tends to be at least a 20-minute walk away. As usual, the car parks nearest the ground are a bit slow to clear after the game – for a quicker exit, use the railway station car park (it's controlled by cameras, and the pay stations are by the entrance to the station – it costs £6 after 4pm and all day at weekends), and exit left onto Burrell Road / Ranelagh Road (B1075), then (after about a mile) left onto the A1214.

Five car parking spaces are available for visiting disabled supporters. Spaces can be booked by contacting Ipswich Town's Disability Liaison Officer, Lee Smith, on 01473 400556. There is no charge for this parking but note that the spaces are on the opposite side of the stadium to the away turnstiles.

- **BY COACH**

Away coaches usually park in the West End Road car park, 5 - 10 minutes' walk from the ground. It is possible to arrange a drop-off nearer to the stadium for fans with mobility issues – please contact Ipswich Town's Disability Liaison Officer, Lee Smith, on 01473 400556 in advance of the game to arrange this.

The Station Hotel (away fans pub – see below) is just a couple of minutes away – go towards the bridge over the river, at the east end of the car park, turn right and you'll find the pub the other side of the river, right opposite the railway station.

- **BY TRAIN**

Note: There are planned engineering works on the Ipswich to London route on the day of the match with buses replacing trains between Newbury Park and Ingatestone – this adds around an hour to normal journey times between London and Ipswich.

For those travelling by train, Ipswich station is only 5 to 10 minutes' walk from the ground.

For the journey to Ipswich, the shortest route is into London Euston, across London to Newbury Park on the underground where you pick up a bus to Ingatestone where you change to a train to Ipswich. To get from London Euston to Newbury Park, walk to Euston Square and pick up the Metropolitan Line or Circle Line to Liverpool Street where you change to the Central Line to Newbury Park.

The total journey time is around 4 hours 20 minutes. For example, if you leave Coventry at 08:51, you would be scheduled to arrive in Ipswich at 13:09 via Euston / Newbury Park / Ingatestone.

After the game www.greateranglia.co.uk shows trains from Ipswich to Ingatestone at 18:00 and 18:43 which will connect to trains from London Euston to Coventry at 21:03 and 21:42. These arrive into Coventry at 22:23 and 23:02 respectively.

As well as the 18:00 and 18:43 mentioned above, there are other trains from Ipswich to Ingatestone after the game at 17:00, 17:20, 17:47 and 18:20 and 00, 20 and 43 minutes past the hour until 22:43.

It is possible to travel cross-country with a similar journey time. For example, the 07:17 and 09:17 trains from Coventry with changes in Nuneaton and Peterborough should get you to Ipswich at 11:30 and 13:28 respectively.

After the game there is a cross-country option which leaves Ipswich at 17:58. With changes at Peterborough and Nuneaton the arrival time into Coventry is 21:36.

A final word of warning – even with the recent introduction of new (and not 100% reliable...) rolling stock, trains between Peterborough and Ipswich will be no more than four carriages, and so are likely to be very busy. If older rolling stock is used on the day, trains will be even smaller. They are also used by many Town fans from Stowmarket and Bury St Edmunds.

Whatever your travel plans, it's worth checking www.greateranglia.co.uk or your usual train operator website for updated times and any late changes to engineering works.

There are ticket checks on all mainline trains and ticket barriers at Ipswich.

OFFICIAL AWAY PUB

The Station Hotel (formerly the Riverside Hotel) is opposite the station, and is the official away pub. It is roomy, has a garden and TV screens, and up to four beers on handpump, mostly from the Greene King stable.

Most pubs immediately around the ground are for home fans only, and few pubs around the town, if any, will welcome groups of away fans, especially wearing away team colours. As always, couples, families and older people will find it a bit easier to slip into a town centre pub for a quiet beer or two. Note that, on a match-by-match basis, police may designate other pubs in the town centre as home fans only. This is more likely nowadays as there have been a number of pub closures in the immediate area around the stadium. In practice, the smaller and the friendlier the away following, the easier it is to enjoy our many great pubs on a matchday.

There is a FanZone marquee and entertainment zone at the stadium, but this is strictly open to home fans only. There are ticket checks at the door.

NEED CASH?

The nearest cash machines to the stadium are a 5-10 minute walk away, (a) at the railway station, (b) at the Cardinal Park leisure zone, and (c) in the town centre itself.

STADIUM

- ***MATCHDAY PROGRAMME***

The matchday programme, priced at £3.50, can be purchased outside the stadium from the blue, tardis-like kiosks. Programmes are not for sale inside the ground.

- **SECURITY**

As at most away grounds, you can expect to be searched prior to entering the ground. Ipswich Town also uses a trained search dog and some stewards now wear body cameras.

- **BAGS**

Large bags will not be permitted to be taken into the stadium. By way of guidance, nothing larger than a standard carrier bag will be allowed. There are no facilities to leave bags.

- **SEATING**

Portman Road is a traditional ground, with 4 separate stands. The away end is blocks V1 and V2 of the Cobbold Stand and for this game block E as well. This gives you a good side-stand upper-tier view of the action. The Cobbold stand is an older stand, dating from the 1970s.

Ambulant disabled fans, who require limited stepped access, will be seated within block S of the lower tier of the Cobbold Stand – this is an away fans block but separate to other Coventry City fans. Accessible toilets are on the concourse of the lower tier. Ambulant disabled supporters wishing to sit in the Upper Tier can do so but please note that there is no lift access or accessible toilet facility in this area.

As we do not have wheelchair spaces in the Cobbold Stand, wheelchair users are located with home fans in the East of England Co-op Stand.

Adult tickets are priced at £27.00 in blocks V1 and V2 and £30.00 in block E (upper tier, Cobbold Stand) with concession prices available for Seniors over 65, under 23s and under 19s. Adults tickets for wheelchair users (East of England Co-op stand) and ambulant disabled fans (block S, Cobbold Stand) are priced at £23 with concession prices for Seniors over 65, under 23s and under 19s – these tickets include a carer. Ambulant disabled supporters wanting to go in the upper tier pay the block V1, V2 or E price.

This match is sold out for Coventry fans. Any Coventry fans found in home areas will face ejection from the stadium.

The Away Ticket Office in Portman Road (next to the away turnstiles) is open on a matchday to deal with any queries.

- **HUNGRY OR THIRSTY?**

Food and drink facilities are what you'd expect (pies, hot dogs, confectionery etc). Alcohol will be available up to kick off (providing there are no issues) but not at half time. Food and drink prices are as follows:

Bar Prices	
Steak & Ale Pie	£4.10
Chicken Ham Pie	£4.10
Chicken Balti Pie	£4.10

Vegetarian (Butterbean) Pie	£4.10
Sausage Roll	£3.00
Vegan Sausage Roll	£3.00
Cheese Burger	£4.30
Hot Dog	£4.30
Pizza	£5.50
Wine 187ml	£4.50
Gin & Tonic, Vodka & Coke mixer cans	£4.50
Fosters PET 330ml	£3.50
Bulmers Original 4.5 PET 330ml	£3.50
Greene King IPA 3.6 PET 500ml	£4.10
Soft Drinks 500ml	£2.40
Hot Drinks	£2.40
Water 500ml	£2.00
Capri Sun 200ml	£1.60
Grab Bags	£3.20
Chocolate Duo	£1.50
Crisps	£1.50

- ***SMOKING POLICY***

Portman Road is a no smoking stadium. This includes e-cigarettes. Anyone found smoking will be ejected from the ground. For anyone considering leaving the stadium, note that no re-admission to the ground is permitted.

- ***FLAGS/BANNERS***

Subject to space, flags and banners are allowed in the away end. These will need to be fire certificated. For questions relating to this contact Mick Warden on mick.warden@itfc.co.uk.

- ***MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS AND SELFIE STICKS***

Musical instruments and selfie sticks are not allowed in the away end.

- ***PYROTECHNICS***

As with all grounds and to comply with legislation, the use of pyrotechnics or even trying to get them into the stadium is a criminal offence and will not be tolerated.

- **PUSHCHAIRS**

Pushchairs are not allowed into the stadium. No storage is available so they will need to be left in your car.

DISABLED FANS

The Club has 10 radio headsets available to supporters with visual impairments ran through Soccer Sight, who provide dedicated descriptive commentary allowing the supporter to sit anywhere in the stadium.

If you would like to reserve headsets or you have any special requirements please contact Ipswich's Disability Liaison Officer Lee Smith on disability@itfc.co.uk or 01473 400556.

STAMP IT OUT

Racism or discrimination of any form is not OK, 'Not Today or Any Day' and supporters are reminded that instances of discriminatory or prejudiced behaviour will not be tolerated at any EFL game.



Ipswich Town Football Club takes a zero-tolerance stance on any form of racial, homophobic or prejudiced behaviour. Supporters can report any incident instantly that they feel needs attention by texting the anonymous 'Stamp it Out' number on 07834 439429 (standard text rate applies). All reports will be handled in the strictest confidence.

You can also report any discrimination or anti-social behaviour to Kick it Out using the Kick It Out app which is available to download from the App Store or Google Play, or via: Facebook /kickitoutofficial; Twitter @kickitout; email info@kickitout.org; phone 0800 169 9414.

Alternatively, our customer services can be contacted on customerservice@itfc.co.uk.

IF YOU'RE SPENDING A BIT MORE TIME IN IPSWICH...

HOTELS

Ipswich has numerous hotels, many at the budget end of the market, within a comfortable walk from the ground. Of the chains, the nearest are the Novotel and Penta hotels (5 mins), with the Premier Inn and Travelodge around 10-15 mins from the ground in the harbourside area and a newish lodge at the Mermaid pub (Marstons), also about a 10-minute walk. For a more upmarket option, the Salthouse Harbour Hotel is on the harbourside, and Milsoms (Kesgrave) is in a country house setting on the eastern edge of Ipswich. The Railway at Westerfield is about 3 miles out of town, but is a lovely traditional pub with great food and frequent trains that get you to Ipswich station in just a few minutes.

(There are many other hotels in and around Ipswich – we have no connection with these listed, but suggest them for convenience as they are mostly close to the ground and have been well spoken of by many fans).

Hotel weblinks:

<https://www.salthouseharbour.co.uk/>

<https://www.milsomhotels.com/kesgrave-hall/>

<http://www.novotel.com/gb/hotel-0995-novotel-ipswich-centre/index.shtml>

<https://www.pentahotels.com/en/hotels/ipswich/hotel-information/>

<https://www.bestwestern.co.uk/hotels/best-western-ipswich-hotel-84217>

<https://www.travelodge.co.uk/uk/hotels-in-ipswich>

<http://www.premierinn.com/gb/en/hotels/england/suffolk/ipswich/ipswich-town-centre-quayside.html>

<http://www.marstonsinns.co.uk/inns/mermaid-ipswich>

<https://www.therailwaywesterfield.co.uk/>

LOCAL ATTRACTIONS

There is so much to do in and around Ipswich, making it ideal for a short break.

Local attractions include:

- Harbourside and marina, with numerous restaurants, cafes and bars
- Town centre, with many independent stores dotted around a fairly compact area
- New Wolsey Theatre, one of the UK's leading regional theatres, with a year-round programme of great plays and shows, including their own productions and national tours.
- Christchurch Park, Mansion and Gallery – a huge, 70-acre park just north of the town centre, including a Tudor mansion which houses a renowned (and free) art gallery (with a permanent display of local artist John Constable)
- Pubs selling a wide range of locally-brewed real ales, with town centre options including the Fat Cat, Greyhound, Dove Street Inn, St Judes Tavern, Thomas Wolsey and Briarbank Brewery. Of these, the Dove, St Judes and Briarbank are also microbreweries, and the Dove has a fabulous dedicated gin parlour.
- Felixstowe is just 15 miles (15 minutes, via the A14) away to the east, and is both a traditional seaside resort (there's a pier and the promenade stretches for a couple of miles) and major container port, which includes a fantastic viewing point, where you can see shipping movements and the loading / unloading of the world's largest container ships.
- The Orwell Bridge carries the A14 over the river to Felixstowe, and is an impressive sight from below. You get to it off the A137, which is a mile or so east of the A12/A14 junction. The road under the Orwell Bridge then meanders for a few miles past Pin Mill (the Butt & Oyster is a lovely old waterside inn) and onto Shotley, which has loads of yachts and great views of the ports of Felixstowe and Harwich.
- The historic little town of Woodbridge is just a few miles from Ipswich, with a tide mill, lots of little boutiques, some fine pubs, and an Adnams Wine and Beer store (next to the station)
- Just a bit further up the coast you'll find the beautiful seaside town of Aldeburgh with its famous fish & chip shop (it's the one at the north end of the High Street, with the big queue outside), as

well as some wonderful little shops and pubs. You'll pass the concert hall, antique, home furnishings and fine foods shops of Snape Maltings en route to Aldeburgh, and it's well worth the short detour – no national chains here!

- If you've managed to get as far as Aldeburgh, you may well be tempted to continue a bit further up the coast, past the impressive power station at Sizewell, to the beautiful seaside town of Southwold, home of Adnams beers, a pier, and lots of little shops and galleries.