



## **IPSWICH TOWN V PRESTON NORTH END**

### **SATURDAY, 7 OCTOBER, KICK-OFF 3PM**

*Information in this guide is correct as at 5 October 2023.*

The Club is looking forward to welcoming you to Portman Road, and hopes you enjoy your visit.

This is a short guide, designed to answer the kind of questions that are often asked by visiting fans, and provides the information found useful when 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](mailto: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](http://www.itfc.co.uk)

**Club Telephone Number:** 01473 400500

**Ticket Office Number:** 03330 050503

**Supporter Liaison Officer:** Elizabeth Edwards, [slo@itfc.co.uk](mailto:slo@itfc.co.uk), 07968 876504, @ITFC\_SLO

**Disability Liaison Officer:** Lee Smith, [lee.smith@itfc.co.uk](mailto:lee.smith@itfc.co.uk), 01473 400556

**Customer Services:** [customer.service@itfc.co.uk](mailto:customer.service@itfc.co.uk)

**Twitter:** @IpswichTown, @itfchelp

**Matchday Safeguarding Policy:** Please see section 8 (page 6), Away Fan Procedures: <https://s3.eu-west-1.amazonaws.com/gc-media-assets.gc.ipswichtownfcservices.co.uk/d029d910-11cf-11ee-8720-1571f0e0fb1a.pdf>

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

The statue of Sir Bobby Robson is on Portman Road opposite the Cobbold Stand, where away fans are located. Further along the road, diagonally opposite the club shop Planet Blue, you will find the statue of club legend Kevin Beattie which was unveiled in December 2021. Diagonally opposite Kevin you will find the statue of another Town great, Sir Alf Ramsey. All three statues are the work of local sculptor Sean Hedges-Quinn.

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 only pub that officially welcomes away fans 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. 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.

More information is given at the end of this guide for fans staying in the area for longer.

# HOW TO GET TO THE STADIUM

Back in 2003, the Club 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.” If you are familiar with the stadium from previous visits, note that it does look a bit different nowadays, as many buildings have been demolished and development started around the ground.

## BY CAR

*Note 1: There are long-term roadworks between Bury St Edmunds and Stowmarket on the A14 which can cause significant delays. Overnight closures are not uncommon with diversions in place.*

*Note 2: Fans not travelling from the Preston direction (and using the A12 from the London area) should note that there are two sets of long-term roadworks between the M25 and Ipswich. Road closures can occur with diversions in place.*

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

From Preston, there are two main road options. The first is the M6 / A14, which is reasonably direct, but runs the risk of hold-ups. We would normally take the M61, then M62 to the A1, then down to the A14 which runs to the outskirts of Ipswich. Whichever way you go, it is likely to take well over four hours.

Unless you live very close to Suffolk, we generally recommend allowing at least an hour, and ideally 90 minutes, beyond the AA / Google / Sat Nav suggested journey time.

## 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 / A12 junction.

For those not using a 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 continue to the stadium.

Note that the road immediately behind the Cobbold Stand is blocked permanently at both ends behind the stand, and the road behind the Sir Bobby Robson Stand is 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 car park on Portman Road (right by the away end, post code IP1 2BP) which is likely to have space for this game up to maybe 90 minutes before kick-off. Note that the Portman Road entry/exit for this car park will be closed from 15 minutes before the end of the game until 15 minutes after the game. Vehicle access via Friars Bridge Road remains open at all times.

There are also large car parks on West End Road (5 minutes' walk away, post code IP1 2DZ) and at the railway station (less than 10 minutes, postcode IP2 8AL). 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 – the further you park from the ground, the less likely you are to face lengthy traffic delays post-match. One good option is the railway station car park (it's controlled by cameras, and the pay stations are by the entrance to the station – it costs £6 at weekends) - exit left onto Burrell Road / Ranelagh Road (B1075), then (after about a mile) left onto the A1214 to get out to the A14.

Three 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.

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.

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.

## **BY TRAIN**

*Note: Buses will replace trains between Peterborough and Ely all day on Saturday due to signalling work.*

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

Travelling via London to Ipswich will take a bit over 4 hours. From Preston take a train to London Euston. From London Euston take the Northern Line (City Branch) from Euston to Bank and the Central Line to London Liverpool Street or walk from London Euston to Euston Square and take the Circle Line or Hammersmith & City Line or Metropolitan Line to Liverpool Street for a train to Ipswich. There are several options which will get you to Ipswich in good time for the match, including the 07:00, 08:01 and 09:01 trains from Preston which should get you to Ipswich at 11:05, 12:06 and 13:05 respectively.

After the game, the 18:11 train from Ipswich to London Liverpool Street is shown by [www.greateranglia.co.uk](http://www.greateranglia.co.uk) to connect with the 20:31 train to Preston, arriving into Preston at 23:18, a journey time of 5 hours 7 minutes. There is a faster option, leaving Ipswich at 17:19 but you may need to leave the game early to make this. Arrival back into Preston would be 21:55.

For fans travelling back towards London only after the game, there are trains at 17:44, 17:52, 18:11 and 18:41 with other later options available.

It is possible to travel cross-country, but, as mentioned above, this will involve a rail replacement bus between Peterborough and Ely and a lengthy journey time of 6 hours 45 minutes. There is no cross-country option after the game.

Whatever your travel plans, it's worth checking [www.greateranglia.co.uk](http://www.greateranglia.co.uk) or your usual train operator website for updated times, any disruptions 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 is opposite the station, and is the official away pub. It has a garden and TV screens, with beers 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 turnstiles.

## **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 facility (which has a number of chain restaurants, plus a KFC and a McDonalds), and (c) throughout the town centre. Note that the stadium itself is now entirely cashless.

## **STADIUM**

### **CASHLESS STADIUM**

Portman Road is now a cashless stadium. This includes Planet Blue (the Club shop), the programme kiosks positioned around the stadium, and all concourse bars.

### **MATCHDAY PROGRAMME**

The 76-page matchday programme costs £3.50. This can be purchased from the Club shop Planet Blue and outside the stadium. Programmes are not available to purchase once inside the ground. Note that cash payments will not be accepted for programmes at any vendor.

### **SECURITY**

Supporters might be searched prior to entering Portman Road. The Club also uses a trained K9 unit and some stewards, as well as police officers, wear body cameras on matchdays.

### **BAGS**

Large bags will not be permitted to be taken into the stadium. By way of guidance, nothing larger than a standard carrier bag or handbag 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 block V2 of the Cobbold Stand. This gives you a good side-stand upper-tier view of the action, though it is an older stand, which celebrated its 50th birthday in 2021.

Ambulant disabled fans, who require limited stepped access, will be seated in the corner of block S of the lower tier of the Cobbold Stand. 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 Magnus Group West Stand. Four spaces are available.

### **TICKETING**

All fixtures are all ticket for away fans, with no sales on the day.



Adult tickets for this grade C game are priced at £31.00 with concession prices available for Seniors over 65, under 23s and under 19s.

Adult tickets for ambulant disabled fans (block S, Cobbold Stand) are priced at £26.00 with adult tickets for wheelchair users (Magnus Group West Stand) priced at £23.00. These tickets include a carer. Concession prices are available for Seniors over 65, under 23s and under 19s. Ambulant disabled supporters wanting to go in the upper tier pay the block V2 price.

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

## **ACCESSIBLE TOILET AND BABY CHANGING FACILITY**

Accessible toilets are on the concourse of the lower tier of the Cobbold Stand. A baby changing facility can be found in the ladies toilets in the lower tier of E block.

## **HUNGRY OR THIRSTY?**

Note that all food and drink kiosks are cashless. Card and contactless will be accepted. Food and drink facilities are what you'd expect with pies, sausage rolls, crisps and chocolate bars available. Vegetarian options are also stocked. Alcohol will be available before the game and at half time (providing there are no issues). Food and drink prices are as follows:

<b>Steak &amp; Ale Pie</b>	<b>£5.75</b>
<b>Chicken &amp; Bacon Pie</b>	<b>£5.75</b>
<b>Chicken Balti Pie</b>	<b>£5.75</b>
<b>Vegetarian Pie (VG)</b>	<b>£5.50</b>
<b>Sausage Roll and Vegan Sausage Roll</b>	<b>£4.95</b>
<b>Dino's Hotdog</b>	<b>£6.50</b>
<b>Pie and a PET</b>	<b>£10.00</b>
<b>Crisps</b>	<b>£1.75</b>
<b>Grab Bags</b>	<b>£3.75</b>
<b>Duo Chocolate Bar</b>	<b>£2.25</b>
<b>Hot drinks (Tea, White Coffee, Black Coffee, Hot Chocolate, Bovril – all 12oz)</b>	<b>£2.95</b>
<b>Soft Drinks (Coca Cola, Coke Zero, Fanta Orange Zero, Sprite Zero – all 500ml)</b>	<b>£3.25</b>
<b>Belu Still Water 500ml</b>	<b>£2.35</b>
<b>Capri Sun 200ml</b>	<b>£2.25</b>
<b>Carlsberg 4.0 PET 500ml</b>	<b>£6.05</b>
<b>GK IPA 3.6 PET 500ml</b>	<b>£6.05</b>
<b>Stowford Press 4.5 PET 500ml</b>	<b>£6.05</b>
<b>Red, White, Rose wine 187ml</b>	<b>£6.05</b>
<b>Mixer Cans: Gin &amp; Tonic, Vodka &amp; Coke 250ml</b>	<b>£6.05</b>

## 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 Neil McCluskey on [neil.mccluskey@itfc.co.uk](mailto:neil.mccluskey@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 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 [lee.smith@itfc.co.uk](mailto:lee.smith@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 anti-social behaviour will not be tolerated at any EFL game.

Ipswich Town Football Club is committed to providing a safe and enjoyable experience for all supporters and staff.

The Club takes a zero-tolerance stance on any form of discrimination or anti-social behaviour. Supporters can report any incident instantly that they feel needs attention by texting ITFC and your message to the anonymous number 60650 (standard text rate applies). All reports will be handled in the strictest confidence. Please include Stand, Row, Seat Number and names if known.

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](mailto:info@kickitout.org); phone 0800 169 9414.

Alternatively, our customer services can be contacted on [customer.service@itfc.co.uk](mailto:customer.service@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 is the newly-opened Travelodge (Ipswich Central) next to the stadium, then the Penta hotel (5 mins), with the Premier Inn and Travelodge (Ipswich) around 10-15 mins from the ground in the harbourside area and a 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 2 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. Many fans take the opportunity for a seaside break in Felixstowe, around 15 miles to the east of Ipswich, and well connected by road, train and bus. (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/>

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

<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, including the Fat Cat, Dove Street Inn, Woolpack, Greyhound, St Judes Tavern, Arcade Street Tavern, Three Wise Monkeys, Thomas Wolsey (strictly home fans on a matchday), Spread Eagle, Lord Nelson and Briarbank Brewery. Of these, the Dove and St Judes often have their own-brewed beers amongst a wider range, whilst the Briarbank is a microbrewery with a wide range of its own ales. The closest Ipswich has to a micropub is Hopsters on St Nicholas Street, which is primarily a craft beer shop, but has space for a few onsite drinkers. A number of fans have suggested we recommend the Dove Street Inn, Briarbank and Arcade Street Tavern for craft beers.
- 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 (turn towards Ipswich, down the hill, and then turn right at the first roundabout towards Shotley). 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 south 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.
- The delightful market town of Framlingham is about 20 miles north-east of Ipswich, home turf of the club's main sponsor Ed Sheeran, who put the town on the world stage with his 'Castle on the Hill' track.
- 10 miles south of Ipswich, on the Essex border, is Constable country, where you can visit the artist's famous locations along the Stour valley, including Willy Lott's cottage and the Haywain at Flatford Mill.