

Suffolk Discovery Tour 2021

A luxury fully escorted self-drive tour by
Backwater Classic Car Tours

(two dates) 18th July and 25th July 2021 - five days, four nights



photo: on our Suffolk Villages Run

Our Suffolk Discovery Tour

Backwater Classic Tours invites you to discover one of England's most beautiful and undiscovered counties, travelling its fascinating villages and byways in style and comfort.

Join us on this fabulous discovery tour...

A five-day tour where we give you a flavour of the different landscapes in Suffolk through scenic and historic locations



Suffolk Discovery Tour July 2021

We have two groups as this enables us to keep to the same small-numbers format that is one of the special attractions of every Backwater Classic Car Tour. We don't like large groups! Accordingly, we would advise an early booking as our last Suffolk which followed almost the same format (this one has had a few tweaks) filled very fast.

This classic Discover Suffolk Tour introduces you to an eastern English county whose bucolic glories have been celebrated by such acknowledged master-artists as Constable, Gainsborough and Munnings. You will pass through charming medieval towns and villages as well as visiting the world-famous Anglo-Saxon burial site of Sutton Hoo and taking a boat trip from Dedham Boathouse down the River Stour and Kentwell Hall, Long Melford for a private tour.

All this, in a five-day, four-night tour where the accent is always on luxury, fine food and good companionship. You'll be staying at the delightful 4-star historic Hintlesham Hall Hotel which is a wonderful location from which to explore Suffolk. The Hall is a fine, Grade I Listed building offering spacious reception rooms and beautiful bedrooms.

You also have the option of competing for the Backwater Suffolk Discovery Tour Photo Competition.

brief tour overview...

This five-day tour takes in a wide variety of Suffolk sites and landscapes. Every route has been carefully planned so that every stop on the way will have been selected to maximise your motoring pleasure. We provide clear and easy-to-follow instructions allowing navigators to enjoy the day as much as the drivers.

Our comprehensive tour book ensures that you will not miss out on places of scenic or historical interest.

Tulip routes include visits to Flatford Mill (the site of Constable's 'The Hay Wain'), Sutton Hoo and the coastal towns of Aldeburgh, Thorpeness, Woodbridge and Southwold (the town time forgot), Kentwell Hall, for a private tour and a River Stour boat trip

This "Chocolate Box" Suffolk village run, includes Long Melford and Lavenham.



'The House in the Clouds'
Thorpeness



Lavenham

itinerary ...

15:00
day one

Check in from 15:00.

Welcome drink reception and tour briefing in the Garden Room.
Explanation of the Suffolk Tour Backwater Photo Competition.
Private dinner in the Parlour Room.

day two

Breakfast.
Suggested leaving time for the Village Run.
Coffee Stop, Rose and Crown, Hundon.
Private dinner in the Parlour Room.

day three

Breakfast.
Suggested leaving time for the Coast Run.
Sutton Hoo (NT).
Private dinner in the Parlour Room.

day four

Breakfast.
"So much more than Constable" Run.
River Stour boat trip from Dedham.
Dedham Boathouse, light lunch.
Kentwell Hall, private tour and tea.
Private dinner in the Parlour Room.
Presentation to the winner of the Suffolk Tour Backwater Photo Competition.

day five

Breakfast and check-out.



Hintlesham Hall

day one...

Check in

Check in from 15:00 explore the hotel perhaps have tea, the cars have a special parking in the front of the hotel.

Welcome drink reception and tour briefing in the Garden Room at seven with an explanation of the Suffolk Tour Backwater Photo Competition.

Private dinner in the character Parlour Room.



Parlour Room

day two...

Village Run

Suffolk Villages mainly reflect the county's rich history as a centre for the wool industry in the Middle Ages and Tudor times – here you'll find timber framed houses, magnificent and opulent stately houses as well as the humble pretty thatched cottages Suffolk is well known for.

Our easy scenic 75-mile drive is just a continuous collection of Suffolk "chocolate box" villages that starts directly from the hotel and takes us through the villages including Long Melford, Lavenham, Clare, Kersey and Cavendish with a coffee stop with a coffee stop at Hundon.

Lavenham was one of the centres of the wool trade in Suffolk and was the fourteenth wealthiest town in England.



Kersey

The stunning Guildhall in the centre of Lavenham was built c1520 by the Guild of Corpus Christi, one of the town's four medieval guilds, and is today maintained by the National Trust.



Cavendish

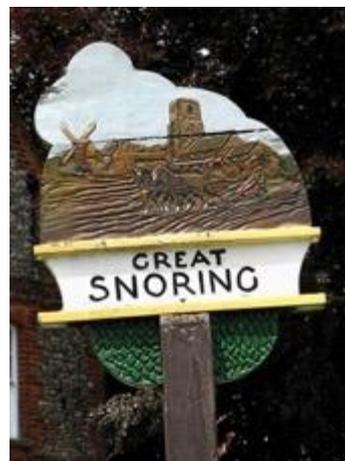


Photo Competition on Suffolk village signs

day three...

Coast Run

Along the coast and moving inland, pretty villages, historical hamlets, seaside and market towns await on The Suffolk Coast. We take you first to Wickham Market and then on to Woodbridge and Sutton Hoo NT. Since its discovery in 1939, the Sutton Hoo burial site has been an important link to the Anglo-Saxon world.



Sutton Hoo

The site consists of burial mounds, along with the ship-burial where many artefacts were found. The original artefacts are housed in the British Museum, but the exact replicas shown at this exhibition are built to the highest quality by craftsmen and are valuable in their own right.



Southwold Pier

Then onto the coastal towns of Aldeburgh which is a vibrant and lively seaside town and Thorpness where the village is surrounded by gorgeous heathland and forest, Southwold (the town that time forgot), is your quintessential English seaside resort; a charming town with colourful beach huts, popular sandy beaches and a lighthouse. Its award-winning pier is full of eccentric British seaside fun. We then take an inland route back via the villages of Earl Soham then to Hintlesham Hall.

day four...

"So much more than Constable" Run.

We take a backwater route to East Bergholt, Dedham and to Constable Flatford Mill NT and discover the views that John Constable painted. We have lunch at Dedham Boathouse and boat trip on the River Stour. We then take another backwater route to Kentwell Hall with a private tour, and then time to explore Long Melford and the Holy Trinity Church which is the longest church in Suffolk. As its name implies, the village has a long High Street, populated by charming independent shops, vibrant art galleries, antique centres.



Flatford Mill



Dedham Boat House

day five... Breakfast and check-out.

our Venues...

Hintlesham Hall

Hintlesham Hall is a beautiful grade 1 listed building in Suffolk dating back to the 1400s, with a breath-taking Georgian front exterior and original features, was restored and turned into a hotel by the famous chef, restaurateur and food writer Robert Carrier. The business was owned later by the hotelier and broadcaster Ruth Watson. Hintlesham Hall is extremely well placed for exploring Suffolk's delightfully unspoilt 16th century wool merchants' villages, it's pretty river estuaries and 'Constable Country' and the coastal town of Aldeburgh, famous for its music and food festivals, are within easy reach, as are Lavenham, Long Melford and Woodbridge, with their numerous antique shops.



Hintlesham Hall

From 1448, Hintlesham Manor, a single storey Tudor Hall, was owned by Sir John Fortescue who used one of the rooms as a local court. In 1454 the manor was purchased by John Timperley.

In August 1720 the hall was bought by Richard Powys, a Principal Clerk to The Treasury, and the Powys family lived there for nearly 30 years, after which it was sold to the lawyer Richard Lloyd, a solicitor-general, and passed down through his descendants until the early 1900s.

In 1972 the hall was bought by chef Robert Carrier.



Hintlesham Hall restaurant

Kentwell Hall

Kentwell is not only a stunning period house, but it is also a lived-in and much-loved family home with its story beginning over 500 years ago.

Built originally by the Clopton family, local wealthy wool merchants, Kentwell Hall has been home to a succession of owners, with each leaving their own mark. Kentwell has undergone several interior and exterior restorations and changes but has retained its original essence as a Tudor home. Since 1970, it has been owned by Patrick and Judith Philips. Together they have embarked on a grand-scale restoration of the Hall and gardens. This is a useful base to explore Long Melford.



Kentwell Hall

Tour details

Suffolk Discovery Tour Backwater Photo Competition

This optional, light-hearted competition draws on the fact that Suffolk is renowned for its village signs (there over 375 of them in total).

You have the option to look for the various signs included in the in the tour book and identify the villages concerned. The Suffolk Spot-the-Sign Observation Trophy to take home and keep.

What's included:

Hintlesham Hall, Superior Rooms as standard.

Three Tulip Runs.

Constable and Flatford.

Lunch at Dedham Boathouse, River Stour Boat Trip.

Suffolk villages, Lavenham, Southwold, Aldeburgh, Thorpness etc

Sutton Hoo visit.

Kentwell Hall, Long Melford – private tour

Photo observation competition, optional.

Vamoos phone app-update pre-tour information and Sat Nav

Five days, four nights, three course dinners and breakfast each day

Coffee stops, Comprehensive tour book, rally plate.

What's Not Included:

Cost of any entrance fees that are not stated.

All drinks are extra to accommodate individual preferences.

Website and tour registration:

Backwater Tours web site: www.backwatertours.co.uk

Tour Cost:

£880.00 Cost is based on two people sharing a room.

Who we are:

Backwater Classic Car Tours is a UK-based company that has been organising and escorting events since 2008, principally for classic Jaguars. Our aim is for all our guests simply to enjoy themselves and to see new places (there is no element of competitive driving). The emphasis of all our tours is as much on the social side as on the driving experience.

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Note: we reserve the right to amend the dates, rates and itinerary in this brochure.