

Enchanting Essex

...with Maghull & Lydiate U3A



Southchurch Hall



New Hall Vineyard ©Colin Park



Tiptree Visitor Centre



Guide Dogs for the Blind National Breeding Centre

5 days 4 nights £380 per person*

12th – 16th
July 2018

Essex is a county of contrasts, with traditional seaside towns and historic villages it is home to a variety of gems; lovely gardens, scenic towns and interesting attractions.

Holiday Inn Colchester

Located in the tranquil village of Eight Ash Green, the Holiday Inn Colchester is situated just 15 minutes outside of Colchester town centre. The hotel features its own health club with indoor pool restaurant and bar/lounge area. Each of the hotel's 110 en-suite bedrooms are air-conditioned and come equipped with iron, television, power shower, complimentary Wi-Fi and tea/coffee making facilities.



Our Tour

■ What's included

- Executive Touring Coach
- 4 nights half board accommodation
- Admission to Kentwell
- Tour and tasting at New Hall Vineyards
- Visit to Tiptree Jam Museum & Tearoom (refreshments not included)
- Return ticket on the Epping and Ongar Railway between North Weald and Ongar
- Guided tour of the Guide Dogs for the Blind Breeding Centre

■ What's not included

- Single supplement £80 for the duration of the tour (double/twin for sole occupancy)
- Travel insurance - £25 per person. The policy has an upper age limit of 85 years on the date of return.
- Meals other than those specified
- Gratuities

*Based on two sharing in a twin/double room and a minimum of 40 passengers



Epping and Ongar Railway

Wikicommons Member Matt

OUR ITINERARY

Day 1 – We depart our local area and travel to Colchester with an en-route stop at Cursborough Hall Farm Countryside Centre. Here we can browse the different retailers selling local crafts and obtain lunch from the traditional tearoom (not included). We then continue to the hotel. Dinner at the hotel.

Day 2 – This morning, we head to Southend on Sea for time at leisure before continuing onto New Hall Vineyard for a tour and tasting session. Weather permitting we may opt to relax on the seafront, but the town also has a thriving cultural scene and wealth of history. There's the Pier Museum, Royal Pavilion, Southchurch Hall (a medieval moated, timber-framed manor house), Prittlewell Priory & the town's Central Museum (admissions not included here as we will be free to explore independently). Established in 1969 by the Greenwood family, New Hall Vineyard is an English Wine Producer with over 65 hectares of vines and is one of the oldest and largest in the country and we will enjoy a tour and tasting here before returning to the hotel for dinner.

Day 3 – After breakfast we travel to Sudbury, set in the heart of the Stour Valley. Sudbury is an ancient market town dating back to Saxon times, and for centuries the weaving and silk industry has prospered here. Thomas Gainsborough was born here and the surrounding countryside inspired much of his work - his birthplace is now open to the public and has been converted to a museum and art gallery (admission not included). The collections on show exhibit a large number of Gainsborough's paintings as well as those of other artists. In the afternoon we visit Kentwell, a romantic moated redbrick Tudor mansion with extensive gardens and rare breed farm. Kentwell describes itself not as a 'stately home' but very much a lived-in and loved family home, something it has been for over 500 years. Return to hotel. Dinner at the hotel.

Day 4 – A morning visit to the Tiptree Jam Museum and tea rooms (refreshments not included but can be purchased individually). The museum shows how village life used

to be and how the art of preserve-making has advanced over the years at Tiptree. A visit here wouldn't be complete without enjoying some light refreshments and these can be obtained individually on the day. This afternoon a return journey on the Epping and Ongar Railway will take place between North Weald and Ongar. Return to hotel. Dinner at the hotel.

Day 5 – Our final day and we depart the hotel homewards with an en-route visit to a town of interest before continuing to the Guide Dogs for the Blind National Breeding Centre, for an afternoon guided tour. Here we will see the puppies as they socialise and grow, gaining experience of everyday sights and sounds which will help them develop the skills they need as guide dogs. After the tour we continue our homeward journey.

The exact order of excursions may be subject to change.