



IPSWICH TOWN V SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY

SATURDAY 2 FEBRUARY 2019, KICK OFF 15:00

INFORMATION FOR AWAY FANS

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.

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."

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 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). Just beyond the town centre, 15 minutes from the ground, is the beautiful Christchurch Park, with a renowned art gallery within the Tudor mansion building.

- **BY CAR**

Note: The long-term roadworks on the A14 (several miles either side of Cambridge) are resulting in evening and weekend road closures. 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.

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

From Sheffield, you will most likely be taking the M18 or A57 across to the A1, heading south to the A14, which then takes you all the way to Ipswich.

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 normally takes at least 3 and a half hours, but it's best to allow longer in case of delays. We generally recommend allowing at least an hour beyond the AA / Google / SatNav suggested journey time.

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 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 at least 14:15. 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 only costs £3 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 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.

- **BY TRAIN**

Note 1: There are planned engineering works on the London to Ipswich route on the day of the match with no trains from Liverpool Street. The journey will involve getting from London St Pancras to Newbury Park (on the Central Line) where buses replace trains to Ingatestone. From Ingatestone trains will run to Ipswich – 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.

The first option, which avoids the engineering works, is cross country. You will need to change en route; for example at Doncaster, Peterborough and Cambridge or at Nottingham and Peterborough or at Doncaster and Peterborough or Ely only. www.greateranglia.co.uk indicates a train from Sheffield at 07:37 with changes at Nottingham and Peterborough arriving in Ipswich at 11:28. The 08:30, with changes at Doncaster, Peterborough and Cambridge, arrives into Ipswich at 13:02. The Ely change only option leaves Sheffield at 09:36, arriving in Ipswich at 13:28. Leaving Sheffield a few minutes later at 09:52 will get you to Ipswich at the same time of 13:28 if you change at Doncaster and Peterborough.

After the game www.greateranglia.co.uk indicates a train at 17:58 arriving back in Sheffield at 21:21 – this requires changes at Peterborough and Doncaster.

A final word of warning – the trains that head east out of Peterborough are very small – at best three carriages, and it is by no means unknown for there to be only two, so they are likely to be very busy. They are also used by many Town fans from Stowmarket and Bury St Edmunds.

Because of the engineering works, the second route, via London, will take up to 5 hours 45 minutes depending on connection times. From St Pancras you will need to make your way by underground on the Circle, Hammersmith & City or Metropolitan line from King's Cross St Pancras to Liverpool Street and pick up the Central Line to Newbury Park. From Newbury Park there will be a bus to Ingatestone where you pick up a train to Ipswich. This usually works very efficiently – there have been rail replacement services on this route at weekends for some years, so it is a tried-and-tested operation.

For those travelling back to London there are trains at 17:15 (changing at Colchester), 17:43, 18:00, 18:15 (change at Colchester) and 18:43. The journey will include a bus from Ingatestone to Newbury Park. Note that www.greateranglia.co.uk indicates that some trips from London to Sheffield after the game will also involve a change en route – direct trains run out of St Pancras; trains out of Kings Cross require a change.

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.

For this game, driving is likely to be quicker. Official coaches are also likely to be quicker than rail.

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 three beers on handpump 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.

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 can be purchased for £3 outside the stadium from the white, 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. 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 will be seated within block S (lower tier) of the Cobbold Stand (note that U5s are not allowed in the lower tier). As we do not have wheelchair spaces in the Cobbold Stand, wheelchair users will be located with home fans.

This match is all ticket for Sheffield Wednesday fans.

- **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	£4.00
Chicken Ham Pie	£4.00

Balti Pie	£4.00
Vegetarian Pie	£4.00
Sausage Roll	£3.00
Cheese Burger	£4.20
Hot Dog	£4.20
Wine	£4.20
Fosters PETS	£3.30
Bulmers PETS	£3.30
IPA PETS	£3.90
Soft Drinks	£2.30
Hot Drinks	£2.30
Water	£2.00
Capri Sun	£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.

- **PUSHCHAIRS**

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

DISABLED FANS

If you have any special requirements please contact Ipswich's Disability Liaison Officer Lee Smith on 01473 400556.

STAMP IT OUT

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. 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.

(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.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>

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

- 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.
- 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.