



IPSWICH TOWN V ROTHERHAM UNITED
WEDNESDAY 23 OCTOBER 2019, KICK OFF 19:45
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.

IPSWICH TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB

Address: Ipswich Town Football Club, Portman Road, Ipswich, IP12DA
Website: www.itfc.co.uk
Club Telephone Number: 01473 400 500
Ticket Office Number: 03330 05 05 03
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.

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: 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.

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

From Rotherham, the most direct road route is to take the M1 south, then the A57 across to the A1, heading south to the A14, which then takes you all the way to Ipswich. (If you prefer, you can take the M1 further, and join the A14 where the M6 intersects, but this tends to take at least an extra half-hour).

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 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.

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 £5 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**

It is not possible to get back to Rotherham on the day of the game

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

Trains from London to Ipswich leave from Liverpool Street station.

There are two routes to Ipswich from Rotherham. The first is cross-country. You will need to change en route; for example at Doncaster and Peterborough or at Doncaster, Peterborough and Cambridge. www.greateranglia.co.uk indicates trains from Rotherham at 11:43 and 13:42 with changes at Doncaster and Peterborough arriving in Ipswich at 15:28 and 17:28 respectively. There are also a number of three-change options; for example, leaving Rotherham at 10:42 or 12:42 with changes at Doncaster, Peterborough and Cambridge should get you to Ipswich at 15:04 and 17:04.

There are similar options throughout the following day for the return journey.

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.

The other route is via London. There are two options – the first is via Doncaster and London Kings Cross with, depending on connections, a journey time of around 4 hours 20 minutes. There are also options via Sheffield and London St Pancras, a journey time of around 4 hours 40 minutes. From Kings Cross or St Pancras you will need to take the underground (Circle, Hammersmith & City or Metropolitan Line) to Liverpool Street to pick up the train to Ipswich.

After the game trains leave Ipswich for London Liverpool Street at 21:43 (you will need to leave the game slightly early to make this one), 22:23 and 22:43. Note that the 22:23 and 22:43 arrive in Liverpool Street at 23:48 and 00:09 respectively, which just about connects onto late tube and TFL

services. If you are travelling beyond central London, do check your connection times for your onward journey.

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 can be purchased outside the stadium from the blue, tardis-like kiosks. Programmes are 68 pages and cost £3.50. 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**

This is a special promotional game with tickets for U19s priced at just £1.

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, who require limited stepped access, will be seated within block S of the lower tier of the Cobbold Stand. 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 will be located with home fans in the East of England Co-op Stand. 8 pairs of tickets are available.

Adult tickets are priced at £27.00 (blocks V1 and V2, upper tier) 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 and V2 price.

Tickets will be available on the day at turnstiles 10 and 11. These are cash turnstiles with no debit or credit card facilities for away fans. There is no price increase on the day.

The Away Ticket Office in Portman Road (next to the away turnstiles) will be open to deal with any queries.

- **HUNGRY OR THIRSTY?**

Food and drink facilities are what you'd expect (pies, hot dogs, confectionery etc). Alcohol availability in the away end is determined on a match-by-match basis. Alcohol will be available up to kick off and at half time (providing there are no issues). 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.

- ***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

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. Their rock n roll panto runs from early December to early February, and is simply unmissable – even, or especially, if you don't "do" conventional pantos.
- 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.