Discover MALDON DISTRICT

Explore
Maldon and Burnham-on-Crouch
Charming villages

Step Back In Time
Over 2,000 years of history

By The Water
More than 60 miles of coastline

Indulge Yourself
Shop and eat

See And Hear
Art and entertainment

The Great Outdoors
Exploring the countryside

Stay Awhile
A wide variety of accommodation

Further information
Location and transport links
A place for all seasons . . .

Events . . .
Maldon Beer Festival
Shakespeare in the Park
Garden Openings
Maldon Mud Race
Blackwater Barge Match
Maldon Arts Festival
Blackwater Country Show
999 Emergency Services Day
Burnham Art Trail
East Essex Heavy Horse Show
Heybridge Regatta
Vintage Vehicle Rally
Opera in the Orchard
Maldon Carnival
Row 4 A Reason
Burnham Week
Quay Days
Maldon Oyster Festival
English Wine Festival
Little Totham Pro-Am Music Festival
Maldon Regatta
Heritage Open Days
Maldon Art Trail
Burnham Illuminated Carnival Procession
Guy Fawkes Night Bonfire and Fireworks
Maldon Pantomime
Sponsored Rowing Race

FURTHER INFORMATION
Contact one of the Tourist Information Centres shown below or visit www.maldon.gov.uk. Specially trained staff at Maldon District Tourist Information Centre, an Enjoy England Official Partner, offer expert and friendly advice about the Maldon District.

Maldon District
Tourist Information Centre
Wenlock Way, High Street,
Maldon CM9 5AD
Tel: 01621 856503
Email: tic@maldon.gov.uk
Please check opening times

One Place
1 High Street
Burnham-on-Crouch CM0 8AG
Tel: 01621 784962
Email: burnhamtic@one-place.org.uk
Open all year: Mon-Sat 10am-4pm

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WELCOME to the Maldon District

Just 40 miles from London you will find a corner of Essex that’s full of charm, beauty and history. Most famous for its maritime heritage, the Maldon District also offers wonderful scenery, individual shops, exciting leisure activities and some of the best local food and drink you’ll find in Essex.

While time-honoured traditions like boat building, sail making, agriculture, and oyster farming endure, vibrant small towns like Maldon and Burnham-on-Crouch offer a mix of ancient and modern attractions and facilities, with everything from historic buildings to wi-fi hotspots.

As for outdoor pursuits, whether you’re a sailor, birdwatcher, angler, artist, cyclist or walker, you’ll love the acres of unspoilt countryside and 60 miles of natural coastline that make up the Maldon District.

Take a day trip or stay longer. You’ll find plenty to catch your imagination.
MALDON

Visit Hythe Quay, part of the town’s old port and the centre of Maldon’s maritime heritage. Take a boat trip, maybe on a traditional Thames Sailing Barge, or enjoy a drink and a bite to eat in the historic waterfront pubs.

Take a journey through the town’s colourful history. The Maldon District Museum houses a fascinating collection of exhibits about Maldon’s past, both domestic and industrial, with room sets from Victorian and wartime life. Then check out the ancient churches, the 15th century Moot Hall, the ruins of St Giles Leper Hospital, and other historic buildings, not forgetting the Maeldune Heritage Centre.

Promenade Park is for everyone. There’s fun for all the family, including a splash park, play areas, skateboard ramps, sandpits and picnic spots. You may prefer to sit by the river, or take a stroll along the promenade to view the boats and wildlife, or relax in the ornamental gardens. In summer there’s lots going on, including cultural events in the amphitheatre and festivals.

Browse Maldon’s unique shops and relax in one of the welcoming coffee and tea shops.

BURNHAM-ON-CROUCH

The town dates from the 13th century when a local landholder was granted a charter to hold markets. There are many fine, historic buildings and an ancient quay where you can relax with a drink, enjoy lovely views and watch seafarers on the river. Burnham-on-Crouch is very popular with yachtsmen and is renowned in sailing circles as the ‘Cowes of the East Coast’.

Stroll along the waterfront of this quaint quayside town or take to the water on a wildlife cruise to get close to the resident seal population. If you prefer to keep your feet on dry ground, visit the Burnham-on-Crouch District Museum. Housed in a former boatyard, this museum charts the town’s fascinating maritime and agricultural heritage. Other sight-seeing highlights include the medieval St Mary’s Church, known as the ‘Cathedral of the Dengie’, and the 17th century Anchor Inn, supposedly haunted by the ghost of a smuggler.

The town centre has a variety of shops, catering for everyday needs, as well as attractive gifts and souvenirs. A range of restaurants offers both local and international cuisine, or you could enjoy a picnic in Riverside Park.
CHARMING VILLAGES

Follow a rich vein of history and enjoy modern day attractions in Maldon District’s picture postcard villages.

Villages north of the River Blackwater

The villages on the northern side of the Blackwater Estuary retain strong links with their maritime past. In Tollesbury, the sail lofts were built to store the sails of racing yachts. Head west through the Tolleshunts, and the Tothams to reach Wickham Bishops, one of the highest points in Maldon District. On the way don’t forget to take a look at All Saints’ Church in Little Totham - believed to have the oldest door in England!

Villages of the River Chelmer

In Heybridge, canal-side buildings, locks and bridges remind us of the area’s industrial heritage, In Langford the theme continues - visit the Museum of Power, housed in a disused water pumping station. Further along, Ulting’s small Norman church is in a picturesque setting with its churchyard running down to the River Chelmer. Also worth a visit is the Church of St Michael the Archangel in Woodham Walter. It’s the only Elizabethan church in Essex and one of only six built in England during the reign of Elizabeth I.

Villages of the Dengie Peninsula

The Dengie Peninsula is the local name for the land between the Blackwater and Crouch estuaries. The low-lying marshland, dotted with villages and hamlets has always been sparsely populated.

Some waterfront villages of this area have marinas. Inland, Tillingham is a typical marshland village with its church, green, pump and weatherboard cottages.

The small town of Southminster was home to Dr Alexander Scott, Chaplain to Nelson on board HMS Victory at the Battle of Trafalgar.
Sailing through the centuries
With its long coastline and three rivers, it's no surprise that the Maldon District has had a long association with water-borne activities. Reminders of the region's maritime heritage include the fleet of Thames Sailing Barges at Maldon's Hythe Quay, turn-of-the-century sail lofts at Tollesbury and the 18th century canal, the Chelmer and Blackwater Navigation, which links Heybridge to Chelmsford.

England's oldest regularly used Christian church
Set in a remote and beautiful location infused with spirituality, the Chapel of St Peter-on-the-Wall was built by St Cedd in 654 AD, using the remains of a Roman fort previously on this site. This simple but iconic building attracts visitors and worshippers from all over the world.

A wealth of historic architectural gems
There are many historic buildings to see throughout the Maldon District. In Maldon, the 12th century All Saints' Church has a unique triangular tower, and monuments to Byrhtnoth and Maldon's founding fathers. There's also the Moot Hall, a grand red brick structure, which has dominated civic life for over 400 years.

In Burnham-on-Crouch, the High Street, Ship Road and the Quay all have fine architecture.
With over 2,000 years of history to explore, the Maldon District has a rich legacy from the past, with everything from medieval churches to Edwardian sail lofts and a World War I airfield.

History on view
Throughout the District you will discover industrial heritage, maritime and military history, and many other traces of the past. The annual Heritage Open Days, the museums, occasional guided tours of buildings and sites, and heritage themed events are all a great way to discover the past.

The Battle of Maldon 991 AD
In the last decades of the 10th century, Danish raiders were ravaging East Anglia’s coastline, leaving a bloody trail of death and destruction in their wake. Byrhtnoth, Earldorman of Essex, with an army of loyal followers, faced them near Northey Island in August 991. After a fierce three-day battle, Byrhtnoth lay dead and the Anglo-Saxons were defeated, yet the Danes had suffered huge losses and were forced to retreat.

This important episode in England’s history is recorded in an epic poem, the earliest work of English literature. The battle site is recorded by English Heritage as the oldest battlefield in England.

An impressive bronze statue of Byrhtnoth, by the local, and internationally known sculptor, John Doubleday, now guards the waterfront in Maldon’s Promenade Park. Visit the Maeldune Heritage Centre to see a 42-foot embroidery created to mark the 1000th anniversary of the battle.
BY THE WATER...

The District’s rivers and coastline provide for a wide range of outdoor activities, or you can simply enjoy the glorious views; you may see a 100-year-old Thames Sailing Barge go gliding by!

AFLOAT ON THE TIDEWAY

Nomad Sea Kayaking from Osea Leisure Park 08458 724868 www.nomadsea-kayaking.co.uk
Thames Sailing Barge Trust 02392 469139 www.bargetrust.org
Topsail Charters 01621 857567 www.top-sail.co.uk
Tradsail Charters 07802 362973 www.wyvenhoe.co.uk
‘Viking Saga’ Short trips from Maldon 01621 843334 or 07836 715685 www.vikingsaga.pafweb.net

SEAL TRIPS AND WILDLIFE TRIPS

Lady Essex Fleet 01702 258666 www.LadyEssex.com
Nature Break Cruises 01268 491540 www.wildlifetrips.org.uk

BOATS FOR CHARTER AND / OR TUITION

Bradwell Outdoors Bradwell Waterside CM0 7QY 01621 776256 www.essexoutdoors.org
Burnham Sailing 01621 772505 or 07860 913912 www.burnhamsailing.com
Crouch Sailing School 07557 471460 www.crouch-sailing-school.co.uk
‘Decima’ 07766 855645 www.sailingbargedecimacharter.com
East Coast Sail Trust 01621 856167 www.thalatta.org.uk
Fellowship Afloat Tollesbury CM9 8SE 01621 868113 www.fact.org.uk
‘Marigold’ 07801 364135 www.marigoldcharters.co.uk
Mistral Yachts Ltd 01621 743853 www.mistralcharters.co.uk
Pioneer Sailing Trust 01206 303373 www.pioneersailingtrust.org.uk
‘Sark’ 01245 269230 www.sarksailingtuition.co.uk
‘Saxonia’ 01206 823373 www.saxoniacarters.co.uk
Thames Sailing Barge Trust 02392 469139 www.bargetrust.org

AFLOAT ON THE CANAL

ROWING BOAT / CANADIAN CANOE HIRE
Basin Pleasure Boats Heybridge Basin CM9 4RY 07835 657462 www.basinpleasureboats.co.uk

Paper Mill Lock Cruises Little Baddow CM3 4BS 01245 225520 www.papermilllock.co.uk

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For information about launching your own craft, or permanent moorings, contact Maldon District Tourist Information Centre in the first instance.

Visitors’ moorings are available at Hythe Quay, Maldon and at marinas, sailing clubs and boatyards along the estuaries.

ANGLING

INLAND WATERS

Boro’ Waters Southminster CM0 7BH 07818 401930 www.borowaters.piczo.com
Cemex Angling 01932 583630 www.cemexangling.co.uk
Chigboro Fisheries Heybridge CM9 4RE 01621 857368 www.chigborofisheries.co.uk
SKIPPER OPERATED CHARTER BOATS FOR SEA ANGLING

Lady Essex Fleet 01702 258666 www.LadyEssex.com
John Rawle 01621 776445 / 07860 920964 www.johnrawlefishing.co.uk
Steven Smith 07831 363629 www.dominatorcharters.com
Terry Batt 01621 786170 / 07768 306646 www.vickyemma.com
over
60
miles of
costline

A paradise for sailors and water-sports enthusiasts!
Both the Blackwater Estuary and the River Crouch offer open water for sailing, canoeing, fishing, water skiing etc. For landlubbers there are regular regattas and other events to watch throughout the year. For anglers, there are plenty of excellent locations, whether you prefer coarse, fly or beach fishing; skippered boats are available for sea fishing trips.

Take a boat trip . . .
Whether you choose an historic sailing barge or a more modern vessel, you can experience wonderful scenery and wildlife, including watching seals at play or basking on the sandbanks. Getting afloat couldn’t be easier with one of the companies listed opposite. Other boats visit our waters from time to time, contact Maldon District TIC for details.

. . . or follow the coastal and riverside trails
Go walking along one of the many coastal or riverside routes.
See Brent geese gliding over the salt flats, or a kingfisher diving for food. The area is home to a rich variety of flora and fauna, including rare coastal plants, such as lax-flowered sea lavender, golden samphire and birds-foot clover. The Blackwater Estuary is of international importance for over-wintering birds.
Interesting independent stores each with their own appeal and character, and a variety of styles of pubs and eating houses. For excellent fresh produce and a range of other items, it's worth checking out one of the local farmers' markets. Or, you can buy fresh food straight from the producer at 'on farm' shops.

**FARMERS’ MARKETS**

- **Burnham-on-Crouch**
  Third Sunday in the month
  Other occasional farmers’ markets are held in the District. Details from Maldon District TIC.

**COOKERY SCHOOLS**

- Braxted Park Cookery School
  Braxted CM8 3EN
  01621 890300
  www.braxtedparkcookery.co.uk

**EATING OUT**

Guides offering a selection of places to eat in the towns, villages and countryside are available from Maldon District TIC.

**CAMRA Real Ale**

Many pubs and bars in Maldon District serve real ales, many of them regularly have locally produced ales available. The Swan, twice winner of the CAMRA National Pub of the Year, is in Little Totham. www.dengiacamra.org.uk

**SPA**

The Spa at Crown Plaza Resort
Colchester - Five Lakes
Tollesbury Knights CM9 8HX
01621 862324
www.cpcolchester.co.uk/five-lakes

Maldon and Burnham-on-Crouch offer the biggest choice of shops. Both have an eclectic mix of independent retailers and specialist stores, selling everything from local delicacies and souvenirs, to clothes and works of art. For a break, choose from one of the many cafés where you can relax with a pot of tea or a cappuccino or revive at a spa!

Buy drinks to take home from the three award-winning micro-breweries. Take the opportunity to sample the fine English wines at New Hall Vineyard, established since 1969.

Follow the Dengie Food and Leisure Trail (www.dflt.co.uk) and visit a range of producers and buy on site (some outlets are seasonal).

Dining out - traditional and cosmopolitan

When it comes to restaurants, bars and brasseries, there's plenty of choice. It's possible to enjoy a wide variety of international cuisine made more flavoursome with the use of the TV chefs’ favourite, Maldon Sea Salt.
Visit the galleries in the towns and villages to see a showcase of different forms of art - professional and amateur work often inspired by the unique landscape and history of the District. The annual art trails in Maldon and Burnham-on-Crouch are not to be missed!

If music is your love, there's plenty of choice, both choral and instrumental - from classical to rock, from solos to groups. Join people from far and wide who attend and enjoy annual festivals and regular events. With a variety of traditional and unusual venues throughout the District, each event is a unique and memorable experience.

Pull in to the 'Tractor Shed', the permanent venue for one of our many highly regarded local amateur groups who put on a wide range of plays and shows. Or, time your visit to see one of the touring theatre companies who visit the District regularly.

In summer you can watch the outdoor performances in the amphitheatre in Promenade Park.
Acres of unspoilt countryside, plus miles of rivers and coastline, make Maldon District the perfect place to indulge in your favourite outdoor pursuit. The changing of the seasons brings a different character to the landscape. As spring turns to summer, colourful wild flowers illuminate the hedgerows. As autumn approaches, and before the Brent geese arrive from Siberia and a rich variety of wading birds reclaim the mudflats, you can see the salt marshes carpeted with lilac sea lavender.

**ESSEX WILDLIFE TRUST NATURE RESERVES**
01621 862960
www.essexwt.org.uk

Blue House Farm CM3 6NA
Bradwell Shell Bank CM0 7PW
Chigborough Lakes CM9 4R8
Maldon Wick & Meadow CM9 6UX
Oxley Meadows CM9 8HB
Shut Heath Wood CM8 3ED
Stow Maries Halt CM3 6SJ
Tollesbury Wick Marshes CM9 8SE
Woodham Walter Common CM9 6NF
Hazleleigh Wood
Woodham Mortimer CM9 6GT
(pre-booking required)
01621 826992

Northeby Island
Maldon CM9 6PP
01621 853142
www.nationaltrust.org.uk

RSPB Old Hall Marshes
Tollesbury CM9 8TP
01621 869015
www.rspb.org.uk

**CYCLING AND WALKING**
Cycle routes to help you explore Maldon District on two wheels together with a wide range of walking routes and maps are available at the Maldon District Tourist Information Centre, along with advice and background information.

**FLYING HIGH**
Country Balloons
Burnham-on-Crouch
01621 786777
www.essexballoons.co.uk

**PONY AND CARRIAGE RIDES**
Ann Bishop
Wickham Bishops CM8 3JJ
01621 891330
www.operaintheorchard.co.uk

**PARKS AND GARDENS**
Beleigh Abbey Gardens
Maldon CM9 6LL
07779 223321
www.visitmaldon.co.uk/beleigh-abbey

Burnham Riverside Park
Burnham-on-Crouch CM0 8HS
01621 856503
01621 875836
www.maldon.gov.uk

Friary Walled Garden
Maldon CM9 5FW
01621 741234
www.friarywalledgarden.wordpress.com

Promenade Park
Maldon CM9 5IG
01621 856503
www.maldon.gov.uk

RHS Hyde Hall
Rettendon CM8 3AT
01245 400256
www.rhs.org.uk

Wickham Place Farm
Wickham Bishops CM8 3JB
01621 891282
www.wickhamplacefarm.co.uk

Other gardens are open for charity from time to time. For details of these and village ‘Open Gardens’ events, contact the Maldon District Tourist Information Centre.
A haven for wildlife

The area around the Blackwater Estuary is an important habitat for wildlife - there are a number of parks and conservation areas dedicated to ensuring the survival of the many rare species of the plants and animals that thrive there. The RSPB, The Essex Wildlife Trust, The National Trust, and other groups look after both large areas and small pockets of land. Many of these are open to the public and some have interpretation boards on site for the added interest of visitors.

Take a wander on the wild side

An extensive network of footpaths and quiet country lanes enables the casual explorer as well as the more dedicated walker or cyclist to enjoy the open farmland and waterside areas of the District. A wide selection of walking and cycling routes, booklets and maps are available at the local Tourist Information Centres and via www.maldon.gov.uk.

Other activities to enjoy in beautiful surroundings

Fancy a leisurely round of golf against the stunning backdrop of the Essex countryside? A number of the excellent 'pay and play' courses also have facilities for tennis and other leisure activities.

A garden-themed tour is a great way to explore the area and discover the countryside too. A variety of gardens are open to the public through the seasons and many villages hold 'Open Gardens' events.
To enjoy our area to the full why not stay for a short break or longer holiday? With accommodation to suit all styles and budgets you’ll be spoilt for choice.

The wide variety of accommodation includes:

- a luxury rural riverside self-catering studio apartment for two
- farm cottages (sleeping up to 24 in one location)
- a 4 star luxury hotel with golf courses and spa
- homely B & Bs
- guest accommodation in historic buildings and farmhouses
- touring and holiday parks from the most natural to well developed sites offering a range of organised activities and entertainment
- certificated sites in rural settings open to members of national caravan and camping organisations
- accommodation aboard a Thames Sailing Barge
- converted barn with fitness facilities and a paddock for your horse

Visit [www.maldon.gov.uk](http://www.maldon.gov.uk) to see a full listing of Quality Assured accommodation in the area, with up-to-date availability shown for many of the properties. Alternatively, contact the Tourist Information Centres where staff will be pleased to discuss your requirements, offer advice, and send you an accommodation listing, if one has not been included in this brochure. The list offers descriptions of the properties and their locations, indicates services and facilities available at the establishments, the prices charged, and provides full contact details so you can make your booking.

Wherever possible we recommend that you book your accommodation in advance.
Location and transport links

BY CAR
From the A12, take either the A414 or the B1019 for Maldon. For the Dengie Peninsula continue via the B1010 or B1018.
You can also access the Dengie Peninsula from the A13 and A130 via the B132 continuing on the B1012.

BY RAIL
Mainline services from London and East Anglia serve Chelmsford, Witham, Hatfield Peverel and Colchester. There is also a rail link from London, via Wickford, serving villages and towns along the Crouch Estuary including Burnham-on-Crouch.

BY COACH
National Express Coaches serve Chelmsford, Colchester and Witham.

BY BUS
Maldon has direct links with the above towns and indirect links with other Essex towns. Burnham-on-Crouch has a direct connection with Chelmsford and Maldon. Villages of the District enjoy varying levels of service.

The photos featured in this guide were taken by David Wallis, Dan Jones, Roy Read and Bert Collis. Other photos have been provided by event organisers and attractions.