

## Norwich Bridges & Churches Trail

**Distance:** 4.7 miles

**Time:** 2.5 hours

**Type:** Circular

**Difficulty:** Easy

1. Start at Westwick Street pay and display car park which is on the junction of Westwick Street and Barn Road in Norwich.
2. Leave the car park and turn left into Westwick Street, then left again into New Mills Yard, where you'll see a plaque set into the wall marking the various flooding over the decades.
3. Cross New Mills Bridge and on the left you'll see the restored New Mills Compressor Station, built in 1898 to produce compressed air to operate air ejectors to pump sewage in Norwich.
4. Turn right to follow the path, with the River Wensum on the right, and cross Coslany Bridge, a green metal bridge built in 1804.
5. Turn right over the bridge and continue ahead until you reach the T-junction with the main road, with St Lawrence Church ahead of you.
6. Turn left onto the pavement heading uphill and opposite the Gyre and Gimble Bar and Distillery, merge left onto Charing Cross.
7. Pass Strangers Hall on your right, a Grade One Tudor merchant's house which has been used as a museum of local history since the 1930s.
8. At the traffic lights turn left into Duke Street. Cross over the river and on the left you'll pass Norwich University of the Arts, housed in a beautifully preserved Victorian building.
9. Soon afterwards cross the road via pedestrian crossing with lights and continue right along Colegate. Pass by St George's Church on the left and reach the cross roads with St George's Street. This whole area was once home to a thriving textile industry which gave the city its medieval wealth.
10. Turn right into St George's Street. Before you reach the bridge you will see Norwich Playhouse on the right, and on the left is St George's Green, home to the 'Sea Form (Atlantic)' sculpture dedicated to the famous artist Dame Barbara Hepworth.
11. Ahead is St George's Bridge, built of Portland stone in 1784, with a single span of 12.8 metres.
12. Cross the bridge and take the first left through the bollards to pass under an archway into an old courtyard surrounded by College of the Arts buildings and the remains of a former monastery.

13. Follow the path turning left and then right until you reach Monastery Court car park, and continue to Elm Hill.
14. Turn left at Elm Hill, a picture-perfect medieval cobbled street which is lined with colourful and historic Tudor houses, many of them now pretty shops, restaurants, and cafes.
15. Continue along Elm Hill until you reach Wensum Street, and turn left to cross Fye Bridge.
16. Take a right turn onto Fishergate. Pass by Old Miller's Wharf and the Church of St Edmund, on the right. This church is dedicated to the royal martyr King Edmund of the East Angles who was killed by the Vikings in the year 869.
17. At the end of the road, turn right over Whitefriars Bridge. Cross the road and go down the short flight of steps to reach the riverside path. On the opposite bank you will see the tall brick built structure of St James' Mill, an 1836 Grade I listed building on a site originally occupied by the White Friars or Carmelite Friars from 1256, and one of the Norwich 12.
18. Continue ahead with the river on your left. Follow the gravel path as it winds through the small grass area. From here you can head to the Adam and Eve pub for a well-deserved drink, before picking up the Norwich Riverside Walk at point 5, going in reverse.
19. At the Compleat Angler, we leave the Norwich Riverside Walk and cross Foundry Bridge.
20. Pass by Norwich Sea Cadet's training ship, TS Lord Nelson, and alongside a number of cafes and restaurants.
21. Take a left turn up a few stairs towards the cinema and turn right to cross over the modern suspension bridge, Lady Julian Bridge.
22. Continue on to Old Barge Yard, and at the T-junction turn right onto King Street, and take the next right again. On the corner here is Dragon Hall, a superb Grade I listed and restored medieval trading hall dating from 1430, and another of the Norwich 12. Today, Dragon Hall is the National Centre for Writing, befitting for England's first UNESCO City of Literature and honouring the greatest mystic of the Middle Ages, Julian of Norwich, who was the first woman to write a book in English.
23. Head back down King Street the way you came to another suspension bridge, the Novi Sad Friendship Bridge, built in 2001.
24. After crossing the bridge, turn sharp left and left again to return to the river bank. Follow the path with the river on your right.
25. Keep left at the fork, heading uphill past the leisure centre on the left.
26. At the top of the footpath turn right to cross the final bridge on the walk, Carrow Bridge, built as a lifting bridge to allow trade ships to pass up the river.
27. Turn right into King Street.
28. Continue for a little distance and then turn left up a few steps onto the footpath along Southgate Lane, and pass the ruins of St Peter of Southgate.
29. Continue up the steep and walled footpath to the top where you will see the entrance gates for Southgate House. Turn left and follow the wider vehicle road continuing uphill.
30. At the T-junction turn right onto Bracondale.
31. After just a short distance keep right into Ber Street., where on the right you'll see an old section of the city wall, which was completed by the middle of the 14th century.
32. Continue ahead along Ber Street. On the left you'll pass a large deconsecrated church and the remains of St Bartholemew's Church, a 14th century church which was desecrated in 1549. Continue ahead to pass by the John Lewis department store on the left.
33. At the junction, cross and head down the pedestrian walkway of Timber Hill, to the left of St John the Baptist Church. Timber Hill was originally known as Durnedale by the

Anglo-Saxons and later in the Middle Ages known as Swine Market Hill, then Timber Market Hill.

34. Pass by Castle Mall shopping centre on the right hand side. At the bottom of the hill you will reach a pedestrian crossing. Over to the right you will be able to see Norman built Norwich Castle, which today is a museum and art gallery, and another of the Norwich 12. Cross over the pedestrian crossing and then fork right down White Lion Street.
35. Keep right to pass the Castle Mall entrance and go ahead along the shopping precinct.
36. Cross London Road and go down the narrow Swan Lane.
37. At the T-junction turn left into Bedford Street.
38. At the crossroads, go straight ahead into Lobster Lane.
39. Continue ahead on Pottergate passing St John Maddermarket Church on the right hand side. You will pass St Gregory's Church on the right.
40. Turn right in front of St Gregory's Church and go down the small footpath to the left of the church, St Gregory's Alley.
41. Turn left into St Benedict's Street. Pass by St Margaret's Church of Art on the right and then a converted church which is now Norwich Arts Centre.
42. Continue along St Benedict's Street until you reach St Margaret's Street, and turn right.
43. At the T-junction with Westwick Street, turn left and fork right. The car park is just over the road.