

STAMFORD

The finest stone town in England.

Stamford stands in the southern part of South Kesteven and is renowned for its historical, religious and architectural heritage. Proclaimed by Sir Walter Scott as “the finest stone town in England”, Stamford was declared a conservation area in 1967. It has over 600 listed buildings of mellow limestone in the town centre including five medieval churches, all real gems.

Occupying a strategic point on the Great North Road (A1), being almost halfway between London and York, the Romans settled in Great Casterton, slightly to the north – so Stamford’s history began with the Saxons and the Danes, who developed sites on both sides of the river before the Norman Conquest. By the 14th century Stamford was one of the richest towns in England, with a wealth based on the woollen industry and exports of pottery and finished cloth. Many religious orders settled here, rich patrons endowed the churches and there was even an attempt to rival Oxford as a university town in 1333.

Today, most visitors are impressed by the 18th and early 19th century town houses, built during Stamford’s second great period of prosperity in the stagecoach era. While highwaymen plagued the travellers along the Great North

Road, restful nights and good beer were assured in numerous hostleries. Shops sold luxury goods, there was a racecourse, assembly rooms and famous actors performed at the Georgian theatre. Quieter times returned once the stagecoaches were superseded by the railways during the 1840s.

Engineering played a role in Stamford’s development during the early 20th century but hospitality and tourism has been a regular feature of town life ever since J.H.W. Turner painted the High Street, St Martin’s. Now a popular filming location, the town stars in the BBC’s adaptation of Middlemarch and big screen version of Pride and Prejudice. So whether the tranquil river walks, fine Georgian buildings or the more modern attractions captivate you, Stamford has something to charm everyone.



LOCAL TO STAMFORD

Burghley House, Nr Stamford

This is one of the most impressive Elizabethan houses in England with eighteen treasure-filled state rooms boasting a world-renowned collection of tapestries, porcelain and paintings, a sculpture garden, garden of surprises and deer park. Open March to October.

Tel: 01780 752451 www.burghley.co.uk

Stamford Shakespeare Company, Tolethorpe Hall, Nr Stamford

A stage set in an enchanting glade, with fine actors, stunning sets and gorgeous costumes, the magic of Tolethorpe begins the moment you take your seat in one of Europe’s finest open air theatres. Tel: 01780 756133 www.stamfordshakespeare.co.uk

Woolsthorpe Manor (National Trust) 11 miles north of Stamford

This is the 17th century birthplace and family home of Sir Isaac Newton who formulated some of his major works here. The interactive science discovery centre in the grounds explains his life and theories. Tel: 01476 860338 www.nationaltrust.org.uk

Grimsthorpe Castle, Nr Bourne

A treasure house built in 1540 for a visit by Henry VIII. Includes state rooms with collections, tapestries and paintings, 3000 acres of

landscaped parkland, gardens, adventure playground, cycle trail and hire shop. Tel: 01778 591205 www.grimsthorpe.co.uk

ALSO IN THE AREA

Rutland Water, Nene Valley Railway, Sacrewell Farm and Country Centre, Manor, Garden, Tithe Barn Museum at The Prebendal Manor, Elton Hall, Barnsdale Gardens, Deene Park, Ellys Manor House, Easton Walled Gardens, Tallington Lakes, Stamford Leisure Centre and the Friday street market in Stamford. Details of the above and more call us on 01780 755611.



WHERE TO STAY

For accommodation in Stamford and the surrounding area, please pick up our visitor guide or visit www.southwestlincs.com



WELCOME TO STAMFORD



STAMFORD TOURIST INFORMATION @ STAMFORD ARTS CENTRE
27 St Mary’s St, Stamford, Lincolnshire, PE9 2DL
Tel: 01780 755611
www.southwestlincs.com



STAMFORD

Historical, religious & architectural heritage.



Stamford Arts Centre, St Mary's St, Stamford

Housing one of the oldest provincial theatres in the country and the assembly rooms built in 1727. Stamford Arts Centre aims to provide the best in live arts, theatre, cinema, music, workshops and exhibitions. Coffee Shop with Free Wi Fi.

Stamford Library and Heritage Display

Originally built in 1808 as an open portico to the covered market beyond, today it houses the town library and heritage rooms, which features the Stamford Tapestry and a wealth of history.

Broad Street

Friday sees Broad Street transform into a bustling market.

Stamford Corn Exchange

Theatre and shopping arcade.

Browne's Hospital, Broad Street, Stamford

These Almshouses built in 1474, contain original furniture and stained glass.



All Saints' Brewery, All Saints Street, Stamford

A Victorian steam operated brewery, established first in 1825 and identified by its tall brick chimney.

Stamford Town Hall, St Mary's Hill, Stamford

This historic building was purpose built in 1728 and houses an extensive collection of regalia.

St Mary's Street, St Mary's Hill and High Street St Martins

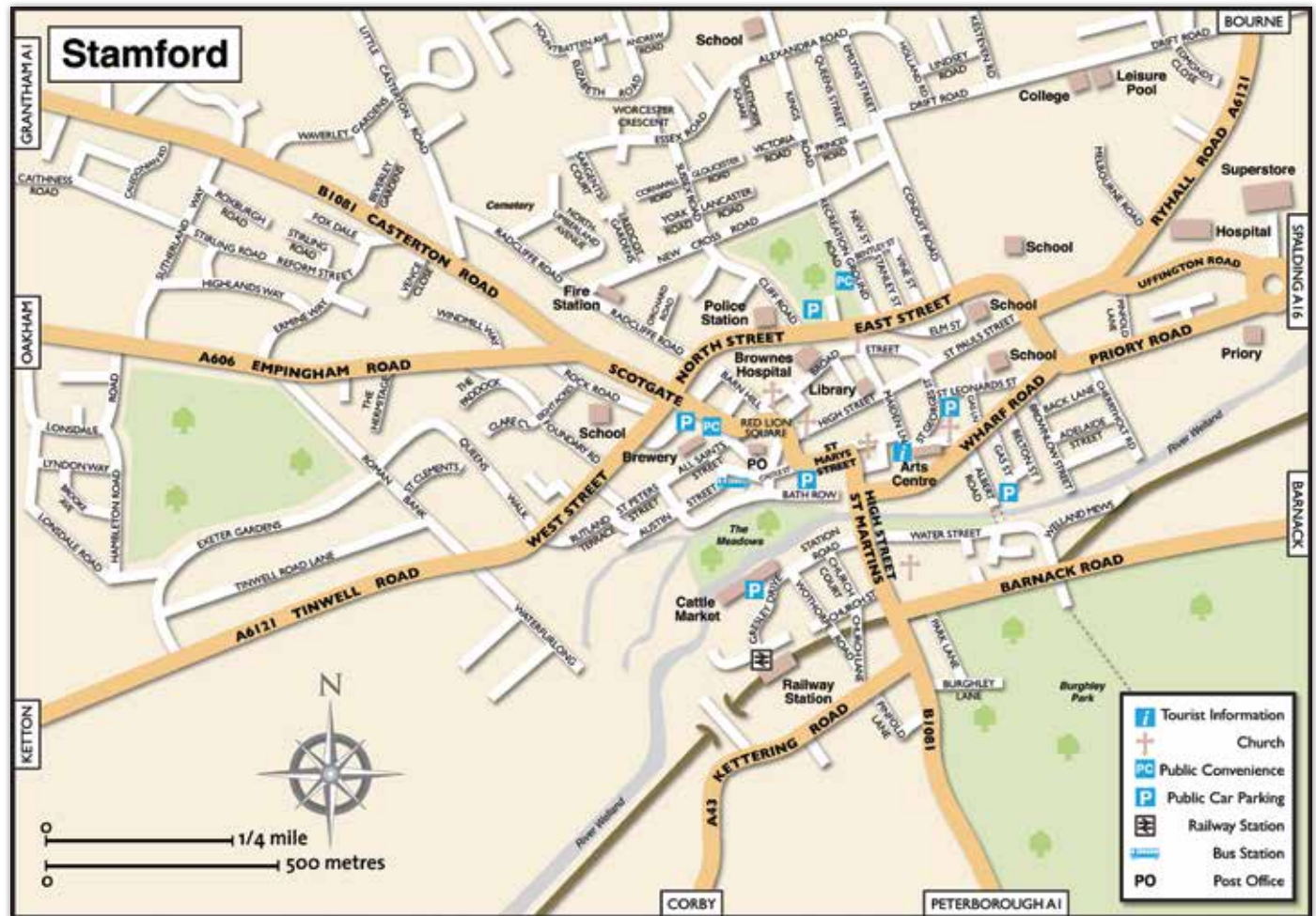
Walk through the Georgian splendour of our town and discover many boutique shops and restaurants see the town bridge and the George Hotel.

Stamford Meadows

Sit a while in the tranquil riverside area and enjoy the views of the Stamford skyline. How many Churches can you spot?

St Leonard' Priory

The 12th century priory ruins, founded by the Benedictines, are clearly visible with typical Romanesque decoration.



Medieval Remains

Stamford was originally a walled town like York and Chester. A surviving section is accessible off West Street/St Peter's Street. The medieval castle is now under the Bus Station but a remaining portion stands near Bath Row.

Historic Buildings and Churches

We have over 600 listed buildings of mellow limestone in the town centre including five medieval churches. All Saints Church, Red

Lion Square is noted for its semi-detached tower and was rebuilt by the Brownes in the 15th century. St John's Church, St John's Street – see rows of wooden angels with extended wings line the nave and chancel roof. St George's Church, St George's Square – an attractive centrepiece of this Georgian square. St Mary's Church, St Mary's Street – known as the 'mother church' with its large broach spire. St Martin's Church, High Street, St Martins – perpendicular architecture and

splendid tombs to the Cecil family of Burghley House. Daniel Lambert,

the biggest man in England during the Georgian period, is buried here.

