

IPSWICH TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB

IPSWICH TOWN V LINCOLN CITY – SATURDAY 7 JANUARY 2017, 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, Assistant Supporter Liaison Officer and Chair of the ITFC Supporters Club, on officialitsc@btinternet.com or 07968 876504.

HOW TO GET TO THE STADIUM

Back in 2003, we hosted an England international v Croatia. On the Englandfans 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**

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

From Lincoln, take the A46 towards Newark and join the A1. Leave the A1 south of Peterborough, joining the A14 all the way to Ipswich. Beware of average speed cameras, including on the A1 south of Grantham, and all the way from Huntingdon to the east of Cambridge. The journey should not take more than 3 hours, but we generally recommend allowing at least an hour beyond the AA / Google / SatNav suggested journey time.

Satnavs 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 Satnav, once you reach the junction of the A12 and A14, 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 2:15pm, and it's worth checking later. 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 quick exit, use the railway station car park, and exit left out of the station onto Burrell Road / Ranelagh Road (B1075), then (after about a mile) left onto the A1214.

- **BY COACH**

Away coaches will be parked 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**

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

The trip to Ipswich will require changes at Newark and Peterborough, and the only options back after the match (1758, change at Peterborough and Newark, or 1820 with changes at Cambridge, Peterborough and Newark) will not get you back to Lincoln until 2240. It is likely to be quicker, and definitely easier, to drive or take your official coaches for this game.

OFFICIAL AWAY PUB

The Station Hotel (formerly the Riverside Hotel) is opposite the station, and is the official away pub. It has had a major refurb recently, 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. 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.

With the closure of the two nearest licensed premises over the summer (the Drum & Monkey pub and Rileys Snooker Hall), we have seen that that more premises have become "home fans only" on the stadium side of the town centre.

There is a new Fanzone marquee and entertainment zone at the stadium this season, but this is strictly open to home fans only. There are ticket checks at the door.

Food and alcohol (subject to fan behaviour) will be available inside the stadium.

STADIUM

- **PORTMAN PALS** – volunteer fans who help out with information etc.

Look out for the Portman Pals outside the stadium. Dressed in red, they are there to help answer your questions and point you in the right direction. One of the most common questions for the Pals

is “where is the nearest cash machine?” There are no cash machines at the ground – the nearest are at the Cardinal Park leisure park (about 5 minutes’ walk), Ipswich Station (5-10 minutes’ walk) or in the town centre itself (5-10 minutes’ walk along Princes Street, in the opposite direction to the railway station).

- ***MATCHDAY PROGRAMME***

The matchday programme can be purchased outside the stadium from the white, tardis-like kiosks. Programmes for this game will cost £2.00. Note that programmes are not available 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.

- ***SEATING***

Portman Road is a traditional ground, with 4 separate stands. The away section for this game is the Cobbold Stand. This gives you a good side-stand view of the action, though it is an older stand, dating from the 1970s. Most seats will be in the upper tier although some fans will be in blocks S and T of the lower tier. Ambulant disabled fans will be seated within block S of the lower tier of the Cobbold Stand. Wheelchair users will be located in the home end.

Please note that this match is all-ticket for Lincoln City fans. Any Lincoln City fans identified in the home sections of the stadium are liable to be ejected.

The Ticket Enquiry Centre on Portman Road will be open for Lincoln fans with issues and questions regarding their tickets.

- ***HUNGRY OR THIRSTY?***

Food and drink facilities are what you’d expect (pies, hot dogs, confectionery etc). Alcohol will be available before the match and at half time (providing there are no issues pre match or during the first half). Food and drink concessions will be open in both the upper and lower tiers of the Cobbold Stand. Stewards will be on hand to direct fans.

- ***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.

DISABLED FANS

There are special arrangements for wheelchair and ambulant disabled fans (tickets and parking). Please contact Warner Duff by email on warner.duff@itfc.co.uk or by phone 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 new 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.

(There are many other hotels in and around Ipswich – we have no connection with these listed, but suggest them for convenience as they are all close to the ground and have been well spoken of by many fans).

Hotel weblinks:

<https://www.salthouseharbour.co.uk/>

<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, Mulberry Tree, St Judes Tavern, Thomas Wolsey, Greyhound 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.