



IPSWICH TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB

IPSWICH TOWN V READING – SATURDAY 16TH DECEMBER 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, Supporter Liaison Officer, on slo@itfc.co.uk or 07968 876504.

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**

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

From Reading, it's a fairly direct drive, albeit one that is at very high risk of disruption. Take the M4, then the M25 all the way round to the A12, and then straight up to Ipswich. Beware of average speed camera zones on the A12, covering several miles between Chelmsford and Colchester and then again shortly after Colchester – they are not as obvious as you'd expect. Please keep in touch with traffic news, as the whole route is notorious for delays. With a clear run, it takes less than two-and-a-half hours.

Unless you live very close to Suffolk, we generally recommend allowing at least an hour beyond the AA / Google / Sat Nav suggested journey time.

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 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 quicker 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.

- **PARK AND RIDE**

Ipswich Park and Ride buses run from a car park just beyond the Copdock interchange, where the A12 and A14 meet. From the A12, go straight ahead onto the A1214 (London Road) and turn left almost immediately. Fares on a Saturday are £2.50 per adult, £1.70 for 5-19 year olds, £1.50 for concessions and £4 for a group of up to five (maximum 2 adults). Buses run at 15 minute intervals from 7am to 7pm and drop off/pick up in West End Road and Princes Street (both just two minutes' walk from the ground). For more information see: www.ipswichparkandride.co.uk.

- **BY COACH**

Away coaches usually park 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**

There are no planned engineering works on the day of the match.

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

From Reading you take a train to Paddington, then go by tube (Hammersmith & City or Circle Line or alternatively, Bakerloo line to Oxford Circus and Central Line) to Liverpool Street station where you pick up the train to Ipswich. If you have a Network railcard, please note it is only valid as far as Manningtree, so you'll need to split your ticket and also make sure that you are on a train that actually stops at Manningtree (most do).

After the game, the first train out of Ipswich is at 17:09. There are regular trains after this time – note that the trains at 52 minutes past the hour are the slower non intercity trains with many more stops.

Trains are likely to be very busy in the lead up to Christmas. Journey times are around 2 hours 45 minutes. We'd recommend allowing at least an extra hour for your journey to Ipswich, as delays are by no means unknown. There are ticket checks on all mainline trains and ticket barriers at Ipswich.

Whatever your travel plans, it's worth checking www.abelligreateranglia.co.uk for updated times and any late changes to engineering works.

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 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, 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.

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 white, tardis-like kiosks. Programmes cost £3.00. 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***

There has been a change to our official bag policy this season. 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***

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 will be seated within block S of the lower tier of the Cobbold Stand (note that U5s are not allowed in this area). As we do not have wheelchair spaces in the Cobbold Stand, wheelchair users will be located with home fans.

Reading is one of a number of clubs who have agreed reciprocal pricing offered by ITFC for the 2017/18 season. This means that tickets this season will be substantially cheaper for you than last season with adult tickets at £25.00. Concession prices are available for Seniors over 65, under 23s and under 19s. Wheelchair and ambulant disabled tickets are priced at the relevant age category with the exception of Adults who pay the same price as a Senior concession – these tickets include a carer.

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, with ticket prices as follows:

£25.00 – Adult
£22.00 – Seniors 65+
£15.00 – Under 23
£8.00 – Under 19

- ***HUNGRY OR THIRSTY?***

Food and drink facilities are what you'd expect (pies, hot dogs, confectionery etc).

Food prices include cheese burgers and hot dogs at £4.00, a selection of our award-winning pies at £3.80 and sausage rolls at £3.00. Soft drinks are £2.20, water is £2.00, Capri Sun is £1.60 with hot drinks at £2.10. There are also snacks on sale including crisps at £1.50 and single chocolate bars at £1.00. There are meal deals (e.g. cheeseburger, crisps plus hot or soft drink for £6.50).

Alcohol will be available before the match and at half time (providing there are no issues pre match or during the first half). Wine (187ml) is sold at £4.00, Fosters PET 330ml at £3.20, Greene King IPA PET 500ml at £3.80 and Bulmers PET 330ml at £3.20. The upper concession will be open for soft drinks, hot drinks and food only.

- ***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

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 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.

(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, St Judes Tavern, Thomas Wolsey 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.