

NORWICH

Stephen Browning

Norwich is the most complete medieval city in Britain. It has, for much of its 1500 years been almost a separate kingdom – you don't go through Norwich to get to another important city or area – and this relative isolation has resulted in a mixture of architecture, character and customs that is unique. Almost every street has beautiful buildings wherever you look – up, down or straight ahead. The beauty is in the details too – an 'odd' balcony here, a beautiful gable there, and somewhere else an intricate footscrapers or lovely doorway.

While the author encourages the reader to get out and discover all this for themselves, this is not a conventional walking guide. The many photographs, lavishly produced, would be sufficient for many simply to sit at home and enjoy their tour of the city, and such 'armchair walkers' would be equally entertained.

The eleven walks included have been chosen to give a wide variety of scenery whilst taking in most of the city's important locations. Famous people, city enterprises, local customs, historical facts and interesting stories are woven into the walks. Each is highly illustrated.

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ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Stephen Browning was educated in Norfolk before gaining an honours degree in History from the University of Kent at Canterbury. It was here that he organised his first book, 'Canterbury for the Disabled', with the help of about 30 other students. After training as a teacher at the University of Birmingham School of Education, he spent much of his working life promoting teacher exchanges between the United Kingdom and the overseas Commonwealth. He also worked for the Council for Education in the Commonwealth, a body that operates within the two chambers of the British government – the Lords and the Commons. He has written extensively about best practice in education both in the UK and the 50-plus countries of the Commonwealth. He has written, or contributed to, a number of books about the English Language, mainly for the Asian market. The recently published TOEIC speaking book, which he co-authored, won the award 'TOP 1 - 2008' in Taiwan. He spends several months each year in Taiwan. This is his first book for Halsgrove. He is based in Norwich.

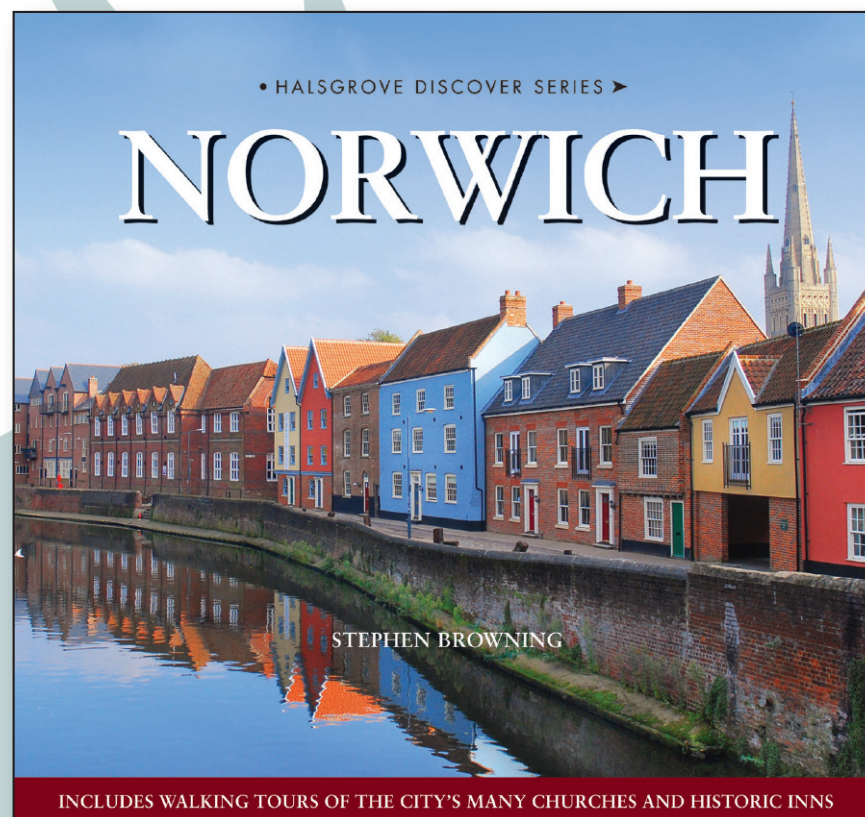


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NORWICH



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Example of a double-page spread.

WALK 2
Map not to scale
For general guidance only

Walk 2

A walk through Tombland, along King Street, up to Backside, down to the Norwich Football Ground (the team is nicknamed 'Canaries') and Foresters Quarter, ending up in the Cathedral Close

This walk is a hefty one and needs a good half day and probably something relaxing – the pub section of this book may help – afterwards.

Tombland was the original market place of Norwich and today is a mixture of fine restaurants, solicitors' offices, buses and cars. Watch you don't get run over. On your left you will see the Erpingham Gate built in 1429 by Sir Thomas Erpingham who commanded the victorious archers at the Battle of Agincourt. Look up and you will notice a stone statue of him in prayer, thanking God for having spared his life.

Adjacent to the gate is a memorial by Henry Pugin to one of Norwich's great heroines – Edith Cavell. A nurse in Belgium in 1914, she set up an escape organisation for wounded soldiers and managed to help over 200 to safety. She was subsequently arrested, tried entirely in German which she did not speak, and shot in 1915. On the night before her death, she made the famous remark that 'Patriotism is not enough' as the would willingly have helped soldiers of any country. Her body was brought back after the war and now lies in a peaceful spot in the Cathedral Close. Almost opposite the memorial is a pub named after her.

Tombland was the scene of a riot in 1766 over the high price of corn - shops of bakers and millers were sacked. Two people were hanged in 1767 as a consequence.

Walking up to a busy intersection you will see ahead of you perhaps the grandest Post Office in the Kingdom. It was the Crown Bank originally but the bank went bankrupt. Now it is being converted into flats. To your right is the Royal Hotel, designed by Edward Blore, which gives the amazing impression of rather too much having been crammed into the sky. It is beautiful, with some lovely minor carvies adorning the top, and exquisite brickwork, but it does not seem able to breathe. Perhaps the space on which it is built is simply too small. It is now given over to a variety of offices.

Proceed straight ahead into King Street. This was one of the first areas of Norwich to be inhabited, and extremely important it was too. Rich merchants, the Howards - Catherine



Norwich skyline - featuring from left to right: Norwich Castle, St Peter Mancroft, the Forum, City Hall, Norwich Cathedral and St John the Baptist Cathedral (DanielTink - www.scenicnorfolk.co.uk)