Southwold Tourist Information:
or call 01502 724729
www.visit-sunrisecoast.co.uk
www.suffolkcoastandheaths.org
01394 384948

Southwold Pier has been produced with the generous support of Gough Hotels.
The Lighthouse Hotel has been bought by Gough Hotels and remains a family run business.
Gough Hotels will build on the success of the previous owners and in time develop the pavilion into a luxury Art Deco style hotel to transform the business into a 365 days a year enterprise.

Available free of charge from Southwold Pier, Southwold Museum in Victoria Street.
To find out more about the town’s history, visit Southwold Museum in Victoria Street.

Highlights of Southwold

1. Southwold Pier, with its wooden buildings, traditional amusements and gift shops, evokes seaside holidays of the past. In 2013 the Pier was bought by Gough Hotels and remains a family run business. Gough Hotels will build on the success of the previous owners and in time develop the pavilion into a luxury Art Deco style hotel to transform the business into a 365 days a year enterprise.

2. The Lighthouse was built around 1889 to guide ships entering the River Blyth and to warn of dangerous shingle banks along the coast. It remains a working lighthouse today, although remotely controlled from Harwich. During the summer, it is sometimes open to visitors.

3. The Town of Southwold has many fine Georgian, Regency and Victorian buildings. Fire destroyed the town in 1659 and the numerous ‘greens’ of Southwold are thought to have been left as fire breaks. The Church of St Edmund is one of the finest seaside churches in England. Near the lighthouse is the Sole Bay Inn. The name recalls the Battle of Sole Bay fought off Southwold in 1672, part of an on-going war with the Netherlands over trade and naval superiority. Southwold is well known for its brewing industry. Adnams has brewed beer in the town since 1872. To find out more about the town’s history, visit Southwold Museum in Victoria Street.

4. The Marshes are part of the Suffolk Coast National Nature Reserve. They are an important home for birds such as bittern, marsh harrier and heron. The Marshes were claimed from the River in the 19th century when flood defence banks were built.

5. Southwold Harbour is used by a handful of fishing boats and many pleasure craft. In the early 1900s there were over 100 working boats and a fish market and processing unit. The Harbour Inn has a line on the wall showing the height of the floods in 1953, a reminder of the vulnerability of coastal communities. Near the river mouth, the 1893 Alfred Corry life boat is displayed in a traditional boat shed.

6. Gunhill Cliff provides a panoramic view of the coastline. For this reason, it was chosen as the place to locate the town’s defences. The cannon were presented to Southwold by the Royal Ordnance in 1746.

Enjoy two fascinating walks around the seaside town of Southwold.

Southwold is an interesting town on the Suffolk coast, with many fine buildings, a traditional pier and a long promenade. At Southwold Harbour, the River Blyth flows out to sea past colourful boats and black painted sheds.
‘Buildings and Boats beside the Sea’

Time: 2 hours  
Terrain: Paths and tracks, which can be muddy after rain. Section of beach walking. This walk takes you onto public highways. Please be aware of traffic. We recommend high visibility clothing.

Start in front of Southwold Pier facing inland. Turn left and follow the path beside the railings onto the low cliffs. The path continues past greens and elegant houses.

When you reach South Green (signed) turn right. Walk inland across the grass until you come to a large green. Turn right at the road.

Follow the path beside the Café entrance. Turn left at the junction along Godyll Road. Follow the road past attractive houses with Southwold Common on the left. Soon another big green opens up on the right. Continue along the road as it bends to the right. When you come to the T junction, cross the road and turn left towards the two water towers, using the mown path alongside the road.

Soon, a grass path leads off diagonally across the green, heading just to the right of the towers. Keep on this path across the golf course until you reach a junction with a track.

‘Harbour, Marshes and a Bracing Beach’

Time: 1 hour 30 mins  
Terrain: Well surfaced paths and tracks. Section of beach walking. This walk takes you onto public highways. Please be aware of traffic. We recommend high visibility clothing.

Turn left, towards Walberswick. This is the track bed of the Halesworth to Southwold Railway, which closed in 1929. Just before the river bridge, turn left. Follow the footpath alongside the river to join the unmade road through Southwold Harbour. When the road turns sharply left, leave it and cross the car park. Walk over the dunes onto the beach or follow the wide grassy area behind the dunes.

When you reach the first beach huts, look for the Gunhill Beach Café. Take the path beside the Café that turns right and leads up Gunhill Cliff. Walk through the gardens beside the railings and drop down to the promenade. Continue along the promenade to the Pier or explore the town.