

# ESTUARY BIRDWATCHING

16 – 18 February 2024

- Experience the variety of habitats in Essex
- Visit the Managed realignment
- Expert local introduction to the local nature reserves
- Enjoy our unique accommodation
- Explore the estuary



For more info visit  
[www.fact.org.uk/birdlife](http://www.fact.org.uk/birdlife)

# Estuary Bird watching



Fellowship Afloat's centre at Tollesbury, Essex, is a unique place for exploring the environment. The saltmarsh with its creeks, abundant plant and wildlife is worth visiting simply for its own sake. During the winter months, Tollesbury and the surrounding marshes come alive with a great variety and an amazing volume of visiting birds. Based on our converted lightvessel, *Trinity*, moored on the coast, it is the ideal venue for bird-watching. Accommodation is in the warmth and comfort of *Trinity* and trips into the field are led by acknowledged experts with an enormous fund of local knowledge. Guests are served by the centre staff and expert volunteers who form the lively Christian community which is Fellowship Afloat.

The key species and highlights we can expect to see are big flocks of Brent Goose, Wigeon, Dunlin and Golden Plover, many other wader species including Avocets, Godwits, Knot, Grey Plover, Ringed Plover, Turnstone and more. Raptors will feature too especially Marsh Harrier with the possibility of Peregrine, Merlin, Barn Owl and in some years Short-eared Owl and Hen Harrier. On the waters there are Mergansers, Gosanders, Smew and possibly Great Northern Diver. All supplemented with a good selection of smaller and song birds and there is always the possibility of a rarer visitor too.



The typical itinerary is outlined below. The choice of local sites and reserves will be decided on the previous evening depending on the weather forecast and the bird species recently seen at the sites.

## Friday

18.30 Arrive  
19.00 Running buffet supper  
20.15 Formal welcome & introduction to the centre and the weekend  
20.45 Evening speaker  
22.00 Evening drinks



## Saturday

07.00 Sunrise walk to the sea wall, overlooking Tollesbury Wick nature reserve  
08.00 Leaders' meeting  
08.30 Breakfast & thought for the day  
10.00 Tour to local site(s)  
13.30 Return to Trinity for a picnic lunch  
14.30 Boat trip on Blackwater Estuary  
Return to Trinity  
18.00 Dinner  
19.00 Evening speaker  
22.30 Evening drinks

## Sunday

07.00 Sunrise bird-watch from helideck  
08.00 Leaders' meeting  
08.30 Breakfast & thought for the day  
10.00 Tour to local site(s)  
13.30 Lunch onboard  
15.45 Clear up & pack up  
16.00 Depart

*Note: Programme subject to change*

Cost: £165.00 - Full Board (incl VAT)  
To book: Return a completed booking form together with a deposit of £50 or full fees if later than 4 weeks prior to weekend.

## the spirit of adventure





### Arrival & Welcome

On arrival, we will meet you in our car park and assist you with your luggage for the five minute walk to *Trinity*. If you require assistance, please call the centre on 01621 869779.

### Life On Trinity

The experience of living together in a community is one of the most important aspects of your stay on board. Guests always enjoy sharing and doing things together - helping with the washing-up and clearing up is as much a part of your stay as the activities. As Christians we welcome the opportunity of sharing our faith; feel free to join us in the Christian life of the centre.

### Fellowship Afloat Staff & Responsibilities

During your stay, you will be looked after by both permanent and seasonal volunteers, all of whom are trained and familiar with life on board and the various specialist activities.

Appropriate personnel checks, which include a DBS Disclosure, are made on all new staff. Fellowship Afloat staff take full responsibility for the organisation of domestic arrangements and activities. The highest priority is given to the safety and comfort of visitors.

### Practical Matters

Bring your luggage in a soft bag. For the time we spend on the water, be prepared with:

- plenty of warm clothes
- a towel
- tracksuit trousers or leggings (not jeans)
- a woolly hat or cap
- gloves
- soft soled shoes e.g. trainers.

Protection against the sun when you are on the water is important: sunglasses are recommended, sun cream is essential.

Footwear for the weekend requires thought too – you'll need one pair of outside shoes and wellies if possible (we have some wellies onboard, catering for most sizes up to size 8) and trainers or light shoes onboard.

Foam pillows and pillowcases are provided for each individual. You will need to bring a sleeping bag; if you don't own one, we have spares that can be hired at £3.00 for the weekend.



Waterproofs and buoyancy aids are available for all visitors at no extra cost.



Want to find out more?

Email: [info@fact.org.uk](mailto:info@fact.org.uk)  
Visit: [www.fact.org.uk](http://www.fact.org.uk)  
Phone: 01621 868113

Fellowship Afloat Charitable Trust  
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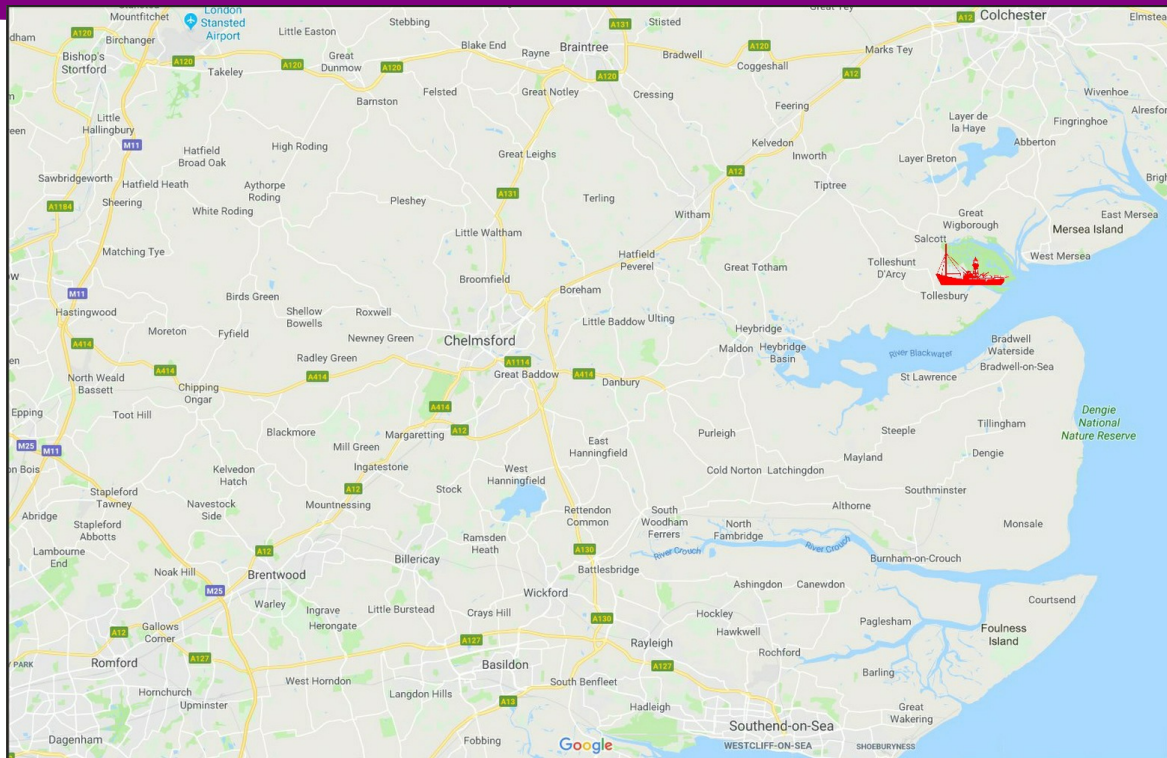
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Company No. 3264887  
Charity No. 1059143



# Where to find us

Tollesbury is in Essex, England, on the north coast of the River Blackwater, south of Colchester and east of Maldon. Tollesbury is at the south end of the B1023, which can be accessed from the A12 (London to Colchester road) at Kelvedon, Essex. The nearest railway station is 10 miles away at Witham, about 45 minutes journey time from London Liverpool Street, and there's a bus service from Witham to Tollesbury. *Please check all public transport timings before booking.*



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