

Norwich

UNESCO City of Literature



Norwich

UNESCO City of Literature

Norwich has been a literary city for over 900 years: a place where the power of words has changed lives, promoted parliamentary democracy, fomented revolution, fought for the abolition of slavery, and transformed literature.

In 2012, Norwich consolidated its position as England's foremost literary city by becoming the nation's first UNESCO City of Literature, joining an elite international network that now includes Edinburgh, Melbourne, Iowa City, Dublin, Reykjavik, Kraków, Nottingham, Dunedin, Granada, Manchester and Prague. Today, Norwich remains the English destination for poets, novelists, biographers, playwrights, translators, literary critics, historians, environmentalists and philosophers. A place for writers as agents of change.

What makes this UNESCO Designation special?

The birthplace of world-renowned writers and thinkers, including Anna Sewall, Harriet Martineau and Thomas Browne, Norwich is a city of words. Bookshops, book groups, libraries, universities, publishers, printers, live literature, and creative writing abound across all levels of local life.

The location of the oldest city arts festival in the country, the Norfolk & Norwich Festival, Norwich hosts a year-round programme of literary and translation events with a global remit. The city is a multiplicity of educational programmes - including the UK's first and most-respected MA in Creative Writing - with shared agendas across schools and communities, using a large cohort of writers and artists.

Today, Norwich is the centre for publishing in the East of England and one of the biggest national hotspots for publishers outside of London. The city is home to two literary Centres, the British Centre for Literary Translation (founded by translator W.G. Sebald and a world model

for the promotion of writing translated from and into many languages and cultures) and the National Centre for Writing - an international literature house which inspires communities through the power of writing, reading and literary translation, nurtures literary talent and hosts world-class events.



Creative Cities

Norwich
UNESCO City of Literature

County:
Norfolk



 [nationalcentreforwriting.org.uk/
norwich-unesco-city-of-literature/](http://nationalcentreforwriting.org.uk/norwich-unesco-city-of-literature/)
 info@nationalcentreforwriting.org.uk

This factsheet was produced by the UK National Commission for UNESCO as part of its Local to Global project, made possible with The National Lottery Heritage Fund, with thanks to National Lottery players.

