

Grantham

A guide to local amenities and services

Welcome to Grantham!

Grantham is one of Lincolnshire's most prominent market towns with great transport links to London and other cities. It stands on the River Witham in south west Lincolnshire within the South Kesteven District area. has a population of about 35,000. The town has a history of engineering, now augmented by light industry, health, public service and agriculture.

Grantham is an ancient and attractive red-brick market town, with the 281ft high spire of St Wulfram's Church one of its dominating features. Grantham's historical strategic significance is most widely known as the birthplace of Margaret Thatcher, Britain's first female prime minister, and Sir Isaac Newton, one of the world's greatest scientists.

The town centre features major retail outlets, two indoor shopping centres - The Isaac Newton Centre and George Centre - centrally placed supermarkets, giftware, clothing, antiques, bookshops and much more, plus a wide choice of public houses and places to eat together with a wide range of visitor accommodation. Market day is Saturday and regular farmers' markets with local producers selling organic and fresh goods take place on the second Saturday of each month.

There are good transport links - London is only an hour away by rail, the A1 road provides good north/south links and the A52 road links the town to Nottingham and Leicester and the rest of the East Midlands.



House prices

The average house price in Lincolnshire as compared to that in London is as below, notably, prices in the Grantham region are much cheaper.

Home values in Grantham

	Avg values	1 yr
All homes	£195,911	+8.21%
Detached	£276,430	+8.29%
Semi	£145,783	+3.18%
Terraced	£120,220	+7.05%
Flats	£99,025	+7.15%

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Home values in London

	Avg values	1 yr
All homes	£615,996	+3.08%
Detached	£1,103,085	+2.69%
Semi	£654,616	+3.46%
Terraced	£650,531	+1.9%
Flats	£511,670	+3.13%

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Travel

Lincolnshire lies in the East Midlands and the region's central location puts you in easy reach of all major UK cities. There are also frequent rail services linking Lincolnshire to the whole of the UK and it is easy to reach all international airports – one of which is here in the East Midlands.

The East Midlands has excellent rail links, with main stations at Nottingham, Derby, Leicester, Grantham and Lincoln. Trains operate every few minutes and passengers can choose from mainline services, offering high speed links between London and the Midlands, and connecting trains linking cities throughout the UK.

National Rail Services: www.nationalrail.co.uk or [Trainline](#) Air Travel - [Skyscanner](#)

The airports closest to Lincolnshire are:

Name	Distance	Car Travel Time	Web Address
Humberside International (HUY)	90 Miles	2 hours	www.humbersideairport.com
Robin Hood Doncaster – Sheffield (DSA)	45 Miles	2 hours	www.robinhoodairport.com
East Midlands Airport (EMA)	85 Miles	2 hours	www.eastmidlandsairport.com

Average flight prices

Destination (return) Poland	Price £	Price €
DSA – Wroclaw	79	112.10
EMA – Krakow	108	153.24
EMA – Gdansk	121	171.69

Destination (return) Romania	Price £	Price €
MAN (Manchester) – Bucharest (OTP)	208	285.23
EMA (East Midlands Nottingham) – Bucharest (OTP)	135	185.16

Average Weekly Shopping costs

The prices below represent a 15 item basic purchase of groceries at supermarkets in the local area.

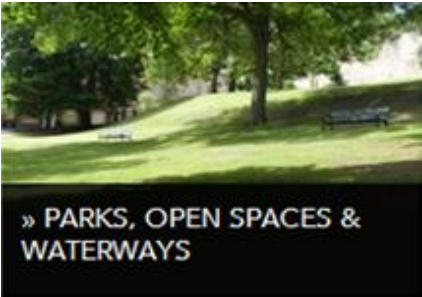


Average Food item costing

Item	Cost £	Cost €
Loaf of Bread	0.90	1.30
Pint of Milk	0.60	0.85
Bag of Potatoes	1.20	1.70
Pack of Eggs	1.10	1.55
Mixed Vegetables	1.80	2.53
Whole Chicken	4.00	5.63
Pack of Sausages	2.50	3.52

Entertainment

Check out places to visit, guided tours, shopping, venues and sports and leisure. There is so much to explore whether you have a few days or a few hours to spare.



KARTING	PAINBALL	QUAD BIKES	LASER TAG	BOWLING	MEDIA	VOUCHERS
						

Money

The UK has not adopted the Euro, our currency is sterling. One pound (£1) is made up of 100 pence (p). Coins are issued for 1p, 2p, 5p, 10p, 20p, 50p, £1 and £2.

There are notes for £5, £10, £20 and £50.

Banks

You will need proof of your identity to open a bank account in the UK. This can include:

- a valid passport;
- a UK driving licence; or
- a benefits book.

You will also need proof of your address which can include:

- a gas, electricity, water or phone bill;
- a council tax bill;
- a local council rent card; or
- your tenancy agreement.

Sending Money Home

If you want to send money to your family outside the UK, or if you want them to send you money, you can do this safely using the Money Gram system operated by main post offices.

Money Gram will transfer money instantly to post offices or banks in most countries around the world.

You can also transfer money from a bank account here to a bank account in another country.

There is a charge for these services. Do not send money in the post.

Understanding Telephone Numbers

The UK telephone numbering system works in the following way, numbers starting:

- 01 and 02 are landline numbers and are charged at standard rate from your telephone provider
- 07 are mobile phones numbers
- 0800 are free from a standard fixed line, however they are not free from mobiles
- 0844 are fixed rate up to 5p a minute
- 0845 are charged at local rates
- 0871 are fixed rate up to 10p a minute
- 09 are premium rate up to £1.50 a minute from standard lines and up to £1.85 depending on your mobile operator
- 999 or 111 are the emergency numbers for police, fire, and ambulance and are free of charge from all telephones

Important: when calling 08 numbers mobile phones operators may charge you up to 35p a minute.

Many people use internet phoning as a cheap option for foreign calls. If you search the internet you can find a number of companies specialising in this such as



To call a foreign number you need to dial 00 access code which is followed by the country code, the area code, and the local number.

Accommodation

Ways to find accommodation

Housing - Rightmove

Housing website that covers both lettings and sales for residential tenants

- Use the links on the front page of this document.
- Look in the local newspaper (*e.g. Lincolnshire Echo has a Friday supplement featuring properties*)
- Advert cards placed in houses or shop windows or at supermarkets.
- Seeking advice from friends or people from your community.

Renting a house/flat usually involves a tenancy agreement

- It sets out the rights and responsibilities of both tenant and landlord.
- Gives the security that as long as you do not break the terms of the tenancy agreement you may live in the property

It should contain details such as the length of the agreement, the rent payable and the things which are and aren't allowed in the property e.g. pets.

Sometimes when signing a tenancy agreement you might need to provide documents such as:

- References
- Proof of employment

Private landlords

- The rent is usually set according to the local market price and can be changed dependant on the type of the tenancy
- If there is not written agreement, the tenant with short hold tenancy can ask for a written statement on the following

Main terms:

- the date the tenancy began
- the amount of rent payable and the dates on which it is due
- any rent review arrangements
- the length of any fixed term

If you have any problems with your landlord, seek help at your local Council.

Deposit

- A deposit usually needs to be provided as a cover for any damage in the property or any unpaid rent.
- Always check the details of the contract regarding the deposit and what it will cover but also how it will be returned.
- Make sure you agree with all the details, terms and conditions before signing the tenancy agreement.
- If you have any problems getting your deposit back, there is a Tenancy Protection Deposit scheme. For more information go to the link below:
www.direct.gov.uk/en/HomeAndCommunity/BuyingAndSellingYourHome/RentingAHome

Utilities

There are a number of different services you need to pay for if you have your own accommodation in the UK.

If you rent accommodation, find out from the landlord if any bills (gas, electricity, water, council tax and phone) are included in the rent. There are many suppliers of gas, electricity and telephone services. Some details are included in the contacts section of this guide but there may be others that are cheaper. There are many different ways and places to pay your bills and you must check each bill for these details.

Water

You must pay for the water you use. In some areas this can be a fixed price no matter how much you use and in others the use of meters means you pay for the water you use. All water in Lincolnshire is provided by Anglian Water.

Gas and Electricity

Houses in the UK are usually connected to gas or electricity supplies (or both) to provide power and heat. When you move into a property you should contact the gas and electricity suppliers with the current meter reading so you are not billed for what was used before you arrived.

Gas and electricity is billed on how much you use which utility companies check through the meter. Some meters may need for you to pay as you use and for this you will need a payment card which can be pre-paid at outlets displaying the sign.

Council Tax

Council tax is paid by all households in the UK. This is a tax paid to your local council. If you are on welfare benefits or a low income, you may be entitled to council tax benefit which will reduce the amount of council tax you have to pay. If you are living in accommodation provided by your agent or employer, and you are not staying permanently in the UK, it is unlikely you will have to pay the tax yourself.

Your local district or borough council will be able to tell you whether you have to pay or not.

Telephone

Most houses in the UK have a phone line running into them. The telephone company will usually be able to connect you to their network through this line for free. You will have to pay to have a phone line fitted if there is not already one running into your home.

About your Local Council

Lincolnshire has a two-tier system of local government. Two-tier local government involves a county council and several district councils working together to deliver services.

Services delivered by county councils include education, social services, libraries and trading standards. Services delivered by district councils include household waste collections, leisure centres and environmental health services.

In some areas of Lincolnshire, there are also town and parish councils which have the power to provide facilities such as allotments, public conveniences and war memorials.

South Kesteven District Council

Council Offices

St Peters Hill

Grantham

Lincolnshire

NG31 6PZ

Telephone: 01476 406080

Email: frontdesk@southkesteven.gov.uk

Places of Worship

You can find out about faith groups through any church or through the internet on

www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/worship

You may also find details in your local library.

Churches will help you to find places of worship and they have links to other people who speak your language and share your faith.

Other Places for Information

Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB)

A general advice agency which offers special help on debt and welfare benefits and specialist advice on employment problems.

You can check what benefits are available and how to apply.

The CAB website contains useful information about taxes, employee rights, immigration, driving licenses, education etc. www.adviceguide.org.uk

You can also visit your local CAB to obtain help on specific, personal cases.

South Kesteven Citizens Advice Bureau – Grantham

1a Castlegate

Grantham

Lincolnshire

NG31 6SE

Telephone: 08701 224422 (Advice Line)

Email: bureau@granthamcab.cabnet.org.uk

Medical Services–New Patients

St Johns Medical Centre

St Peter's Hill Surgery