

# Norwich's twinning links



- **Rouen, France**
- **Koblenz, Germany**
- **Novi Sad, Serbia**
- **El Viejo, Nicaragua**

# twinning

Norwich has formal twinning links with four towns and cities:

**Rouen, France**  
**Koblenz, Germany**  
**Novi Sad, Serbia**  
**El Viejo, Nicaragua**

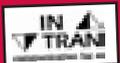
The idea of forming links with other communities through twinning was first proposed after WWII. It was seen as a way of spreading understanding of different cultures with the ultimate aim of lessening the risk of future world conflict.

Today, towns and cities form trading links and make regular exchange visits.

*"We live in a world that is more connected and interdependent than ever before,"* said Councillor Felicity Hartley, Chair of Norwich City Council Twinning Committee. *"Local Government can no longer afford to be insular, it needs to be involved with partners in the United Kingdom, in Europe and elsewhere. Twinning encourages communities to look beyond their boundaries and reach out to other countries and different cultures; to discover opportunities for working together and to build friendship and understanding in the world."*



If you require this leaflet in large print, on audio tape or in another language please contact:  
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Norwich belongs to all of us



NORWICH  
City Council



## Rouen, France

Norwich and Rouen have been twinned since 1959. Both cities are centres of important agricultural areas and thrived on the wool trade of the Middle Ages. Norfolk and Normandy share a common heritage: both areas were settled by the Vikings. The Normans constructed castles and churches of which Norwich Cathedral and Castle, built of stone brought over from Caen, are outstanding examples.



Rouen is a major port on the Seine and an important industrial and trade centre of France. Its picturesque cobbled streets and timber-framed buildings date from medieval times. It is known for its cathedral (which inspired Monet's paintings) and its association with Joan of Arc and Flaubert, author of Madame Bovary. The surrounding area is rich in historical sites and must-see places like Monet's garden at Giverny and the port of Honfleur.

### The Association

The Norfolk and Norwich Rouen Friendship Association (NNRFA) is designed to promote friendship and links between the citizens of Norwich and Rouen. It arranges events including exchanges between the two cities. Members can stay with French families or in hotels but will have the chance to share a meal with French hosts. Visits always allow time for personal exploration of Rouen. NNRFA also promotes links and exchanges between individuals and groups. These have included lawyers, musicians, schoolchildren, clinicians, firefighters, catering students, councillors, artists, ramblers and sports enthusiasts.

### For more information

Contact the Chairman on 01603 451015, the Hon. Secretary on 01603 408791 or email [twinning@norwich.gov.uk](mailto:twinning@norwich.gov.uk)



## Koblenz, Germany

Koblenz is situated at the confluence of the Rivers Rhine and Mosel, and gateway to the UNESCO World Heritage Site of the Middle Rhine, with over 2000 years of history. It has a similar population to the City of Norwich and is the main centre of an Agricultural and Wine-growing region.



See: [www.Koblenz.de](http://www.Koblenz.de), which has some pages in English.

First contacts were made in 1947 and Koblenz and Norwich signed a Twinning Agreement in April 1978 recognising the growing development of links, with new ones being made most years.

The Norfolk and Norwich Koblenz Friendship Association (NNKFA) was founded in 1980 with the motto 'Understanding and Friendship' to further promote links and exchanges between schools, skilled training, educational and other cultural, sporting and interest groups. It arranges reciprocal visits with the Norfolk, Norwich, Koblenz Freundschaftskreis ev, in Koblenz, annually, where members can stay with host families or in hotels. The programme during exchanges includes social, cultural events and visits to places of interest in the regions.

The Association holds four meetings a year, a Spring AGM and social, a Summer outing, an Autumn anniversary lunch, and a Winter Advent evening.

A German conversation group DU aM (Deutsche Unterhaltung am Morgen) meets every Wednesday morning, 'mit Kaffee und Kuchen natürlich!'.

### For more information

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Herr Günter Hahn, Karthausershofweg 43, D56075, KOBLENZ Tel. 0049 261 55386 or email [twinning@norwich.gov.uk](mailto:twinning@norwich.gov.uk)

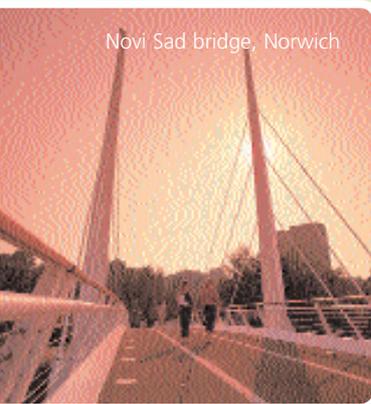


## Novi Sad, Serbia

### The Association

The Norfolk and Norwich Novi Sad Association was set up in 1985 to support the twinning of the two cities and to further twinning links and activities. The Association is very active in:

- providing programmes of talks
- organising outings
- presenting fundraising concerts
- arranging trips to Novi Sad
- developing exchanges between students in the cities and their regions.



Novi Sad bridge, Norwich

Links have also been established between the Rotary Clubs and Fire Brigades in the two cities.

For several years the Association has provided a liaison between Norwich Central Churches Together and the Ecumenical Humanitarian Organisation in Novi Sad. This has led to successful clergy exchange visits.

The Association has also been active in supporting institutions and charities in Novi Sad - particularly for the relief of those affected by the dramatic changes that have taken place in the region during the past decade. The Association continues to help a school for children with special needs.

The Novi Sad Friendship Bridge over the River Wensum opened in November 2001 and marks the close contact between the two cities and their citizens.

### For more information

Contact the Honorary Secretary on 01508 480262 or email [twinning@norwich.gov.uk](mailto:twinning@norwich.gov.uk)

## El Viejo, Nicaragua



The link with El Viejo was set up in 1996 (a time when Nicaragua was undergoing fundamental political development) with the aim to establish friendly relations between the people of Norwich and El Viejo, to establish a relationship between the two communities at Council level, to facilitate exchanges and to promote and provide practical support for projects in El Viejo.

The municipality of El Viejo is in the most north-westerly point of Nicaragua in the province of Chinandega. It is the largest municipality in the country at 1038 sq. km with a population of 90,000. Like Norwich, El Viejo is an historic city. The name itself literally means 'The Old One'. It was founded within 20 years of Columbus' arrival in the Americas. It is also, like Norwich, the centre of an agricultural area and, like Norfolk, it has the sea on three sides. There, however, the similarities end. The climate is sub-tropical with average temperatures of 28°C.

Crops consist of maize, beans, sorghum, sesame, and very large areas of sugar cane. Some bananas are grown but this crop is diminishing due to reduction in world prices. Fishing and shrimp farming take place on the coast and there is small scale cattle raising.

Nicaragua is a very poor country - the second poorest in the western hemisphere with 82% of the people living on less than \$1 a day. The Link has carried out various projects including co-funding a new settlement, called Norwich, for 42 families who were victims of Hurricane Mitch in 1998. The current project provides 200 scholarships for children of poor families who otherwise would be unable to go to school.

### For more information

Please contact the Secretary, 52 Aylsham Road, Norwich, NR3 3ES or email [twinning@norwich.gov.uk](mailto:twinning@norwich.gov.uk)

