



GILLINGHAM V IPSWICH TOWN

TUESDAY 5 OCTOBER 2021, KICK OFF 19:00

Note that in the event of the score being level at 90 minutes, the game will go to penalties with the winning team gaining an extra point.

Information in this guide is as at 22 September 2021 and is correct to the best of our knowledge. Any updated information on this fixture including ticketing and possible additional covid protocols will be published on the club website (www.itfc.co.uk), twitter (@IpswichTown and @itfchelp) and facebook (www.facebook.com/officialitfc).

Covid-19 Protocols

Gillingham Football Club are committed to as far as possible ensuring the health and safety of spectators, and to providing as safe and suitable an environment as possible during this Covid-19 pandemic. In order to ensure this, all spectators must behave in a safe and responsible manner at all times.

Gillingham's ticketing policy states that you should not attend the game in the event that you are displaying Covid-19 symptoms, if anyone in your household is displaying Covid-19 symptoms, or if you are self-isolating (either due to a recent positive Covid-19 test or otherwise).

In the event that Covid-19 symptoms develop whilst at the MEMS Priestfield stadium, please notify the nearest member of staff immediately.

Ipswich Town Football Club also asks supporters to be respectful of their fellow supporters. If you are not fully vaccinated, it is recommended that you return a negative lateral flow test prior to attending the game.

INFORMATION FOR TOWN FANS

We visit Gillingham in the group stages of the Papa John's Trophy on Tuesday 5 October 2021. The following guide has been produced for Town fans making the trip to the MEMS Priestfield Stadium.

This is based on Gillingham's away fans information plus additional information specific to this game.

For any further information, please contact Elizabeth Edwards, Supporter Liaison Officer on slo@itfc.co.uk or (+44) (0) 7968 876504 or on Twitter at @ITFC_SLO.

Gillingham information for visiting fans

Address: Gillingham Football Club, MEMS Priestfield Stadium, Redfern Avenue, Gillingham, ME7 4DD

Website: <https://www.gillinghamfootballclub.com>

Phone number: 01634 300000

Supporter Liaison Officer and Disability Liaison Officer: Ben Reeves: breeves@priestfield.com

Twitter: @TheGillsFC

Information from the Gillingham website can be found here (note this includes information for both home and away fans):

<https://www.gillinghamfootballclub.com/club/visit-us/>

<https://www.gillinghamfootballclub.com/siteassets/documents/201819/fan-guide/fans-guide-2018-online.pdf> (note that this is dated 2018 but it still contains information which is relevant.)

Information for disabled fans (both home and away) can be found here:

<https://www.gillinghamfootballclub.com/fans/disabled-supporters/>

www.footballgroundguide.com provides some information here:

<https://footballgroundguide.com/leagues/england/league-one/priestfield-stadium-gillingham.html>

We have picked out the key information for Town fans below and added other material based on the Gillingham fan guide, our own experience of visiting the MEMS Priestfield Stadium and information that is specific to our fans.

Specific information for Town fans:

Note that tickets for this game are in the Gordon Road Stand which is a side stand (to the right of the Brian Moore Stand where we usually are).

Tickets are priced at £10 for adults, £5 for concessions (over 65 and U18) and £1 for U12s. Please note that each ticket will incur a £1.50 booking fee.

Tickets go on sale to Gold card and season ticket Junior Blues members at 10am on Monday 20 September, season ticket holders at 10am on Wednesday 22 September and Silver card and non-season ticket Junior Blues members at 10am on Friday 24 September. Any remaining tickets will go on general sale at 10am on Monday 27 September.

Disabled fans requiring tickets should contact ITFC's Disability Liaison Officer Lee Smith on 01473 400556 or by email on disability@itfc.co.uk.

Note that the ticket enquires line (03330 05 05 03) is for assistance only.

Travel to Gillingham

Supporters Coach

Coaches will leave at 14:30. Please ensure you are at Portman Road at least 15 minutes before this.

Coach travel will go on sale in line with the ticket sale windows at £16 for Adults, £13 for seniors/U23 and £10 for U19s. Please note that each ticket will incur a £1.50 booking fee.

Note that all official coaches are non-smoking and the consumption of alcohol and hot food on board is strictly forbidden. ITFC recommend that all supporters under 16 are accompanied by an adult.

Pick-ups at Marks Tey can be arranged for this game. If you want to organise a pick-up please call the Ticket Enquiries Team on 03330 050503 or email mainticketoffice@itfc.co.uk.

If you are travelling on the coach and are not fully vaccinated at the point of travel it is recommended that you return a negative lateral flow test prior to travel.

All coaches should set down supporters at the Croneens Yard car park which is situated in Railway Street. Note that Gillingham states that this is a five-minute walk from here back along Gillingham Road to Gordon Road. In our experience it is longer than this, about 10 minutes.

Car

The Sat Nav postcode for MEMS Priestfield Stadium is ME7 4DD.

Note: The suggested route involves the Dartford Crossing. You must pay the Dartford Crossing charge by midnight the day after you cross. You will get a fine if you're late or do not pay. Details can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/pay-dartford-crossing-charge>

From Ipswich, take the A12 to the M25. Join the M25 signposted M20/M23/Dartford/Crossing. Continue on the A282 (which is really the M25 still) and exit onto the A2. Follow the A2 towards Canterbury and join the A289 towards A228/Gillingham/Grain at junction 1 (this is also where the A2 joins the M2).

The Gillingham website then provides the following directions: 'Follow signs for Medway Tunnel. After about three miles take the second exit off the roundabout, again following signs towards Medway Tunnel. At the next roundabout take the first exit. At the next roundabout take the first exit into the Tunnel. On exit follow the A289 over two sets of traffic lights before coming to the Strand roundabout. Take the third exit onto Church Street. Drive up the hill and continue over the level crossing. Take the second left after the crossing and follow Linden Drive to the end. Turn right into Redfern Avenue, where you will see the MEMS Priestfield Stadium on your right.'

With a clear run, www.googlemaps.co.uk suggests it will take around one hour and 30 minutes. That assumes no hold-ups of any sort, so it is very. We generally recommend allowing at least an hour beyond the AA / Google / Sat Nav suggested journey time, particularly given that you are likely to be travelling during the evening peak period.

Parking

There is a residents-only parking scheme in operation around the stadium so if you want to street park you will need to park away from the immediate vicinity of the ground.

The Gillingham website lists the following roads to avoid: Balmoral Road, Windsor Road, Ferndale Road, Linden Avenue, Priestfield Road, Gordon Road, Livingstone Road, Coulman Street, Beaconsfield Avenue, Harold Avenue, School Lane, Toronto Road, Redfern Avenue and parts of Sunnymead Avenue.

The website lists alternative parking areas as: end of Sunnymead Avenue, Chicago Avenue, Canadian Avenue, Valley Road, Sturdee Avenue, Woodlands Road, Carlton Avenue, Alexandra Avenue, Larkfield Avenue, Third Avenue and Fourth Avenue.

In previous visits the car park at Woodlands Primary School (Sat Nav code: ME7 2DU) has been available for parking. However, we understand that this isn't open for evening games.

www.footballgroundguide.com suggests a pay and display car park on Railway Street near Gillingham station, which is less than 10 minutes' walk from the ground. It also mentions parking at a cost of £3

at the Our Lady of Gillingham Catholic Church on Ingram Street (ME7 1YL). This is also a ten-minute walk to the ground.

Train

Note 1: All train services are subject to change or cancellation, as staff shortages due to Covid-19 isolation requirements can impact at very short notice. Please check your planned journey shortly before you travel, and be prepared to be flexible over timings.

Note 2: Please be careful when buying your ticket, whether online or in person. There are two Gillinghams, one in Dorset (the wrong one) and one in Kent (the right one). Online ticketing puts the Dorset (wrong one) option first.

Note 3: After the game, there are many train options back to London. Note that the first train might not be the quickest – in particular, the Thameslink trains via Blackfriars are much slower than either the St Pancras or Victoria options.

From Ipswich the most direct route is via Stratford. Change at Stratford and walk through the Westfield shopping centre to Stratford International for a train to Gillingham. The journey time is around 2 hours 15 minutes to 2 hours 30 minutes.

With the game kicking off at 7pm and, even allowing for possible penalties, it is possible to get back to Ipswich after the game. Trains leave Gillingham to Stratford International at 21:21 and 22:22. These contact at Stratford to the 22:37 and 23:38 to Ipswich.

If you're based in London, there are many rail options – unfortunately, we have not been able to get consistent information even by using the same websites repeatedly! The best options seem to be the fast train from / to St Pancras (45 minutes), or a slightly slower option from / to Victoria (approximately 50 minutes). There are also options from Blackfriars (London Bridge, Farringdon, St Pancras etc) but these take much longer (1 hours 25 minutes). After the game there are trains back to St Pancras at 21:21 and 22:22, plus to Victoria at 21:30 and 21:57. There are also Thameslink trains which meander their way slowly back to several London stations, including London Bridge and Blackfriars.

Getting to the ground from the railway stations

The ground is about a ten-minute walk from the station. When you come out of Gillingham station turn left on to Balmoral Road, and follow it to the end of the road. At this point you would usually go straight on into Priestfield Road. For this game turn right at the end of Balmoral Road, and then take a left into Gordon Road.

Whatever your travel plans, it's worth checking www.greateranglia.co.uk for updated times and any late changes due to engineering works or covid.

Pubs

We have done our best to ensure that the listed pubs will be open and operating without major Covid-19 restrictions. Please understand that some might limit numbers or insist on small groups and table service.

The Fleur De Lis pub on Gillingham Road (postcode ME7 4RR) is the designated away fans pub. This is around a ten-minute walk from the railway station and the same from the ground. The pub shows Sky & BT Sports, has hot and cold snacks and is family friendly. From the railway station, walk down Balmoral Road (A231) as if you are going to the ground (note that there are two Balmoral Roads!). Take a right on to Duncan Road and then right onto Gillingham Road. The pub is number 22.

There are a number of other pubs around the town centre. Note that our usual favourite real ale pub, the Will Adams on Saxton Street, appears not to open until 7.30pm weeknights. Jane Stuart (Blackpool fan and beer blogger) has also suggested the Frog & Toad, 38 Burnt Oak Terrace, ME7 1DR; the Past & Present micropub, 15 Canterbury Street, ME7 5TP; the Ship Inn, Court Lodge Road, ME7 2QX.

At the ground

Away end

The MEMS Priestfield Stadium is an all-seater stadium.

We will be in the Gordon Road stand which is a side stand to the right of the stand we are usually in.

Please note that our away following will include older fans, families, those unable to stand for long periods of time and ambulant disabled fans. Please bear this in mind and please respect those who want to sit at this game as we want everyone to enjoy the day safely.

Six wheelchair spaces are available for away supporters in the Gordon Road Stand.

Security

As at most stadiums stewards may ask to search your bag.

Accessible Toilets

There are accessible toilets on the concourse.

Programmes

The matchday programme, can be bought from sellers around the ground and in the Club shop.

Food and Drink facilities

Normal football fare is available in the away end. We understand that alcohol will be available in the away end.

Smoking

Smoking of cigarettes and e-cigarettes anywhere in the stadium is not permitted.

Anti Social Behaviour – Matchday Text Line

Racism or discrimination of any form is not OK, 'Not Today or Any Day' and supporters are reminded that instances of discriminatory or prejudiced behaviour will not be tolerated at any EFL game.



If you should hear or see any racist language and/or anti-social behaviour during a match-day, please report this to your nearest steward.

You can also report any discrimination or anti-social behaviour to Kick it Out using the Kick It Out app which is available to download from the App Store or Google Play, or via: Facebook /kickitoutofficial; Twitter @kickitout; email info@kickitout.org; phone 0800 169 9414.