

# A visitor's guide to Norfolk

What to see and do - Discover Norfolk's best bits, as told by visitors and residents

Visit Norfolk

The official visitor website for Norfolk

*'This comprehensive guide will give you a really good overview of the delights of Norfolk, but make sure you also find time to go off the beaten track, explore for yourself and create your own memories.'*

**Pete Waters**

Visit Norfolk

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 #whyilovenorfolk

# Norfolk

The people, the pace, the place. Nowhere else in the world offers such wonderful wide windswept beaches, such big beautiful skies, such quaint quirky villages, such delicious home-grown and homemade produce from such talented artisans, and such a culturally diverse and individual city.

A weekend in Norfolk is worth a week anywhere else: beach huts, seals, cobbled streets, samphire and crabs, mighty mussels, crumbling castles, poppy fields, bluebell woods, miles of broads, barn owls and bitterns, arts and crafts, live music and theatre, real fish and chips, steam trains, quiet lanes, drove roads... and no motorways.

You can't help but return home rested, relaxed and with your faith restored in the kindness and wholesomeness of humanity. Norfolk - it's perfect.

# Introduction

## Welcome to our tourist guide to Norfolk

Considering a holiday in Norfolk? Perhaps just a day trip? Or perhaps you're lucky enough to already be here. Our guide gives you all the information you need to know about some of Norfolk's best loved attractions and beautiful locations.

This guide has been created by asking over 1,000 visitors and residents of Norfolk what they love best about the county. We've pulled together a selection of people's favourite things to do to make it easy for you to discover what's not to miss during your visit.

Throughout this guide, you'll see real quotes from real people explaining why they love Norfolk. This means you don't have to take our word for it; you can be safe in the knowledge that the gems we've included really are what people love about this wonderful county.

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### Join the conversation

Share why you love Norfolk on Twitter by using the hashtag:

[#whylovenorfolk](#)

## Places to go:

# 1 The Broads

The Norfolk Broads: one of the most famous parts of the entire county. The Broads give you the opportunity to explore Norfolk by boat at a truly relaxed pace along the more than 125 miles of man-made waterways. Soak up the scenery, marvel at the big open skies, and explore hidden waterways that are unreachable by road.

### What's not to miss on the Broads:

#### Boating

Take an entire boating holiday, hire a boat for a day, go canoeing, rowing, sailing, take a boating lesson or guided trip – the options are almost endless.

#### Exploring

Visit traditional Broads villages like Ranworth, Horning, or Wroxham, the market town of Beccles on the River Waveney, plus the many more towns and villages in between.

#### Angling & birdwatching

As a National Park, the Broads offer visitors the opportunity to get close to all manner of wildlife, including wetland birds, fish and riverside animals.

#### Walking & cycling

Take to the Broads on two feet or two wheels for a completely different experience. You'll find miles of clearly signposted footpaths and cycleways, including nature trails, long-distance paths and circular trips.

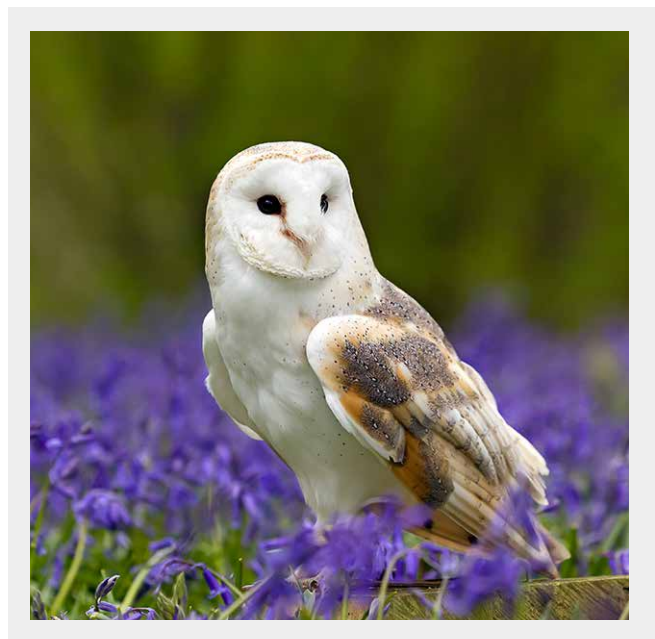


Photo: Barn Owl in Bluebells - Norfolk

### What people say:

“ The peace and tranquillity of the Broads has to be the best thing about Norfolk, just to relax and get away from the stresses of everyday life. I love stopping at a little pub on the canal bank for a leisurely lunch after a morning drifting along the peaceful waterways. ”

N. Lock

“ My favourite thing about Norfolk is the Norfolk Broads. We had our family holiday there this year; we hired a boat and set off on our own adventure. ”

S. Smith

“ Norfolk has that little bit of magic for all ages. The natural beauty of the Norfolk Broads: atmospheric throughout the year, offering all types of water sports to the adventurous. Golf courses galore and great walking opportunities, inland or by the coast. Birdwatching for the twitchers and cycling for the more energetic. Norfolk combines many activities with the friendliness of the local people who really make a difference to your holiday. ”

N. Humphrey

“ I love boating on the Norfolk Broads, looking out for wildlife and seeing the lovely waterside homes and pubs along the way. ”

K. Luongo

“Visit Salhouse, Woodbastwick and Ranworth Broads. You can visit one or all of them and have a great day out. At Salhouse, you can hire a canoe during the summer months and buy an ice cream courtesy of the ice cream boat! At Ranworth you can walk along the boardwalk and go to the visitors centre to birdwatch or take a boat ride with the rangers. Woodbastwick Broad is less frequented by visitors and you can have a peaceful walk to a bird hide.”

H. Ellard



### More information

[www.enjoythebroads.com](http://www.enjoythebroads.com)

Official website for the Broads offering a whole host of useful information, maps, guides and links

See page 15 for more

## Places to go:

# 2

# The Beaches

It's not just the watery fun of the Broads that this county has to offer: head almost anywhere along the expansive Norfolk coast and you'll find a family and dog-friendly beach with tons of activities on offer. Whatever you enjoy, from the peace and tranquillity of Holkham to the bustle of seaside towns like Yarmouth and Cromer, you'll find the perfect place to while away the hours by the sea in Norfolk.

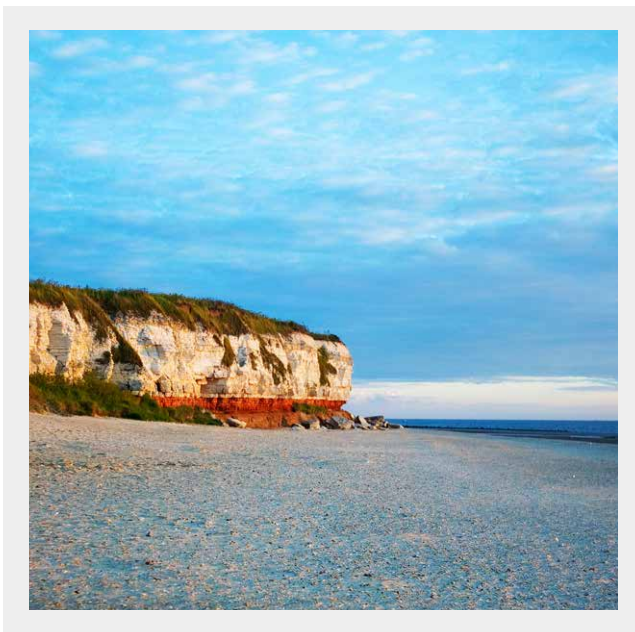


Photo: Hunstanton cliffs and beach - Norfolk

### Norfolk's best beaches:

#### Hunstanton

Head to 'Old' Hunstanton for a huge stretch of open sand, or 'New' Hunstanton for more family-friendly attractions, including the Sea Life Centre.

#### Holkham

Explore the dunes and golden sands, beautiful in both summer and winter, or visit the stately Holkham Hall.

#### Great Yarmouth, Cromer and Gorleston

Traditional seaside resorts with tons of family attractions. And of course, don't forget to try some of the famously delicious Cromer Crab.

#### Brancaster, Overstrand, Holme, Wells & more

Be spoilt for choice for beaches offering breathtaking vistas and tranquil solitude.

### What people say:

“ I love the fabulous hidden beaches on the northern coast around Blakeney and Holkham. ”

A. Birkinshaw

“ I love Norfolk because of its friendly atmosphere, and the fact that it is also dog friendly. Beautiful scenery and beaches - Great Yarmouth is a favourite with its fun-filled promenade. ”

R. Taylor

“ Norfolk has so many gems, some well-known and some hidden – for example the colony of basking seals on the beach between Winterton and Waxham – pure magic. There are many beautiful beaches around Norfolk's coastline – Sea Palling and Gorleston to name just two. ”

R. Gray

“ I love Norfolk very simply because of the big sky. The horizon seems so far away and the sky vast. In the morning the sunrise on the coast is truly a beautiful awakening to the prospect of a lovely day. ”

L. Richardson

“ We love the vastness and wildness, with Norfolk’s various great reserves for ‘birding’. We love walking down to the beach at Titchwell and walking on the sandy beaches, and then going around the reserve at Cley. Plus, popping into Hunstanton, Wells, Sheringham and Cromer sometimes, and stopping in small villages along the coast. It’s just wonderful! ”

S. Starling



### More information

[www.visitnorfolk.co.uk](http://www.visitnorfolk.co.uk)

Information about Norfolk’s beaches from the official visitor website

See page 15 for more

## Places to go:

# 3

# Norwich

As Norfolk's only city, the county capital of Norwich has a huge amount to offer. Visit Norwich for a unique blend of the modern and historic, living side by side in harmony. Within the city you'll find the famous Norwich Market, museums, theatres, pubs, clubs, shops, heritage buildings, fabulous architecture, and of course the domineering spire of Norwich Cathedral.



Photo: Norwich Cathedral - Norfolk

### What's not to miss in Norwich:

#### Shopping

Norwich is home to a fabulous selection of high street stores, unique independent shops, and also boasts the largest undercover market in Europe.

#### Historical attractions

Among the historic layout of the city, not only will you find Norwich Cathedral, but also a whole host of museums, ancient pubs, medieval lanes and other ancient buildings.

#### Arts & culture

With a strong literary, arts and music culture, Norwich offers many art galleries including the Sainsbury Centre for the Visual Arts, museums including the Norwich Castle museum and Dragon Hall, an array of theatres, plus a busy calendar of annual festivals and arts events, such as the Norfolk & Norwich Festival each May.

#### Eating out

Enjoy local Norfolk produce in one of Norwich's many tea rooms, cafés, restaurants and welcoming pubs.

### What people say:

“ Norwich is filled with beautiful art, buildings and historical interests. And, my favourite place of all, the theatres. The Theatre Royal is my second home, and it sums up why I love this city, with its lovely staff and the variety of what it has to offer. There's something for everyone in our fine city.”

L. Valois

“ I love the sunsets over Fye Bridge and the sound of my heels on the cobbles of Elm Hill. I love the snow falling on the Castle and Happisburgh lighthouse in the sunshine. I love tapas in Tombland and crabbing in Cromer.”

S. Hardman

“ Norwich is a delightful city with a wonderful cathedral and a market not to be missed.”

G. Young

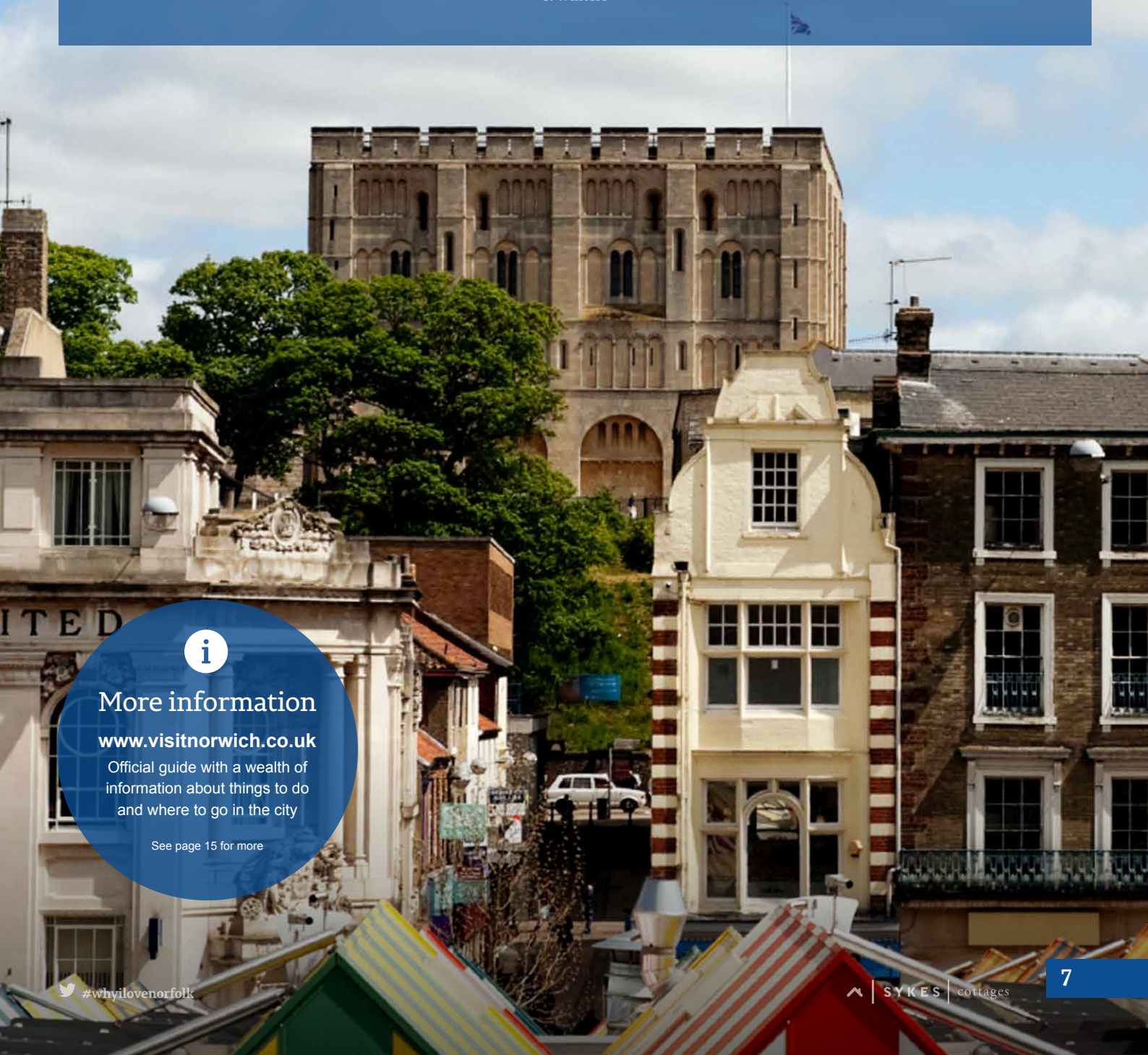
“ I absolutely love Norfolk... but the cherry on top is the amazing city of Norwich, with so much history and culture, but with an up-and-coming vibe.”

S. Boyd



“Norfolk is one of my favourite places in the world. We have had several family holidays there... My favourite part of the holiday is the couple of days we spend in Norwich City... I love the old streets, full of great restaurants. The river walks are great, there is such a selection of shops and we will always take in a show at Norwich Theatre Royal. If we're lucky with our timing, we'll also go to a premiership match at Norwich City FC. There is no holiday to match what Norfolk offers.”

S. Winters



### More information

[www.visitnorwich.co.uk](http://www.visitnorwich.co.uk)

Official guide with a wealth of information about things to do and where to go in the city

See page 15 for more

## 4

## Things to do:

## Family Friendly

However big your family, and however broad your interests, you'll find something for everyone across the county of Norfolk. Visit Norwich or Kings Lynn for shopping and museums, head out on the Broads for riverside fun, spend time by the sea building sandcastles and exploring rock pools, or visit some of the many attractions including Banham Zoo and Bressingham Steam & Gardens.

## Things to do with the family:

**Outdoor activities**

From boating on the Broads to a traditional family day out at the seaside, Norfolk's got it covered. Thanks to a huge network of footpaths and cycleways, the flat terrain makes it perfect for a family day of exploring and getting close to nature.

**Attractions**

Families are spoilt for choice when it comes to attractions. Try BeWILDerwood near Hoveton for a forest adventure, Great Yarmouth or Hunstanton Sea Life Centre for underwater fun, Dinosaur Adventure Park near Lenwade for prehistoric exploration, or Banham Zoo to see some of the world's most exotic animals – plus so many more attractions besides.

**Heritage railways**

See Norfolk in a different way aboard one of the county's heritage railways. Choose between the Mid-Norfolk, North Norfolk, Bure Valley, or the Wells & Walsingham Light Railway, or learn more about steam power in general at Bressingham Steam & Gardens.



Photo: BeWILDerwood Adventure Park - Hoveton, Norfolk

## What people say:

“ I spent all my childhood holidays in Norfolk and now love taking my children. Walks in the countryside, the Pleasure Beach, horse and carts on the seafront at Great Yarmouth, chips in Norwich market, the beach huts in Hunstanton, going on the Reedham Ferry, Brancaster Beach, boat rides on the Norfolk Broads and watching seals at Blakeney...”

J. Howell

“ Every time I turn the corner at Kings Lynn my spirits lift, the light becomes clearer, brighter and the weather always seems to improve. After years of visiting this lovely area of England it has a special place in my heart. The wonderful coastal walks, honey hued villages, delicious sea food, vast open skies, memories of bucket and spade holidays.

I shall keep coming back because my small grandchildren are now sitting on the beaches with their buckets, spades and sandy ice creams just like their mum did 30 years ago. Beautiful Norfolk stay true to yourself.”

P. Crofts

“ Beautiful big skies, coastline and countryside. Wonderful for sunrises and sunsets, and an excellent family destination. The North Norfolk Steam Railway is a must for just sitting back and enjoying the ride, the smell of the engine and the scenery – priceless!”

P. Bash



## More information

[www.dayoutwiththekids.co.uk](http://www.dayoutwiththekids.co.uk)

A long list of ideas for family days out in Norfolk

See page 16 for more

“I love Norfolk because it's a perfect place for an active family holiday. Beautiful coastline, sandy beaches, several way-marked walks, museums, picturesque villages. It's a place that's great for adults and for children - there are plenty of things to do for people of every age.”

D. Zarowny

## 5

## Things to do:

## Arts &amp; Heritage

If you like at least part of your holiday to be spent learning more about the history of an area, or exploring the arts on offer, Norfolk will certainly not disappoint. From Norfolk Lavender to National Trust properties, and from ancient windmills to the Queen's holiday residence, there's so much to explore.

## Arts and heritage in Norfolk:

**Norfolk Lavender**

Enjoy a visit to the Norfolk Lavender gardens, oil distillery, National Lavender Collection and herb garden.

**Sandringham**

Explore the regal surroundings of the Queen's holiday residence by visiting Sandringham House, Museum and Gardens.

**National Trust properties**

The stately homes of Blickling Estate and Felbrigg Hall are both within reach from Norwich, plus the grand Oxburgh Hall is not far either.

**The Broads**

Travel along the Broads by boat to see some of the many historic windmills that line the riverbanks.

**Norwich**

The county city of Norwich is packed with cultural attractions, including galleries, theatres museums, and of course Norwich Cathedral. See page six of this guide for more information.



Photo: Norfolk Lavender

## What people say:

“ The heart of Norwich city is steeped in rich history, cobbled streets, magnificent architecture with amazing various shopping facilities accessible, and affordable theatre and the arts – as well as a plethora of friendly helpful people. ”

C. Spenceley

“ Stunning scenery and historic charm. I especially love Oxburgh Hall – picture perfect. ”

F. King

“ I love Norfolk because it brings back many happy memories as a child. My parents used to take me on boating holidays on the Broads. The scenery and wildlife is breathtaking. I have never seen so many windmills in one place! ”

L. Crosbie



Photo: Norwich Castle - Norfolk

*“I love the nostalgia and the original 15th Century buildings - sets your imagination on fire. There are loads of National Trust properties and Norfolk is home to many royals - you can even spend a little time with them in church in Sandringham on Christmas morning. So much history and proud to be a part of it.”*

K. Miles



### More information

[www.nationaltrust.org.uk](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk)

Find out about the National Trust properties and gardens in and around Norfolk

See page 16 for more

# 6 Food & Drink

One of Norfolk's best loved assets is its huge offering of locally produced food. Enjoy delicious cakes and lunches at a riverside café, dine out in one of the many homely restaurants, taste locally brewed beer inside an ancient pub, or try your hand at cooking after browsing the farmers markets, seafood stalls or pick-your-own farms.

## Food and drink to enjoy:

### Cromer crab

The town of Cromer is as famous for its delicious crab as it is for its beach. Don't miss your chance to enjoy freshly caught crab as part of your stay.

### Seafood

Besides the famous Cromer crab, you'll find stalls and shops selling freshly caught fish and seafood throughout Norfolk's villages and towns. Cley is particularly well-known for its shellfish.

### Farmers markets

Get your hands on some of the gorgeous local produce at the local markets in Norwich, Creake Abbey, Diss and many other locations across the county.

### Locally brewed beer

Norfolk is littered with local breweries and pubs selling local beer on tap. Try real ales from the Fox Brewery, Woodforde's, and Tipple's Brewery to name a few.

### Restaurant and pubs

Choose one of the many Norfolk restaurants and pubs offering locally sourced and produced food for a true taste of Norfolk.

### Norfolk Food & Drink Festival

Visit the county between August and October to be part of the annual celebration of all the delicious delights Norfolk has to offer.



Photo: Cromer Crabs - Norfolk

## What people say:

“ There is a lovely pub called The Pier at Gorleston that serves amazing food. It's always on my visit list and I can walk off my meal on the lovely beach. ”

I. Colclough

“ Fresh Cromer crab tastes best in Cromer! ”

C. Sargent

“ I love cycling through the countryside, visiting interesting quirky shops in little villages, eating seafood platters at Cookie's Crab Shop in Salthouse and fishing off the stoney beaches. ”

L. Savage

“ I love the unspoilt countryside and visiting one of the most hard to reach pubs in the county, The Berney Arms, just outside Great Yarmouth. ”

D. Heaps



### More information

[www.norfolkfoodanddrinkfestival.co.uk](http://www.norfolkfoodanddrinkfestival.co.uk)

Find out more about the annual event celebrating the best of Norfolk's food and drink

See page 16 for more



“The Broads, the beaches and the beer! Crab from Cromer, hot mustard on home-cooked ham. Farmers markets and specialist food shops - it's the combination of unique and compelling landscapes together with friendly people and fantastic food that make Norfolk my favourite place to visit.”

S. Taylor

# 7 People to meet

When asking people why they love Norfolk, one of the most common answers was the welcoming and friendly nature of the people in the county's towns and villages. Although we can't tell you exactly where to go to meet some of Norfolk's loveliest folk, we're sure you'll come across them during your stay, wherever you choose to spend your days.

Here are just some of the reasons to love the people of Norfolk:

“What do I love about Norfolk? The big beautiful skies, open fields and the wonderful clean air. The people are so friendly, helpful and caring.”

P. Hunter

“There's so much to love about Norfolk: long forest, cliff-top and beach-front walks, flowing canals and waterways, horse sanctuaries and historical places, Weybourne the hidden gem, but the best thing about Norfolk is the folk themselves: friendly and so welcoming. I've never been anywhere else that people leave bowls of water at their gate for dogs.”

H. Blades

“It's the people in Norfolk that make it special. They are always willing to say hello, even if they don't know you.”

E. A. Cameron

“Quite simply, what I love about Norfolk is the friendliness of those who live there and the welcome they offer to those who do not.”

P. Hall

“I cannot think of any county that has so many dogs, and cafes and pubs which welcome them. A friendlier county you could not find, whether it is locals or incomers. Drive down one of the narrow main roads and you will receive a merry wave or thank you as you are waved through.”

S. Gray

“The most lovable thing that Norfolk has is its people: friendly, hospitable, helpful and they genuinely show their love of their county.”

A. Harrington

“There are many things to love about Norfolk but the main thing to me has always been the friendliness of the people you meet whenever you visit.”

P. Hesford



## 8

# Useful information

Here you'll find a list of useful websites for some of the organisations and attractions we've mentioned in this guide.

## General information

[www.visitnorfolk.co.uk](http://www.visitnorfolk.co.uk)

The official visitor website for Norfolk, providing all aspects of tourist information

## Places to go: the Broads

[www.enjoythebroads.com](http://www.enjoythebroads.com)

The official website for The Broads

## Places to go: the beaches

[www.visitnorthnorfolk.com](http://www.visitnorthnorfolk.com)

Tourist information concentrating on North Norfolk (including Cromer, Hunstanton and more)

## Places to go: Norwich

[www.visitnorwich.co.uk](http://www.visitnorwich.co.uk)

The official guide to the county capital of Norwich

[www.cathedral.org.uk](http://www.cathedral.org.uk)

The official website of Norwich Cathedral

[www.scva.ac.uk](http://www.scva.ac.uk)

The official website of the Sainsbury Centre for Visual Arts

[www.museums.norfolk.gov.uk](http://www.museums.norfolk.gov.uk)

The website of Norfolk Museums & Archaeology Service, offering information on many of Norfolk's museums, including Norwich Castle

[www.dragonhall.org](http://www.dragonhall.org)

The official website of the medieval heritage museum Dragon Hall

[www.nnfestival.org.uk](http://www.nnfestival.org.uk)

The official website for the annual Norfolk & Norwich Festival

[www.theatreroyalnorwich.co.uk](http://www.theatreroyalnorwich.co.uk)

The official website of Norwich Theatre Royal





## Things to do: family friendly

### [www.dayoutwiththekids.co.uk](http://www.dayoutwiththekids.co.uk)

Extensive information about family-friendly activities in Norfolk and the whole of the UK

### [www.bewilderwood.co.uk](http://www.bewilderwood.co.uk)

The website of BeWILDerwood, the outdoor family adventure centre

### [www.visitsealife.com](http://www.visitsealife.com)

The Sea Life centre website, containing information about Great Yarmouth and Hunstanton Sea Life Centres

### [www.dinosauradventure.co.uk](http://www.dinosauradventure.co.uk)

The website of Dinosaur Adventure – 100 acres of woods and parkland with life-size dinosaur models

### [www.banhamzoo.co.uk](http://www.banhamzoo.co.uk)

The website of Banham Zoo, detailing ticket prices, events, conservation projects etc.

### [www.mnr.org.uk](http://www.mnr.org.uk)

The website of the Mid-Norfolk Railway

### [www.nnrailway.co.uk](http://www.nnrailway.co.uk)

The website of the North Norfolk Railway (otherwise known as the Poppy Line)

### [www.bvrw.co.uk](http://www.bvrw.co.uk)

The website of the Bure Valley Railway

### [www.wellswalsinghamrailway.co.uk](http://www.wellswalsinghamrailway.co.uk)

The website of the Wells & Walsingham Light Railway

### [www.bressingham.co.uk](http://www.bressingham.co.uk)

The website of Bressingham Steam & Gardens

## Things to do: arts & heritage

### [www.norfolk-lavender.co.uk](http://www.norfolk-lavender.co.uk)

The official website of the Norfolk Lavender company

### [www.sandringhamestate.co.uk](http://www.sandringhamestate.co.uk)

The official website of the Sandringham Estate

### [www.nationaltrust.org.uk/visit/east-of-england](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/visit/east-of-england)

Official information about the National Trust properties in Norfolk and the surrounding area, including Blickling Estate and Felbrigg Hall

## Food & drink

### [www.norfolkfoodanddrinkfestival.co.uk](http://www.norfolkfoodanddrinkfestival.co.uk)

Information about Norfolk's annual Food and Drink Festival

### [www.edp24.co.uk/norfolk-life/norfolk-farmers-markets](http://www.edp24.co.uk/norfolk-life/norfolk-farmers-markets)

Full list of Farmers Markets in Norfolk and Suffolk from the Eastern Daily Press

### [www.pierhotelgorleston.co.uk](http://www.pierhotelgorleston.co.uk)

The website of The Pier hotel and restaurant at Gorleston

### [www.salthouse.org.uk](http://www.salthouse.org.uk)

The website of Cookie's Crab Shop in Salthouse

### [www.theberneyarms.co.uk](http://www.theberneyarms.co.uk)

The website of The Berney Arms in Barton Bendish

# Planning your holiday in Norfolk?

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For more information, visit:

[www.sykescottages.co.uk](http://www.sykescottages.co.uk)

or call:

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