



Local Guide

Norfolk has some wonderful treasures, many of which are hidden away. When you visit Holkham, we are sure that you will want to explore the local area, and we hope you find this information helpful.

Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the wealth of detail contained in these pages. Holkham Estate cannot, however, be held responsible for any errors, omissions or variations. Visitors are warmly recommended to check details directly with a chosen venue, before planning a trip.

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BIRDWATCHING

The beautiful and unspoilt North Norfolk coastline forms part of one of the largest coastal nature reserves in England and Wales. Designated as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and Special Protection Area (SPA), the Reserve is of international importance and famous for the rare and unusual birds it attracts. It is a haven for both the enthusiastic or first-time birdwatcher, whatever month of the year.

The Holkham National Nature Reserve (Natural England & Holkham Estate):

The Holkham National Nature Reserve stretches from Burnham Norton through to Blakeney. A large proportion of this area is Holkham Estate land. The Reserve can be accessed from Lady Anne's Drive at Holkham, which is opposite the North Gate entrance to Holkham Park and The Victoria Hotel, or from Wells Beach Car Park.

It encompasses dunes, salt marshes, sand flats, mudflats, grazing marsh and pinewoods, which attract a wide variety of migratory and nesting birds. From October through to March the skeins of pink-footed and Brent geese are a truly spectacular sight. They can be seen arriving and departing daily from their roosts to their feeding grounds, audibly making you aware of their flight. A recent count at Holkham yielded approximately 30,000 geese, over a third of the total of 80,000 that arrive for the winter on this coastline. The summer visitors, such as common and little terns and avocet, start to arrive in April and May from warmer climes further south. Likewise, the rare marsh harrier arrives to nest and can be seen hunting the meadows and fields along the Reserve. Holkham Bay becomes 'home' to many larks and pipits which nest in the dunes for the summer and in the winter months, visitors such as snow buntings, shore larks, or rarities such as the red-breasted goose can be seen.

In the Park at Holkham, the Lake offers a varied and exciting display of wildfowl from widgeon, Egyptian geese and shelduck to the occasional winter visitor — goosander and black-necked grebe. The woodland in the Park is a natural habitat for songbirds, barn owls, tawny owls, hawfinches, woodpeckers and nuthatches, with the summer return of the spotted flycatcher and the winter visit of the woodcock.

Outside the Park, on the Estate in winter 2001, the rare sight of the Ross's goose brought with it the multitudes of telescopes and binoculars that accompany such a spectacle.

* A free guide to Holkham National Nature Reserve and Holkham Park can be obtained from Holkham Estate Office.

Website: www.holkham.co.uk/naturereserve

NB: Visitors are asked to remember that the Reserve is a haven for rare and interesting wildlife. Please respect wildlife and its habitats, by keeping your dogs under close control at all times.

Titchwell Marsh Nature Reserve, Titchwell (RSPB):

Situated on the A149, five miles east of Hunstanton is the reserve at Titchwell. The habitat of reed beds, with salt and freshwater marshes, tidal creeks and dunes attracts a variety of birds, including waders, dabbling duck, winter geese and grazing duck. The site has a visitor centre which offers binocular hire. Disabled visitors are adequately catered for.

- For opening times of the visitor's centre and prices, tel: 01485 210779

Snettisham Nature Reserve, Snettisham (RSPB):

Signposted from the A149 at Snettisham you will find the flooded shingle pits, tidal sandbanks and mudflats of Snettisham reserve. Large numbers of waders — oystercatchers, ringed plovers and redshanks — to name but a few, migrate here and remain to breed. In November, up to 40,000 pink-footed geese arrive filling the skies in the early morning and late afternoon.

- For further details, tel: 01485 542689

Holme Bird Observatory (Norfolk Ornithologists):

Accessed from the A149, the Holme Bird Observatory is the only accredited bird observatory in Norfolk, one in a chain of 20 in England. The area is designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest, set amidst sand dunes, pines, scrub, salt and freshwater pools; its position makes it a key migration point for waders. An active ringing programme takes place throughout the year and visitors may watch this process. To date 320 species have been recorded.

- For further details, tel: 01485 525406

Cley Marshes (Norfolk Wildlife Trust):

Situated on the A149 between Cley and Salthouse, Cley Marshes is the oldest Wildlife Trust nature reserve in the country. It is internationally known as one of the best places to see birds in Britain. The path along the east bank has been called the most famous bird walk in Britain. The fresh and saltwater marshes provide an excellent habitat for rare and scarce birds both resident and migratory, waders and large flocks of wildfowl. There is wheelchair access to much of the area.

- For further details, tel: 01263 740008

Blakeney Point (National Trust):

Renowned for its colony of common and grey seals, the 3.5-mile sand and shingle spit of the National Trust Nature Reserve at Blakeney Point can only be accessed by boat at high tide from Blakeney and Morston quays, or by a 4-mile beach walk from Cley. A nature reserve and bird sanctuary, it has record numbers of birds and species of flowering plants recorded. The area is both nationally and internationally significant as a breeding colony for several species and for migratory birds. An information kiosk is situated at Morston quay.

APRIL – SEPTEMBER Tel: 01263 740480

OCTOBER – MARCH Tel: 01263 740291

Pensthorpe:

Situated on the A1067, one mile from Fakenham, Pensthorpe is a haven for wildlife. The variety of habitat includes woodland, wader, scrape, lakes, ancient fen meadows and farmland. There are great views from the purpose built hides and walks along the miles of trails. Discover the work being done by the Pensthorpe Conservation Trust with endangered species and walk through huge free-flight aviaries.

- For further details, tel: 01328 851465 or go to: www.pensthorpe.com

CHURCHES

There are a number of local churches in the area to visit, which are of particular historical and architectural significance.

St Withburga's, Holkham

Rector, Anthony Douglas, tel: 01328 710107

Church Warden, Anthony Atkinson, tel: 07979 807720

Sunday services: Matins 10am, 1st and 3rd Sunday of each month.

Communion: 10.30am, 2nd and 4th Sunday of each month.

(The above services are held at St Withburga's from Easter to Remembrance Sunday inclusive and are then in the Chapel at Holkham Hall).

Wells-next-the-sea Group of Parishes

St Withburga's is part of the Wells-next-the-sea Group of Parishes, which serves the local community. One of the patrons of the group is the Earl of Leicester. It incorporates the parish churches at Egmere and Quarles, All Saints and St Mary Magdalene churches at Warham (a small village, but served by two churches), All Saints at Wighton and St Nicholas at Wells-next-the-sea.

The churches may not necessarily be open all the time and service times vary. It is advisable to telephone for information, contact Rector Anthony Douglas, tel: 01328 710107; www.norwich.anglican.org/

Wells-next-the-sea

In Wells-next-the-sea you will find the other churches listed below:

Methodist Church, Theatre Road:

Rev. Peter Collingwood, tel: 01328 710262. Services: Sunday 11am, 6.30pm and Wednesday 10.30am.

Congregational Church, Clubbs Lane:

Rev. Neil Woodruff, tel: 01263 861469. Service: Sunday 3pm.

Our Lady Star of the Sea Roman Catholic Church, The Buttlands:

Father Peter Allen, tel: 01328 820149.

Services: Saturday 6pm, Sunday 9.15am, Holy Days 10.30am & 6pm.

Society of Friends (Quakers), Church Street:

Warden Michael Sidwell, tel: 01328 711378.

Services: Sunday 10.30am, First Wednesday in the month 12 noon.

The **Spiritualist Church** is open every Saturday in the W.I. Hall.

All Saints, Burnham Thorpe

This church is well worth a visit for its historic naval connections alone. Burnham Thorpe was the birthplace of Horatio Nelson; his father Edmund was the Rector of the church. The church dates from the 13th century and was restored in Nelson's honour in the 19th century.

Burnham Group of Parishes

All Saints is part of the Burnham Group of Parishes. This group incorporates the parish churches of **St Mary the Virgin at Burnham Westgate, St Margaret's at Burnham Norton, St Clement at Burnham Overy and Burnham Sutton cum Ulph All Saints with St Ethelbert**. The churches may not necessarily be open all the time and service times vary. It is advisable to telephone for information, please contact the Rector, Jonathan Charles, tel: 01328 738317.

Like All Saints at Burnham Thorpe, the Burnham Group churches are steeped in history. **St Margaret's at Burnham Norton** has one of the most complete round towers in Norfolk, built between 1000 and 1066 and in the church graveyard is located the grave of Captain Woodget, Master of the Cutty Sark. Whereas **St Clements at Burnham Overy**, which was once a bustling port, has the graves of sailors and sea captains. Its register contains records of many bodies washed up on the shore.

Burnham Market also has a **Methodist Church in Station Road**, which was opened and dedicated in December 1996.

www.norwich.anglican.org; www.roundtowers.org.uk

The Church of our Lady St Mary, South Creake

Noted for its architecture, most notably the west window, decoration, carvings and restoration, the church at South Creake is part of a group of parishes, which include **St Mary's at North Creake, All Saints at Waterden, St Mary's at Syderstone and St Mary and All Saints at Sculthorpe**. The Earl of Leicester is one of the patrons of the group and the Rector is Father Andrew Thomson, tel: 01328 823433. www.southcreake.org

The ruins of **Creake Abbey at North Creake** are also to be noted. Once an Augustinian Abbey, English Heritage now owns the ruins.

Binham Priory (St Mary and the Holy Cross), Binham

Now maintained by English Heritage, this historical site features the ruins of a Benedictine Priory, which was founded in the late 11th century. The original nave of the priory is still used as a place of worship — St Mary and the Holy Cross — with services held outside in the summer months.

Contact Father John Penny, tel: 01328 830246; www.norwich.anglican.org

Walsingham

Known as England's Nazareth, Walsingham has been a place of pilgrimage since 1061. It is the site for Roman Catholic, Anglican, Methodist and Orthodox religions.

St Mary and All Saints Parish Church, Little Walsingham was burned down in 1961 and re-built in 1964. The modern interior is in stark contrast to the 14th/15th century exterior. Regular services are held throughout the week.

• Vicar Norman Banks, Curate John Davies, tel: 01328 863385

St Peter's Parish Church, Great Walsingham, which was built in the 1330s, is noted for its poppy head pews. Holy Communion: 9am Sundays; Eucharist: 10.30am Tuesdays and Fridays.

Methodist Chapel, Little Walsingham

Built in 1794, this is the only Georgian Methodist chapel still in use in the UK. Open Thursday afternoons, with services on Sunday afternoons.

The Church of the Annunciation (RC Parish church), Friday Market

Regular services.

The Russian Orthodox Church of the Transfiguration, Great Walsingham

Originally a Victorian Methodist Chapel, which in 1988 was converted into a Russian Orthodox Church. Services: Saturday evening; Liturgy: Sundays at 10.30am.

The Anglican Shrine to Our Lady of Walsingham, Little Walsingham

Open throughout the year, services according to pilgrim groups. Sprinkling with holy water every afternoon at 2.30pm, evensong at 6pm.

The Roman Catholic Slipper Chapel to Our Lady of Walsingham and Chapel of Reconciliation, Houghton St. Giles

The Slipper Chapel, originally a 14th century wayside chapel, was re-consecrated in 1894 and established as the RC shrine in 1934. The Chapel of Reconciliation was built in 1982. There are regular daily services at 12 noon; other services are held depending on pilgrim groups.

Walsingham Abbey Grounds

The grounds contain the ruins of the original Priory founded c.1153 by Augustinian Canons. Historical tours and Church Tours are available. Contact tour organiser, Mrs Scilla Landale, Westgate Farm, Walsingham, Norfolk NR22 6DY. Tel: 01328 820250; www.walsingham.uk.com

NB: The Reverend Canon William Sayer (retired) has kindly offered to be of assistance should any visitors have more specific requests concerning local churches, tel: 01328 711224.

CINEMAS

- Hollywood Cinema, Market Place, Fakenham
Tel: 01328 856466; www.hollywoodcinemas.net
- Hollywood Cinema, Market Place, Dereham
Tel: 01362 691133; www.hollywoodcinemas.net
- Sheringham Little Theatre, Station Road, Sheringham
Tel: 01263 822347
- Regal Cinema, Hans Place, Cromer
Tel: 01263 513311
- Hollywood Cinema, Anglia Square, Norwich
Tel: 01603 621903 (24-hour answerphone, tel: 01603 767737)
- Cinema City, St Andrew's Street, Norwich
Tel: 01603 622047
- United Cinemas International (UCI), Riverside Development, Norwich
Tel: 08700 102030
- Ster Century, Castle Mall, Norwich
Tel: 01603 221900
- Majestic Cinema, Tower Street, King's Lynn
Tel: 01553 772603
- Kings Lynn Arts Centre, King Street, King's Lynn
Tel: 01553 764864
- Princess Theatre, The Green, Hunstanton
Tel: 01485 532252

CYCLING

Visitors to the North Norfolk Coast wishing to discover the area by bike, will discover that this mode of transport is widely accommodated. Cycle hire is available locally; the adventurous can travel further afield by car, hire cycles locally for the day and discover other parts of the region. With designated cycling routes and widely-available cycle hire, the options are extensive.

Literally on the doorstep, and before you consider venturing too far afield, discover the park at Holkham. With its 600 acres of parkland, fallow deer herd and abundant wildlife, it truly is a 'must' for a cycle ride.

The **Norfolk Coast Cycleway** has been developed by the Norfolk Coast Cycling Initiative and is a partnership between the East of England Development Agency, Norfolk County council, North Norfolk District Council, Borough Council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk, East of England Tourist Board, Cyclists Touring Club and the Norfolk Coast Project.

The **Norfolk Coast Cycleway**, Loops and Links, runs from King's Lynn to Cromer. It follows quiet roads and lanes through the heart of the countryside from King's Lynn to Holkham, from where it continues along the coast until it reaches Cromer; passing through an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty with unforgettable views and scenery.

Detailed information on the numerous routes is available from many sources. Cycle hire outlets will have detailed information or you can purchase a full colour map-guide '**Explore the Norfolk Coast by Bike**' which is available from Tourist Information Centres in this area. Contact: Wells-next-the-Sea Tourist Information Centre, Staithe Street, Wells-next-the-Sea. Tel: 01328 710885 (closed winter months) or contact: Cromer Tourist Information Centre, Bus Station, Prince of Wales Road, Cromer NR27 9HS.

East of England Tourism publishes a series of cycling discovery maps. '**Nelson's Norfolk Cycling Discovery Map**' is one of the series. This takes you on a 29-mile (or shorter version, 21 miles) circular route, which starts in Fakenham Market Place and visits the village of Burnham Thorpe, Nelson's birthplace. Little Walsingham and other local villages in this area are also taken in on the route.

Ordnance Survey maps, the Landranger series: No. 132 covers North West Norfolk and No. 133 covers North East Norfolk (Cromer and south). For a greater selection of cycling routes North Norfolk District Council publish a booklet '**Leisure Cycling – Opportunities in North Norfolk**'.

CYCLE HIRE

There is a variety of cycle hire outlets serving the North Norfolk area, depending on how far you wish to travel. The services and charges vary, so it is best to check beforehand. It is also advisable to enquire as to the backup service offered and if the hire operator is covered by public liability insurance.

'On yer bike' Cycle Hire, The Laurels, Nutwood Farm, Wighton, near Wells-next-the-sea

Tel: 01328 820719; www.norfolkcyclehire.co.uk

Open all year round, 'On yer bike' offers a large selection of bikes to hire including mountain/touring bikes, children's trailer bikes or simply a child seat. Route maps and discovery guides along with lock, pump and puncture repair kit are all included. Local delivery and collection to your accommodation is by arrangement. Advance booking is advisable. A deposit and identification are required.

Walsinghams, Staithe Street, Wells-next-the-sea

Tel: 01328 710438

Open all the year round, with a choice of mountain bikes for adults and childrens, and child seats. A puncture kit is supplied, although you will be required to provide your own helmet. There is no delivery service available, although Wells-next-the-sea is close by. Daily and weekly rates are offered. A deposit and identification are required. Please telephone for prices.

Bircham Windmill, Great Bircham

Tel: 01485 578393

Situated on the Bircham to Snettisham road, at the site of Bircham windmill; follow the brown signs from the village of Bircham. The extensive range offers mountain and touring bikes, tandems, trailer bikes, junior mountain bikes, and child seats. Cycles can be hired for short (one-hour) periods, or for the day. Weekly rates are available upon request. A deposit and identification are required. Seasonal opening (April – September), for availability at other times, please telephone. Panniers, helmets and baskets are all provided free of charge along with a full, free back up service. Bircham has its own routes for you to follow taking in the local history and refreshment points along the way. Pub routes, treasure hunt routes and history routes are also available. Please telephone for prices.

'Fat Birds', Greevegate, Hunstanton

Tel: 01485 535875 (Proprietor, Richard Bird)

All types of cycle are available for hire with new stock every year. All ages are catered for. Delivery to Holkham is possible with minimum hire of one day. Prices are available upon request and booking is advisable. A full breakdown and puncture repair service are offered free of charge.

Huff and Puff, Aylsham

Tel: 07788 132909

(Out of season, tel: 01263 732935)

Seasonal cycle hire based in the market town of Aylsham, offering a choice of two great traffic-free trails. Take the 9-mile Bure Valley Path from Aylsham to Wroxham, which runs beside the narrow gauge Bure Valley Railway, or try part of the 25 mile Marriott's Way, a former railway line which stretches from Aylsham into the heart of Norwich. Special group challenge or corporate team-building days featuring both trails, with full support and giant games also for hire.

- Please telephone for further details or email: enquiries@cyclenorfolk.co.uk

Kelling by Cycle, Sheringham

Tel: 07788 132909 (Out of season Tel: 01263 732935)

Seasonal cycle hire on site at Kelling Heath Holiday Park near Sheringham. Explore the traffic free trails in this 250-acre award-winning park. Or try Huff and Puff — a unique day out combining an easy 5 miles of cycling, mostly traffic-free, with a trip on the North Norfolk Railway from Sheringham to Holt, starting and finishing at Kelling Heath. Giant Games also for hire.

- Please telephone for further details or email: enquiries@cyclenorfolk.co.uk

Bikeriders, Church Approach, North Walsham

Tel: 01263 821906

All sizes of mountain bike are available for hire. A free delivery and collection service to Holkham is available, for a hire period of three days or more. A tool kit is provided and locks and helmets are available to hire if required. Advance booking is advisable. Please telephone for further details

Great Escapes on the Norfolk Coast Cycleway

Tel: 01263 734558

Supported short break cycle holidays on the Norfolk Coast Cycleway, which travels for 59 miles on quiet lanes from Cromer to King's Lynn. You choose the number of days that you would like to spend exploring this route. Special maps and a guidebook chart the way. YHA package available.

- Please telephone for further details or email: enquiries@cyclenorfolk.co.uk

GOLF

There are several golf courses in the surrounding area. Those featured here are within easy travelling distance (an approximate 25-mile radius).

Royal West Norfolk Golf Course, Brancaster

Tel: 01485 210223

Situated on the A149 close to the beach at Brancaster. Visitors are required to telephone in advance to book a round of golf. You must be a member of another golf club and must have a handicap certificate. Lessons are available with pro Simon Rayner and prices vary depending on time of year.

Sheringham Golf Club, Sheringham

Tel: 01263 823488

Situated on the A149 west of the town of Sheringham, lies a challenging 18-hole course. With impressive cliff-top views and the passing North Norfolk Steam Railway in sight, it is an attractive golf course. Visitors are advised to telephone in advance, must have a handicap certificate and are restricted at weekends. Prices available upon request from the golf club.

Searles Golf and Country Club, Hunstanton

Tel: 01485 536010; www.searles.co.uk/outdoorsports.asp

Located on South Beach Road just a few minutes walk from Hunstanton town centre, this 9-hole course will prove a challenge to all abilities of golfer. No handicap certificate is required but players must be competent and dressed suitably. Visitors welcome at any time on a pay and play basis - nine holes from just £10. Golf lessons are also available.

Hunstanton Golf Club, Hunstanton

Tel: 01485 532811

Situated on the A149 at the aptly-named Golf Course Road in Old Hunstanton, this 18-hole course occupies another cliff-top location. Visitors are required to make contact in advance, have membership with another golf club, hold a current handicap certificate and play in 2-ball format. Prices available upon request from the golf club.

Fakenham Golf Club, Fakenham

Tel: 01328 862867

Located on the Fakenham Racecourse, Hempton Road, Fakenham, this is a 9-hole course. No handicap certificate is required, but players must be competent and suitably dressed. Visitors are welcome at weekends. Prices vary according to season. Booking in advance is essential.

King's Lynn Golf Club, Castle Rising

Tel: 01553 631654

Located at Castle Rising near to King's Lynn and close to the Sandringham Estate, this is an 18-hole course set amidst pine and silver birch forests. Visitors are welcome, but must hold a current handicap certificate. Prices are available upon request.

Norfolk Golf and Country Club, Reymerston

Tel: 01362 850297

Situated at Reymerston just off the B1135 Dereham to Wymondham road, this is an 18-hole golf course set in 200 acres of Norfolk countryside. Its facilities include a leisure centre with gymnasium, swimming pool, spa and sauna, a par three pitch-and-putt and a driving range. Non-members are welcome. No handicap certificate is required. Appropriate dress code to be followed. Prices for the above facilities are available upon request.

Swaffham Golf Club, Swaffham

Tel: 01760 721621; www.swaffhamgc.supanet.com

Located on the Cley road out of Swaffham, this heathland venue has recently been extended from a 9-hole to an 18-hole course. Visitors must have a valid handicap certificate. It is advisable to book to play during the week; at weekends visitors may only play if accompanied by a member of the club. Lessons with pro Peter Field are available seven days a week.

Barnham Broom Golf Club, Barnham Broom

Tel: 01603 759393

Barnham Broom is located off the A47 Norwich to Dereham road. The club has two mature 18-hole courses — Valley Course and the Hill Course. Visitors are welcome. A handicap certificate is required for the Valley course. Tuition can be arranged with PGA professional, Adrian Rudge. This is a large complex, which also has a health and fitness club, gymnasium, aerobics classes, squash and tennis courts. Prices for all of the above are available on request.

The Links Country Park Golf Club, West Runton

Tel: 01263 838383

This challenging 9-hole golf course with coastal views is situated at West Runton, near Cromer. Visitors are welcome, and do not need to hold a current handicap certificate, however proficiency in the game and correct dress code are requirements. Prices are available on request.

Dereham Golf Club, Dereham

Tel: 01362 695900

Situated half a mile from Dereham town centre, this is a 9-hole golf course set in parkland. Visitors are required to hold a current handicap certificate and are welcome weekdays. Please telephone the club for further details.

Middleton Hall Golf Club, Hall Orchards, Middleton

Tel: 01553 841800

Situated just off the A47 between Kings Lynn and Swaffham, Middleton Hall is an 18-hole parkland golf course, complete with floodlit driving range. Visitors are welcome, and prices are available on request.

Weston Park Golf Club, Weston Longville

Tel: 01603 876300; www.weston-park.co.uk

Weston Park is situated just off the A1065 Fakenham to Norwich road at Weston Longville. It offers a challenging 18-hole golf course and an elegant club house. Non-members are welcome, although they are required to have a current handicap certificate. There are also tennis courts and equestrian facilities at the complex. Prices and availability on request.

HORSE RIDING

Riders at all levels of experience can enjoy the surrounding Norfolk countryside 'from the saddle', by contacting one of the following centres:

West Runton Riding Stables, West Runton, near Cromer

Tel: 01263 837339

Novice or experienced riders can receive instruction at this all-weather riding school. For the more adventurous who want to explore the surrounding area, accompanied rides be arranged. Children under four years of age are not catered for. The stables are open daily, except Mondays in winter months, and over the Christmas period. Please telephone for further information on prices and booking.

The stables form part of the "Norfolk Shire Horse Centre" attraction, where visitors can see the different heavy horse breeds working, visit the farm equipment museum and enjoy the large display of farm animals and birds. Please telephone for opening times and prices.

Blackborough End Equestrian Centre, near King's Lynn

Tel: 01553 841212; www.beec.co.uk

The Stables, East Winch Road, Blackborough End, King's Lynn.

This BHS-approved riding school, offering quality horses and ponies, will happily cater for the novice or experienced rider. Hacking is available for the experienced rider. Children under four years of age are not catered for. With an indoor and outdoor area, it is open daily all year round, except Christmas and New Year. Please telephone for further information on prices and booking or visit the centre's website.

Fakenham Racecourse, Pudding Norton, Fakenham

Tel: 01328 862388

Obviously for the experienced jockey only! For the racehorse enthusiast, Fakenham Races offers an exciting day out. Race meetings at this famous National Hunt racecourse are widely publicised, or telephone for details.

NORFOLK LINKS

Visit Norfolk

www.visitnorfolk.co.uk/

King's Lynn and West Norfolk Borough Council

www.west-norfolk.gov.uk

North Norfolk District Council

www.north-norfolk.gov.uk

www.visitnorthnorfolk.com/

Hunstanton Area Publicity, Promotion & Information (HAPPI)

www.discoverwestnorfolk.org.uk

SEAL TRIPS

The seal colony, to be found off Blakeney Point, is a sight to be seen. The colony of up to 500 common and grey seals can be viewed at very close range. These popular boat trips mainly operate from early spring to late autumn, seven days a week, with a limited service in winter months, depending on tides. Trips leave from either Blakeney Harbour or Morston Quay.

The trips last from one hour to two hours, if landing on Blakeney Point Nature Reserve. The Reserve, owned by the National Trust, is a haven for many wild and rare birds, a must for the avid birdwatcher. Refreshments are available from the Tourist Centre here. Prices vary only slightly among the following operators, averaging £6.00 for adults and £3.50/£4.00 for children.

Temple's Seal Trips

Tel: 01263 740791

The ticket office can be found at the Anchor Pub, Morston. Please telephone for prices and further details. Booking is recommended during high season.

Bean's Boat Trips

Tel: 01263 740038

Trips leave from Morston Quay. Booking is recommended during high season. Please telephone for prices or go to: www.beansboattrips.co.uk

Bishop's Boats

Tel: 01263 740753

Booking at Blakeney Quay is strongly recommended. Please telephone for prices or go to: www.norfolksealtrips.co.uk

Roy Moreton

Tel: 01328 830394

Tickets are sold At Blakeney Quay, with departure from Morston. The trips go as far as Blakeney Point and operate from Easter through to the end of October. Please telephone for prices and further details. Booking is recommended during high season.

SHOPPING

The main towns in the surrounding area offer a wide variety of choice for the visitor. However, even small villages dotted along the coastline and inland have something exciting and unusual to offer. Try the mouth-watering delicacy of samphire, for sale in the summer months along the coast, freshly smoked fish and delicatessen treats from Cley, elegant knitwear from Blakeney, guitars and binoculars from Glandford or room lighting and antiques from Stiffkey — there is much to discover in North Norfolk.

Holkham

Situated in the imposing old laundry building adjacent to Holkham Hall, the elegant and spacious Pottery Shop in the park offers a large selection of carefully chosen gifts, ceramics, books, soft furnishings, tempting souvenirs and our very own gift vouchers, which make an ideal present. Complete your visit and have refreshments in the adjacent Stables Café. If the weather is fine, adjourn outside to enjoy your meal in the surrounds of the beautiful lavender-fringed garden.

Outside of the north gates to the park lies Holkham Village where the oldest domestic building at Holkham, Ancient House, is home to the successful business Mark Elliot Furniture, offering beautiful handmade wooden furniture to order and a selection of bespoke armchairs and sofas, all handmade in England.

The Adnams Cellar and Kitchen Store can be found in the Old School in the village, where you can discover the large selection of Adnams wines, beers and kitchenware.

Out on the main coast road is the quaint studio “Bringing The Outside In” which is run by Martin Billing. It features landscape photography and coastal artefacts and is renowned for Martin’s atmospheric images of the windswept north Norfolk coast.

Wells-next-the-sea

(Distance 1.5 miles)

The holiday town and working port of Wells, with its quayside amusement arcades, narrow lanes of ex-fishermen’s cottages and grand merchants’ houses bordering the central green, will appear quaint to those used to larger towns and cities. Nevertheless, most items can be found in the town’s range of shops: from clothes, shoes, fresh provisions, children’s toys, artist’s materials, hardware, chandlery, antiques, rug-making kits, to binoculars and telescopes. There is a branch of Barclays Bank and a Post Office. When in season, fresh mussels, shrimps, whelks, cockles and other shellfish, are sold on the quay. On the opposite side of the street, sample freshly-cooked fish and chips from one of the many traders, or buy speciality food from the delicatessen.

Burnham Market

(Distance 4.5 miles)

Recently described as the 'Chelsea of the North Norfolk Coast', with its fine Georgian houses and chic shops, the local village of Burnham Market is indeed worth a visit. In the summer months the village overflows with visitors and shoppers alike. A wide variety of businesses offer everything from books, gifts, crafts, antiques and art to millinery, high-class fashion, a hairdresser and a beauty salon. A bakery, delicatessen, butchers and fishmongers offer a wide selection of the more essential items on a shopper's list. The village has a Post Office and branches of National Westminster Bank and Barclays Bank. It also boasts the only petrol station between Holkham and Fakenham — Burnham Motors Petrol Station, Creak Road, tel: 01328 738387.

Walsingham

(Distance 6 miles)

Take a short trip from Wells to Little Walsingham by rail, using the Wells to Walsingham Light Railway (Tel: 01328 711630). The village, which is famous for its pilgrims and tourism, has shops selling candles and icons. A small Post Office serves the community.

Fakenham

(Distance 11 miles)

Well known for its famous racecourse and position, in a recent survey, as the seventh most desirable town in the UK in which to live. Over the last three years Fakenham has undergone a facelift. The pavement in the market place has letterpress characters set into it, depicting its links and history with the printing industry. The market place springs to life every Thursday with the hustle and bustle of various stalls selling a wide range of items, and a nearby auction. On the same site, on the fourth Saturday of each month, the equally busy **Farmers' Market** takes place — a must for those who appreciate fine, fresh produce. Get there early, as this is a popular event. On the outskirts of Fakenham, you will find the inevitable superstores for your DIY, food shopping and gardening requirements. Within the town centre there is a variety of shops catering for most needs. Visit the large department store for furniture and carpets, cookware, small electrical items, linens, lighting, china and giftware. Or browse round the smaller antique shops, clothing stores, boutiques, shoe shops, electrical stores, chemists, stationers, butchers, bakers and grocers; and many more. A Post Office and branches of HSBC, National Westminster, Lloyds, Barclays, Norwich & Peterborough and Alliance & Leicester are here.

Holt

(Distance 12 miles)

In 1708, the town of Holt was virtually destroyed by fire. The town was rebuilt with many of the fine Georgian buildings, which are in evidence today. The main street, with lanes and yards radiating off it, has a wide selection of shops for the visitor. Choose from the various galleries, bookshops selling old, second-hand and out-of-print books, or try the antiques and bric-a-brac shops. Clothes shops are plentiful, ranging from classic and casual men's and ladies'

fashions and outdoor clothing, to expensive boutiques offering original designs and ranges. On the food side, Holt again has much to offer with high-class delicatessen and food shops and restaurants. Holt has branches of Barclays, Lloyds and HSBC banks.

Hunstanton

(Distance 15 miles)

An attractive Victorian seaside resort, which faces westwards over the Wash — the town is split into two parts, Old Hunstanton and New Hunstanton. Located at Heacham, a few miles south of Hunstanton, is Caley Mill, the home of Norfolk Lavender, with its national collection of over 100 different lavenders. Visit the attraction and its gift shop to buy handmade and hand packed products made from lavender oil, or a lavender plant of your own. Tel: 0870 243017 or go to: www.norfolk-lavender.co.uk

Sheringham

(Distance 17 miles)

A market is held in the town of this popular seaside resort every Saturday, throughout the year, and also on Wednesdays in the summer months. Sold there is a range of items from fresh fish and food to books, clothes and shoes. Elsewhere in the town centre the shops offer an array of goods from model railways and dolls houses, hardware, antiques and souvenirs, to ladies' fashions and general provisions. The shops leading to the seafront then give way to a variety of seaside amusement arcades and pubs.

King's Lynn

(Distance 22 miles)

King's Lynn is an historic port and market town dating back to the 12th century. The main town centre caters for most needs, with the variety of department stores and smaller shops that one would expect to find in a large town. In the historic old town you will find a working pottery and gallery selling ceramics, watercolours and oils. The town has branches of the majority of major banks and building societies.

Cromer

(Distance 22 miles)

Situated on the cliff top overlooking fine sandy beaches, is the town of Cromer, well known for its pier-end theatre and freshly caught Cromer crab or lobster. The town centre has a variety of gift and souvenir shops for the visitor, as well as the more general-purpose high street names.

Norwich

(Distance 27 miles)

Considered to be the capital of East Anglia and noted for its links with banking, insurance, brewing, printing, shoe making and mustard, Norwich is a fine city. With its cathedral and castle within walking distance of the main shopping areas, it offers a variety for the visitor. The shops and large department stores are too numerous to mention, but cater for every need. The massive Castle Mall complex enables visitors to shop completely "under one

roof'. In contrast, a visit to the open-air market, the largest permanent one in England with 200 stalls, is a must. Escape the hustle and bustle of the main shopping areas and visit the meandering cobbled alleyways of Elm Hill or the eateries in Tombland. If travelling by car, you will find short- and long-stay car parks signposted; or consider one of the three Park and Ride services operating from Norwich Airport, Norfolk Showground and Harford Bridge. Directions to these facilities are signposted on the major approaches into the city.

THEATRE

The Granary Theatre, Staithe Street, Wells-next-the-sea

Tel: 01328 710193 (Secretary of Community Association)

Formed from part of the Maltings Complex, The Granary is a 72-seat theatre run by Wells Community Association. The theatre holds a variety of art events, with evening performances, promoted by Friends of the Granary, held two to three times a month. Further information is available from the nearby Tourist Information Centre or on the notice board of the theatre.

Burnham Market Concerts

Tel: 01728 602216 (Administration)

Tel: 01328 738324 (Box Office)

Concerts are held on Saturday nights in August every year, in the churches in the Burnham area. Chamber concerts, poetry and readings, piano recitals by internationally established and new young artists are offered. For further information on the concerts please contact the administration office, or for tickets the box office.

FADLOS, Fakenham

Email: info@fadlos.org.uk

The Fakenham and District Light Operatic Society holds three productions a year. In the spring for one week, summer for three days and winter for one week. Details are normally advertised in the local press, or visit

www.fadlos.org.uk/

The Auden Theatre, Cromer Road, Holt

Tel: 01263 713444

The theatre is part of the Gresham School at Holt. It offers music concerts, dramas, pantomimes, classical plays and contemporary dance by both amateur and professional performers. Please telephone for further details

Sheringham Little Theatre, Station Road, Sheringham

Tel: 01263 822347

Offers films, musical concerts, children's shows and pantomimes. The theatre also hosts art exhibitions and literary events. For further information please telephone.

Pavilion Theatre, Cromer

Tel: 01263 512495

The Pavilion Theatre is located on the pier at Cromer and offers an entertaining summer season show. For further information details and information contact the box office.

Princess Theatre, The Green, Hunstanton

Tel: 01485 532252

The theatre offers a variety of programmes throughout the year with musicals, film, concerts, ballet, pantomimes, summer season shows. For further information contact the box office or go to:

www.princesstheatrehunstanton.co.uk

Westacre River Studios and Westacre Summer Theatre, Westacre

Tel: 01760 755800

Situated five miles from Swaffham, events are held here all year round. Celebrated actors and musicians, and workshops in creative and performing arts, offer a varied programme. In the summer months, theatre and jazz events take place in the new Westacre Summer Theatre.

For further information contact the box office or go to:

www.westacreriverstudios.co.uk

The Corn Exchange, Tuesday Market Place, King's Lynn

Tel: 01553 764864

Holds pop and classical concerts, comedy, song, dance, opera and ballet.

For further information contact the box office or go to:

www.kingslynncornexchange.co.uk

King's Lynn Arts Centre – King Street, Kings Lynn

Tel: 01553 764864 (Booking office is the same as Corn Exchange)

Choose from plays, concerts, film, lectures, comedy, jazz, dance and visual arts.

For further information contact the box office.

Norwich Playhouse, 42-58 St George's Street, Norwich

Tel: 01603 598598

Offers 'one-off nights' of comedy, music, jazz, drama and dance. Please telephone for further details.

Norwich Arts Centre, St Benedict's Street

Tel: 01603 660352

Predominantly a music venue for pop, jazz and blues. Also has a photographic gallery and holds the occasional children's theatre during the holidays. Please telephone for further information.

The Assembly House, Theatre Street, Norwich

Tel: 01603 626402

A selection of classical, jazz, folk, occasional lunchtime and evening concerts.

Please telephone for further information or go to:

www.assemblyhousenorwich.co.uk

Theatre Royal – Theatre Street, Norwich

Tel: 01603 630000

The largest theatre in Norfolk, offering everything: drama, concerts, musicals, pantomimes, ballet and opera. Please telephone the box office for further information, or visit

www.theatreroyalnorwich.co.uk

Norwich Puppet Theatre, St James's, Whitefriars

Tel: 01603 629921; www.puppettheatre.co.uk

One of only two puppet theatres in England, this venue offers a year round programme of family entertainment and a children's puppet-making workshop. Please telephone for further information and details of the daytime performances.

Maddermarket Theatre, St. John's Alley, Norwich

Tel: 01603 620917

The theatre has its own company offering twelve plays a year, one a month. In addition, it offers a variety of celebrity one-night-stand concerts. For further details contact the box office.

WATERSPORTS

Northshore Sport and Leisure, Brancaster Staithe

The Sailcraft Sea School at Northshore Sport and Leisure operates out of Brancaster Staithe Harbour. It offers dinghy and keelboat sailing and powerboat and windsurfing courses. For the novice, tasters in most disciplines are available; while the experienced watersports enthusiast is equally catered for. All necessary equipment is available for hire, or visit the onsite shop selling leisure and sporting equipment.

- For further information, tel: 01485 210236.

Hunstanton Sailing Club, Hunstanton

Located at the North Promenade on the seafront at Hunstanton, visitors are more than welcome with day membership available. Activities offered range from windsurfing, sailing, canoeing to the extreme sports of kite surfing and kite bugging.

- For further information, tel: 01485 534705;
www.hunstantonsailingclub.supanet.com

Blakeney Point Sailing School, Glandford

Operating out of Blakeney Harbour, this RYA Training Centre offers RYA and informal tuition on both sailing and powerboats, from beginners to advanced. Coastal and harbour cruising is also available. Courses and activities lasting from one tide to one week.

- For further information, tel: 01263 740704; www.blakeneypointsailing.co.uk

Charlie Ward Traditional Boats, Morston

For the truly adventurous, the new and luxurious sailing barge 'Juno' is available for exclusive charter for up to ten persons. During a five or 12-hour sailing charter, you can explore the stunning north Norfolk coast from Blakeney Harbour to Brancaster, or land on the deserted beaches at Holkham Bay or Scolt Head Island. Superb food and wine can be served on board.

- For further information, tel: 01263 740377;
www.charlieward-trad-boats.co.uk