

Fountains Fell Barn

Things to do and great days out.....

Here are just a few suggestions for days out in and around Cromer, Mundesley and Norfolk. It is impossible to list them all as there is such a wealth of activities and beautiful scenery, offering something for everyone.

You will find lots of leaflets in the letter rack in the hallway for more details and further ideas, or visit the Tourist Information office in Cromer, or visit these websites – www.visitnorfolk.co.uk and www.tournorfolk.co.uk .

Cromer

Just 3 miles along the coast you will find this Victorian seaside resort. There is a very good children's park with pitch and putt, skate park, crazy golf, plenty of amusements, great fish and chips, some small fairground rides on the promenade, trampolines, a small boating pond where you can hire canoes and small pedal boats, and the wonderful Edwardian pier off which you can try crabbing. If you walk down the slope and the fairground is to your right if you want down the promenade there is a lovely little children's play area and cafe called Reef Stop.

North Lodge Park is located Mundesley side of Cromer and is a really nice open space on the cliff top. There's a good size children's model boating pond and a cafe run by volunteers which serves a fantastic selection of home-made cakes, crepes, teas and coffees. The model shop opposite the Tourist Information Centre (Buoys Models) sells a small range of model boats. You can also easily get to the Rocket Cafe and Henry Blogg museum from here.

There is also a cinema, The Regal Movieplex (www.cromer.merlincinemas.co.uk), NR27 9EQ showing the latest movies. The box office number is 01263 510151 or tickets can be booked online.

Cromer Pier's "End of the Pier Show" which takes place in the summer and at Christmas is the only pier show left in Europe! The variety show is an eclectic blend of great pop music, breath taking West End ballads, speciality acts and humour from top comedians. Booking is essential at cromerpier.co.uk or call the box office on 01263 512495. Out of season, they entertain various artists – check their website for acts appearing during your stay.

Cromer Carnival takes place mid-August. Lots of activities are run during carnival week and the two weeks prior to carnival week are "children's weeks" where activities are run daily on the pier, promenade and beach. On Thursday evening there is a brilliant free firework display off the pier. Get there early to find a parking space and a spot to enjoy the display as it gets extremely busy (www.cromercarnival.co.uk). Check their website for exact carnival dates.

If you fancy taking some surfing or paddle boarding lessons then try The Glide Surf School (www.glidesurfschool.co.uk). They run lessons from April to the end of October and can be found to the right-hand side of the pier on the promenade. They can also be found at Mundesley beach in the car park next to The Ship Inn.

Mundesley

Mundesley has a brilliant children's park with zip wire, scooter/skate park, multi games area, crazy golf and a small amusement arcade.

Usually in early August, the entertaining, small, human Circus "Ferrel" is located on the park.

Mundesley promenade is lined with beach huts from April to October. Most are privately owned but some are operated by the local council and can be rented out weekly. During the school holidays they are £135 per week and outside of school holidays £50 per week. If you would like more information please call North Norfolk District Council Property Services on 01263 516067.

Other towns and villages

Aylsham and Holt are both thriving market towns. Holt is a particular favourite of ours; it has quaint alleyways and courtyards sporting great little shops and boutiques – as well as cafés, pubs and restaurants. A particular favourite is Byfords – a charming café and deli in a historic building.

North along the coast and past Cromer drive along to Sheringham, Cley next to Sea, Salthouse, Blakeney, Stiffkey, Morston, Wiveton, Wells and Holkham. They are all fabulous places to stop and explore and all have great cafe's, delis and pubs.

South of Mundesley the coast is less developed but still the beaches are beautiful and there are plenty of places to stop for a bite to eat. Try Happisburgh (with its iconic lighthouse), Sea Palling, Horsey and Winterton. Past Winterton is the popular seaside town of Great Yarmouth. It is anything but quiet in the summer months but is good fun, has lots of rides for the children, donkey rides, a seal life centre, and wonderful old-fashioned circus.

Swimming

Victory Swimming Pool in North Walsham is not far. It is a large public swimming pool and at certain times a section of the pool's floor is raised for smaller children and in the holidays and weekends fun sessions are run where a large inflatable obstacle course is in the pool. They do operate lane swimming and children's swimming lessons so if you are intending to go check the website or give them a call first to ensure the pool is open to families and visitors. See www.placesforpeopleleisure.org/centres/victory-swim-and-fitness-centre or call 01692 409370.

Further afield, and about 20 mins drive up the coast you will find Splash at Sheringham which is a large public pool with water slide and wave machine. Take the coast road and continue through Sheringham, Splash is on the left-hand side on the edge of the town.

Cycling

Norfolk is fantastic for cycling, there are plenty of quiet county lanes to explore and lots of cycle paths to enjoy. The Sustrans National Cycle Network (www.sustrans.org.uk) using old railway paths, forest tracks, country parks, bridleways, quiet minor roads and traffic-calmed streets in urban areas, passes through Norfolk and is designed to make cycling fun, safe and simple. The quieter paths, including the Marriott's Way (www.marriottsway.info), are a great place for children and new cyclists to practice their cycling skills and many are just the right length for a day ride.

If you'd like to experience some pure cycling, follow the ancient Peddars Way from the heather-carpeted heaths of the Brecks to the wild north Norfolk coast (www.nationaltrail.co.uk).

There are a few places where you can hire cycles from;

- www.woodlandholidaypark.co.uk (01263 704459) is just around the corner from the barn
- www.broadlandcyclehire.co.uk
- www.norfolkcyclehire.co.uk

Or bring your own! There are secure points in the garden to which bikes can be locked.

Family Days out

Bewilderwood, Hoveton (www.bewilderwood.co.uk) NR12 8JW

A wonderful family day out where mums, dads and grandparents can play amongst the trees with their children, running, jumping, swinging and creating treasured memories together. The best day of the week to visit is Saturday as this is the main change over day in the area. Tickets can be booked online for quick entry to the park. Lots of special events are held during bank holidays, half terms and summer holidays. There is food available but we always like to take a picnic, leave it in the car and return for a picnic break at lunchtime rather than carrying it around the park.

JR's Indoor Play & Bowling, North Walsham (www.stompdinstrike.com) NR28 0JQ

Large children's indoor & outdoor play area, ten pin bowling plus bar and food. Gets very busy on rainy days so worth booking bowling ahead on 01692 407793. Also new for summer 2019 JR's maize maze.

Wroxham Barns (www.wroxhambarns.co.uk) NR12 8QU

Lots to do here including a junior farm with indoor play area, children's fun fair, 18-hole mini adventure golf, lots of shops, places to eat and picnic areas. From 1st-28th August the Foolhardy Circus returns for their Summer Fun Show (see website for more details).

Amazona Zoo, Cromer (www.amazonazoo.co.uk) NR27 9JG

A small zoo, home to a wide range of animals from Tropical South America in secluded grounds just a few minutes' drive from Cromer town centre, plus indoor and outdoor play areas.

Happisburgh Lighthouse (www.happisburgh.org.lighthouse) NR12 0PY

Visit the oldest working lighthouse on the Norfolk Coast and the only independently operated lighthouse in the UK. The lighthouse is open to the public on occasional Sundays and Bank Holidays throughout the summer when you can climb the 112 steps to the lantern. See website for opening times.

Wizard Maze, Metton (www.northnorfolkwizardmaze.co.uk) NR11 8QU

Run by a local farming family this is a nice little afternoon or day out for children with jumping pillows, giant hay bale stack, go karts, tractor rides, crazy golf, play areas and 12 acre Maize Maze. Snacks, drinks and ice creams available or take your own picnic. This year's theme is Tractor Ted. Open during summer school holidays only.

Henry Blogg Museum, Cromer (www.RNLI.org/HenryBlogg) NR27 9ET

Free entry. A lively, interactive museum with a great deal to discover about the greatest lifeboatman of all time, Henry Blogg. Combine with a visit to the fabulous Rocket House Cafe located upstairs.

Pensthorpe Natural Park, Fakenham (www.pensthorpe.com) NR21 0LN

A bit of a drive but well worth it! Fabulous children's indoor and outdoor play areas (the Hootz House and

Wild Rootz) plus plentiful wildlife, beautiful lakeside walks and gardens in this 700-acre natural park. In the spring and summer there is a shallow stream running through the Wild Rootz area where children can splash about. We always take spare clothes and towels as the children inevitably get wet and soggy! Tickets can be purchased online with discount and also to pre-book a slot in the Hootz House. Not a great selection of food in children's area so it's a good idea to take a picnic.

Hilltop Outdoor Adventure (www.hilltopoutdoorcentre.co.uk) NR26 8TS

For children 8 years plus this is a great one for older children and teenagers. The family run centre is set in woodlands just outside Sheringham Hilltop Outdoor Centre in Sheringham and provides an array of exciting adventure activities such as climbing walls, high ropes courses, zip wires, archery the air jump. Open during half terms and the summer school holidays, booking is essential.

Dinosaur Adventure Park, Norwich (www.dinosauradventure.co.uk) NR9 5JE

A fantastic full day out, arrive early to get the best out of the day as there is so much to do here. Extensive indoor and outdoor adventure play areas, dinosaur trail, animals, skywire, some small rides, deer safari to name but a few. New for this year is the outdoor splash park, so don't forget the children's swimming costumes/wetsuits and towels! Tickets can be purchased online for fast track entry to the park.

North Norfolk Railway, Sheringham (www.nnrailway.co.uk) NR26 8RA

Wonderful old-fashioned heritage railway running through some of Norfolk's most stunning coastal scenery. Runs from the Victorian seaside resort of Sheringham through to the Georgian town of Holt. Trains run daily from April to October plus special events throughout the year including the very special Santa Express at Christmas. During the summer school holidays (Mon-Sat) a vintage Routemaster Bus operates from Holt station in to the town. See website for details and timetable.

Bure Valley Railway, Aylsham & Wroxham (www.bvrw.co.uk) NR11 6BW

A smaller steam train running 9 miles from Aylsham to Wroxham with parking available at each station. A train and broads cruise package is available. Catch the train at Aylsham station, walk in to Wroxham to Wroxham bridge and board the boat for a one and a half hour broads cruise before returning to Wroxham for the train journey back to Aylsham.

Wroxham Miniature Worlds (www.wroxhamminiatureworlds.co.uk) Station Business Park, Hoveton, NR12 8QJ

Great rainy-day activity! The largest indoor modelling attraction in the UK stretching over 10,000 square feet with some of the largest model railways in the world on permanent display. Also, massive Scalextric, Lego displays, vintage toys and vintage model arcade cabinets.

Pleasurewood Hills, Lowestoft (www.pleasurewoodhills.com) NR32 4TZ

Family theme park set within 50 acres of parkland 10 minutes from Great Yarmouth. Lots of rides, best suited for older children.

Sticky Earth Cafe, Cromer (www.stickyearthcafe.co.uk) NR27 9ES

Lovely cafe in Cromer where you can have a go at a variety of craft activities including pottery painting, decopatch and t-shirt design. Perfect for rainy days. Tables can be reserved on 01263 519642. See website for opening times and these vary throughout the year.

Great Yarmouth Pleasure Beach (www.pleasure-beach.co.uk) & Joyland (www.joyland.org.uk)

Situated at the end of the sea front there are lots of rides here for children of all ages, the best being their traditional wooden rollercoaster built in 1932! Wristbands are a good option here as this allows you to go on as many rides as you like. At the other end of the seafront (next to the pier) you will find Joyland, which caters for the younger visitors (under 5's). There are lots of little rides, the star attraction being "The Snails" (one of the original rides installed when the park opened in 1949!

Great Yarmouth Hippodrome (www.hippodromecircus.co.uk)

The Historic Hippodrome is Britain's only surviving TOTAL Circus Building, built in 1903 by the legendary Circus showman George Gilbert. It still retains much of its original character and is just like stepping back in time. They put on fabulous seasonal shows, our favourites are the Christmas show and the Pirates Show over the Easter holidays.

The Muckleburgh Military Collection, Weybourne (www.muckleburgh.co.uk) NR25 7EH

A large collection of military tanks, guns and vehicles. During the school holidays military vehicle rides are available plus tank demonstrations.

Time and Tide Museum, Great Yarmouth (www.museums.norfolk.gov.uk) NR30 3BX

Really superb museum set in the fascinating building of a Victorian herring curing works, the museum tells the story of Great Yarmouth from the Ice Age to the present day. Lots of interactive and innovative exhibits, this is a museum everyone will enjoy.

Norwich Castle Museum (www.museums.norfolk.gov.uk) NR1 3JU

Norwich Castle was built by the Normans as a Royal Palace 900 years ago! It is now a museum packed with treasures to inspire and intrigue visitors of all ages. Plenty of interactive hands on exhibits to really get children involved and interested in history.

Gressenhall Farm and Workhouse (www.museums.norfolk.gov.uk), NR20 4DR

This is a bit of a drive but definitely worth it. Discover the story of rural Norfolk at this fascinating museum and traditional farm. An exciting new project "Voices from the Workhouse" is due to be completed this year, funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund. There are old village shops, stocked with household goods from times gone by, cart rides around the farm, a 1930's cottage re-created and beautiful kitchen garden and orchard. Children will also enjoy the fantastic woodland adventure playground.

Homes and Gardens

East Ruston Old Vicarage Gardens (www.e-ruston-oldvicaragegardens.co.uk) NR12 9HN

Fabulous privately owned 32-acre exotic coastal garden incl. traditional borders, exotic garden, desert wash, sunk garden, topiary, water features, walled and Mediterranean gardens. Many rare and unusual plants, stunning plant combinations, wild flower meadows, old-fashioned cornfield, vegetable and cutting gardens. Well worth a visit. Please see their website for up to date opening times.

Holkham (www.holkham.co.uk) NR23 1AB

An absolutely beautiful privately-owned estate on the North Norfolk coast. Hire cycles for the day, take a boat out on the lake, children can play on the woodland adventure playground, take a walk around the extensive grounds, follow a nature trail, take a guided tour around the house or visit the Field to Fork exhibition. The Walled Garden is absolutely wonderful too, to which you can walk or cycle or take a tractor ride. "The Victoria" pub on the estate also serves fabulous food and a visit to Norfolk wouldn't be complete without a visit to Holkham beach. At Christmas time their Father Christmas experience is truly magical and they also offer candle light house tours throughout December. Special events at Easter and Halloween are very well organised and great fun for the children. A new sky maze (Go Ape style) is due to open July 2019.

Hoveton Hall Gardens (www.hovetonhall.co.uk) NR12 8RJ

Located just outside Wroxham these privately-owned gardens are definitely worth a visit, as is the lovely Garden Kitchen Cafe which is also on site. The estate covers 620 acres of parkland, gardens, woodland,

arable and grazing agricultural land and a fine Regency Hall built between 1809 and 1812.
Open Easter to end of September, 10.30am – 5pm.

Houghton Hall (www.houghtonhall.com) PE31 6TY

One of Norfolk's most beautiful stately homes there is much to see here including the main hall, walled garden, extensive gardens & outdoor sculpture plus a cafe, picnic & play area. It is becoming a destination for lovers of contemporary art & sculpture, every year hosting an exhibition from a major artist. 2018 Damien Hirst, 2019 Henry Moore, 2020 tba.

Discounted entrance tickets can be purchased online.

Open May to end September

Wed, Thurs, Sunday, Bank holiday Mondays and from 20th July Saturdays

National Trust Properties (www.nationaltrust.org.uk/norfolk)

Blickling Estate NR11 6NF

Explore the house and experience what life was like in the 1930s when Philip Kerr, the last private owner of Blickling Estate, lived there. The gardens and house are breath-taking, well worth a visit. Christmas is also a great time to visit as in early December at weekends the house and gardens are illuminated – absolutely stunning and unmissable if you are here at the time.

Felbrigg Hall NR11 8PR

This estate is a place of sanctuary and tranquillity, with wonderful park and woodland walks. Season events are very good, particularly at Halloween.

Sheringham Park NR26 8TL

Enjoy coastal views created over 200 years ago by landscape gardener Humphry Repton. Climb the gazebo tower for unrivalled views of the North Norfolk coastline and take a walk to the clifftops accompanied by the song of skylarks. Truly beautiful park with lots of little areas in the woods to explore for children.

Sandringham (www.sandringhamestate.co.uk) PE35 6EH

The Norfolk retreat of Her Majesty the Queen. It is a bit of a drive to Sandringham and its glorious gardens, fine house and museum from Mundesley. The 600-acre country park and visitor centre is open all year round. There are two nature trails and a sculpture trail around the park.

Walking

Lots of information and detailed walking maps can be found in the Tourist Information office in the centre of Cromer or Mundesley village.

If you are walking on the beach please make sure you are aware of the tide times.

DO NOT climb on the cliffs and keep away from the edge as they are dangerous and unstable.

Bacton Woods (www.forestry.gov.uk) NR28 9UE

Visit Bacton Wood (or Witton Woods as it is also known) and its wonderful mosaic of conifer plantation, mixed woodland and open spaces. See if you can identify all 30 species of tree that can be found, some are native and some have been introduced! There are lots of different paths to take and woods to explore. Our children love to go here and spend ages den building.

North Norfolk Coastal Path (www.nationaltrail.co.uk)

The Norfolk Coast Path is a long-distance footpath in Norfolk, running 45 miles from Hunstanton to

Cromer. Taking you through fantastic scenery including a Roman Road, the unique Brecks, low cliffs and extensive sandy beaches and dunes this Trail offers something for everyone from a gentle stroll to a 93 mile (150Km) walk. The coastal walk extends to Mundesley but tracks inland at certain points. It is well signposted.

There are lots of lovely walks on our doorstep, especially the clifftop walk from the barn to Cromer (via Overstrand). For more detailed information see the 'walks' tab in the Visitors Handbook.

Golf

Royal Cromer Golf Course (www.royalcromergolfclub.com) NR27 0JH

Mundesley Golf Club (www.mundesleygolfclub.com) NR11 8ES

Links Country Park Golf Course, West Runton (www.club-noticeboard.co.uk/westrunton) NR27 9QH

Sheringham Golf Club (www.sheringhamgolfclub.co.uk) NR26 8HG

The Norfolk Broads (www.enjoythebroads.com)

The Norfolk Broads is a magical waterland and uniquely beautiful environment shaped by people working hand in hand with nature over thousands of years.

If you fancy taking a boat out yourselves for the day there are many places these can be hired. Day boats can be hired from Wroxham, Stalham, Sutton Staithe, Potter Heigham and Horning. There are many pubs and places to stop along the way or take your own picnic.

- www.broadstours.co.uk
- www.daycruisers.co.uk
- www.finewayleisure.co.uk
- www.moonfleetmarine.c.uk
- www.herbertwoods.co.uk

Martham Boats are our favourite as they have lovely traditional wooden day boats (www.marthamboats.com). Booking is essential.

As well as offering day boat hire Broads Tours operate river trip tours departing from Wroxham bridge. It is a fabulous opportunity to discover the Norfolk Broads. A full commentary from the skipper will ensure you don't miss a thing, explaining the origins of the Broads, identifying points of interest along the way and showing you the abundance of local water birds as they come into view. This is a great way to learn about the Broads whilst taking in the beautiful scenery all around you, with a hot or cold drink and some light refreshments to enjoy as you go. Trips run daily from mid-March to end of October. Tickets can be pre-booked on 01603 783207.

River trips can also be taken on the Mississippi Paddle Boat from the Swan Hotel, Horning from March to November (www.southern-comfort.co.uk)

Seals & Seal Trips

Take a boat and see the seals in their natural habitat. There are a number of boats operating from Blakeney and Morston.

- www.blakeneypointsealtrips.co.uk
- www.sealtrips.co.uk

- www.bishopsboats.com
- www.beansboattrips.co.uk

Horsey Seals (www.friendsofhorseyseals.co.uk)

If you prefer to see the seals from land rather than boat an excellent place to go is Horsey. The seals come on to the beach in the winter months to give birth and the beach is literally covered - it is quite an amazing sight. It does get busy and quite muddy so go prepared. See the above website for further details and updates regarding if and when the seals are there.

Birdwatching

www.visitnorfolk.co.uk/things-to-do/birdwatching

Norfolk has a large number of birdwatching sites, ranging from RSPB & Norfolk Wildlife Trust reserves with lots of facilities, to more low-key general birdwatching areas where it is possible to get away from it all.

The Norfolk Wildlife Trust Visitor Centre, Cley Marshes (www.norfolkwildlifetrust.org.uk)

Recently named by Sir David Attenborough as one of the best places in the UK to see wildlife, NWT Cley Marshes is Norfolk Wildlife Trust's oldest and best-known nature reserve. It was purchased in 1926 to be held 'in perpetuity as a bird breeding sanctuary'. It provided a blue print for nature conservation which has now been replicated across the UK. The water levels in the pools and reedbeds are regulated to ensure they are ideal for the resident birds, and reed is harvested every year to keep the reedbeds in good condition.

The shingle beach and saline lagoons, along with the grazing marsh and reedbed support large numbers of wintering and migrating wildfowl and waders, as well as bittern, marsh harrier and bearded tit.

There's an eco-friendly visitor centre containing a café, shop, viewing areas (including viewing from a camera on the reserve), a courtyard and viewing deck. The view from the visitor centre across the Marsh to the sea is breathtaking.