Norfolk Coast Path Guided Trail Holiday



Trip style:	Destination:	Walking Grade	Carbon Footprint:
Guided trails	Norfolk	5	142kg CO2

HOLIDAY OVERVIEW

Drenched in maritime history and boasting a wealth of wide sandy beaches and wildlife-rich tidal marshes, the Norfolk coast has earned its National Landscape status. This guided walking holiday takes you along the best of the Norfolk Coast Path National Trail, from Hunstanton to Cromer. There are dramatic cliffs to marvel at, medieval ports to explore, and beautiful beaches to cross. You'll also get to spot thriving birdlife where The Wash empties into the North Sea and visit Brancaster - the village where British naval hero, Horatio Nelson grew up.

WHAT YOU'LL LOVE

- Walking from the cliffs of Hunstanton to the seaside resort of Cromer
- Soaking up stunning panoramas over the North Sea
- Spotting rare birds in a host of nature reserves
- Exploring quaint harbour villages, salt marshes, and sand dunes
- Learning about the areas links to Admiral Nelson
- Staying in our carefully-selected partner hotels
- A more personalised experience thanks to small group sizes (maximum 15 people)

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Comfortable en-suite rooms in our partner accommodation(s)
- Cooked or continental breakfast every morning
- Daily packed lunches
- Three-course evening meals, plus tea & coffee
- Guided walks with an experienced HF Holidays Leader
- All public transport to and from walks where necessary
- Luggage transfers

ITINERARY - ITINERARY

Day 1 **Arrival Day**

Check-in is available at Caley Hall from 16:00. Your leader will be at reception at 18:00 to meet the group and for a quick introduction to the holiday before dinner.

Day 2 **Hunstanton to Brancaster**

Leaving Hunstanton, with its famous striped cliffs, we pass through Holme Dunes where The Wash meets the North Sea. Look out for the flowers of the early and southern marsh orchids and marsh helleborines in the dune slacks. The Dunes are renowned for rare birds, especially in spring and autumn when migrating birds are blown off course by strong easterly winds; there is a useful visitor centre. From Thornham we head inland through a lonely landscape, before approaching Brancaster, a popular sailing centre. It once had a regular sea trade in coal and grain and what is believed to have been one of the largest malthouses in the country.

10 miles (16km) with minimal ascent.

Day 3 **Brancaster to Holkham Gap**

From Brancaster we head into Nelson country, a world of birds, creeks, wind and sky. England's famous hero, Horatio Nelson was born at Burnham Thorpe in 1758 and the area oozes the maritime theme, with inns such as the Nelson, the Victory and the Trafalgar. We can imagine him as a young lad rowing his boat along the creeks and through the reed-beds that we pass. At Burnham Deepdale we follow the wide sweep of the sea bank stretching towards Scolt Head and Gun Hill before the marvellous vista of Holkham Bay opens up before us. It is the largest nature reserve in England and Wales, comprising grazing marsh, salt marsh, sand dunes, woodland and foreshore. We finish at Holkham Gap where there is a new eco-friendly café and Visitor Centre.

10 miles (16km) with minimal ascent.

Day 4 **Holkham Gap to Blakeney**

An easy walk takes us to Wells-next-the-Sea, where there should be time for a coffee or a stroll around. On leaving Wells along paths of springy turf, salt marshes begin to dominate the landscape. The flint village of Stiffkey is only 1km off our footpath and famous for its cockles known as 'Stewkey Blues', which used to be gathered by the women of the village, until the fishery declined in the 1950's. Traces can be seen here and there. Continuing along the coast is Morston village with its traditional pub, and as the footpath zig-zags alongside Agar Creek, the cobbled cottages of Blakeney come into view. This erstwhile trading port is a fine place to end the day.

10 miles (16km) with minimal ascent.

Day 5 Blakeney to Weybourne

We set off along the top of the sea bank, curving out towards Blakeney Eye with stunning views and a sense of solitude. The trail turns inland alongside marshland which was once open sea, as the name of our next port of call, Cley-next-the-Sea suggests. With its distinctive windmill this was formally a port where wool from Norfolk sheep was shipped to the Low Countries in the 13th century. From Cley the sound of waves is our constant companion and exquisite vegetation such as sea holly and yellow horned poppy may be spotted. A stretch of shingle walking signals we are nearly at the end of our day. The water is extremely deep here and is the only place on the Norfolk coast thought to be deep enough for submarines to approach in World War II. A short walk brings us to Weybourne, an old-world village with flint houses.

9 miles (14.5km) with minimal ascent.

Day 6 Weybourne to Cromer

Our final walk commences with an energising cliff walk to Skelding Hill and the old coastguard lookout. The views are impressive, as we start our descent to Sheringham. Sheringham is renowned for its lobsters, crabs and whelks, and fishermen still set their crab pots as they have done for generations. With no natural harbour the boats are hauled up on to the beach with their catch. Beeston Hill marks the end of our coastal walking for a stretch, and a deviation from the official coast path to explore some of Norfolk's beautiful countryside. We head inland up to Beacon Hill with views back through woodland to the sea. Walking through the forest we reach the highest elevation in Norfolk at 105 metres (346ft). Dropping back to the sparkling sea of Cromer, a short walk along the front takes us to Cromer pier where we can celebrate our journey's end.

9 miles (14.5km) with 700 feet (210m) of ascent.

Day 7 Departure Day

DAILY WALK OPTIONS



Moderate walking grade 5

Some walking experience needed. Full day walks which may include some short but steep ascents and descents throughout the day, and varied terrain. Regular stops. Typically, 8-9 miles (13-15km) with around 1,300ft (400m) of ascent.

ACCOMMODATION

Caley Hall Hotel, Old Hunstanton

Caley Hall is a family run, luxury hotel in Old Hunstanton. The original manor house at Caley Hall dates back to 1648 and was home to the Le Strange steward from 1842-57. The stables and outbuildings were converted to provide 35 boutique style hotel bedrooms in 1976. Close to Old Hunstanton beach and near to Hunstanton Golf Club, Caley Hall Hotel is the ideal location. All rooms have en-suite bathrooms, have a flat screen television, dressing table, WiFi, direct dial telephone, tea and coffee making facilities, iron and ironing board and a hairdryer. This hotel is dog-friendly so you may meet four legged friends in some of the communal areas.

FOOD & DRINK

Dining at Caley Hall

Your stay is full-board. This includes daily breakfasts, packed lunch options, and evening meals. Vegetarian choices and dietary requirements can be catered for (please give advance notice when booking).

Packed lunches

Our packed lunches will be too much food for some and not enough for others; if you feel you might need more food during the walk, please bring a supply of snacks to supplement this – it won't always be possible to buy these on the route. Your packed lunches will include: a bread sandwich or roll with a choice of filling; some fresh fruit; fruit cake/ flapjack or similar, crisps and/or biscuits. For those of you tackling a level 4 or above holiday, we would highly recommend bringing some trail mix or something similar to ensure you've some fuel in reserve should you need it.

Dietary requirements

Our partner hotels can cater for most dietary requirements, but it is important you advise us of any allergies and dietary restrictions you have at the time of booking.

TRAVEL DETAILS

Address

Caley Hall Hotel
Old Hunstanton Road
Old Hunstanton
Norfolk
PE36 6HH

By car

Caley Hall has a large car park which is free to guests.

By Bus/ Train

The nearest train station is in Kings Lynn, where you can catch the Coastliner 36 bus operated by Lynx buses. There is a bus stop outside Caley Hall, the bus stop is called Waterworks Road, Old Hunstanton.

The Cliftonville, Cromer

The Cliftonville Hotel is a 3 star Edwardian hotel overlooking the picturesque Cromer seafront. The hotel underwent a refurbishment in 2022/2023, which features stained glass windows and original architectural features throughout the building. The hotel has 30 bedrooms ranging in size which all have sea views of the stunning north Norfolk coast. The rooms include en suite bathroom, WIFI, flat screen TV, tea and coffee making facilities and hair dryer. This hotel is dog-friendly so you may meet four legged friends in some of the communal areas.

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TRAVEL DETAILS

Address

The Cliftonville Hotel
29 Runton Road,
Cromer,
Norfolk,
NR27 9AS

By car

There are approximately 15 spaces in the small car park at the Cliftonville Hotel, there is also free, unrestricted parking on the roads surrounding the hotel.

By Bus/ Train

Cromer has a train station which is an 8 minute walk from the hotel, there are several taxi companies based in Cromer that you could call to arrange a transfer

ESSENTIAL INFORMATION

Packing list

Weather conditions in the UK can vary throughout the day, and conditions in the mountains may be cold and windy even in summer. Use the following list as a guide when preparing for your holiday.

Essentials

- Suitable waterproof walking boots with ankle support and good grip
- Waterproof, wind-resistant jacket with a hood, taped seams and a hydrostatic head rating of at least 10,000 mm
- Waterproof overtrousers
- Spare warm clothing, such as a synthetic insulated jacket
- Comfortable walking clothing (jeans & waterproof capes are not suitable)
- Warm mid-layers, such as fleeces
- Gloves and a warm hat, even in summer
- Rucksack with a waterproof liner
- Water bottle with a capacity of at least 1 litre
- Flask for hot drinks
- Sunscreen
- UV-protective sunglasses
- Spare high-energy food
- Head torch and spare batteries for holidays between October and March
- Passport (if applicable)
- Visa (if applicable)
- Copy of your travel insurance policy

Recommended

- Several base layers, with long or short sleeves
- Cushioned walking socks to avoid blisters
- First-aid kit, including plasters, insect repellent, a midge net and a tick-removal tool
- Sit mat
- Waterproof pouch for valuables
- Rubbish bags
- Wallet or purse

- Camera
- Walking poles
- Sun hat
- Gaiters
- Mobile Phones
- Swimwear (please see accommodation information for hotel facilities)
- Membership cards for English Heritage, the National Trust or similar heritage organisations in Scotland and Wales, if you are a member. These may be useful when visiting attractions during your itinerary or on your free day.

JOINING INSTRUCTIONS

Norfolk coast path : transfer information

Transfer Day

On day 4 we transfer from Caley Hall to the Cliftonville Hotel. If you have decided to travel by car we have made the following arrangements for you.

On the morning of day 4 (Tuesday) instead of catching the public bus, you will drive your car to Holkham village car park (parking charges will apply), which is the starting point of the day 4 walk. Once you have completed the walk, we have arranged for a minibus to take you back to Holkham village car park where you can collect your car and then drive to the Cliftonville Hotel.

Luggage Transfer

When you change from one hotel to another, we will arrange for your luggage to be transferred for you. This is included in the cost of your holiday. Please remember that other people will need to move your suitcase so please pack thoughtfully. If you can limit your luggage to one bag, rucksack or suitcase that would be very helpful. Make sure your bags are clearly labelled with your name and “HF Holidays”.

USEFUL INFORMATION

Ticks

Ticks are tiny creatures that live in vegetation and can attach themselves to passing animals or walkers and may carry a risk of Lyme Disease. Please refer to NHS advice and guidelines for information prior to your holiday.

Your Island Hopping Leader

Our experienced and knowledgeable volunteer leaders undergo a thorough assessment to lead you on your holiday and are delighted to share their knowledge and enthusiasm with you.

Please ensure you complete and hand in your registration form on arrival and let the leader know about any medical problems you may have. This may be useful in the event of a problem on the walk and will be treated confidentially by the leader.

In the event of a problem

If you become separated from your group, please stay where you are. Your leader will retrace their steps to find you.

All our leaders carry a mobile phone, group shelter, spare maps and a compass. In the unlikely event your leader is incapacitated, please use any emergency kit in their rucksack and call the emergency services (call 999 in the UK, or 112 overseas).

Please then try to call the hotel where you are staying to let them know there is a problem.

If you have any cause for complaints regarding accommodation, you should notify your leader who can then attempt to rectify the problem.

Maps and Guides for Norfolk Coast Path

Suggested Reading and Maps

Your leader will carry all the necessary maps and guides. For you own interest you may consider looking at any of the following:

www.nationaltrail.co.uk/peddars-way-and-norfolk-coast-path

Peddars Way and Norfolk Coast Path (National Trail Guide)

Peddars Way and Norfolk Coast Path – (Trailblazer Guide)

OS Maps: Explorer 250, 251 and 252

TRIPNOTE VALIDITY

TRIP NOTE VALIDITY These Trip Notes are valid based on the date printed at the bottom of the page. They will occasionally be updated post booking and pre-departure. We will send you the latest trip notes prior to departure through a link in your pre departure documents or we can send you a copy in the post if preferred. In booking this trip you should be confident in your ability to participate in all activities described in these Trip Notes. If you have any doubt about your suitability you should call HF Holidays and ask to speak to one of the team about this itinerary. The information in these Trip Notes is given in good faith. Where differences exist between the Trip Notes and our current brochure, the Trip Notes supersede the brochure. All holidays can be subject to unexpected changes; so please be

prepared to be flexible where necessary. At times, it may not be possible to follow the itinerary as planned due to weather conditions, political, physical or other factors. In these circumstances we will make the best possible alternative arrangements to maintain the integrity of the original itinerary.

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