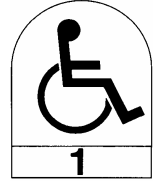




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English Tourism Council

Nature Trails and Craft Centres around Beautiful Burgh

Burgh Castle is in Britain's newest National Park - Broadland - providing Britain's finest concentration of wetlands, whilst the rural areas outside its boundaries provide attractive and contrasting human and natural landscapes. Our local countryside has a rich past and tradition, sustained by a population density that was significantly higher until shortly before the age of the motor car. So although there is plenty to see and do, local roads are seldom crowded, with small towns and villages still working to a slower pace than many other parts of England. This makes it ideal country for those who enjoy leisurely exploration or pottering about in peaceful and beautiful places.

An idyllic way of seeing Broadland is from the comfort and convenience of your own boat, for which at Burgh we provide all the necessary facilities as a cruising base (ask for our explorer leaflet "Boating from Beautiful Burgh"). There are also a number of short pleasure cruises up river from Great Yarmouth and from several of the larger Broadland village centres. Details of these are carried along with much else to guide you through the area in the Broads Authority's excellent free tourist newspaper "*The Broadcaster*" available through the season in our reception.

The whole of the National Park is however well supported with sign-posted footpaths, trails, information points, parking and picnic spots for those exploring by road, whilst a considerable number of the most interesting rural locations (as well as Norwich and the main resorts) can be accessed by stopping train services. Another excellent guide for getting around this area is the newly published "*AA focus on Norwich and the Norfolk Broads*" (£4.99), which includes some suggested walks and cycle rides (there are several cycle hire centres in the area).

We work hard to maintain a very full stock of tourist information leaflets in our reception, not only from the more obviously commercial enterprises, but also for the numerous trusts, museum and restoration societies covering everything from windmills to wherries. Places for which we have individual leaflets in reception are marked with an *. The old towns of Beccles, Bungay and Loddon will appeal to those who like to explore country shops and markets, whilst in Norwich there is so much to choose from that a first visit to its own Tourist Information centre is a good idea before deciding on the direction and theme of explorations.

So this brief introduction will only attempt to summarise a few nature trails, gardens and craft centres, that can be reached in a short drive from here, as an alternative to exploring even nearer ones on foot (see our "Jog, walk or cycle" leaflet).

**Make Burgh Castle Marina your holiday or home base & discover
the best of beautiful Burgh.**

For holiday or park home sales, pontoon moorings or touring pitches, call 01493-780331

Broadlands Conservation Centre, Ranworth Broad

Access from the B140 Acle to Norwich road at South Walsham.

A board-walk through a small area of woodland fen leads to the centre, built on a pontoon at the edge of the Broad. This is a good place to gain an overall picture of Broadland habitats.

Hickling Broad

This is the largest of the Norfolk Broads, forming part of a 1,400 acre (567 hectare) nature reserve. A large variety of bird life can be seen from the two nature trails starting at the Warden's House in Stubbs Road, Hickling (off A149).

Fritton Countryworld *

This park is only ten minutes away by car & is on the route of one of our circular walks. It has a mixture of activities and displays including falconry and shire horses. Just walking around the lake and grounds is very pleasant, but if you want them there are pony rides, angling tickets and adventure playgrounds and nothing too noisy or brash. This is a place where different family members could easily split up for a while.

Fairhaven Garden Trust (tel. 01603-270449)

The woodland and water gardens are particularly good in spring, as are wild flowers in summer. Separate bird sanctuary and river-boat cruises of the neighbouring broads.

Hoveton Hall Gardens (tel. 01603- 782798)

Lakeside and woodland walks, herbaceous borders and plant sales.

Windmills

For opening times at different restored windmills ring the Norfolk Windmills Trust on 01603-222705 (including the Berney Arms, ten minutes by boat from our marina. This mill is the tallest on the marshes and has an exhibition on Norfolk windmills). Mills offer excellent viewpoints in many locations.

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Craft Centres

Norfolk has more craft industries, craft centres and shops than any other English county and a fair number are within a short drive of Burgh Castle. Craft fairs take place at the Norfolk Show Ground, Norwich in mid August and late October each year.

Wroxham Barns* at Hoveton near Wroxham brings together thirteen traditional crafts with working displays and sales outlets in one centre.

Pettits* near Reedham combines an aviary of rare pheasants, ornamental birds and waterfowl with feathercraft and taxidermy workshops. But there's an admission fee, which covers other animal enclosures, free funfair rides, displays and live shows.

Fleggburgh: The village* (at Burgh St. Margaret on A1064 4 miles north of Acle) is a reconstruction of a 19th. Century town in a 35 acre site with working sawmill, and many other attractions including traditional crafts.

Paintings

This beautiful area is a favourite with visiting and local artists (& photographers). Regular art shows in Great Yarmouth, Lowestoft and Norwich offer opportunities to buy a selection of original oils and water-colours, especially of landscapes, and often at very modest prices. Public libraries and other tourist information centres usually carry details of local exhibitions. See also our own listings on our web site for art shows in our reception each season. At **Grove Farm Gallery***, near How Hill, Catfield (tel. 01692-670679) one well known artist displays his own work.

Pottery - Great Yarmouth Potteries and Old Fish Smoking Works* is in a 300 year building set in the old town wall. Commemorative tankards are a specialty.

Candle Makers and Dried Flowers

There are two candle making centres at Stokesby and in Great Yarmouth* (run by the same enterprise). Winter Flora Ltd.* at Weston, Beccles and Willow Farm Flowers* at Cangate, Neatishead are within easy reach (Norfolk Lavender Farm is a longish drive into North Norfolk).

Woollen Products

Black Sheep Limited* runs two farm shops at Ingworth near Blickling and at Aylsham, selling garments made from the local Black Welsh Mountain Sheep, as well as exporting world-wide.