



If you're tugging on a pair of walking shoes, life is probably good. And if you're tugging on a pair of walking shoes and about to enjoy an on-foot adventure along the North Norfolk coast in autumn, life just got even better. That's because everyone knows that autumn is the best season. It has the cosiest weather, the prettiest colours, the trendiest outfits, and the best pub grub. *Literally* everything about autumn makes it the perfect time to get outside and explore new places -- and there's nowhere with as much life-affirming magic as the Norfolk coastline at this time of year.

There are award-winning pubs with crackling fires to warm yourself in, quaint delis to enjoy an unhealthy dose of pumpkin spiced everything, cute coffee shops to grab yourself a morning pick-me-up, eateries for every kind of foodie and a hundred forget-me-not walks for you to explore at your own pace; kicking your feet through another pile of crunchy gold leaves as you stare up at the big blue sky realising that it really *is* the little things in life.

In that spirit, here are the best walks to enjoy on the North Norfolk coast this autumn, from saltmarsh strolls through the crisp morning to beach hikes that celebrate the colours of sunset like nowhere else -- *and the best places for you to stay.*

Hike from Hunstanton to Thornham: 6-miles of stunning views



If you're [staying in Thornham](#) (and, trust us, you'll want to), there's no better way to explore the coast than to head ten-minutes west on the Coasthopper, step off at [Hunstanton](#) and make your way back by foot. It's a walk that will take you through the historical seaside town, beneath the red and white striped cliffs and among the rock pools of Sunny Hunny, past the pretty coastal village of the Old Town, over the Holme dunes nature reserve and through the stunning saltmarshes of Thornham. It's a walk you can enjoy at any time of the year, but the scenery is utterly breath-snatching in the autumn. Don't worry, though, you can't get lost. Simply head east and follow the coastal route that's waymarked from start to finish. And when you do finish at Thornham Village, head to the locally-loved [Eric's](#) for the poshest, most rustic and downright delicious portion of *fish n' chups* this side of Wells.

Where to stay: [Avoca Cottage](#) is perfect for a family with three stunning en-suite bedrooms

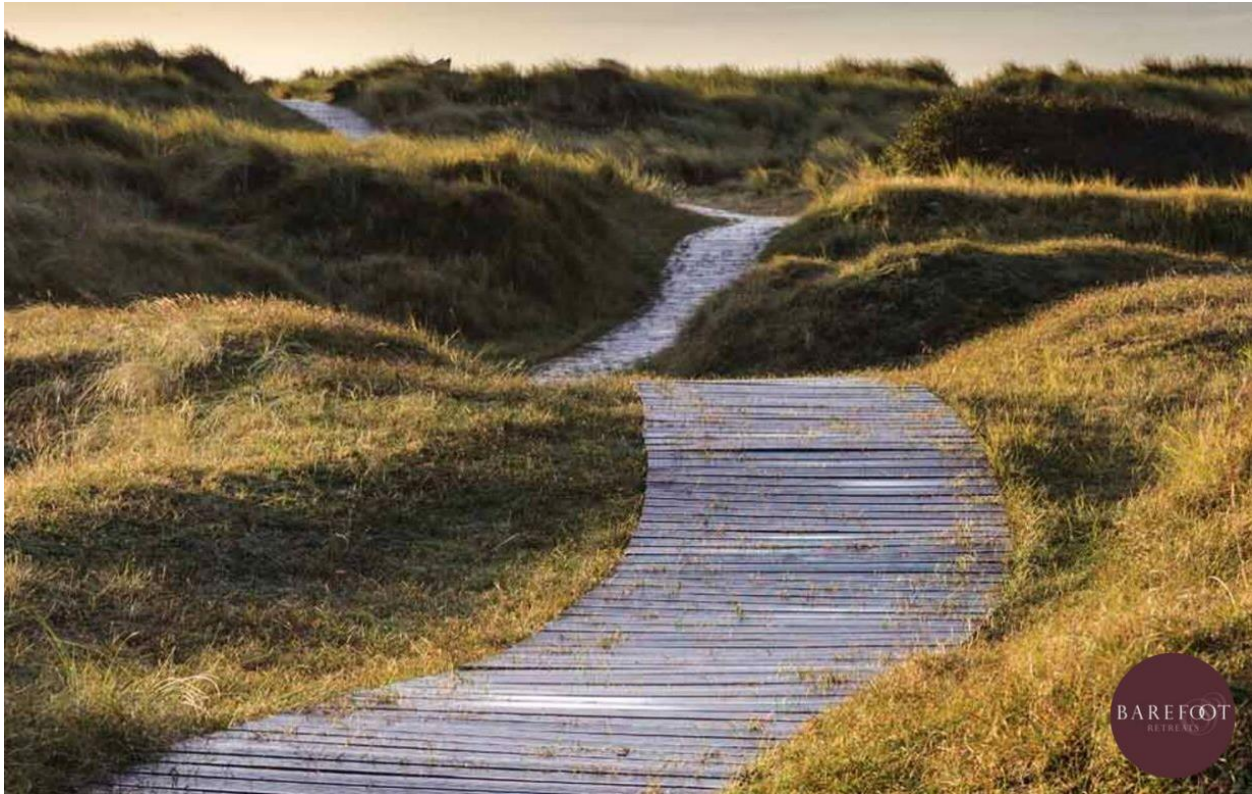
Tread from Blakeney to Stiffkey: 4-miles of mind-melting wilderness



This walk might take little more than an hour to walk, but there's enough wild beauty here to last a lifetime. From the samphire-packed saltmarshes of Morston to the three-hundred-plus sailing boats moored in the picturesque harbour, to the Blakeney Nature Reserve that's home to masses of migrating birds and the largest seal colony on our gorgeous little island, this is a walk that only a few non-locals know about. A well-kept secret that's kept it perfectly unspoilt -- and because this route through the wildest stretch of our coast is so flat, it's one every member of the family can enjoy. Start at [Blakeney](#) quay, follow the coastal path west, see how many different species of birds your children can spot, stop at Morston for trip out to The Point on a seal boat, and then finish your walk at the [Stiffkey Red Lion](#) for the tastiest Sunday roast you've had in years.

Where to stay: [River Cottage](#) is a luxurious, relaxing cottage in Letheringsett that sleeps 6.

Amble from Holkham to Burnham Overy Staithe: 4.5-miles of wow-worthy beauty



You might think exploring the most beautiful beaches on earth require a plane-ticket and a seasoned tour guide to get you there, and for the most part, you'd be right. But hidden behind the long wall of pine trees, at the end of a wooden boardwalk, is one of the most unspoilt and magnificent stretches of sand in the country -- a semi-circular basin that rapidly fills with high tides and good vibes to create a stunning shallow lagoon. And if the idea of walking along sands and dunes that stretch as far as the eye can see isn't enough to encourage a visit, this beach has been made famous by a dozen Hollywood movies, including the final scene of [Shakespeare In Love](#). But Holkham is just the start. Follow the coast to the west and this walk becomes even more spectacular, taking you along the untouched seashore, past Scolt Head island and Gun Hill, endless saltmarshes, tidal creeks, mudflats and to the quay at Burnham Overy Staithe, where you can sip on a pint of local beer at [The Hero](#) as you refuel on some award-winning pub dishes.

Where to stay: [Lazy Days](#) is a luxury bolthole in Burnham Overy Staithe with sea views for 2.

Walk from Wells-Next-To-Sea to Holkham Hall: 3.5-miles of sand, sea and sky



Part of us thought-twice about mentioning Holkham again, but this beach walk is North Norfolk's most scenic spot for escaping the noise of home and relaxing under the gentle sound of waves rolling onto sand -- and autumn is the perfect time to enjoy it. With the outside world getting a little chillier, wrap up in hat and scarf, and start your late-afternoon stroll with a portion of [French's fish and chips](#) in your hands, munching as you stroll along the boat-filled harbour, up onto the sea wall, passed the lifeboat station and toward the iconic beach huts of Wells. From there you simply carry on along the curving coastline until you reach the sand dunes and mile-long (actually, two-miles long) stretch of golden sand that is Holkham. *Now stop.* Whoever you are with, tug on their sleeve, slow them to a halt and take in every second of the setting sun together, staring in awe as it paints the sky fifty shades of "I'll never forget this moment". Then head toward the Holkham Gap, along the boardwalk through the pine trees, up Lady Anne's Drive and into [The Victoria](#) for an evening tipple and the famous local atmosphere.

Where to stay: [Captain's Cottage](#) is a stylish retreat on the outskirts of Wells that sleeps 4.

Stroll from Salthouse To Cley-Next-The-Sea: 4-miles of everything



What this walk lacks in boats bobbing up and down in a quaint quayside town it makes up for in secret spots teeming with stunning wildlife and striking views, nature reserves full of rare birds - *gulls, brent geese, pink-footed geese and redshanks* - shingle spits and sandy beaches, salt marshes and gentle dunes, and some of the most incredible places to sit and watch the sun slink onto the horizon, turning the whitecap waves pink, orange, red and gold. That's what life looks like between Cley-Next-The-Sea and Salthouse, a village on the edge of salt marshes, stony beaches and an endless sea view -- a stunning juxtaposition that will fill your soul with the good stuff. Of course, no walk is complete without a long lunch at a lovely pub, so as soon as you reach the church at Salthouse, turn inland and head to [The Dun Cow](#) for a local ale and a plate of surf and turf – a DC must-have. After all, you're allowed to indulge as much as you want after a beach walk.

Where to stay: [Swanton Cottage](#) is set within 5-acres of lovely Holt countryside and sleeps 12.

Thanks for reading. To fall even more in love with the North Norfolk coast, do follow us on [Instagram](#) and [Facebook](#).