

Britain

Ten great places to stay in Norfolk

Holiday bookings have spiked since the Cambridges moved in. **Tom Chesshyre** finds the best houses to rent

Hoste Holiday Cottages, Burnham Market

Each of the three self-catering cottages run by the Hoste pub and hotel in this quiet village has a secluded garden with a patio. Interiors are contemporary, with designer furniture and slick kitchens. Colour schemes feature pale blues and greys. The lively, ivy-clad pub with its well-regarded restaurant and spa is just round the corner.

Details The cottages – which each sleep six in three en suite double rooms – cost from £230 per night from Sunday-Friday, or two nights including a Saturday is from £620 (thehoste.com)

The White House, Burnham Overy Town

A mile from Burnham Market, close to a windmill and the parish church in the charming sister village of Burnham Overy Town, this cottage dates from 1760. It has exposed beams, sloping floors, two cosy sitting rooms (one with a wood-burning fire) and a courtyard garden with a barbecue. It's a 20-minute walk to the Hero pub in Burnham Overy Staithe (theheroburnhamovery.co.uk). Rooms are decorated in pastel colours. **Details** A week's self-catering is from £1,137 in four rooms sleeping eight (01566 782461, sawdays.co.uk, norfolkwhitehouse.webs.com)

Toad Hall, Blakeney

Pretty Blakeney, with its winding lanes and well-kept holiday cottages, was a major port in the Middle Ages. Its waters have silted up over the years but there's still enough depth for leisure boats. Toad Hall is in a stone building with a large dining room and a barbecue in the garden. It's a short walk to the harbour for boat trips. **Details** A week's self-catering for eight in four bedrooms is from £1,102 (01263 741777, blakeneycottagecompany.co.uk)

Malthouse Farm, Heacham

Sip champagne in the hot tub on the patio of this 18th-century house in the village of Heacham, which is surrounded by lavender fields. Malthouse Farm has a "gold five-star" rating from VisitEngland (the highest grading) and sits in a third of an acre behind electric gates. The interior has soft colours mixed with modern art and chandeliers. Pubs are within walking distance, Hunstantons



Butterfly House

CHRIS TAYLOR

sandy beach is half a mile away and Sandringham is close by. **Details** A week is from £1,890, sleeping eight in five rooms (01263 715779, norfolkcottages.co.uk)

Keepers Cottage, West Barsham

This popular cottage down a country lane overlooking farmland still has a few weeks available this summer. The highlight is an 8m-long sitting room with a mini-smoker table, comfy sofas and a 43in television. This is walking territory, with options directly from the cottage. The garden is enclosed with a neat lawn, so it's great for small children.

Details A week's stay for eight in four bedrooms is from £885 (01485 211022, norfolkhideaways.co.uk)

Pear Tree Cottage, Holme-next-the-Sea

In a picturesque village a few minutes' walk from the sea, the cottage has a tucked-away feel, with rattan sofas in an airy sitting room; smart decor throughout, and a new kitchen. There's a pretty garden with a picnic table and a courtyard garden for alfresco dining. The laid-back White Horse pub is near by.

Details A week's stay for four in two bedrooms is from £907 (01485 211022, norfolkhideaways.co.uk)



Pear Tree Cottage

Barsham Barms, North Barsham

Deep in lush farmland, these five barn conversions have a modern, open-plan style and colourful furnishings. They sleep between four in two bedrooms to 14 in six bedrooms. Guests in each barn can book slots in an outhouse with a hot

tub and steam room. **Details** A seven-night stay in a two-bed barn is from £1,150 (coolstays.com/barsham-barms)

Butterfly House, Holt

Perfect for a big occasion for extended family and friends, Butterfly House is designed in an Arts and Crafts style and is just three miles from the north Norfolk coast. It sleeps as many as 41 people in 15 rooms (including two mini dorms for children in the attic) and also has a banqueting hall. **Details** A week is from £8,995, sleeping 41 (01242 220006, thewwhitehousecompany.co.uk)

Bay Tree Lodge, Hoveton

This one comes with its own private mooring and the possibility to hire an electric day boat or kayaks from the owner. There are five modern rooms, which sleep ten, and a well-appointed kitchen. It is 12 miles to the coast and a selection of sandy beaches, or Norwich is just eight miles away.

Details A week's self-catering is from £1,600, sleeping ten (english-country-cottages.co.uk)

Vicarage House, Great Hockham

This Georgian house is great for a big family reunion. It's set in six acres of smart gardens with a swimming pool, croquet lawn, five-a-side football pitch and tennis court and sleeps up to 15 in eight double rooms. The decor is elegant, with antiques, oil paintings, murals and a pale-pink and soft-yellow colour scheme.

Details A week's self-catering for 15 is from £3,250 (07976 814450, vicaragehouse.norfolk.com)