

STEPPING OUT

Nicholas Rudd-Jones enjoys a stroll from Hunstanton to Thornham, complete with local history, beautiful beaches and oodles of opportunities for nature spotting

Walk data

Distance: 8.2 km (5.1 miles)

Typical time: 2 hours

Height gain: none

Map: OS Landranger 132 NW Norfolk

Start: bus stop adj. Lighthouse Close

Finish: bus stop adj. The Orange Tree

Parking: Cliff Car Park, Old Hunstanton

Terrain: very straightforward. Sturdy footwear needed

This route follows the Norfolk Coast Path for its entire length. The path is well signed and the route is marked with an acorn motif.



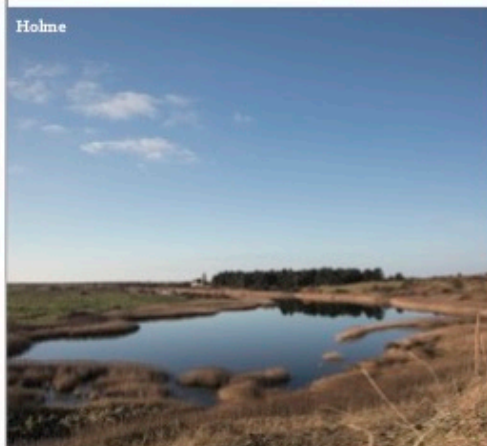
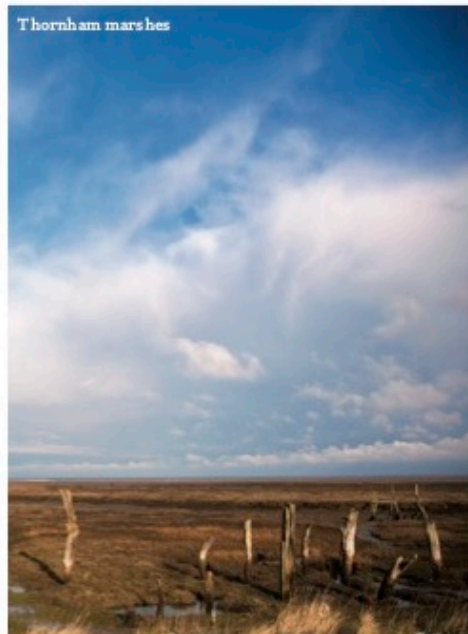
Points of Interest

Old Hunstanton Lighthouse: the present lighthouse was built in 1840, although there has been a lighthouse on the site since 1665. This first lighthouse was built of wood with an iron basket of burning coals as a light. Hunstanton Lighthouse had the world's first parabolic reflector which was built in 1776. The present lighthouse ceased operations in 1922 and is now available as a holiday let.

Holme Dunes Nature Reserve: incredibly, over 320 bird species have been recorded here, superbly located as it is to attract migrating birds.

What spot in autumn/winter: wigeon, pink-footed goose, brent goose, snow bunting, long-tailed duck, twite, spotted redshank, redstart and pied flycatcher.

Year round: curlew, black-tailed godwit, knot, ringed plover, redshank and lapwing. Find out more at www.norfolkwildlifetrust.org.uk



Pit stops

The Old Boat House Café, next to the lifeboat station on Old Hunstanton beach, has lots of character. 01485 532931

The Orange Tree, Thornham has been named The Good Pub Guide's Norfolk Dining Pub of the Year from 2013 to 2018. It's probably best to call ahead to book a table. 01485 512213, www.theorangetreethornham.co.uk

Thornham Deli (400 metres W of the bus stop) offers light bites, great cakes, excellent coffee and a thriving deli counter. 01485 512194, www.thornhamdeli.co.uk

Photos © www.pebblesphotography.co.uk, except the lighthouse.

The route

- 1** Walk up Lighthouse Close past the lighthouse, then along the path on the coast side of the car park, taking a track down to the beach at the far side
- 2** Follow the path along the beach for 2.5kms, then follow the coast path as it heads up a slope onto the dunes; when you reach a multi-way footpath sign, turn left to continue along the coast path, marked by an acorn
- 3** Follow the well-defined path and, as you enter the wood, keep well to the left of the reserve building
- 4** Once through the wood, the path bears to the right, up some wooden steps and proceeds along a dyke; stay on this dyke, with a kink left and then right, until you reach the small road called Staithe Lane and the iconic old Coal Barn.
- 5** Take a left after about 100 metres on this road (just before you see the derelict base of a windmill) and follow the path until you see a track leading up to the road into Thornham
- 6** Take this road heading past Thornham Church and you will see the bus stop just adjacent to The Orange Tree

