

Suggestion for a Norfolk Broads Itinerary - option to print at foot of page

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One week's Norfolk Broads boat hire starting from Acle
This itinerary manages to squeeze in the delights of the northern rivers such Wroxham and Horning together with a quick visit to the south including Great Yarmouth, Reedham, Surlingham and Oulton Broad.
(Click on the links below for more location information)

Day 1 Afternoon

Acle to Horning

8 Miles

2 hrs cruise time

Leave your home moorings cruising upriver without passing under Acle Bridge. Continue past the entrance to Upton Dyke on your left bank and on towards the junction with the River Thurne on your right bank. Stay on the River Bure by keeping to the left channel. Pass the entrance to South Walsham Broad on your left bank. On the opposite bank you soon see the ruins of St Benets Abbey followed by the entrance to the River Ant. Continue on the Bure past the entrance to Ranworth Broad on your left. A short while later you arrive at Horning. Moorings are available at any of the three riverside public houses which are spaced over the length of the village. Horning has a selection of cafés and restaurants together with convenience stores and gift shops.

Day 2 Morning

Horning to Wroxham

5 Miles

1 hr 15 mins cruise time

A short cruise this morning will take you to Wroxham, the self-styled capital of the Broads. Depart Horning continuing in the same direction. You pass the entrances to Salhouse and Wroxham Broads on your left before cruising into the outskirts of Wroxham with its many fine waterside houses and chalets. Continue on passing the Barnes Brinkcraft boatyard on your right. Free moorings are available here or at Faircraft Loynes Boatyard which can be found down the last dyke on your left before Wroxham Bridge. Wroxham has a large shopping centre with a department store,

supermarket, DIY and garden centres. Two public houses situated either side of the low bridge provide food and drink as do many other restaurants and cafés.

Day 2 Afternoon
Wroxham to Ludham Bridge

8.5 Miles
2 hrs cruise time

Return back down the River Bure passing the entrances to Wroxham and Salhouse Broads,

Retrace your steps back down the Bure past the entrances this time on your right. Soon Horning comes into view. Cruise through this picturesque waterside village and on passing the entrance to Ranworth Broad on your right. The signposted entrance to the River Ant will appear on the left bank. Turn up the Ant noting the speed limit has reduced to 4mph due to the narrow nature of this part of the river. Soon after you will see Ludham Bridge, our stop-off point for lunch. Free moorings are available either side of the river once you pass under the bridge. The headroom is usually around 8ft 6inches so most cruisers will clear it. Adjacent to the bridge are a small stores and a restaurant. A little further on is the Dog public house.

Day 3 Morning
Ludham Bridge to Neatishead

5.5 Miles
1 hr 15 mins cruise time

Continue on in the same direction past the extensive moorings of How Hill Education Centre and on past the chocolate box lid village of Irstead. You will know what I mean by this when you see it! Soon the river widens out to become Barton Broad. Passage across the Broad involves keeping between the marker posts which lead to either Neatishead (our destination) or at the far end to Stalham and Sutton. Keep to the left channel and follow it across the Broad to its exit. A short cruise down a narrow dyke brings you to the moorings at Neatishead. Turn right at the moorings for a 10 minute walk to the village centre where you will find the White Horse Inn and a small community stores.

Day 3 Afternoon
Neatishead to Acle

12 Miles
2 hrs 45 mins cruise time

We need to overnight at Acle tonight to give us plenty of time to make Yarmouth in the morning. Make your way back down the dyke towards Barton Broad, then retrace your route between the marker posts to the

entrance to the Broad. Continue on past Irstead, the moorings at How Hill and pass under Ludham Bridge. At the junction with the River Bure turn left. You will recognise the river as you cruise on down to the site of Acle Bridge. You have the choice to moor at your home yard or outside the Bridge Inn located just past the bridge, though an overnight fee is charged here. As well as the Bridge Inn, Pedros restaurant is available for food and drink.

Day 4 Morning
Acle to Yarmouth

11 Miles
2 hr 15 mins cruise time

You will need to consult your tide tables to ensure you are travelling at the correct state of the tide so as to arrive at Great Yarmouth around low or slack water. The moorings at Yarmouth Yacht Station (not just for yachts!) are well sign-posted and are manned by rangers who will help you moor and tie up for the day or overnight. Ensure you always moor or start away against the tidal flow - i.e. your boat would be pushed backwards if you had no power.

Day 4 Afternoon
At Yarmouth

0 Miles
0 hrs cruise time

.Time to enjoy all the delights of this seaside town. The town centre with it's market is a 15 minute walk from the moorings. A further 15 minutes walk will take you to Yarmouth promenade complete with piers, amusements and museums. Eating and drinking establishments are ubiquitous.

Day 5 Morning
Yarmouth to Reedham

9 Miles
2 hrs 15 mins cruise time

You need to leave your moorings against the prevailing tide, which may mean turning your boat. Consult the on-site rangers who will help you with this. Once mid-stream you need to pass under the two low bridges and on to the junction of the Bure with Breydon Water. Look out for the yellow marker and pass beyond it - not before it, turning right. Ensure you stay between the marker posts which lead you under Breydon Bridge and on across Breydon to a point where the channel diverges at the far end. Keep to the right channel which will lead you past the large Berney Arms windmill. Journey on through marshland until you see Reedham railway swing-bridge. Reedham moorings are plentiful just after you pass under

the bridge. Beware that the tide can run quite fast here so ensure you come into the moorings against the tide, even if that means turning around first. An on-site ranger can assist you if you catch his attention. Reedham has two public houses on the quayside together with a fish and chip shop and a small grocery store.

Day 5 Afternoon
Reedham to Surlingham

10 Miles
2 hrs 15 mins cruise time

You need to carry on up the River Yare though you may have to turn your boat first to cope with leaving against the tide. The ranger will assist you with this. Continue on past Reedham Ferry making sure you keep well away from the chains which pull it from side to side. Shortly after you pass the entrance to the River Chet on your left. Cruise on passing the huge sugar factory on your right and on past the two entrances to Rockland broad on your left. Shortly after you will cruise through the chalet lined village of Brundall and its accompanying boatyards. A little further, on your left bank is the Ferry Inn at Surlingham, out stop for the night. Moorings are free for patrons and can be reserved in advance by calling the Inn. Moor stern-on here.

Day 6 Morning
Surlingham to St Olaves

14 Miles
3 hrs cruise time

Retrace your steps back down the River Yare past the village of Brundall, the entrances to Rockland Broad on your right, the Sugar Factory at Cantley and the chain ferry at Reedham. The Reedham quayside, our stop-off point for lunch yesterday comes into view. Proceed under the rail swing-bridge and at the junction with the New Cut, take the right channel. Proceed down this long straight canal built as a short-cut to Lowestoft, passing under a high road bridge at the far end. Turn left at the junction with the River Waveney. Soon you will see the road bridge at St Olaves. Check your height to ensure you have enough room to pass under. Moorings are available either side of the bridge if needed. The tide runs fast here also so you need to bring your cruiser in against the tide to ensure you have control. The Bell Inn is located close to the bridge and the Priory Restaurant is a little further away on the left side of the road.

Day 6 Afternoon
St Olaves to Oulton Broad

8.5 Miles
2 hrs cruise time

Retrace your steps back along the Waveney, ensuring you leave your moorings against the tidal flow. You will pass the entrance to the New Cut on your right as you continue on. Moorings at Somerleyton come into view on your left and then another rail swing bridge at which you should check you have sufficient headroom to pass under. A further cruise brings you to a junction. Keep to the left channel signposted for Oulton Broad. A short cruise brings you to Oulton Broad, more of a lake which is surrounded by parkland and "millionaire developments". At the far end are moorings, both paid at either the Yacht Station (not just for yachts) or outside the Wherry Inn. Both are stern-on moorings. Oulton Broad boasts three public houses, all serving food, together with a couple of restaurants.

OR St Olaves to Waveney River Centre 7 miles 1hr 45mins

As an alternative to a long cruise back to Yarmouth tomorrow you could opt to stay overnight at The Waveney River Centre. This involves turning right at the junction with Oulton Broad. The centre is a little way further on your right. Paid for moorings are available here. Waveney River Centre has an on-site public house, a swimming pool, laundrette and a large supermarket.

Day 7 Morning

Oulton Broad to Yarmouth

20.5 Miles

4 hrs cruise time

You can shorten your cruise by around 30 minutes if you stayed overnight at The Waveney River Centre. Otherwise make your way back across Oulton Broad to the entrance dyke which takes you back to the main river.

Continue on under the rail bridge at Somerleyton, past the junction with the New Cut on your left and the village of St Olaves. A long cruise will now bring you to the village of Burgh Castle on your right, which marks the start of Breydon Water. Continue on ensuring you keep between the marker posts. You will have needed to have consulted the low water times in your Broadcaster to ensure you arrive at Yarmouth Yacht Station with enough headroom to pass under the low bridges. If in doubt you can call the Yacht Station rangers for advice on 01493 842794. Ensure you come into your mooring against the direction of the tide so as to maintain control of your boat. If needed, the rangers can assist you. Time for a few hours ashore in the seaside resort. Again you have the choice of staying overnight but that would mean an early start tomorrow to ensure you can reach your home boatyard in time for the handover at 9am. You would probably need to leave around 6am.

Day 7 Afternoon

Yarmouth to Stokesby

9 Miles

2 hrs 15 mins cruise time

Leave your moorings against the tidal flow - the rangers can assist if needed. Continue on away from the bridges and the disused marina on your right bank. You pass Stracey Arms Windmill and moorings on your left before the village of Stokesby appears on a bend in the river. Moorings are available before the Ferry Inn public house or a little further on at the village green. The Ferry Inn serves food, as does a cafe in the village. A small convenience store is a short walk from the moorings.

Day 8 Morning
Stokesby to Acle

2 Miles
30 mins cruise time

Continue on up the River Bure for your short cruise to your home moorings. You pass under Acle Bridge, shortly after coming onto your home boatyard's moorings.