

What to see and do in April 2023

15 April The Great Yarmouth Races Season Opener & Grand National Raceday!

Featuring the Grand National LIVE on screen Can't make it to Aintree? We're bringing Aintree to you! You can still enjoy the thrill of watching Jumps racing live on track and keep up with all the action from the Grand National as we'll be showing it on screens around the racecourse! It has been a long winter and we're thrilled to be able to welcome back racegoers to Great Yarmouth races! Join them for the first fixture of 2023 on Saturday 15th April!

<https://www.greatyarmouth-racecourse.co.uk/>

The Last Voyage of the Gloucester: Norfolk's Royal Shipwreck 1682 Exhibition at Norwich Castle until the end of September This major exhibition will explore the dramatic discovery of the Gloucester, a warship carrying the future King of England and Scotland that ran aground in heavy seas off the coast of Great Yarmouth in 1682. On display for the first time are some of the fascinating objects recovered from the wrecksite. Most striking is the bell – that confirmed the ship's identity – which will be on show alongside beautifully preserved personal effects that tell stories of the passengers and crew, and of life on board the ship. <https://www.museums.norfolk.gov.uk/norwich-castle>

1 – 17 April If you are here with the family and want to experience spring on the farm head to Hirsty's Family Fun Park in Hemsby for the Spring Baa-Nanza Explore all the fun of the farm with play equipment, Easter Egg Hunts and Easter Crafts, before taking a trip to Farmer Hirst's Lambing and Calving Shed, if you're lucky, you may even see one being born! <https://hirstysfamilyfunpark.co.uk/>

11,12,13 April How Hill House Garden Tours, 2pm Enjoy a walk around the Gardens in the company of the charismatic and knowledgeable Director followed by tea/coffee and home-made cake in the Sunroom of the house. Booking is essential 01692 678555 zenda@howhilltrust.org.uk <http://www.howhilltrust.org.uk>

15 April How Hill Nature Reserve, Ludham NR29 5PG Dark Sky Nature Walk 7.45pm

£12 per adult, £8.50 per child. Explore the night-world around How Hill, on a nocturnal adventure.

Experience, night creatures, astronomy, and sensory discovery; rounded off with just a touch of night magic!

Booking Essential. 01692 678763 toadholetic@broads-authority.gov.uk

10th & 16 April, 1 - 4.30 Barton House Railway Open Afternoons, Hartwell Rd Wroxham NR12 8TL

Barton House Railway is a miniature ride-on railway located in a spacious garden alongside the River Bure in Wroxham. It re-creates a traditional railway atmosphere where the whole family can enjoy the nostalgia of the golden age of steam with two ride-on railways, a working full-size signalling system and authentic tickets. For more details call 01603 782008

Spring Bat Walk 17 April 7.45pm. Salhouse Broad Moorings, NR13 6RX

Meet the ferry at Salhouse Broad moorings for a short boat trip across the Broad and upriver to Hoveton Great Broad Nature Trail, a tranquil spot only accessible by boat. Explore the trail as darkness falls with the Warden and bat expert, using bat detectors to find, track and identify the bats. Board at Salhouse Broad moorings at 7.45pm. Bring a torch and warm clothes! No dogs please. Booking essential, limited places available. Price includes a hot drink and biscuits, adults (16yrs plus) £12 children £6. Hoveton Great Broad nature trail, Via Salhouse Broad off Lower Street,

Salhouse, NR13 6RX 07879 881180

Paul Dickson Norwich and Norfolk Broads Tours Paul has worked in the local tourism industry for more than 30 years and is a qualified City of Norwich Guide, he now runs his own business of guided tours around Norwich and the Norfolk Broads National Park. He offers a wide variety of walking tours and has a real wealth of knowledge on the local area. Head to his website for full details <https://www.pauldicksonstours.co.uk/>

Happisburgh Lighthouse open days 9 April & 30 April, 10 – 5.

It is great to be able to see inside this iconic building and the views of coast and countryside are fabulous. Prebooking advised but not essential.

<http://happisburgh.org.uk/lighthouse/open-days/>

Blickling Hall, National Trust, Blickling, Aylsham, NR11 6NF It is only my opinion, but I think that Blickling is the best National Trust property in the area! It's the combination of the stunning house, beautiful garden and large parkland. Early this month the gardens are full of daffodils and later in the month the Bluebells in the woods are outstanding. The second handbook shop is huge and was the first one in the trust and to top it off along with the Trust café there is a super pub called the Buckinghamshire Arms next door. <https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/visit/norfolk/blickling-estate>

Southern Comfort Paddle Boat River trips, Horning, NR12 8AA The Southern Comfort is a double-deck paddle boat purpose built for the Broads with a capacity of 100 passengers for public trips or private hire. A luxury river cruiser which runs regular trips from the beautiful village of Horning, along the River Bure through the village and out to Ranworth Broad and back, passing lovely old thatched houses, windmills and Norfolk reed beds. Throughout the trip there is an excellent commentary and continual pointing out of all the water birds around at the time. There is the ever-present bustle of river traffic with cruisers, yachts and the occasional wherry. For details on sailing times <http://www.southern-comfort.co.uk/>

Horsey Seal Boat Trips

Boats Trips from Sea Palling Beach, dates and times vary depending on the tide. Contact them on 07759331641 or 07968798700. There are a large number of adult seals on the beach at the moment and the boats are a great way to see them without disturbing them. They also offer Angling and Lobster trips and Sea Kayak Hire.

29 April, 10 – 2, All Seasons makers craft fair, Ludham Village Hall, NR29 5PB

Monthly craft fair in the Broadland Village of Ludham

30 April Beccles Antique Market, Beccles, NR34 9BB Over 100 stalls of antiques, collectables and vintage in the beautiful setting of Beccles Quay. Take a look at our days out in Beccles and surrounding area information sheet for other things to do in that area.

Farm Shop and Café of the month

HIRSTS FARM SHOP AND CAFÉ Mill Farm, North Road, Ormesby St Margaret, NR29 3LE

Based alongside the cattle sheds of a working farm this small farm shop is packed with seasonal local and home-grown goodies and has a fantastic fish counter. They have recently extended their popular café which is open 7 days a week for light bites, lunches, cakes and farmers' fry-ups! They prepare food freshly in the kitchen every day. Using home-reared, homemade and locally sourced ingredients, Ian and I personally recommend the home-made cheesecake selection it's fantastic!

