CLEY WINDMILL
NORFOLK

WELCOME to CLEY WINDMILL

We hope you have a relaxed and enjoyable stay with us in this historic building. If there is anything we can do to make your stay more comfortable, please don't hesitate to say so.

You are staying in the **Long House**
The refurbishment of this long, flint-walled building has recently been completed to provide what we hope you'll agree is a warm, private suite, with a lovely view from the sitting area, out over the reeds and the River Glaven.

Reception and Check Out

Our reception is open from 8am – 6pm Monday – Wednesday and 8am – 8pm Thursday – Sunday.

Check out is at 10:30am.

Breakfast

Breakfast has been split into two time slots, 8:15am – 9am and 9:15am – 10am. This is so we can serve every room in a well distanced and timed manor. There are breakfast sheets to collect from reception, please complete this and drop it back to us the evening before.

You can book a time in the dining room by noting down your name and room on the booking sheet in reception.

You are also welcome to have breakfast outside, just let us know that morning where you are sitting.

If not the breakfast can be delivered to your room for you.

Dinner

We are no longer able to serve dinner at Cley Windmill but we are very lucky to have some great alternatives.

You can order a hamper from us with local deli meats, salmon and cheeses. All hampers need to be ordered with us 24 hours in advance.

You can order Drop Off Dining from Thursday – Saturday with Bayfield Catering serving fish and chips and an amazing 3 course meals. All meals need to be ordered 24 hours in advance, menus and more information can be collected from reception.
We are also fortunate to have a variety of great places to dine local to us. We always recommend booking in advance! You can collect a list of great places from reception and we will happily provide advice on where is best.

Drinks

You can order a range of drinks from reception including coffees, wine, spirits and beer. If you are heading out for the evening and would like something for when you return we will happily leave it in your room for you.

You also have a mini fridge in your room, please note on the sheet provided which drinks you have had so we can add that to your room bill.

WiFi

Norfolk is not best-known for its technology but as do have WiFi throughout the Windmill!

Network: cley_windmill_guest
Password: smartwizard

The Gallery

The gallery is open to all our of Windmill guests! If you head up both flights of stairs, there is a white door but please hook the door open whilst you are out

there as it does not open from the outside! We do ask for a maximum of 6 people on the gallery at one time and anyone under the age of 16 to be accompanied by an adult.

Heating

You can control the heating for Long House using the dial next to the door (to the left of the door if you're looking from the inside). You can also control the heat on each radiator with the dials attached.

Car Park

The car park next to the Windmill is a public car park. And whilst all of our guests are welcome to use it, so are the general public so we cannot guarantee there will always be space. If you ever find you cannot park there, let us know so we can move our cars for you if we are taking up a space. Alternatively there is the village hall car park which is free and only a 5 minute walk away.

Travelling Around North Norfolk

Taxis really are few and far between and will most definitely need to be booked in advance. A few good local taxi companies are:

Strong Cars – 01263 740283
Holt Taxis – 01263 715707
Coastal Cars – 01263 711517
Stuarts Taxis – 01263 824444
Anglia Taxis Sheringham – 01263 822222

The local bus is the Coast Hopper which drives through the village every hour towards Sheringham or Blakeney. More information can be collected at reception.

The nearest train station is Sheringham which goes to Norwich via Cromer and North Walsham. More information can be collected at reception.

Active things to do in the area

Walking

The area around Cley is great for walking. The crucial thing to get right if you are walking anywhere from the Mill is to get on the right side of the River Glaven. The flood gate to the North of the Mill is not a bridge and there is no way of crossing the river between the main road and the sea. You can walk directly to the coast from the Windmill via the coastal walk which is only around 25 minutes. But to head to Blakeney you will need to walk through the village, past Picnic Fayre. And just before you leave Cley there is a walkway on the right, up the slope which takes you straight to Blakeney and is around a 50 minute walk.

Please be aware that none of the walks or roads in the area are lit at night. Whilst places like Wiveton Bell are very close, the road is not the best for walking – especially at night!

Seal Trips

There is a permanent seal colony at the end of Blakeney Point. It is quite a sight but don't expect to be able to walk up to them and pat them on the head – they will move. You can reach them either by walking to the end of the Point, starting from the East side of the Mill and the River Glaven, heading towards the beach and then turning left, or by taking a boat from Morston. If you want to walk, you will find it very hard work but rewarding. Try to go at low tide so that you can walk on hard sand rather than the shingle, which is very good for your leg muscles but slow going. If you want to go by boat, they leave every day in the season at high tide. It is a one hour round trip and it is probably a good idea to book, particularly in high summer.

Bird watching

This area is top bird watching territory for migrant and wading birds and you will see twitchers from all over the country on the marshes. To gain access to the aforementioned marshes, you need to go to the wonderful new Visitor Centre on the coast road just to the Eastern edge of the village and purchase either a membership or a day permit.

Sailing

There is a lot of good sailing to be had from Blakeney and Morston. Charlie Ward Traditional Sailing Boats (Tel 01263 740377) are excellent for instruction and charter in Norfolk Oyster Dayboats alongside a wonderful, and quite large, sailing barge called "Juno". They run terrific 5 and 12 hour sailing trips on the barge, which will give you a very memorable day out. Also running from Morston is Norfolk Etc, providing both dinghy and powerboat tuition from local instructors alongside day charter of Oysters and other water-craft. To make a booking please call 01263 740704.

Cycling

Norfolk is great for cycling. There are a multitude of lanes linking some really pretty villages and it is relatively, but not totally flat. A couple of top tips

though. Firstly, stay away from the main roads, particularly the coast road in high summer. They are surprisingly busy. Secondly, the wind blows fairly persistently up here so there is a lot to be said for planning your route out into the wind so that you have any easy run back.

Golf

There are several excellent links courses on the Norfolk Coast. To the West are Hunstanton and Brancaster. Just seven miles away is Sheringham, which is superb. Further along are West Runton, a friendly 9 hole course and Cromer which welcomes visitors to its excellent links. Best to ring any of these clubs before you set out, particularly at weekends.

Tennis

The Cromer Lawn Tennis and Squash Club in Cromer (tel 01263 513741) welcomes guests as well as members. With its lovely grass tennis courts and pleasant clubhouse, you'll feel as if you're playing at Wimbledon. Make sure you phone the club before setting off to ensure that courts are available.

Cley and other towns and villages worth seeing

Cley is a very pretty, rather spread out village with, as is usual in Norfolk, a church out of all proportion to the population it serves. There are several very interesting shops on the High Street. Just up the road is **'Made in Cley'**, an excellent pottery and next to it is the famous **'Smokehouse'** which smokes all kinds of things, all legal, on the premises. Across the road from there is an art gallery and finally, on the corner is **'Picnic Fayre'**, a superb Deli full of things to tempt even the most jaded palate. If you want a newspaper, you can find them on Sundays from a cottage about fifty yards along the High Street to the East of the Mill. Knock on the window and they will sell you a Sunday newspaper.

Holt

Holt is a terrific Georgian town, rather the way most English towns used to be before out-of-town shopping centres took over. It is full of interesting shops, which all seem to do pretty well. Check out some of the little streets off the High Street. You will find all kinds of unusual shops in the alleyways. When you have tired of shopping, there are plenty of places for snack lunching or for tea. Best of all is probably Byfords which also has an excellent deli.

Blakeney

Blakeney is an attractive seaside village with a few decent shops, a couple of hotels, a harbour and some good places to eat and drink. It is mercifully free of anything tacky and overtly commercial. The same can be said for some of the villages further west, such as Brancaster, Burnham Overy Staithe, Stiffkey, Thornham and Holme which are all pretty with plenty of good pubs, lots of boats and some refreshing walking on the marshes. To the east of Cley, Salthouse, Kelling and Weybourne are all wonderfully unspoilt coastal villages.

Burnham Market

Burnham Market is just about the prettiest small town you could ever see. Small shops, pubs and restaurants of great quality surround the green. You could almost imagine that it is Hollywood's idea of what an English Village should look like, except that it is all real. The Hoste Arms is a terrific coaching inn that has been remarkably refurbished in the past decade. It has a great bar and restaurant.

Absolutely Must See!

Norfolk is absolutely littered with history. Many of the villages had a substantially larger population in medieval times, hence the proliferation of unfeasibly large **churches.** You will even see a number of earlier round towers. Many of the churches are open and are well worth a look in. If you really want to find out about some of the local churches, a guided tour starts from Blakeney Church at 2 o'clock every Tuesday. It is cheap and takes in Blakeney, Langham, Morston and Cley.

Blickling Hall

About 15 miles away towards Norwich, Blickling Hall is a National Trust Property. It is an absolutely lovely Jacobean mansion, as always with National Trust Properties beautifully presented and full of wonderful furniture and paintings. The grounds are vast and you could walk in them for half a day. There is also the added bonus of the Buckinghamshire Arms, a superb pub, with great food right outside the main gate.

Felbrigg Hall

Felbrigg is about 8 miles away towards Cromer, but inland. It is also National Trust, a 17th century house with 18th century furniture and a huge park to walk in. Do check the opening times for Felbrigg and Blickling before you plan your entire day around a visit. National Trust Properties are notoriously quirky with their opening times. However, even if you don't get to see the house, you can always have a good tea!

Holkham Hall

Just beyond Wells, Holkham is well worth a visit. It is a huge 18th century Palladian mansion, somewhat unattractive from the outside but outstanding inside with a host of treasures. There is also a huge park, a bygones exhibition (where you can make jokes about leaving your partner behind as an exhibit), a pottery and an art gallery. Open Bank Holidays and then Sunday to Thursday from May 30th.

Sandringham

The Queen's country pad, this is a surprisingly interesting place to visit. You really do get to see round the house and get a particularly good insight into the Royal Family and their history over the past century. The museum of royal vehicles and memorabilia is quite fascinating and the grounds and church are beautiful. Only the overcrowded tearooms are a bit of a disappointment. Open April to October, except two weeks in late July when you can only get in if you have been invited, in which case you would probably not be staying here!

Little Walsingham

About 8 miles away is the pilgrimage centre of Little Walsingham, a sort of English Lourdes. It has been a place of pilgrimage since Medieval times with a ruined abbey, several churches and more gift shops and tea shops than you could shake a stick at. The Anglican Shrine was only built in 1931 and the Slipper Chapel a mile or so away is pretty much a modern construction. Yet despite a hint of over-commercialism, Little Walsingham is still worth a visit.

Castle Acre

Further away towards King's Lynn is Castle Acre, a very pretty village with a ruined castle and the remains of a large 12th century priory. It is a lovely and peaceful spot, unspoilt and with a couple of excellent tea shops to further commend it.

Great Bircham Mill

If you want to see a windmill that works better than this one, then Great Bircham is the place to go. When possible on windy days, the sails turn the milling machinery and visitors can climb five floors up to the fan stage. They also bake their own bread there.

Letheringsett Mill

Only 5 miles away is the delightful Letheringsett Watermill. On Tuesday to Friday afternoons you can see the millers making flour in the traditional method.

Binham Priory

The ruins of a 12th century Benedictine Priory are not particularly remarkable in themselves but the setting on the outskirts of the village of Binham is wonderful and worth a visit if you are passing. Afterwards you can try the Chequers pub for an excellent lunch.

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Have an excellent time here at the Cley Windmill

With all our Best Wishes,

The Cley Windmill Team

Flooding

Cley Windmill has a long and respectful relationship with the sea.
Cley used to be a busy sea port, and large vessels would discharge their contents at the quay-side here.
The sea has long since retreated, and the village is now known as Cley-next-the-Sea. Flooding has been an occasional problem at the Windmill.

The last great flood was in 1953
Not a single house on High Street or Holt Road, or the Green itself was untouched by the flood – but those slightly uphill from the main coast road had perhaps 4 feet of flooding while the worst hit had 9 feet.
First of all it had been a high tide –Then there had been a strong wind – some say it was 100 miles per hour and some had it at 120. Then came the breaking of the sea defences – walls and stone barriers that had been built up naturally by the sea, and others which had been built specifically to keep the sea out. There had been many other floods in Cley, but this was the worst in history. The last big one was in 1893 – and 1853.

There have been many defence changes since 1953. The first of these is the large shingle bank along the entire northern coastline.
Secondly a flood defence system was built which can be seen as a raised area outside Dovecote and The Boat House, and running along the southern edge of our garden. It will be appreciated that the windmill was, rather unsportingly, left out of this earlier defence plan.
Colonel Blount built a smaller inner wall which can be seen as a small 'final defence' outside the sitting room window.

Recently, a massive new flood defence has been built that very definitely includes the Windmill! This is the new high flood defence wall that surrounds us (clearly seen out of the windows between us and the sea). This has a sluice gate built into it which allows the River Glaven to flow out to sea. If a high spring tide is expected, this gate is shut providing a barrier to the sea.

Occasionally, the sea water rises sufficiently for us to be put on a "flood alert". This usually means that the level in the River Glaven rises sufficiently to flood the car-parking area. If this happens, please move your car away from the main car park and park in the free village hall car park (staff can provide a map and instructions).

If severe flooding were ever to occur again, a flood siren would sound, and you should evacuate to the village hall on the high ground behind the church.

In an Emergency:

PLEASE CONTACT:
The on call Duty Manager; all numbers are in the porch

In case of Medical Problems

GP SERVICES

Blakeney Surgery, Queens Close, Blakeney
Open 8.30 - 11am , then 2.30 - 5pm. Closed Thursday afternoons.
Tel 01263 712461

Out of hours GP Services

Holt Medical Practice 01263 712461
A recorded message will explain how to contact the duty doctor.

Dental Services

Holt Dental Practice 01263 712335

Minor Injuries Unit

01263 513571
Cromer and District Hospital has a minor injuries unit
open 24 hours per day.

Accident and Emergency

The nearest full A&E is
Norfolk & Norwich Hospital in Norwich
01603 287325
or
QE2 Hospital in Kings Lynn
01553 613613