

# the guardian travel



Cooling off at High Jervaulx Farm, North Yorkshire

Antiques at Norfolk Courtyard



## Norfolk

### 12 miles approx

The shepherd's hut at Norfolk Courtyard B&B is as rudimentary as you can get while still having a roof over your head. There's (just) enough space for two, a fold-out table and a tiny wooden shelf bed with a small crate underneath. The latter was formerly a cot for orphaned lambs, but is conveniently sized for a holdall.

Heading left from the driveway and out through Foulsham village, you find yourself in a network of tiny lanes that thread their way between the fields.

Cruising through Guestwick, you pass a 12th-century church where rabbits dart about between the gravestones, before arriving in Heydon. This is probably the prettiest village in England: a clutch of red-brick cottages gathered around the green - all of them in pristine nick. It's as if someone stopped the clocks here sometime in the 1700s.

Pause at the Earle Arms pub (01263 587376, [earlearms.vpweb.co.uk](http://earlearms.vpweb.co.uk)) for lunch (or elevenses in the tearoom), before looping back to Foulsham via the hamlets of Salle and Wood Dalling. Best of all, there's not a single hill.

**Stop and see** The Village Teashop at Heydon has lacy tablecloths, Victoria sponges and other chintzy treats ([heydonvillageteashop.co.uk](http://heydonvillageteashop.co.uk))

**Eat, drink, sleep** If the shepherd's hut (£85 a night) at Norfolk Courtyard (01362 683333, [norfolkcourtyard.co.uk](http://norfolkcourtyard.co.uk)) isn't your bag, how about one of its luxury B&B rooms (doubles from £80) with underfloor heating to keep your toes warm?

**Rent** MPG Leisure in Fakenham (01328 853861, [mpgleisure.com](http://mpgleisure.com))

## Clifford Chambers to Hidcote Gardens Warwickshire

### 17 miles

Stratford-upon-Avon may be famous for its Shakespearean connection, but the nearby hamlet of Clifford Chambers is allegedly the Bard's true birthplace. Riding along the (one) street, you pass rows of red-brick cottages with immaculate topiary.

Soon you're peeling off along a bridleway, and pedalling on to Preston-on-Stour, where Nina serves up a mean beef and horseradish sandwich in the village shop. Washing it down with a cuppa in the sun-soaked garden, you probably won't see a single car drive past.

From here you press on to Hidcote Gardens, with its Arts-and-Crafts nooks and crannies. It's worth nipping along the lane, too, to where thatched cottages encircle a small pond and white ducks snooze on the green.

The route back to Clifford Chambers takes you through Ilmington - where the fish and chips at the Howard Arms (01608 682226, [howardarms.com](http://howardarms.com)) are to die for.

**Stop and see** Bring a picnic to Hidcote