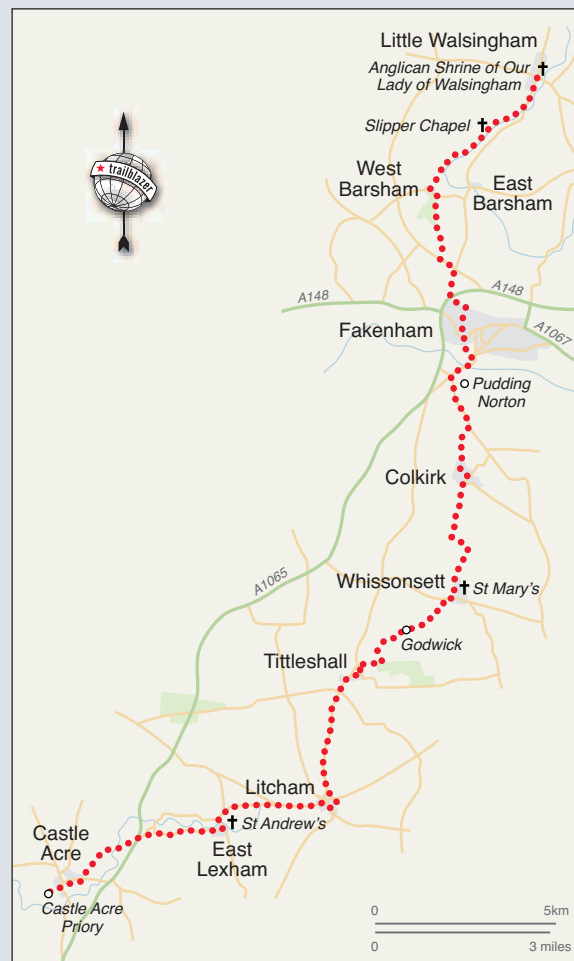
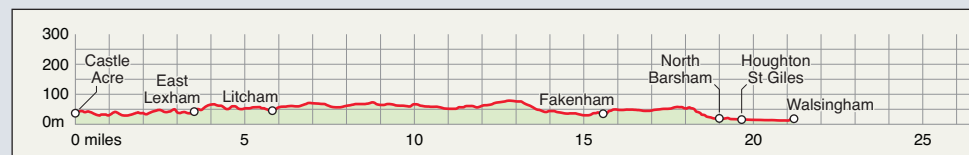


PRACTICAL INFORMATION



From Castle Acre for the **3.7 miles** to East Lexham the route follows the Nar Valley Way, a long-distance route from King's Lynn to Gressenhall. Its green on white roundels depicting a river and trees are a useful guide to this part of the route. You then take to quiet lanes over gently undulating countryside, reaching Litcham in **1.9 miles**, Tittleshall in **2.7 miles**, the abandoned village of Godwick in **1.1 miles**, Whissonsett in **1.6 miles**, Colkirk in **2.1 miles**, and Fakenham in **2.4 miles**.

● **Terrain** Mainly quiet lanes and some footpaths over gently undulating countryside.

● **Difficulty** Moderate

● **Directions & GPS***

013.pdf, 013.gpx, 013.kml at

[https://trailblazer-guides](https://trailblazer-guides.com/press)

.com/press

* See p10-11 for more information on downloads

ROUTE OVERVIEW

21.4 miles (34.4km)

This is a walk across a truly historic landscape with big skies, following in the footsteps of many thousands of pilgrims over hundreds of years. There is much to see and contemplate in Walsingham so allow plenty of time there.

Castle Acre to Fakenham 15.5 miles (24.9km)

● **Time** 6 hrs actual walking time

● **Total ascent** 210m/690ft

● **Map** OS Explorer 238 *Dereham & Aylsham*

Fakenham to Walsingham

5.9 miles (9.5km)

● **Time** 1hr 30 mins actual walking time

● **Total ascent** 53m/175ft

● **Map** OS Explorer 251 *Norfolk Coast Central*

Today's walk is short, to ensure you have plenty of time to explore all that Walsingham has to offer. It is just **4 miles** along quiet lanes from Fakenham to the Slipper Chapel, the Catholic shrine, after which a footpath follows an old railway track for the final Holy Mile – actually **1.9 miles** on this route, but preferable to the often-busy lane into Walsingham.

Day walk options

For the energetic, complete the entire route in one day. Or, for a gentle walk that will leave plenty of time to enjoy Walsingham, start from Fakenham.

● **By public transport** Take the train to King's Lynn station then a bus or taxi to Castle Acre to begin the walk. If starting from Fakenham take a bus or taxi from King's Lynn station. From Walsingham take a taxi back to King's Lynn station.

● **Taxi option** Near and Far (☎ 01328-853636, nearandfarfakenham.co.uk)

Where to eat or stay along the way

● **Castle Acre Stay** overnight at former pub *Old Red Lion* (☎ 01760-755557, oldredlion.org.uk, Bailey St), now a hostel, or the *Ostrich Inn* (☎ 01760-755398, ostrich-castleacre.com, Stocks Green), a 16th century coaching inn.

● **Litcham** Have lunch at the *Bull Hotel* (☎ 01328-701340, thelitchambull.co.uk, 1 Church St) or grab the ingredients for a picnic at *Litcham Post Office Stores* (Church St; Mon-Sat 7.30am-7pm, Sun 9am-1pm) from its in-store bakery.

● **Fakenham Stay** by the river at the *Wensum Lodge Hotel* (☎ 01328-862100, wensumlodge.co.uk, Bridge St), part of a former mill dating from 1750.

● **Walsingham** Celebrate your pilgrimage at the *Anglican Shrine's Norton Café Bar* (walsinghamanglican.org.uk/visit/nortons-cafe-bar) which offers everything from a cooked breakfast to lunch, evening meal, coffee and cakes.

PILGRIMAGE HIGHLIGHTS

- Visit the round tower church of **St Andrew, East Lexham** (daily dawn to dusk)
- Feel the history of the abandoned medieval village at **Godwick**.
- In **Walsingham** visit the **Catholic shrine**, (walsingham.org.uk, Houghton St Giles; the ruins of **Walsingham Priory** (walsinghamabbey.com, Common Pl; daily 11am-4pm), and the spot where the Holy House stood; the **Anglican Shrine** (walsinghamanglican.org.uk, 2 Common Pl); and the **Orthodox Shrine** (Station Rd; Sat/Wed 2pm-4pm).

Saints' feast days There are numerous pilgrimage dates to Walsingham, key among them are: **Anglican pilgrimage**: late May Bank Holiday

Feast of Our Lady of Walsingham: Catholic: 24 September; Anglican: 15 October

			Walk 13: Castle Acre to Walsingham
Distance from start	Distance from last direction	OS Grid ref	Direction
0	0	TF 81369 14949	From Castle Acre Priory walk north. This first section of the route, follows the Nar Valley Way (a long-distance path from King's Lynn to Gressenhall) until the village of East Lexham.
55yds/50m	55yds/50m	TF 81350 15012	Turn right onto Priory Rd through Castle Acre village and continue past the castle.
0.5mile/.8km	820yds/750m	TF 81998 15243	Just past the ruined castle, where the road turns sharp left, continue straight on to take a signed footpath.
0.7mile/1.1km	330yds/300m	TF 82307 15417	Where the path reaches Newton Rd, cross over and continue straight ahead along Sandy Ln which reduces to a track as it approaches Broadmeadow Common. Continue to where the track bears left, just after Old Mill Cottage and before Broadmeadow Common, and look out for a signed footpath off to the right.
0.9miles/1.4km	330yds/300m	TF 82407 15674	Take the footpath that bears right off the track.
1mile/1.6km	550yds/500m	TF 82463 15745	Ford the stream and continue straight on to St James's Rd.
1.2miles/2km	440yds/400m	TF 82785 16143	When the path reaches St James's Rd, a little before Newton Mill, bear right onto it and continue past Newton Mill.
1.5miles/2.5km	550yds/500m	TF 83143 16230	Just past Newton Mill, take the track that leaves St James's Rd on your left and continue along to the A1065.
1.9miles/3.1km	660yds/600m	TF 83707 16519	Cross the A1065 and continue on the footpath in the field opposite, just to the right of the lane towards East Lexham.
3.4miles/5.5km	1.5miles/2.4km	TF 85969 16912	When you reach a T junction of lanes on the outskirts of East Lexham, turn left and continue to junction.
3.5miles/5.7km	220yds/200m	TF 85803 17138	At the T-junction of lanes, turn right and continue for 100m.

3.6miles/5.8km	110yds/100m	TF 85866 17185	Turn right onto a farm track to reach St Andrew's, East Lexham's round tower church.
3.7miles/5.9km	110yds/100m	TF 85978 17164	Arrive at St Andrew's East Lexham. Then retrace your steps to the lane, turn right and keep straight on to continue.
4.8miles/7.7km	1.1miles/1.8km	TF 87362 17538	Where the lane reaches the B1145, Lexham Rd, bear right onto it, and cross over. After a row of houses, a footpath takes you behind the hedge to follow the field margin to the outskirts of the village of Litcham.
5.5miles/8.8km	0.7mile/1.1km	TF 88480 17639	Bear right off the B1145 onto Front St into Litcham.
5.6miles/9km	220yds/200m	TF 88626 17671	The Bull Inn, on your left, is a good place for lunch, and there is a village store. Bear right into Church St for the centre of the village and All Saints church and continue past Litcham School.
5.7miles/9.1km	110yds/100m	TF 88776 17566	After Litcham School turn left into Druids Ln and follow it as it bends left and brings you to the B1145.
6miles/9.6km	550yds/500m	TF 88799 17826	Cross straight over the B1145 and continue along Back Ln to the junction.
6.1miles/9.8km	220yds/200m	TF 88664 18031	Where Back Ln joins Tittleshall Rd continue straight on.
7.4miles/12km	1.4miles/2.2km	TF 88716 20212	At a junction, where a lane joins from the right and a footpath from the left, continue straight on.
7.7miles/12.5km	550yds/500m	TF 88922 20649	At a staggered junction, with one lane joining from the right and then another from the left, keep straight on towards Tittleshall. You are now on Fakenham Rd.
8miles/13km	550yds/500m	TF 89124 20999	Just after Wellingham Rd joins on the left, bear slight right onto High St to continue into the village and up to a T-junction.
8.3miles/13.3km	330yds/300m	TF 89466 21080	At the T junction turn left onto Church Ln, passing Tittleshall church on your right.
8.4miles/13.6km	330yds/300m	TF 89378 21305	Before reaching the junction of Church Ln with Fakenham Rd, turn right onto a footpath in the corner of a field.

			Although the Ordnance Survey shows a right of way running diagonally left across this field to a stile, that route may not be evident on the ground. If not, follow the right-hand field margin, then turn left at the foot of the field until, in the next corner, you see the stile to your right.
9miles/14.5km	990yds/900m	TF 89843 21713	Go right over the stile, and then tack diagonally left over the next field to the abandoned medieval village of Godwick.
9.2miles/14.9km	440yds/400m	TF 90075 22021	Climb the stile into the next field, and Godwick's ruined church tower comes up on your right. Continue on past Godwick Great Barn and a farm.
9.6miles/15.5km	660yds/600m	TF 90579 22265	Leave the village site, crossing over the stile and through a succession of fields.
10.4miles/16.7km	0.7mile/1.2km	TF 91511 22909	Where the footpath meets a farm track on the outskirts of Whissonsett, turn left onto it and continue until it meets Mill Ln.
10.6miles/17km	330yds/300m	TF 91534 23143	Turn right onto Mill Ln and walk into Whissonsett village, up to the junction with London St.
10.7miles/17.2km	220yds/200m	TF 91799 23174	At the junction turn left into London St and continue straight ahead as it leaves the village and becomes Colkirk Rd. <i>To visit Whissonsett church, continue past the junction with London St onto High St and turn left after 100m to enter the churchyard. Then retrace your footsteps and turn right into London St.</i>
11.5miles/18.6km	0.9mile/1.4km	TF 92126 24496	Where Oxwick Rd joins from the right, bear left to follow it as it becomes Whissonsett Rd.
11.9miles/19.1km	550yds/500m	TF 91697 24778	At the T-junction of lanes before Manor Farm. bear right to continue on Whissonsett Rd towards the village of Colkirk.
12.8miles/20.6km	0.9mile/1.5km	TF 91907 26265	At the junction in Colkirk, turn first right onto School Rd and then immediately left onto Crown Rd to continue into the village.

12.9miles/20.8km	220yds/200m	TF 92060 26425	Where Hall Ln joins from the right, follow the lane you are on as it bears left, becoming Church Rd.
13miles/21km	220yds/200m	TF 92060 26425	At a Y-junction, bear right onto Market Hill, passing a green and church on your left.
13.1miles/21.1km	110yds/100m		Bear left, keeping to Market Hill until it reaches the B1146, Dereham Rd.
13.9miles/22.4km	0.8mile/1.3km	TF 92054 27780	When your route meets the B1146, turn left and walk on the wide grass verge. Follow this road into Fakenham.
14.7miles/23.7km	0.8mile/1.3km	TF 91544 28967	Where the B1146 turns left to cross Hempton Green, bear right past a row of houses to continue on Dereham Rd towards Fakenham.
15.1miles/24.4km	770yds/700m	TF 91990 29325	Cross the River Wensum.
15.2miles/24.5km	110yds/100m	TF 92019 29406	At the mini-roundabout, go straight on into Bridge St.
15.3miles/24.7km	220yds/200m	TF 91905 29642	When Bridge St meets Market Pl at a T-junction, turn left. Keeping the church on your right, bear round behind it to your right onto Oak St. <i>You are now in the centre of Fakenham, where I suggest an overnight stop.</i>
15.5miles/25.1km	440yds/400m	TF 91796 29901	At the Y junction, take the right fork into Wells Rd.
15.6miles/25.2km	110yds/100m	TF 91813 30062	At the roundabout, go left onto the continuation of Wells Rd.
15.7miles/25.3km	110yds/100m	TF 91728 30110	Turn right into Field Ln and continue along, past Fakenham College on the right, to Fakenham Academy on the left.
16.1miles/26km	770yds/700m	TF 91809 30828	Just beyond Fakenham Academy turn left onto footpath,
16.5miles/26.5km	550yds/500m	TF 91420 31014	At the end of the footpath, cross over the A148, then bear almost immediately left onto the B1105, Fakenham Rd.

17miles/27.4km	990yds/900m	TF 91476 31852	At the staggered crossroads turn left to keep on the B1105, up to Breck Ln (labelled Brake Ln on OS maps).
17.3miles/27.8km	440yds/400m	TF 91121 32064	Turn right onto Breck Ln for West Barsham.
18.3miles/29.5km	1.1miles/1.7km	TF 90958 33747	At the T-junction, turn left towards West Barsham, then follow the lane as it turns sharp right, up to the next T-junction.
		TF 90782 33961	At the T-junction just after West Barsham turn right and follow this lane towards North Barsham.
19.3miles/31km	550yds/500m	TF 91376 34864	In North Barsham, bear right at the junction and continue along the lane to the Slipper Chapel.
19.8miles/31.9km	990yds/900m	TF 92099 35363	Arrive at the Slipper Chapel, and the Catholic Basilica of Our Lady of Walsingham. To continue, take the footpath that runs left off the lane, just after the Slipper Chapel, at a crossroads where Grays Ln runs to your right.
19.9miles/32km	110yds/100m	TF 92053 35405	After 100m turn right onto the course of an old railway line to continue towards Walsingham.
20.8miles/33.5km	330yds/300m	TF 93026 36475	Where a lane crosses the route, turn right into Blind Dick's Ln.
20.9miles/33.7km	220yds/200m	TF 93266 36371	Where the Blind Dick's Ln meets Fakenham Rd, turn left and take that road into Walsingham
21.4miles/34.4km	770yds/700m	TF 93416 36866	Reach the centre of Walsingham, and the remains of Walsingham Abbey and the Anglican Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham.