

# Barsham Barns review: A perfect spot for a family break near the Norfolk coast



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For a family get-together, you can't beat the convenience and home-from-home nature of renting a big house. Heather Clark tried out Barsham Barns, just a few miles from the glorious North Norfolk coast.



Nestled in the valleys of the North Norfolk countryside 10 minutes from the coast sits Barsham Barns, a collection of agricultural buildings that have been lovingly restored and turned into holiday lets. And the work they have done – carried out by the award-winning Hudson Architects – has been exemplary. Even as we passed through our gated entrance, we could immediately tell that the barns have been beautifully done.

There are five different farm buildings that have been converted by the owners – some barns, some former stables – sleeping anything from four to 14 people. Our party stayed in Long Meadow, a medium-sized barn which sleeps 8, and which is full of character. Much of the fabric of the building is exposed, and the attention to detail is extremely high: there are beautiful clunch walls with curved corners, and a mixture of contemporary and antique furniture, all chosen for cosiness and upholstered in subtle shades of ivory and blue.



It's always a relief to get to a holiday let and find everything you need waiting for you: everything we could have asked for was supplied, from towels to barbecue equipment. The kitchen in particular is very well appointed with all utensils, cutlery, crockery and cookware supplied – you could easily spend a weekend baking with the children or grandchildren on days when the weather doesn't follow the script. Speaking of which, there is underfloor heating and a log burner for cold days and the winter months.

The sleeping arrangements include a king-size room which shares a Jack-and-Jill bathroom with one of the doubles; a further double with ensuite shower room; and finally a children's room, also ensuite, which has charming bespoke wooden bunkbeds. The children sleeping in those bunks will be delighted to know that there is a games room with table tennis and table football, as well as wireless internet access.

