

ROMANS FARM

111 Church Street, Orford, Suffolk IP12 2LL, 01394 450517, oldbutchers-orford.co.uk £65-£75, single £45
The Old Butcher's Shop is a 19th-century listed building a short walk from the Suffolk coast. It is an area well-suited to birdwatching as it is in the centre of the conservation area of Orford. There are three bedrooms.

THE OLD CUSTOM HOUSE

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and guesthouse award at the Tourism in Norfolk awards 2007, was built in 1687 and is 300m from the beach. Its three bedrooms have en suites and wireless internet access. Breakfast is served in the conservatory.

MACHRIMORE

Burnt Street, Wells-next-the-Sea, Norfolk NR23 1HS, 01328 711653, machrimore.co.uk £72-£76, single £50
Three-bedroom Machrimore is run by Dorothy and Campbell MacCallum. One of the bedrooms is in the main house, the other two are in a separate detached barn. The harbour is a 10-minute walk away.

MANOR BARN B&B

Manor Farmhouse, Happisburgh, Norfolk NR12 0SA, 01692 651262 £52, single £40
Manor Barn has three bedrooms in the barn and two in the main house. It is situated half a mile from the beach of Happisburgh and nine miles from Horsey beach, home to a colony of grey seals. Breakfast is served in the owner's farmhouse and options include a continental or cooked breakfast, including smoked salmon and scrambled eggs.

MILL COMMON HOUSE

Ridlington, North Walsham, Norfolk NR28 9TY, 01692 650792, millcommonhouse.co.uk £82, single £51
This Georgian farmhouse is one mile from a sandy beach. It has one twin/double bedroom with an en suite bathroom and one double bedroom with a wash basin and private bathroom. A full English breakfast with locally sourced produce is offered. The Norfolk Broads present a variety of watersports opportunities.

OCEAN HOUSE

25 Crag Path, Aldeburgh, Suffolk IP15 5BS, 01728 452094, oceanhousealdeburgh.co.uk £90, single £70-£80
Both bedrooms of this Victorian B&B have en suite facilities: the double room has a full bathroom while the twin room has a shower. The rooms overlook the beach, just across the road from the house. Owners Juliet and Phil Brereton lend bikes to guests and have a table tennis table in their cellar and grand piano in the top-floor studio for guests to use.

THE OLD BUTCHERS SHOP

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NORTH WEST**BAY TREE HOUSE**

1 Irving Street, Marine Gate, Southport, Merseyside PR9 0HD, 01704 510555, baytreehousesouthport.co.uk £75-£110, single £55-£79.50
The six-bedroom B&B is a 10-minute walk from the coast. There are a number of restaurants in the local area, but guests can also dine in the house. Southport is known for its golf courses and there are 15 within half an hour's drive.

BLUNDELLSANDS

GUEST HOUSE
9 Elton Avenue, Blundellsands, Liverpool, Merseyside L23 8UN, 0151 9246947, blundellsands.info £69-£79, single £49-£55
This guest house is close to the Blundellsands promenade. All four bedrooms have an en suite, a TV and tea- and coffee-making facilities. Guests are also free to use the lounge and garden. Breakfast is served in the dining room, which overlooks the garden, and evening meals can be provided.

CHALLAN HALL

Silverdale, Lancashire LA5 0UH, 01524 701054, challanhall.co.uk £70, single £45
This converted Victorian

farmhouse is a mile from Morecambe bay and is located on the edge of the Lake District. There are three bedrooms: a twin with an en suite bathroom, and a double and double/twin, which share a bathroom and are only let out together to the same party. Breakfast is served in the dining room or on the patio in good weather.

NUMBER ONE

1 St Lukes Road, Blackpool, Lancashire FY4 2EL, 01253 343901, numberoneblackpool.com £130, single £75-£80
Located a few minutes' walk from the sea front, Number One has won a number of awards, including VisitBritain's bed and breakfast of the year in 2007. Food options include continental and English breakfasts, or a three-course breakfast that varies seasonally. King-size beds are in each of the three bedrooms, and one room also has a double sofa bed and can be used as a family room.

A ONE-MAN SHOW

I used to be the general manager of a hotel, but I always wanted Whitepark House (p42). When my wife Siobhan and I discovered it was for sale, we sold everything to run it; Siobhan went out and got a job and I've been in the house non-stop since then.

It's unusual for a man to be doing all the things that I do. I cook, I clean, I make the beds, do their breakfast - it's a one-man show. Usually, it's the man that goes out to work and the lady that does her B&B, so this is a role reversal. I get a great buzz out of it. I've always been in catering, so this is just my busman's holiday.

As for winning the landlady of the year award, it's an honour to be up there with those ladies. It really is hard work. You want to make people relax and enjoy themselves then fill them with information and send them out for a nice day. I greet everybody with a cup of tea and some homemade biscuits. I take great pride in it when everyone goes away happy.

Bob Isles runs Whitepark House in Ballintoy
Bob won AA Landlady of the year in 2003