

DOGFRIENDLY

NUMBER 81 £4.49

SOMERSET

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The dog Quiz

Find out if your dog is really smart

Why visit

NORFOLK

Where to eat, walk, sleep and find great days out in this county with access to the Broads



Oatie catches the last of the rays

Natterjack Cottage, Winterton-on-Sea

Lucy Barrow and Oatie discover the perfect tranquil getaway that is Winterton-on-Sea

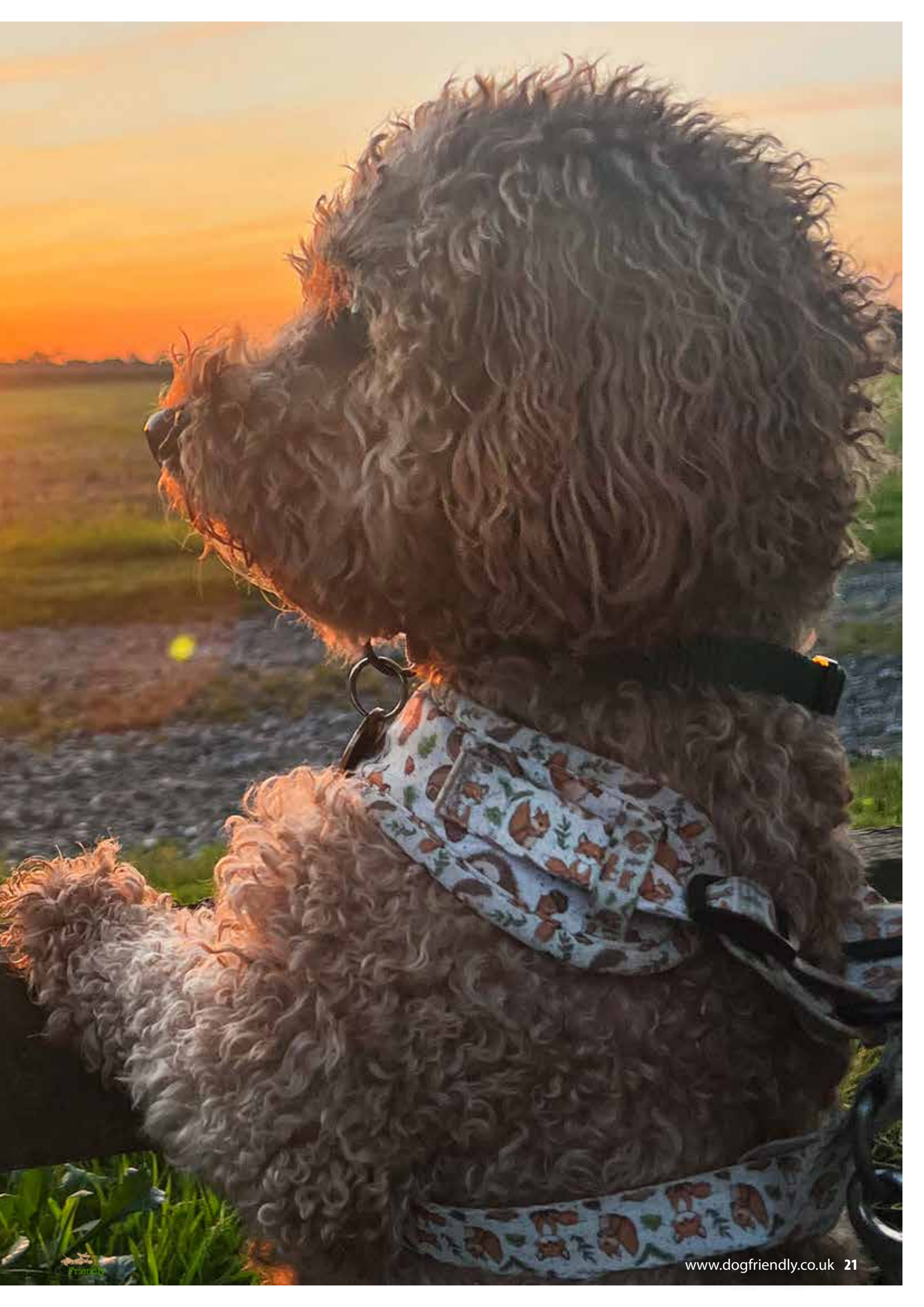
Winterton-on-Sea is a pretty, unspoilt seaside village which is located 9 miles north of Great Yarmouth and 23 miles east of Norwich. It is a quiet village with thatched cottages and a never-ending long stretch of fine golden sands backed by sand dunes. Winterton Dunes Nature Reserve is a haven for wildlife, including birds, seals and even the rare Natterjack toad! If you are looking for a weekend away by the coast without all the hustle and bustle of amusement arcades and a busy city atmosphere, this is the perfect place to be.

During our trip, we stayed in a cottage a stone's throw from the centre of the village. Going the gate, we were presented with a beautiful garden with a lavender-lined path leading up to the front door providing the most gorgeous aroma. The outside of the property looked stunning too, with a mixture of brickwork and stones. We set foot into Nackerjack Cottage and instantly felt rested in this cosy, beautifully decorated nest.

The two-bedroom cottage provided us with everything you could need and hope



for. The cottage comprises the main bedroom with a double bed and the second having two twins. Within the main open space was the lounge area with a gorgeous wood burner, fully equipped kitchen and dining area. We couldn't help but light the wood burner and enjoy a snuggly, cosy evening by the fire. Even Oatie gave it the paws up and enjoyed lying flat out on the rug in front of it. The exposed brick and stone walls on the inside of the cottage were characterful and really gave it a quaint and cosy feel. The adjoining garden, which is fenced and gated, was perfect. I felt very safe letting Oatie wander outside knowing he was enclosed and safe.



Tried & tested Norfolk

Parking is provided which I find always adds a stress-free element to a stay.

We were welcomed by the most gorgeous hamper. Oatie being the number one guest was treated with a dog hamper of various treats, biscuits, blankets and a dog towel. For me there was a bottle of wine and a deliciously moreish sticky toffee cake from a local bakery.

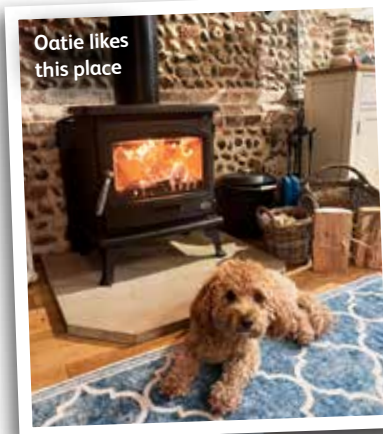
As Natterjack Cottage is the owner's second home, you can tell that it has been lovingly decorated and their personality shines through in all the little inclusive touches, in particular with the handmade curtains, blinds and lamp covers.

THINGS TO DO AT WINTERTON-ON-SEA

Within 5 minutes you can take a short walk into the little village which has all the essentials on your doorstep such as a local shop, cafe, takeaway fish and chips and a pub. Poppy's Tea Rooms is a dog friendly bakery/cafe based in the same building as the village post office, with a cute outside seating area. They offer a selection of baked goods, including gluten-free options. We visited the village pub, the

Fishermans Return, for a well-deserved pub dinner after a day of walking and exploring.

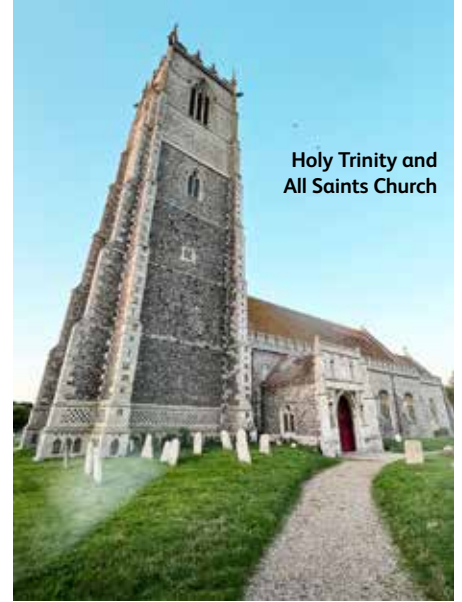
This 300-year-old pub serves classic pub grub and has a large indoor area, but we opted to sit outside in the garden as we were lucky to have a sunny afternoon. The pub is extremely dog friendly. In fact, we had never seen a pub that had as many dogs as regulars. There were dogs at seven of the outside



Oatie likes this place



The spacious kitchen



Holy Trinity and All Saints Church



Spot the dog!



Winterton dunes

tables. They even had natural dog treats for sale at the bar.

The village has a green with planters full of flowers donated by the Fishermans Return; the village certainly had a friendly community feel to it. The church within the village was a real highlight. At 40 metres tall, it dominates the landscape and forms a great backdrop for a beautiful sunset. Holy Trinity and All Saints Church is open to the public on Saturdays during spring and summer to climb to the top for views of the surrounding coastline and countryside.

A short 5–10 minute walk from Natterjack Cottage takes you to Winterton Dunes Nature Reserve, a large expanse of 109 hectares of space perfect for letting dogs have a run about. Oatie loves nothing more than rolling in grass and sand so he thoroughly enjoyed his time here. A further five minutes across the sand dunes and you arrive at Winterton Bay beach which is a very popular spot for locals to walk their dogs. Oatie made lots of dog friends and lapped up attention from passers-by. The huge beach is dog friendly with no restrictions throughout the year – it has a cafe and a dog shop, The Dog's Box, selling dog treats at the top of the car park before the descent down to the beach. Within this area there used to be a



The Dog's Box on Winterton beach

permanent cafe overlooking the beach which we discovered was lost to the sea in a storm in 2020. The large car park is an option if you'd prefer to arrive by car. Payment on entry is £1.80 per hour and there are public toilets available also. Once on the beach, this is a huge stretch of fine golden sands. As usual, Oatie loved rolling himself in the sand and dipping his little paws in the sea. While at the



Fishermans Return



The village green



beach you cannot miss the seals popping their heads up and down in the water. We were stunned when we saw them for the first time. The grey seals live and breed here and you don't need to be watching the water for long to see a little group swimming past.

From the beach, a view to enjoy is of Winterton lighthouse and also some colourful round houses which are all now holiday accommodation. They definitely stand out in the village, with a beautiful view over the sand dunes and sea.

THINGS TO DO NEARBY

We drove a short distance to visit Horsey Windpump, which is an iconic Broads building with a fascinating past. It is owned by the National Trust and welcomes dogs on leads. The building has stood for 80 years since 1943 when it was struck by lightning and has since been brought back to life. It is now complete with a winding cap and turning sails bringing a whole new visitor experience to this wonderful Grade II listed building. A climb to the top is rewarded with beautiful panoramic views of the surrounding countryside.

A few miles inland and you reach the heart



of the Norfolk Broads where you can opt for water-based activities and boat trips, some of which allow dogs onboard too. The Norfolk Broads are a tapestry of landscape, water and wildlife woven together too create a mostly navigable network of rivers and lakes, known as Broads, which were formed by the flooding of peat workings.

We drove nine miles north of Winterton-on-Sea to visit the lively seaside town of Great Yarmouth to take a walk along South beach, stop off for some lunch at Sara's Tearooms, another dog friendly cafe, and pick up a couple of souvenirs.

While in Winterton-on-Sea, we'd recommend a 5-10 minute drive from the village to West Somerton to view the ruins

of St Mary's Church which fell into disuse in the 17th century and has remained abandoned since, left to nature to reclaim. St Mary's Church has glassless windows, ivy-covered tumbling walls and a tower you can look up into the open sky. It was an astounding sight to see.





Great Yarmouth's South beach



That's the handwashing taken care of



Looking over the garden gate at Natterjack Cottage

FACT FILE



Natterjack Cottage

ADDRESS The Holway, Winterton-on-Sea, Norfolk NR29 4BS

CONTACT 01493 800645

PRICE Winterton Cottages has more than 40 holiday homes in Winterton-on-Sea and the surrounding villages of East Somerton and Martham. Natterjack Cottage sleeps four. A seven-night stay starts at £630 and a three-night weekend break from £375.

Two dogs welcome.

WEBSITE wintertoncottages.co.uk

Useful links

- **Poppy's Tea Rooms** [facebook.com/PoppysAtWintertonOnSea](https://www.facebook.com/PoppysAtWintertonOnSea)
- **Fishermans Return** fishermansreturn.com
- **Winterton Dunes Nature Reserve** visitnorfolk.co.uk
- **Horsey Windpump** nationaltrust.co.uk
- **Sara's tearooms** (Great Yarmouth) thetearooms.co.uk



Who goes there?



I know where I want to sleep!