



Our tour starts on the Quay in Wells-next-the-Sea, although this route can easily be done in reverse. Apart from our first pub, you'll also find two very popular chip shops here. There are currently five pubs and a cidery (Whin Hill, closed during Winter) to visit in the town, which once boasted around 20 licensed premises, a brewery and seven maltings!

THE many maltings first supplied malt to the Dutch and later to London breweries. Recent closures have seen the **Lifeboat** become housing and the **Albatros** clipper moored on the quay sailed away for refurbishment. Look out for the plaques marking the sites of the **Green Dragon** (later the Dukes Head), the **King William IV** (later the Prince of Wales) and the **Three Swans** (later the Dukes Head) as you wander around.

The quay is very busy during the summer months and at weekends with visitors who come to enjoy the pleasant surrounds or take a stroll to the beach about a mile away. Once many cargo ships would load or unload here and there was even a link to the railway station that passes under the imposing granary building with its distinctive overhanging gantry. Now you will only find local fishing boats moored there.



Overlooking all of this is the **Golden Fleece**, a large building dating from the 18th century. An upstairs restaurant offers a lovely view over the salt marshes to the sea, whilst downstairs are further tables and a bar area for drinkers. The pub is supplied with Moon Gazer ales - Nibbler, Jigfoot and Pintail are regulars amongst these finely kept beers.

a wander in
**WELLS
NEXT-THE
SEA**

GOLDEN FLEECE



EDINBURGH INN

GLOBE INN



CROWN HOTEL



**STIFFKEY
RED LION
3 MILES
EAST**



BOWLING GREEN INN

**EDINBURGH INN**

From the Golden Fleece we turn away from the harbour up Staithe Street, passing many shops and the Wells Maltings Arts Centre to arrive at the **Edinburgh Inn**. For a little bonus, just opposite is the **Bang in Wells** café which stocks Whin Hill cider and Lacons beer in bottles. Another building dating from the 18th century, the Edinburgh Inn occupies a long corner plot and has an adjacent restaurant that is closed during the off-season. In the main part of the pub are three handpumps in use with some of the more well-known local beers.

**CROWN HOTEL**

imposing **Crown Hotel**. At one time it was supplied with ale from Jo C's Brewery, run by the wife of the hotel's owner but which closed in 2017. Currently they're only using one of the four handpumps but this beautiful building is still worth a visit.

Turning right from the Crown Hotel and down

**GLOBE INN**

From Station Road, it is a short walk to the Buttlands, an open area where a bandstand once stood, surrounded by large Victorian and Edwardian buildings on all sides. The first pub you come to is the **Globe Inn**, another large building often busy with people eating and drinking. It has three beers normally available, whilst here if you pop to the toilet you will find the impressive cellar on display.

At the far end of the Buttlands is the large,

**BOWLING GREEN INN**

the passage to the High Street, then right again towards the church, you come to the **Bowling Green Inn** that sits opposite the large parish church of St Nicholas, dating from the 13th century but rebuilt after a devastating fire in 1879. The Bowling Green

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Inn is a large open-plan pub with food, four handpumps and a welcoming wood stove.

Travelling along the coast road about three



miles eastward, you soon arrive at the **Red Lion** in Stiffkey (pronounced Stew-key). The pub sits right on the main road and offers the traveller accommodation, food and drink. Here you'll be made to feel very welcome and able to enjoy four ales.

If you fancy a visit to Wells or Stiffkey by public transport there are regular buses running from King's Lynn and Cromer/ Sheringham (for train connection to Norwich). More details from LynxBus, Sanders and Greater Anglia.

