

Weekend

Your regular section is inside

COVER HERE

PROMOTED CONTENT

GREAT

BRITAIN & NORTHERN IRELAND



ESCAPE THE EVERYDAY

From city to coast, it's time to get out, embrace the changing seasons and discover short breaks in Great Britain and Northern Ireland



THE GRASS IS GREENER

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Green Hill Farm



MORE TO EXPLORE

Autumn is one of the loveliest times of year to explore Great Britain and Northern Ireland. Everywhere feels calmer and quieter; the milder temperatures are perfect for rural walks and urban explorations; and in city and country alike, nature lays on a spectacular backdrop of autumn foliage. This time of year brings new life to museums and galleries and reinvigorates restaurant menus with delicious seasonal produce; pubs spark up the log fires for added cosiness and local boutiques tempt with the new season's stock. Now is the perfect time to escape the everyday and have an autumn adventure: you could treat yourself to a spa break in Northern Ireland or head for the freedom of the open road and a boutique guest house in Scotland; enjoy a culinary break at a Welsh coaching inn or go family glamping in the English countryside. Yes, things are a little different this year, and you'll often need to book ahead, but it's worth a little extra planning. Always check websites for the latest updates before you travel as restrictions differ in each nation, look out for the We're Good To Go mark, then discover the joys of an autumn short break. The UK is filled with fabulous places to stay and there's never been a better time to enjoy them.



Pembrokeshire bolthole: get away from it all at Smokehouse Cottage

STAY SHARP

Forest bathing in the Lakes, lighthouse lodgings in Moray Speyside, fairytale turrets in Anglesey or a seaside spa in County Down? **Suzanne King** has UK stays with a difference

ENGLAND

CONTEMPORARY CAVE IN WORCESTERSHIRE

The Flintstones never had it this good: carved into a sandstone escarpment, The Rockhouse Retreat has lashings of caveman character along with all the finest 21st-century touches. From £165 per night, sleeps two (therockhouseretreat.co.uk)

LUXURY HOTEL IN LONDON

The hotly anticipated Mayfair Townhouse promises to redefine

the London luxury hotel scene with whimsy and wit. Book now ahead of the opening in November. From £350 per night (themayfairtownhouse.com)

GLAMPING IN NORTH YORKSHIRE

Geodomes, hobbit pods, teepees – take your pick from multiple quirky glamping options at Camp Katur, surrounded by glorious Yorkshire countryside ten miles north of Ripon. From £110 for two nights (campkatur.com)

THE BEAR HOTEL IN WAREHAM

A stylish symphony of distressed brickwork, cool tones and huge windows, this beautifully restored Georgian coaching inn offers six elegant bedrooms near Wareham's pretty harbour. B&B from £110 (thebearwareham.co.uk)

A NIGHT AFLOAT IN LIVERPOOL

Enjoy all the big city attractions then spend the night aboard a handsomely converted, family- and pet-friendly canal boat, moored up in Liverpool Marina. From £220 per night, sleeps four adults plus two children (liverpoolboat.com)

VILLAGE INN IN STAFFORDSHIRE/DERBYSHIRE

Immaculate rooms, delicious food and on the edge of the Peak District – the Duncombe Arms in Ellastone is brilliant for walkers and ten minutes from Alton Towers. From £170 per night (duncombearms.co.uk)

SEASIDE STYLE IN DEVON

Book a penthouse at Byron, a Woolacombe apartment complex, and you get smart contemporary decor plus belting beach views from your very own private balcony. From £750 per week, sleeps five (byronwoolacombeholidaylets.co.uk)

RIVERSIDE CABIN IN CAMBRIDGESHIRE

From the country-cosy finish and well-stocked bookshelves to the fairy-light-strung veranda and peaceful surroundings, The Arc near Elton has all the ingredients for a restful rural break. From £135 per night minimum two nights; sleeps two to four (canopyandstars.co.uk)

SCOTLAND

LIGHTHOUSE COTTAGES ON THE MORAY COAST

The lighthouse keeper's quarters are an ideal base for exploring the surrounding Lossiemouth coastline – think unspoilt beaches, abundant birdlife and dolphin sightings. From £425 per week, sleeps four to six (covesealighthouse.co.uk)

CONVERTED DOVECOT IN EDINBURGH

Surrounded by mature gardens, a 17th-century stone cottage that once housed pigeons now offers rustic-chic accommodation within a 15-minute walk of Edinburgh city centre. From £130 per night, minimum two nights, sleeps two to four (coolstays.com)

PEACEFUL HIDEAWAY ON THE ISLE OF SKYE

Drive through the mountains to discover Coruisk House, a chic little restaurant with rooms, where the menu showcases fine local produce and eagles soar overhead. From £170 per night (coruiskhouse.com)

THE POTTING SHED, NEAR EARLSTON, THE SCOTTISH BORDERS

Tucked away in a walled garden on the Cowdenknowes Estate is this hideaway with wood-burning stove and a welcome basket of local treats. From £308 for two nights, sleeps two (thepottingshedscotland.com)

HISTORIC HOTEL IN THE SCOTTISH HIGHLANDS

Stay in The Shore Cottages No 1, a beautifully restored 19th-century fisherman's cottage where you can step from the front door on to beach. This Landmark Trust property near Wick is perfectly set for wildlife, walks and watching seals. Four nights from £134 (landmarktrust.org.uk)

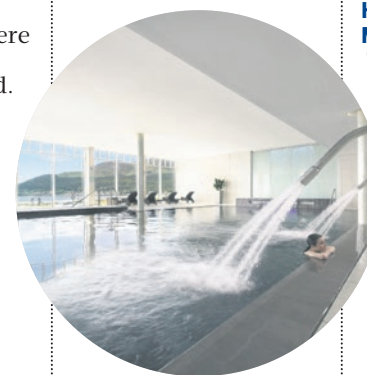
WALES

ROMANTIC CHATEAU ON ANGLESEY

The Loire Valley-inspired Château Rhianfa comes with fairytale turrets, pretty gardens and wonderful views across the Menai Strait to the stunning Snowdonia National Park. From £114 per night (chateaurhianfa.co.uk)

ECO LUXURY IN WEST WALES

Sustainability and home comforts combine at Treberfedd Farm, where two turf-roofed eco cabins



Get away: (from top) The Bear in Wareham; splash down at Slieve Donard Resort and Spa; next-level glamping at Camp Katur

offer upcycled interiors and sweeping views over the hills. From £200 for two nights (treberfedd.co.uk)

SMOKEHOUSE COTTAGE IN PEMBROKESHIRE

This classy seaside retreat is gorgeous indoors and out. Snuggle up by the fire, stroll along to Newgale Beach and enjoy sunset views over the bay. From £1,095 for three or four nights, sleeps four (uniquehomestays.com)

HEAVENLY HOTEL IN MONMOUTHSHIRE

The award-winning Angel Hotel is in the heart of pretty Abergavenny. Specialising in seasonal cuisine, stock up on artisan goodies at its bakery then head out into the Black Mountains. From £125 per night (angelabergavenny.com)

For more information, please go to visitwales.com and #visitwalesafely

NORTHERN IRELAND

SEASIDE SPA IN COUNTY DOWN

Indulge in some serious pampering at the Slieve Donard Resort and Spa, where the recently renovated spa offers Espa treatments and the pool has fabulous sea views. From £152 per night (hastingshotels.com)

HOTEL WITH HISTORY IN BELFAST

Stay in style at Titanic Hotel Belfast, former HQ of Harland and Wolff shipyard, and learn more about the world's most famous ship at Titanic Belfast, right next door. From £109 per night (titanichotelbelfast.com)

LITERARY RETREAT IN COUNTY LONDONDERRY

Immerse yourself in literature and history at Laurel Villa, where the owners host guided tours of Seamus Heaney country and can help guests research their Irish ancestry. B&B from £47.50pp per night based on two sharing (laurel-villa.com)



BRITAIN & NORTHERN IRELAND

Plan your trip at visitbritain.com/escape

Our horribly brilliant histories

Joanna Booth on the sites across Great Britain and Northern Ireland where key moments from the past come alive

"Unprecedented times" may be the Covid catchphrase, but viewed through a longer lens these strange days are merely... unusual. The UK has endured plague, fire, flood, war and political instability, and the tales of survival are brought to life at some of our most thrilling historic attractions. So why not

spice up an autumn break with a visit to the heart of our history?

This year is the 80th anniversary of the Battle of Britain, and there's no better place to delve into this period of the Second World War than at IWM Duxford, Cambridge. The hangars that form Europe's largest air museum were home to squadrons that battled the Luftwaffe. See an airworthy Spitfire and a refreshed Battle of Britain exhibition (£19.80; iwm.org.uk/duxford).

The battlefield of Culloden, close to Inverness, provides an even more interactive experience. The 360-degree immersion theatre places visitors between Jacobite and government forces as shots whistle overhead. The full story of the 1745 Rising unfolds in the museum, surrounded by the fields where 1,600 fighters were slain in an hour in the final battle (£11; nts.org.uk).



Ship ahoy: Titanic Belfast tells the story on the very site where she was built

Experience sights, sounds and smells of the past at York's Jorvik Viking Centre. Multimillion-pound updates mean this family favourite is in a different league to the waxwork dioramas parents may remember from their childhood. Animatronics and clever audio-visuals bring the Norse settlement

to life (adults £12.50, children £8.50; jorvikvikingcentre.co.uk).

And budding bakers will love discovering the industrial revolution-era water-powered flour mill at the market town of Talgarth, in the Brecon Beacons National Park. Dating back to the 1700s, this community-run mill also makes heavenly cakes (adults £5/children £1; talgarthmill.com).

Visit the birthplace of the world's most famous ship at Titanic Belfast. Nine interactive galleries tell its story, and visitors can climb aboard the SS *Nomad*, tender to RMS *Titanic* and the last White Star Line ship (£19/£8.50; titanicebelfast.com).

See another wreck down in Portsmouth, home of the *Mary Rose*. After 437 years on the seabed only half of the Tudor warship remains, but virtual effects and salvaged objects let visitors "walk" the



Of Norse: the Viking experience comes brilliantly to life at York's Jorvik Centre

decks, with wreck to one side, reincarnation to the other (£24/£19; maryrose.org).

Tudor fans can make the most of limited numbers at The Tower of London, where sights range from grisly – instruments of torture; the site of Anne Boleyn's beheading – to glistening, with Henry VIII's



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tournament armour and the Crown Jewels (£25; hrp.org.uk).

Delve into modern history at Derry/Londonderry's Tower Museum, which has a special exhibition, *Dividing Ireland*, ahead of the centenary of partition next year (£2; towermuseumcollections.com).

For more towers, check out the Great Tower at the fortress-palace of Raglan Castle, Monmouthshire. It once played a key part in the Civil War, but now just enjoys views of the Black Mountains. (£6.60/£3.90; cadw.gov.wales).

No weapons have been found at Skara Brae, the best preserved Neolithic village in northern Europe. Older than the Pyramids, this spot on Orkney shows life 5,000 years ago was as peaceful then as a visit is today (£7; historicensevironment.scot).

Unwind, relax, explore



HOSEASONS

Hoseasons has amazing places closer to home for you to stay, experience and explore this autumn, from luxury lodges with hot tubs to family fun parks with pools. Enjoy peace of mind that you will get your money back should Hoseasons have to cancel your holiday, plus extra cleaning considerations are in place. Book your autumn getaway at hoseasons.co.uk

HOSEASONS



THAMES CLIPPERS

Hop aboard Uber Boat by Thames Clippers and travel in style between Battersea and Greenwich parks, where you can enjoy mood-boosting strolls. Many of London's iconic attractions are best enjoyed from the river – from the London Eye to Tower Bridge – with a hot chocolate from the onboard café bar. Book tickets at uberboatbythamesclippers.com

Uber Boat by thames clippers



NATIONAL MEMORIAL ARBORETUM

Situated in the centre of the country, the National Memorial Arboretum's 150 acre landscape provides an uplifting autumnal day out. Discover the perfect blend of history, heritage and nature with guided walks, a land train, riverside habitats, outdoor "escape" challenges, play areas and The Stick Man trail for younger visitors. Pre-booking is essential, visit thenma.org.uk



AS SEEN ON SCREEN

From the Yorkshire Dales to Barry Island via Ballintoy, these are the newest and best UK film and TV locations, says **Annabelle Thorpe**

Stately homes and picturesque market towns, lush forests and brooding mountains – Great Britain and Northern Ireland’s diverse landscapes have formed the backdrop for many of our most-loved films and TV series, and this autumn offers the perfect chance to discover some stunning new spots.

Series four of *The Crown* comes to Netflix in November, covering the period from the late Seventies, including Diana’s wedding. Wilton House in Wiltshire, which was used for the interiors of Buckingham Palace, isn’t reopening to visitors until Easter 2021, but until then you can take a trip along the Thames to Greenwich Old Royal Naval College, which doubles as the Palace exterior, or visit Belvoir Castle in Leicestershire – used as Windsor Castle. And although Ardverikie, the real-life estate that became Balmoral (and is also recognisable from *Monarch of the Glen*), isn’t open to day visitors, there is holiday accommodation on the estate, perfect for an autumn break among Scotland’s glorious fall colour.

London’s streets have co-starred in many modern classics – Borough Market in *Bridget Jones’s Diary*, Notting Hill in *Love Actually* and Netflix’s new Sherlock Holmes spinoff *Enola Holmes*, whose locations include



Greenwich’s Old Royal Naval College and Drum Court in Westminster.

Also new for autumn is a remake of Daphne du Maurier’s iconic *Rebecca*, starring Lily James and Kristin Scott Thomas. Dip your toes in the water at Hartland Quay in north Devon, a wildly beautiful beach that formed the backdrop to some of the film’s most dramatic scenes, with Rebecca’s boat house built on the slipway beside the sea.

The lochs and mountains of Scotland have often proved a spectacular backdrop for James Bond, and the latest movie *No Time to Die*, is no exception, with a thrilling car chase taking place around Aviemore. The rugged hills of Glen Coe and Glen Etive played a major role in *Skyfall*; follow the route Bond took with M, back to his childhood home, by driving past the mountains of Buachaille Etive Mòr and Buachaille Etive Beag. Or visit the striking Eilean Donan Castle,

used as MI6 headquarters in *The World is Not Enough*.

The brooding landscapes of the Brecon Beacons are also set to be back on our screens this autumn, with series two of *His Dark Materials* filmed mostly in Wales. An entire town was built in the valleys, near the picturesque village of Crickhowell, while the former ironworks in Blaenavon were also used for several scenes. But after the return of *Gavin and Stacey* last Christmas, Wales’s most famous filming location is unarguably Barry Island, a small seaside resort with brightly coloured beach huts that’s instantly recognisable from the much-loved TV series.

Fans of the new series of *All Creatures Great and Small* (currently on Channel 5) or the Eighties version will find all of James Herriot’s landscapes in the rolling Yorkshire Dales. The picturesque town of Grassington became the fictional

THE BRECON BEACONS ARE ON SCREEN THIS AUTUMN IN HIS DARK MATERIALS

Always check for the latest updates before you travel. Go to visitbritain.com/know-before-you-go



In their footsteps: (clockwise from main) Eilean Donan Castle; Tollymore Forest Park; Barry Island’s bright huts



Darrowby, with The Devonshire pub becoming the fictional Drovers Arms, and bookshop The Stripey Badger reinvented as the greengrocer’s, GF Endleby. Broughton Hall, an elegant Georgian property near Skipton, doubled as eccentric Mrs Pumphrey’s home.

One series that won’t return is *Game of Thrones*, but there are still plenty of ways to immerse yourself in its world. Head to Northern Ireland to discover some of the iconic backdrops of northern Westeros, from Tollymore Forest Park – the show’s Haunted Forest – to the seaside village of Ballintoy, which became Pyke, capital of the Iron Islands. And if you want to relive one of the most hilarious movie moments of recent years, book a tour of Shepton Mallet prison in Somerset, site of Hugh Grant’s unforgettable routine at the end of *Paddington 2* – sadly, pink-striped prison outfits are not included.



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