

Great British Getaways: The best self-catering holiday lets for family gatherings in summer 2021

If the roadmap out of lockdown goes to plan, large family reunions with both the kids and grandparents are back on the cards from June 21

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5 March 2021 • 3:00pm

The first thing many of us will want to do when the majority of restrictions end on June 21? Reunite with family and friends we've spent minimal time with over the past year. It will finally be the time to celebrate all those missed events: from milestone birthdays to engagements and new additions to the family. The best way to do this is, of course, on a holiday – and the UK has lots of amazing self-catering holiday lets that are perfectly suited to large group gatherings. Think private pools, games rooms and alluring outdoor dining spaces in which to perfect the art of the great British barbecue.

Of course, the roadmap could shift and change, but for now this is a date for the diary you won't want to miss. Just make sure you have a good cancellation policy with whoever you book with, should you need to amend your stay. And needless to say, things are booking up fast so if you want to secure a coveted school holiday slot you may need to think fast. Find the best options across the UK for summer 2021 and beyond below.

Thornemead Castle, Somerset

This 240-year-old Gothic Castle in Somerset is hidden away in 10 acres of gorgeous grounds with five ensuite bedrooms. Inside, expect brass chandeliers, ornate ceilings, Victorian fireplaces, curved oak bookcases and Pugin-designed wallpaper. The full-sized snooker table is perfect for family tournaments, while the regal dining room is well suited to celebration dinners. Nearby, you can explore Bath, the Mendip Hills, Weston-super-Mare beach and the Donkey Bluebell Fields.



This gothic castle is found on the Somerset coast | CREDIT: Unique Homestays

Sleeps: 10 (plus three children)

From £2,850 per week; uniquehomestays.com