



Microwave meals The chef who loves them
John Boyega From Peckham to Hollywood

Weekend

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Honey, it's cold outside

Winter glamping guide
Romantic places to stay

Jenny Coad and husband Rob glamping in East Sussex

Book your Christmas cottage



Great houses for large groups



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The UK's best festive escapes

Winter glamping Cold outside,

Starlit skies, fairy lights and big duvets — this is how to get away from it all, says deputy travel editor Jenny Coad

When it comes to winter glamping, the glam bit is especially important — and by glam I actually mean warm.

Which is why I am in a shepherd's hut with solid walls (not canvas) and with the heater (gas) on full blast. All the tealights I can find are lit and I've brought a pile of squishy blankets and the thickest socks I own. Even my husband, Rob, is in jeans and he is typically a shorts wearer well into December. It's true that you might also want all of these things on a camping holiday during a soggy British August, but in October they're essential.

Yes, the glamping season is far from over and staying in a tepee, yurt, pod or tree-house in the chillier months is increasingly popular. "Winter glamping is at an all-time high at the moment," says James Warner-Smith of the website Cool Camping. "Bookings for next month are up more than 200 per cent year-on-year and are heading in that direction for December too." The pandemic has made us hardy.

Just how hardy I'm about to find out in East Sussex at the Original Hut Company's campsite on Quarry Farm near Bodiam. Our hut is in Hop Pickers' Wood, which is fitting — this is brewery country, after all — in a glade with four others. The surrounding farmland includes rows and rows of sweet-smelling cider apples that aren't being picked this year because of lack of demand (I scrumped one — delicious) and the sloping fields are thick with grass. It's a beautiful part of the world, though I'm biased — I grew up near by. And it's the perfect time of year to be here; sloes are everywhere. The site is quiet, says Anna Eastwood, who runs it and the farm with her husband, Nick. Plus the good weather we have feels like a bonus rather than a summer-holiday expectation.

We've been equipped with a basket of essentials: Hoppers Ale brewed close by in Northiam, a bottle of red, several pumpkins, a bag of marshmallows and kindling, which Rob immediately deploys to light the outside fire. Manly.

The huts are more rustic than glam, but the emphasis here is on sustainability rather than Instagram likes. Each of them was built on the farm by Nick using reclaimed, recycled and locally sourced materials — the roofs were fashioned from an old corn bin. Inside they've been given the Farrow & Ball treatment with cream-coloured tongue-and-groove panelling. Lighting is solar-powered via a panel on the roof, and it's good enough to read by at pitch-black night. We are in a black spot with no phone signal, so there will be no streaming *Strictly* or *Squid Game* and no news updates. Good job I brought a book.

It's just the two of us, but we could have brought friends. The kitchen table folds down to accommodate a double bed and there's a bunk at the other end, sleeping three — two up, one down. We take the top bunk so I can relive the perks of being the first-born child (glory days; sorry, sis). It's

all brilliantly compact and you can see why the trend for "tiny living" has taken off, although this is not my view when we're at home in our two-bedroom flat. Clutter would be a problem (just like it is at home), so it's lucky we brought just the one suitcase (knitwear takes up a lot of space).

I worry that we'll be cold at night (I'm more a hotel robe kind of gal than a camper), but under a duvet and blanket we're toasty to the point of needing a window open — and what's the point of being in the country if you can't enjoy the fresh air? Yes, we turned off the heating — I grew up in a "put on another jumper" household. When we open the curtains in the morning and shafts of pale light pool in through the trees, I think this is romantic. Better still, I can't work out how to light the hob, so Rob has to make the tea, donning wellies to bring the milk in from outside where we left it to keep cool (although a cool box is provided).

We don't have our own bathroom and I have forgotten the towels, so it's lucky they provided a dish cloth — although that doesn't go far for two adults, one over 6ft.

The washroom requires grit. The compostable loos remind me of day three at a festival. I'm tempted to go for a wild wee. However, when I suggest to Anna that the loos are a bit of a challenge, she tells me that they're getting rid of them. Despite their glowing eco-credentials (they put zero contamination into the ground and use much less water than other systems), they are being replaced with the flushing sort. Glampers are fussy — increasingly so, according to Anna, who has been in the business for 12 years.

It's true, though, that I've been spoiled over the years (rigours of the job), staying in yurts and insulated pods with wood-burners, hot tubs, velvet armchairs and underfloor heating (really). Even Rob, who is happy to sleep on a car mat, has grown accustomed to luxury. These days glamping is like being in your own little contained hotel, but without the morning newspaper delivery or room service — although I bet that's coming. The showers here are, however, piping hot and I save myself for the porcelain indoor loo at the Hub, the very nice café on the farm.

Even though we have pots and pans, including hefty cast-iron ones that can be used on the outdoor fire, we take advantage of the Hub (we could also have ordered a hamper of local produce). In a barn about a ten-minute walk down the track from our site, it's a popular spot (especially among dog walkers), with a relaxed vibe and excellent sandwiches. We have the bacon one at breakfast and the "just keep swimming", a seasonal fish goulash in a bun that comes topped with a gherkin, at lunch. Some evenings the Hub hosts pop-up events, including Fizz & Chips Friday with Balfour Pink Fizz from the Hush Heath Estate in Kent, and fish and chips. It's a genuinely local place and all the nicer for it. It's sunny on our visit, with that golden autumn light, so we sit outside at the picnic tables basking in our coats.

Next door is a spa hut by a lake overlooking magnificent 14th-century Bodiam

COVER AND BELOW: CHRIS MCANDREW FOR THE TIMES. JENNY WEARS ORANGE CARDIGAN FROM KITRI STUDIO, BOOTS FROM DEAR FRANCES, ARAN KNIT FROM 4DAUGHTER, CHECKED THROW FROM FRENCH CONNECTION, FAUX SHEEPSKIN RUGS FROM NEXT AND ZARA HOME.



Jenny Coad and her husband, Rob, at the Original Hut Company in Bodiam, East Sussex

“All the tealights I can find are lit and I've brought the thickest socks I own

Castle. It's everything you could want from a castle — moat, drawbridge, crenellations — and has appeared on TV, including in an advert for Weetabix. I've been on a lot of family outings here over the years, but it's still a thrill. We walk along the River Rother, which runs alongside it, to the Kent Ditch and back, and watch the steam train that runs between Bodiam and Tenterden turn the valley into a Constable painting.

Crucially, the campsite is within walking distance (or a five-minute drive) of a proper, unpretentious country pub, the Castle Inn (opposite the other castle). Dogs are welcome and the menu includes hearty dishes — Rob has Cumberland sausage and lentil ragu, I have risotto. Better still, we have a table with local friends (who wonder if we'll sneak back to my parents' house for a bath — we don't) by the fire. If only I'd brought those marshmallows.

Jenny Coad was a guest of the Original Hut Company. Two nights' self-catering in a shepherd's hut sleeping up to five from £99 (coolcamping.com). The site closes between December and March

It's as romantic as a sexy hotel
Hannah Rogers

Tents, bed socks, compost loos — sexy yurts might sound like an oxymoron. But forget what you think you know, because I am here to debunk it: when my boyfriend and I spent a night in one such dwelling in the Chilterns last weekend, it was as romantic as any getaway we've had in a posh hotel. The only thing missing was the free toiletries.

This is not because we are outdoorsy types. Camping is not something I relish. In my book it is a means to an end at a festival and, in that spirit, not something to be endured for more than two nights. On the one occasion I have camped, I still didn't get any sleep, a hot shower or a private loo — nothing sexy about that.

cosy inside: best places to stay



KI PRICE FOR THE TIMES. HANNAH WEARS CARDIGAN FROM SÉZANE

Staying in a yurt, though, is a different ball game. Crucially because — whisper it — it's not really camping.

You aren't sharing a field with anyone else, for starters. At the Chiltern Yurt Retreat, where we stayed, things are secluded. It is accessed by a large wooden gate off a pretty church lane and holds just three dwellings (a yurt, a cabin and a bower), none of which encroaches on the others' space. The yurt is separated from the other two by a stream, and the only space you share with other glampers is the car park — ideal when, on a romantic mini-break, hell is other people.

The accommodation itself is another big tick, and something on which the sexy factor hinges. You need to make sure you pick the right place on this front — you don't want to end up with communal showers. We had not just a private yurt but a fully functioning cabin kitchen and proper bathroom, all connected by a well-lit, bunting-draped wooden deck with outdoor table and chairs.

The kitchen had a toaster, microwave, electric hot plate, kettle, fridge and — big tick — a dishwasher (saved arguing about the washing-up). Tea, ground coffee, sugar and milk were provided, as was a cafetière and other basic cooking paraphernalia. We decided to forgo any culinary efforts and walk to the local village for dinner, but the kitchen would have more than stood up to preparing supper for two — there was even underfloor heating for padding about in bare feet with a glass of wine.

The washroom was tiled with a walk-in shower that had room for more than one (should that ramp things up for you). Hot

water was plentiful and towels were provided, kept warm on a heated rail. One vibe killer was the compost loo — but it gave off only a mild whiff of rabbit hutch, even when tested by two people who had visited the local curry house. Sorry if you're reading this over breakfast.

The main event — our yurt — was less tent, more boutique suite. It wasn't much from the outside, just an igloo-shaped khaki canopy. But through double wooden doors lay a hygge-tastic retreat. A wood-burner roared in one corner while an electric heater kept things cosy in another. The kingsize bed was laid up with soft sheets, big pillows and a heavy duvet. Furry blankets lay on a large sofa and rugs covered the wooden floorboards. Fairy lights and a few lamps meant there was only one light setting once the sun went down: intimate.

And once you're settled? Lean into doing nothing. That's the best thing about staying in a yurt: it provides quality time. We drank wine, played draughts, chatted. We wandered to the village and back, then went to bed looking at the stars through the clear canopy at the top of the tent. If you're wondering about the temperature, yes, I was in cashmere bed socks, but only because I get great joy from wearing them. Besides, you can always, ahem, cuddle.

So, winter glamping: it may just be the break you need to keep the fire burning. Just don't forget that, although sturdy, a yurt is not soundproof. Something to keep in mind lest you get mistaken for local wildlife (or disturb the neighbours).

One night's self-catering for two at Chiltern Yurt Retreat costs from £188 (canopyandstars.com)

Hannah Rogers and her partner, George, in the Kingfisher Yurt at Chiltern Yurt Retreat

“We are not outdoorsy types. But... whisper it... this is not really camping”

Put the fire on! Get the sheepskin rugs!

26 best glamping spots

Harvest Moon treehouses East Lothian

Long, golden, dune-backed Tynninghame Beach is one of southern Scotland's finest and, in winter, remains blissfully empty, save for those taking bracing strolls from Harvest Moon. Set on a farm behind the beach, this site has a handful of fairytale treehouses that totter on stilts. The cosy bedrooms are in one part, the living quarters in another, connected by a raised deck and walkway looking out to the sand, sea and Bass Rock. They have electricity and small heaters but no wi-fi or TV — watch the view instead.

Details Four nights' self-catering for up to seven people from £450 (harvestmoonholidays.com)

Dysynni Valley Shepherd's Hut Gwynedd

This smart, simple shepherd's hut sits in a sheep-grazed yard gazing down on the Dysynni Valley, at the foot of Cadair Idris. It's the latest venture for Lisa and Ken Markham, third-generation farmers who also work the storied mountain's summit: ask and they'll take you on a 4x4 tour of their highland domain. The hut itself is a cosy den, pine lined and wood-burner warmed, with two double beds, a little kitchen and private garden, and fishing rights to the stream burbling near by.

Details Two nights' self-catering for four from £199 (dysynni valley holidays.com)

Bee Hive, Lymstone Manor Devon

As you'd expect from any hut at five-star Lymstone Manor, the Bee Hive is top-quality glamping. Hiding beside the hotel's vineyard, peeping on to the River Exe, it has a king-size bed, log fire and golden bath; outdoors there's a fire pit and wood-fired tub too. A breakfast hamper is provided, and a little kitchenette, although Michael Caines's Michelin-starred menu at the manor will likely tempt you out. Lymstone is especially lovely at Christmas, when decorations are hung and afternoon tea has a festive twist.

Details One night's B&B for two from £489 (lymstonemanor.co.uk)

Humble Bee Farm Wigwams Yorkshire

Winter doesn't stop play at this farm in the Yorkshire Wolds. It remains a fine place for family camping getaways, thanks to its nature trails, swings and slides, events and resident animals (children can visit the hen house and walk the pony), and its toasty-warm wooden Wigwam

Pods. There are different types. Deluxes have kitchens, showers, cheery bunting and wood-fired hot tubs, and come with a free day's use of Humble Bee's Scarborough beach hut — perfect for seeking respite after an invigorating seaside stroll.

Details Two nights' self-catering for four from £300 (humblebeefarm.co.uk)

Unplugged East Sussex and beyond

Scattered north and south of London, Unplugged's seven isolated cabins (two more will open in November) are digital-detox glamping done seriously: your phones will be padlocked away for 72 hours, leaving you to switch off properly in one of these Scandi-chic wooden retreats. For instance, the off-grid Olive is lodged in an East Sussex thicket, looking out to rolling hills, and is kitted out with an old-school Nokia for emergencies, wood-fired stove for warmth, a cassette player for retro entertainment, wellies and maps for exploring, and a Polaroid camera for capturing it all. There's a mini kitchen too, with gas stove, fridge and washing-up facilities.

Details Three nights' self-catering for two from £390 (unplugged.rest)

Sperrinview Glamping Co Tyrone

There are TVs in Sperrinview's sci-fi-style pods, but you'll probably want to gaze out of the huge, upward-angled windows instead. The site, at the foothills of the Sperrin Mountains, lies within Davagh Forest Park, as of 2020 the first official international dark sky place in Northern Ireland. Winter's long nights are ideal for astronomy, which you can practise from the well-equipped pod's cosy confines. Alternatively, gaze up from near the fire pit outside or within the Beaghmore Stone Circles, only a five-minute walk away.

Details One night's self-catering for five from £110 (sperrinviewglamping.com)

Further Space Pods Co Fermanagh

Glamp at Carrickreagh Bay and you'll have uninterrupted views of Lough Erne, 24/7. The fully glazed fronts of these Northern Ireland-made pods have no curtains, so you can always see the passing swans and gentle ripples. However, they also have a privacy glass feature, enabling you to look out but no one else to look in. Snuggle up in the pod's fully heated, birch-clad insides, sit around your fire pit or pop to Lough Erne Resort, two miles away, for a spa pamper and dinner.

Details One night's self-catering for four from £130 (further.space)

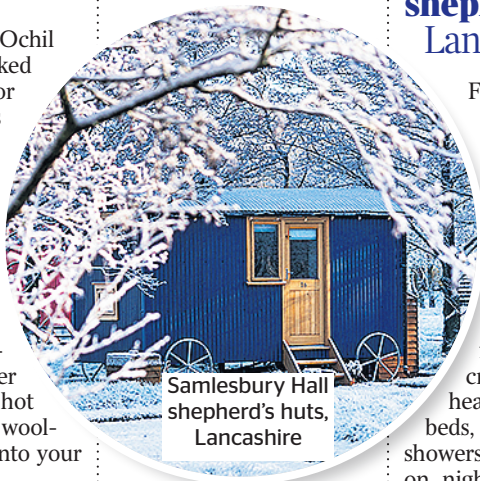
More sites next page

'The yurt has a private garden, ideal

Alexander House lorries Perthshire

At the Alexander Estate, up in the Ochil Hills, winter equals snow-cloaked Highland views and more bang for your buck. Stay in one of its smartly converted (and centrally heated) lorries — named Juniper and Thistle — between November and March to get free extras. The Winter Whisky package includes a local distillery tour, Wild on Wheels includes an activity (axe-throwing, perhaps), while Happy Hibernation comes with a delicious hamper of goodies, including breakfast, hot chocolate, handmade truffles and woolen beanies to wear as you sink into your hot tub.

Details Two nights' self-catering package for two from £300 (alexanderhousescotland.com)



Samlesbury Hall shepherd's huts, Lancashire

Samlesbury Hall shepherd's huts Lancashire

For the spookiest stay, try the Shepherd's Hut Hamlet at the 14th-century Samlesbury Hall. This magnificent medieval manor is reputedly one of the country's most haunted; in addition to free witch tours on winter Sundays, *The Lady in White — A Ghost's Story for Christmas* (£15pp) will be staged from December 13-23. The hand-crafted shepherd's huts are fully heated and neatly furnished with oak beds, memory-foam mattresses, hot showers and a camping lantern to take on nighttime walks in the grounds, if you dare.

Details One night's self-catering for four from £69 (samlesburyhall.co.uk)

Little Inka Cornwall

Not convinced about glamping? Little Inka is a halfway house. Set on the edge of Bodmin Moor, this hideaway is part old stone cottage — albeit edgily glamorous, with dark walls, slate floors and high-end fittings — and part shepherd's hut, where forest green wood panels meet a curved copper roof that makes way, above the bed, for a stargazing window. There are two tubs (one inside, one in the private courtyard) and in the field beyond are the owners' alpacas, which you can meet.

Details Three nights' self-catering for two from £795 (uniquehomestays.com)

The Hop Garden Monmouthshire

There are five secluded, individually designed places to stay at this leafy enclave in the Wye Valley. All have bathrooms, fire pits and plenty of charm; little Goldings Cabin has a box bed and double French doors, while the roomier Hop Cabin has a wood-burner and big bath. But a key attraction to all of them is their location, next to the award-winning Kingstone Brewery. Order a case for your cabin, take a brewery tour or head into nearby Tintern to imbibe a pint in the pubs there.

Details Two nights' self-catering for two from £200 (thehopgarden.co.uk)

Offa's Pitch Shropshire

This recycled oak-and-steel retreat is a piece of quality modern design in an ancient landscape: Offa's Dyke Path, a National Trail — which follows the 8th-century earthwork and celebrates its 50th anniversary this year — is only 200 yards away. There's the thrill of being hidden away in nature with the deer and linnet, but you also have all the mod cons: under-floor heating, coffee machine, full kitchen, mood lighting, iPad Pro. For a little extra, book the Scandinavian hot tub or hire the e-bikes to explore the Shropshire Hills.

Details Three nights' self-catering for two from £690 (offaspitch.co.uk)

Woodland Hives, Callow Hall Derbyshire

Fresh from winning *Sunday Times* Hotel of the Year 2021, Callow Hall has recently launched wilder overnights. Secreted around the hotel's ancient woodland on the fringes of the Peak District are 11 intimate Hives. These woodland retreats have king-size beds, open-plan lounges and large decks. There's a chef's cupboard of essentials and marshmallows for the communal fire pit, although you'll want to head to the main house to sample the chef David Bukowicki's menu. Two larger luxe treehouses will open in January 2022.

Details One night's self-catering for two from £359 (wildhive.uk)

Little Retreat Domes Pembrokeshire

Little Retreat's Domes are as snug as sleeping under a 20-tog duvet, but with transparent fronts that look into private gardens and the Cleddau estuary beyond. They have wood-burners and electric blankets to keep you toasty after days spent surfing, kayaking and coastering —

Little Inka, Cornwall



all available locally year round. Little Retreat hosts specials too: join its three-night "feast for all sense" (starting on November 2 and 16, and December 14, £1,500 for two people) to combine foraging, canoeing, a gin workshop and a ten-course dinner in the chef Matt Powell's new on-site restaurant.

Details Two nights' self-catering for four from £410 (littleretreats.co.uk)

Willow Roundhouse Norfolk

There are yurts at the Round the Woods smallholding near Norwich, but they close for winter, so stay at Willow Roundhouse and you'll have the 20-acre nature reserve, with its woods, meadows and pizza oven, to yourself. The Roundhouse, new for 2021, was made by the owner from natural materials, with straw-bale walls, a wood-beamed ceiling and a huge skylight. Warm up in the on-site sauna or head to nearby Bickling Hall's Garden of Lights (November 29 to December 19) for a festive glow.

Details Two nights' self-catering for two from £320 (roundthewoods.co.uk)

Huts in the Hills Northumberland

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Mrs Verrell, East Sussex



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Winter glamping guide



Hinterlandes Hidden Hut, Cumbria



Little Retreat Domes, Pembrokeshire



Prendwick Farm is proper rural Northumberland — really remote, at the foot of the Cheviot Hills, in Northumberland National Park. Two of its five rustic, reclaimed-oak reinterpretations of traditional shepherd's huts have stargazing roofs, so you can count constellations in bed. All are kitted out for self-catering, but locally sourced food packages are available to buy, from sourdough and avocado breakfast baskets to hearty ready meals made on the farm.

Details Two nights' self-catering for two from £220 (hutsinthehills.co.uk)

Cider Shack Herefordshire

Head to beautifully boozy Herefordshire to hole up amid the county's famed apples. The Cider Shack sits on the family-run Penylan Farm, where craft Ty Gwyn cider is made (guests can order some bottles ahead at a special price). The shack is unlike anywhere else, a tiny but creative hotchpotch of wood and tin huts, with a mezzanine bed slotted over the little lounge in the sleeping quarters, plus a separate kitchen, a separate shower, a separate composting loo and a sheltered outdoor tub with views to the Black Mountains.

Details Two nights' self-catering for two from £240 (independentcottages.co.uk)

Solstice Retreat Wiltshire

Where better to spend winter solstice than in a yurt named Solstice Retreat a hop and a skip from the world's most famous pre-historic monument. The Stonehenge Campsite, three miles from the ancient stone circle, has several glamping options — pods, an Airstream caravan, a double-decker bus — but this yurt for two, with its rugs, sofa, wood-burner and lamps, is the most romantic, with a private garden ideal for firing up the barbecue (buy local sausages from the shop on site) or watching sunsets and starry skies.

Details Three nights' B&B for two from £255 (stonehengecampsite.co.uk)

The Lazy Duck Inverness-shire

Hidden away in the Cairngorms National Park, although only 20 minutes from Aviemore, the cabins at the Lazy Duck provide off-grid eco-living, a proper backwoodsman vibe and, probably, a sprinkle of snow. Not that there are any privations. For instance, the Homestead cabin has a snugly Hebridean box bed, a little kitchen, a stove with unlimited wood, a composting loo-with-a-view and a

chiminea-warmed veranda where you can sit and watch the red squirrels; a hot tub, sauna, yoga sessions and massages can be booked on site too.

Details Three nights' self-catering for two from £354 (lazyduck.co.uk)

Tom's Eco Lodge Modulogs Isle of Wight

Tom's Eco Lodge at Tapnell Farm is an eclectic collection of tents, cabins, pods and domes in the island's rural west, with views to the hills and sea. Unique are its "modulogs", warm wooden bunkers with space for bigger families, that have open-plan kitchen-lounge-diners, delightful decks and hot tubs.

Details Two nights' self-catering for six from £510 (tapnellfarm.com)

Pheasant's Roost Lincolnshire

Opened in summer 2021, Treetop Hideaways' six smart, adults-only treehouses and stilted cabins sit around a pocket of little lakes and woodland near pretty Woodhall Spa, on the edge of the Lincolnshire Wolds. One is Pheasant's Roost, an octagonal eyrie teetering above the water. Inside the Scandi-style space is all you need: king-size bed, luxe bathroom, fitted kitchen and multiple French doors leading out to a tub on a large decked terrace, ideal for wildlife watching — or hop in your private rowing boat if you prefer.

Details Three nights' self-catering for two from £443 (qualityunearthed.co.uk)

Upper Gelli Shepherd's Hut Powys

The hut at this former dairy farm sits in a slope-side thicket overlooking the green valleys of rural mid-Wales — the only comings and goings here are the buzzards and the neighbours' sheep. The hut is actually two: one unit for sleeping, with a comfy bed and en suite shower stocked with Myddfai toiletries; the other with a kitchen and dining area. Alternatively, sit

on the rocking chairs outside or in the Arctic cabin, which is strewn with reindeer hides and warmed by a fire on which you can barbecue.

Details Two nights' self-catering for two from £220 (uppergelli.co.uk)

Hideaway Huts at the Fish Worcestershire

The self-proclaimed aim of the team behind the Fish is to combine rustic English with Danish hygge. And the new batch of Hideaway Huts, secreted around this Cotswolds hotel-meets-glamping-estate, does just that. These five sleek and secluded huts are larger, with private hot tubs on the decking — use an intercom to order room service while you soak. It's worth trekking to the main lodge, though, where there's a boot room (borrow walking gear and maps) and the Hook restaurant, which serves responsibly sourced seafood in delicious ways.

Details One night's B&B for two from £325 (thefishhotel.co.uk)

Hinterlandes Hidden Hut Cumbria

What Hinterlandes lacks in amenities, it makes up for in "wow" factor. Sustainably built and completely off-grid, with a composting loo and solar power, it's back-to-basics living, yes, but it comes with its own private fell. There's little else around for miles in this quiet nook of the northwestern Lake District, although there's plenty of good country for winter hikes and scrambles. Don't fancy that? Huddle up with the hut's books and games, stoke the pizza oven and wood-burning stove, and gaze out at the frosted hills beyond.

Details Two nights' self-catering for two from £380 (canopyandstars.co.uk)

Contained Bliss Dumfries and Galloway

Tucked in a spinney on a small farm in southwest Scotland, this creatively upcycled shipping container has become a shiny cabin for two. Inside it's fresh and simple, with sliding doors opening on to a veranda, where there's a Scandi-style wood-fired tub, a log-burner and a covered dining area with gas barbecue grill. Stay put to appreciate the birds and Dumfries and Galloway's officially lauded dark skies. Or hire a bike on-site and hit the Dalbeattie 7stanes mountain-biking trails (some of Scotland's best), right next door.

Details Two nights' self-catering for two from £269 (goglamping.net)

The Spring Gloucestershire

No need to brave the weather if it's chilly: this studio-style cabin is floor-to-ceiling glass on two sides, so you'll feel as if you're out in the country even when you're tucked up in your sofa bed. However, at some point you should peel back those bi-fold doors: the Spring sits in one of the prettiest parts of the Cotswolds. If you don't fancy using your kitchen, head to the Slad Valley for a frosty stroll before lunch in the Laurie Lee-loved Woolpack Inn.

Details Seven nights' self-catering for two from £809 (sykescottages.co.uk)

Compiled by Sarah Baxter



Solstice Retreat, Wiltshire