

50 of Britain's best holiday cottages

From a sprawling Cotswolds classic to a cosy Cornish studio for two, there are brilliant boltholes for every taste and budget

Rolling fields, a patchwork of woodland and a gently meandering river. Distant mountains. A winding path down to a nearby beach. And a little thatched cottage with a flower-filled garden basking in the summer sun.

It is easy to imagine the perfect holiday cottage, much harder to track one down in real life. Should you head north or south? Go back to an area you know or try somewhere new? Should you stick with a familiar agent or cast your search as widely as possible?

With spring in the air, we have scanned the websites and talked to dozens of agents in search of ideas and inspiration for those looking for a cottage holiday in Britain. While there are plenty of idyllic cottages out there, start your search now to bag the best.

It is always hard to gauge exactly how strong bookings are and what chances there might be for last-minute availability or even a discount. For understandable reasons, cottage agents are always keen to emphasise the need to book early. This was true of nearly all the companies I contacted. Vrbo and Unique Homestays, for example, say that demand is strong this year, especially for the school holiday weeks.

Small group getaways

Heddwen, Snowdonia



Heddwen boasts an acre of garden on dramatic terrain

Once tumbledown, Heddwen is a sensitively restored granite farmhouse on a dramatic upland near Harlech on the Welsh coast. As well as its acre of garden, its beamed ceilings, panelled walls, shuttered windows and flagstone floors give it plenty of rustic cottage character.

[£4,195; sleeps six; 01637 881183](#)

Coastal escapes

Smokehouse Cottage, Pembrokeshire

Next to the surfing beach of St Bride's Bay, Smokehouse Cottage offers a wood-fired hot tub on its decked terrace and a grassy lawn overlooking the sea. Interiors are modern with wrought iron beds, freestanding baths and reclaimed furnishing.

[£3,150; sleeps six; 01637 881183](#)