

The 50 best cottages in Britain

Article

In pictures



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The Beach Hut

Mark Watts

ROMANTIC BOLT HOLES FOR TWO

1 Boathouse

Dundas Castle, near Edinburgh

This super-romantic boathouse converted into a one-bedroom, mock-Tudor cottage is in the grounds of Dundas Castle's 1,000-acre estate, eight miles from Edinburgh. Overlooking a private loch, it comes with country-style décor and an over-water deck and, while it has a kitchen, there's the opportunity to have breakfast delivered.

Details: One night costs from £235 for two (0131 319 2039, dundycastle.co.uk)

2 The Beach Hut

Widemouth Bay, Cornwall

Positioned on a grassy bank above an isolated pebble and sand beach, the Beach Hut is a favourite with actors and writers seeking both a quiet getaway and inspiration; Kate Winslet is among several A-listers to have stayed. The hut was built in the 1920s as a tearoom, but was converted into a bijou one-bedroom cottage a few years ago. Now there's a cosy, Scandi-chic interior with whitewashed clapboard walls and an open plan interior. It comes with a log-burner, a barbecue and the sound of waves lapping on the shore.

Details: A four-night stay is from £1,255, sleeping two (uniquehomestays.com)

3 The Tower

Abergavenny, Monmouthshire

This one-bedroom apartment in the tower-like end wing of the main house, Twr Mihangel, is said to date from the 16th century. Inside it retains magnificent period features – mullion leaded windows and great oak beams – and there's a hand-carved four-poster bed to enhance the illusion; reassuringly modern touches include an English oak kitchen and a luxury bathroom. What is supposed to be Wales's oldest and haunted pub, the Skirrid Inn, is about 100 yards away.

Details: Three nights costs from £372 for two (01874 676446, breconcottages.com)

4 Knoydart Hide

Inverie, Inverness-shire

Surrounded by four of the Munro mountains and overlooking the sea at Loch Nevis, this ultrachic one-bedroom pad comes with a host of mod cons, including a running machine, a Nespresso coffee-maker, an infrared sauna, and a private hot tub on the balcony. Wallow in the water and you can spot roe deer, stags and eagles, or head down to the sea for orcas and porpoises. It can be booked on a self-catered, B&B or fully catered basis.

Details: Seven nights' self-catering is from £995 for two (coolstays.com/knoydart-hide)

5 The Flour Mill

Boston, Lincs

This working flour mill, dating from the early 19th century, sits on a canal bank a short walk down the towpath from the pretty market town of Boston. While the sails of the mill turn (almost) silently, you can take refuge in a luxe apartment within its walls. It comes with one bedroom, a rolltop bath, a patio and a full, if compact, kitchen.

Details: Seven nights costs from £530 for two (01237 426726, thelittledomain.com)

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