

Five perfect UK holidays for your first week of freedom, curated by our experts

Our experts reveal their favourite pubs, restaurants, shops and places to stay in England's most appealing corners

Whisper it – if all goes to plan, we are less than a month from the return of holidays in England.

There's a catch, of course. Assuming we stick to the [roadmap](#), from April 12 you will indeed be able to visit a self-catering accommodation of your choosing, so long as you go with your household or "bubble". So no big group getaways, quite yet.

And it doesn't seem like England-dwellers will be welcome in Wales or Scotland for a while, yet (Mark Drakeford has said today [it's more likely to be summer](#) before Wales welcomes people from England for overnight stays, while for Scotland April 26 is the earliest date). Oh and hotels, B&Bs and hostels [won't be allowed to open](#) until May 17 at the earliest.

But what is rather exciting (keep whispering) is that, if all goes to plan, pub gardens will be able to open for your bubble-cation on April 12. As will restaurants with outside space, and all those non-essential shops we used to love perusing before perusing in non-essential shops became illegal. You'll still have a mask on your face when indoors, and group sizes at pubs and restaurants will be limited, but after having nothing at all for so long – it's a start.



So we have selected the best pub (with garden), restaurant (with outdoor space), non-essential shop and self-catering accommodation – all planning to reopen on April 12 or soon after – across the UK's finest corners.

Here's how to make the most of your post-lockdown escape in **Cornwall**, the **Cotswolds**, the **Lake District**, the **Peak District** and **London**, according to Telegraph Travel's esteemed regional experts.

London

Laura Fowler

At the first inklings of spring, when the cherry blossoms burst early along neighbourhood streets, Londoners emerge in new-season brights and stripes, sockless and short-sleeved and smiling. There's an effervescence to the capital in April – the early warmth, the longer light evenings, the hope of the sunny months stretching ahead. Pavements outside pubs overflow with happy drinkers and lively conversations in a multitude of languages; restaurants reopen their terraces and rooftops; parks and gardens bloom with colour and revellers; and street performers give the squares and watersides a festival atmosphere. Hop on a Santander bike and go tootling from district to district – and whatever plans you make, keep them loose, so you can follow wherever the fun leads you.

The place to stay

The Fourth Wall, Covent Garden, and The Artists House Chelsea Centre stage in the West End, [The Fourth Wall](#) is a theatrical, maximalist bolthole in a Victorian apartment block, which is stuffed with architectural salvage, props and objets from stage sets from the surrounding theatres. It sleeps three (of course it does) in double and single bedrooms curtained off the living room. Or for more space, [The Artists House Chelsea](#) is a bright, irreverent three-bedroom holiday home in a former artists' studio near the King's Road, which is filled with original artworks and natural light.