

PROPERTIES FOR RENT

FESTIVE ESCAPES

Cosy up for the ultimate English Christmas in a wonderful holiday escape



1 CHRISTMAS IN THE COTSWOLDS

Gulliver's Hall, Bisley, Gloucestershire

Gather friends and family for a Christmas celebration in a large country house located in the Cotswolds. Set across acres of Gloucestershire farmland, Gulliver's Hall blends history with the latest home comforts, from the stained-glass windows bearing the owner's family crest and carved four-poster bed in the main bedroom, to the cinema room and outdoor hot tub. The main house sleeps 15, with a further three bedrooms in the pool house to accommodate any overflow of guests. On Christmas Day, sing carols around the grand piano, deck the dining table (once a colossal oak on the property) and open presents by a roaring fire in the boldly decorated drawing room. For those needing to blow away the cobwebs, the bucolic grounds lend themselves to winter afternoon walks.

Sleeps 21. A week, from £7,550; short break, from £5,995. uniquehomestays.com

2 CAPITAL SPLENDOUR

Marylebone House, London

Step back in time at Marylebone House, a beautifully restored Regency townhouse in the heart of London. Once owned by Jane Austen's brother, Henry, the property has reimagined the Georgian way of life with 21st-century sophistication. Each of the seven en-suite bedrooms is inspired by an Austen family member, with sumptuous four-poster beds, antiques and discreetly placed mod-cons such as coffee machines and flatscreen televisions. A candlelit dinner in Monsieur Halavant's Pantry - named after Henry Austen's French chef - makes for a wonderfully atmospheric festive celebration, whilst the carriage-style snug is the perfect setting for a cosy cocktail. The many attractions that transform London at this time of year are conveniently nearby, from the glittering lights of Oxford Street to ice skating in Hyde Park.

Sleeps 14. Short breaks from £9,900. thewowhousecompany.com

