

Britain's 10 quirkiest places to stay this spring – from houseboats to horse boxes

Holidays on home soil are set to be popular again this year – so brighten up your breaks with these unique boltholes

By Mike Pickup

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Fancy visiting India but don't fancy the flight? Take the family to Castle India (in Cornwall) instead | CREDIT: Unique Homestays

With the weather warming up once more, the beauty of Britain is calling. From a home-away-from-home inspired by the humble conker to hobbit holes and holidays afloat on the Thames, the country is packed with interesting places to stay. Making any break on home soil far from mundane, adults and kids alike will love spending time in these incredibly quirky, fun places to stay that will brighten up any holiday.

Retreat to India, Cornwall

Best for: Big groups

Quirkiest feature: Indian design

Fancy visiting India but don't fancy the flight? Then take the family to Castle India, set in nine acres of sub-tropical gardens in Cornwall's Tamar Valley. From the grand central hallway discover the music room, drawing room, library and kitchen before climbing the sweeping staircase to the nine sumptuous bedrooms – all decorated in a vibrant, busy style. Enjoy views over the croquet lawn, castle ramparts and the River Lynher beyond. Outside you will find an outdoor natural pool and pool house, fire pit, ping pong table, football goals and trampoline.

A one-week stay with Unique Homestays costs from £13,500 (01637 881183; castle-india.uniquehomestays.com); sleeps up to 18.



Castle India is set in nine acres of sub-tropical gardens in Cornwall's Tamar Valley | CREDIT: Unique Homestays

Rise above, Suffolk

Best for: Fort-like feeling

Quirkiest feature: The huge central brick shaft

The Martello towers were built in the 19th century to help defend the country against invasion, so it's no surprise that they command stunning views. Found Tower, on the Deben Peninsula in Suffolk, is no exception. On the highest of the three floors, you can enjoy 360-degree views through the floor-to-ceiling windows across the stunning Suffolk coastline. The floor below offers spacious living accommodation with a door leading to the sandy track outside. Peace and tranquillity assured – unless you opt to make your own noise by taking advantage of the grand piano.

A one-week stay costs from £2,550 (01637 881183; foundtower.uniquehomestays.com); sleeps six.



Enjoy 360-degree views through the floor-to-ceiling windows across the stunning Suffolk coastline at Found Tower | CREDIT: Found Tower