

Words by SALLY COFFEY

WINTER WINNERS

From the Northern Lights to festive traditions and fireside drams, here are five reasons to visit Scotland out of season

4. For solitude and space

While snow-capped hills can be seen in some parts of the Highlands year-round, in winter they are at their most picturesque and visiting in the colder months allows you to enjoy the scenery in silence, walk empty sweeping beaches, appreciating the majesty of it all with no interruptions. Afterwards you can retire to a Highlands hideaway or cosy cabin to warm your cold toes by the fire and wrap up in a cashmere or tweed blanket. At the ski-lodge style cabin of Usonia in Melrose, in the Scottish Borders, from Unique Homestays (below), you can do just this. There's even an outdoor hot tub and sauna for the truly brave.

uniquahomestays.com

