

# A shared escape

We might not be able to choose our relatives, but we can decide where we go on holiday... Whether it's a big birthday gathering or the annual family reunion, travelling together can be tricky (who could forget that *Succession* Tuscany trip?). Here's how to do group travel the right way



## The one you access by boat

Fans of *The Holiday* will love Little Red Lock, an idyllic converted barn in the Cotswolds, set on a winding canal that looks as if it's straight out of the film. The house, a part of the Unique Homestays portfolio, oozes luxurious, eccentric Oxfordshire charm, with its exposed brick walls, copper pots and Aga stove. It's a true getaway, so deep in the countryside that you can only access it by foot or water (the closest parking is a clearing in the woods about 10 minutes away, or you can arrange for the house manager to collect you by boat.) That means the home is encircled by tranquil views: a living room opens onto the canal and the bedrooms overlook sprawling, rolling fields. Its kayaks make it a hit for spring and summer, but the inviting kitchens (there are two), fireplaces and hot tub made it ideal for a Thanksgiving getaway with our group of expat friends and family. We arrived by car, our boot full of two enormous birds and farmer's-market victuals, pulled on our walking boots, loaded the trolleys left for us in the woods and off we went. After the feast, we strolled along the canal beneath a clear sky full of stars, the smog of London miles away. KENYA HUNT  
*Little Red Lock, [uniquehomestays.com](http://uniquehomestays.com)*