

## Stay at home

The Beach Hut, Widemouth Bay, Cornwall



In the mood for sea views and luxurious seclusion? Forget the Seychelles and head for Cornwall. Perched on a hill-ock below the cliffs, The Beach Hut defines coastal chic—think Arthur Ransome meets The Ritz. Picnic on the sands (you can order a gourmet hamper), stargaze from the deck and doze off to the sound of waves breaking on the beach. A three-night weekend stay costs £1,750.

(01637 881183; [www.uniquehomestays.com](http://www.uniquehomestays.com))

## Get away

Kwandwe Game Reserve, South Africa



This 54,000-acre private wilderness in the Eastern Cape offers everything you'd expect from a luxury reserve. But guests can also roll up their sleeves and take part in the not-for-profit Rhino Conservation Safari, working beside vets as they track and tag the endangered animals. Rooms with full board from £270 per person per night, and a four-day Rhino Conservation Safari starts at £1,350 for up to eight adults.

(00 27 46 603 3400; [www.kwandwe.com](http://www.kwandwe.com))

## Good to know: A Saxon scalp



ON October 17, 1839, gravediggers working in Romsey Abbey, Hampshire, unearthed a large lead coffin. By report, it lay beneath the foundations of an earlier church, presumably that completed for the nunnery that was founded here in 907 by Edward the Elder for his daughter Elflaeda. Wrapped within the lead was a second coffin made of oak boards and, inside that, the remains of a body reduced by the particular conditions of the ground to a black residue. What did survive, however, was a complete head of a woman's hair resting on a wooden plank shaped with a notch to form a pillow. It was plaited and appeared 'like a peruke newly sent from the wig-makers'. The identity of the body remains uncertain, but it was certainly a woman of high status, perhaps Elflaeda herself. The hair was then placed in a specially made box that survives in the church. **JG**

### What they said

'Is it so small a thing  
To have enjoy'd the sun,  
To have lived light in the spring,  
To have loved, to have thought,  
to have done'



Matthew Arnold, from *Hymn of Empedocles*

## Unmissable events

### Exhibitions

**March 23–April 7 Spring Exhibition**, Geedon Gallery, Fingringhoe, Essex. Paintings by Royal Academicians Ken Howard and Fred Cuming, as well as local artists. 11am–5.30pm (01206 728587; [www.geedongallery.co.uk](http://www.geedongallery.co.uk))

**Until May 26 'Becoming Picasso: Paris 1901'**, The Courtauld Gallery, London WC2. 10am–6pm daily (020–7848 2526; [www.courtauld.ac.uk](http://www.courtauld.ac.uk))

### Point-to-point

**March 24 Tedworth Hunt**, Barbury Racecourse, near Marlborough, Wiltshire (check for weather conditions on Talking Point 09068 446061, 61p per minute, or at [www.pointtopoint.co.uk](http://www.pointtopoint.co.uk))



### Cookery day

**March 26 'Baking with Chocolate'**, Bettys Cookery School, Harrogate, North Yorkshire 9am–4.30pm, £175, booking essential (01423 814016; [www.bettyscookeryschool.co.uk](http://www.bettyscookeryschool.co.uk))

### Open Day

**March 29 Betfair Lambourn Open Day**, Berkshire. Racing yards open from 8.30am to 1pm, plus the Household Cavalry Musical Ride. Entry £12 ([www.lambourn.info](http://www.lambourn.info))

### Book now

#### Lunch

**April 18 The Lord Mayor's Big Curry Lunch**, The Guildhall, London EC2. Supporting ABF The Soldiers' Charity's Current Operations Fund. Tickets £95 (020–7811 3202; <http://bigcurry.org> or [www.soldierscharity.org](http://www.soldierscharity.org))

### Gardening course

**June 11 'The Edible Garden'**, Arne Maynard Garden Design, Allt-y-bela, near Usk, Monmouthshire. Take the first step towards creating a kitchen garden. 9.45am–5pm. £220, including lunch and refreshments (020–7689 8100; [www.arnemaynard.com](http://www.arnemaynard.com))

## Three wishes Children's baking

**Junior mixing bowl in blue**, £20, Le Creuset (0800 373792; [www.lecreuset.co.uk](http://www.lecreuset.co.uk))



**'Let's Make' children's 11-piece baking set**, £9.95, Whisk Hampers (01483 211926; [www.whiskhampers.co.uk](http://www.whiskhampers.co.uk))



**Hamptons Stripe Kids' Apron**, £13, Black (01342 715505; [www.black.co.uk](http://www.black.co.uk))