

# LIVING NORTH

September 2014 £2.95 **the** magazine for the North East

## HOME PRIDE

Your guide to the region's best kitchens, bathrooms and bedrooms

**TWO  
MAGAZINES  
392  
INSPIRATIONAL  
PAGES**

## Fishing for compliments

Brilliant recipes and fabulous cut flowers

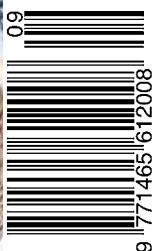
## A SEAL OF APPROVAL

Perfect pups, boutique breaks and the event that's one in a million

## OLD & NEW

ANTIQUES IN DURHAM, FESTIVALS IN BERWICK AND THE NEW SEASON'S TOP TRENDS

**PLUS** homes & gardens • food & drink • health & beauty • the arts travel • kids • fashion • what's on • sport • property • win win win







# The Ultimate Staycation

Cosy cottages, sumptuous hotels and unbeatable views; stay on home turf this autumn at one of these gorgeous British boltholes

## Lake Country House, Powys ▲

Many don't consider Wales when planning a staycation, but with rolling hills, tumbling streams and friendly faces wherever you go, it's a seriously underrated destination. Embrace the slower pace of life at the Lake Country House in Powys, which was originally built as a hunting and fishing lodge (from the turn of the 20th century until World War II, it was the only barium spa resort outside Germany). Start your day with freshly brewed coffee and croissants on the sun terrace before spending a day in the sumptuous spa, playing croquet on the lawn, enjoying afternoon tea over a board game, or fishing on one of the glistening lakes. The bedrooms here are individually designed with elegant classic furniture, and the ground floor suites have little sunny areas to sit outside and relax with a glass of wine and good company. Got a four-legged friend in tow? The Lake Country House loves dogs and offers pooch-friendly junior suites opening directly onto the grounds.

**What to do:** The Brecon Beacons, Black Mountains and surrounding areas are effectively nature's playground, comprising valleys, hills, gardens and waterfalls where you can go hiking, mountain biking, horse riding or even canoeing on the River Wye. The medieval Powis Castle, a Baroque triumph dating back to 1200, rises dramatically above its celebrated gardens – after meandering among the rare plants and relaxing in the gorgeous orangery, take a stroll through the Castle's state rooms and discover the impressive collection of art, tapestries and furniture.

**Where to eat:** You could travel a long way and still not find anywhere as good as the hotel's award-winning restaurant, which has two AA Rosettes. Serving up gourmet dishes with a Celtic twist, you can expect indulgent creations such as roast rack of lamb for two: braised lamb shoulder, Jersey royals, aubergine caviar, Mediterranean vegetables, wilted greens and tomato purée. From £195 per night [www.lakecountryhouse.co.uk](http://www.lakecountryhouse.co.uk)



## ▼ The Little Charcuterie, Cornwall

This quirky Cornish abode started life as an old coach house in the 17th century, and has recently been transformed into a luxury love nest called The Little Charcuterie. Nestled in the quintessentially British village of Marhamchurch, the first-floor self-catering home is decked out in Rococo-inspired interiors: eclectic vintage finds, fancy French furnishings and rustic wood create a cosy feel. The highlight of staying here is the terrace's suspended daybed layered with striped blankets and cushions, where you can curl up with a glass of wine and gaze out towards the coast. Holiday cottages don't come much more unique than this; the owners live next door and use the petite kitchen beneath The Little Charcuterie as a hobbyist butchers, where they make artisan sausages once a week. From £315 for three nights [www.uniquehomestays.com](http://www.uniquehomestays.com)

**What to do:** Hitting the waves on your surfboard isn't the only way to get your blood pumping in Cornwall; try exploring the coast with a geological walk, or opt for something new such as abseiling, rock-climbing or mountain boarding. For something a little less strenuous, take a trip to nearby Bude, a charming Cornish seaside town where you can indulge in some traditional Granny Wobbly's fudge and mosey around the smattering of independent shops (which sell everything from buckets and spades to high-end apparel and New Age crystals).

**Where to eat:** The Bank at Bude does authentic Spanish tapas using a combination of Mediterranean and Cornish ingredients – think locally caught seafood with homemade sauces and dressings, or spicy chorizo topped with Cornish cheddar. The Bullers Arms is a Marhamchurch stalwart, which reopened early this year following campaigns to keep the local favourite alive, and now continues to serve hearty gastropub fodder and proper local ale.

