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Quirky Holidays

Top quirky holidays around the UK



Tucked away around the UK are hundreds of quirky holiday destinations just waiting to be discovered. If you're looking for somewhere a bit different that doesn't compromise on comfort then our guide will give you the lowdown.

If you've ever fancied going on a safari, but haven't quite liked the high price tag look no further than the new Livingstone Lodge African Experience at Port Lympne, Kent!

You may be a million miles away from the African Serengeti but you can watch Zebra, Ostrich and Giraffe from the comfort of your own terrace as the sun sets over your tent.

The renowned safari park is run by the Aspinall Foundation, a charity that runs both Port Lympne and Howletts zoo in the UK and overseas conservation projects in countries like the Congo.

Set in 600 acres of land the weekend safari kicks off with a dawn jeep tour around the park where you can watch the Wilderbeast and Rhino waking up and roaming freely. Round off your day with an African style dinner before retreating to your luxury safari tent.

If you are looking for a more relaxed outdoors adventure then hiring a traditional gypsy caravan could be right up your street. [Gypsy Caravan holiday breaks](#) have a traditional caravan tucked away in a cider orchard at the end of a quiet lane in Somerset.

Surrounded by the rolling Somerset hills the mystical town of Glastonbury is just a few miles up the road.

This is not glamping, more a step back in time to experience traditional Romany living. If getting back to nature appeals to you, you can cook on an open fire and really live the outdoor life.

Gypsy caravans are more suited to a couples holiday, for similar family fun stay at the [Yurt Farm](#), in West Wales. The yurts are nestled on the organic farm in the lush green Welsh countryside. Perfect to chill while the kids can go wild.

If you relish being outdoors but want a little more luxury how about staying in a tree house? You'll find the tree house at [Castle Cottage](#), West Sussex built into a sweet chestnut tree on the edge of a wood. The thatched double room is nestled amongst the trees with large glass doors opening out onto a sweeping balcony.

This sumptuous tree house B&B is perfect for a romantic break – but if you want to take the whole family then the self-catering all mod-cons tree house at [Kinlochlaich House](#) in Argyll, Scotland would be perfect.

For a quirky self-catering holiday The Limit, in Holywell Bay, Cornwall is an offbeat 1930's beach hut on the North Cornwall coast. The Limit has two beach huts, one for sleeping and the other for cooking and socialising.

Set in two acres of grounds the beach hut is flanked by a wild garden and giant rhubarb. Perfectly located for a surfing break – or just to relax by the coast.

Grab a board, hang up the 'gone surfing' sign and head to the beach.

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Summer Satnav

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Where: Spa glamping in Kent

Postcode: CT15 6EW

Web: www.wallettscourthotelspa.com

Want to get closer to nature but hate having to pitch the tent and pack all the paraphernalia? Then glamping – or posh camping is right up your street.



Glamping comes in all shapes and sizes from Gypsy caravan breaks in Somerset to yurts in Devon. It takes the hard work out of camping bringing a little luxury to your escape to the great outdoors. One thing you definitely won't find are burnt sausages and ging, gang gooly round the fire.

For a truly relaxing stay head for the glorious white cliffs of Dover and the Walletts Court Hotel Spa in Kent. The white cliffs of Dover are iconic and the scenery just stunning. Their tipis have wooden floors, queen size beds and luxury bedding.

After your night under canvas head to the hotel's spa for a day of pampering (all included in the cost). Camping has never felt so good.

Where: Margate

Postcode: CT9 1HG

Web: www.turnercontemporary.org

Shaking off its kiss me quick image Margate has gone under something of an image change in the last few years.

The miles of golden sandy beach, quirky boutiques in the old town and the brand new million pound art gallery Turner Contemporary have put Margate firmly back on the map.



No trip to the British seaside would be complete without a trip to the arcades, The gaudy pink Flamingo on the seafront is the best. And for fish and chips – try Pete's Chip Factory on the seafront.

Following its facelift this great British seaside has much more to offer. The impressive Turner Contemporary gallery overlooks the seafront and the harbour arm has become home to artsy hang-outs like eatery BeBeached. Wander around the old town and you'll find quaint streets with a smattering of boutique hotels, teashops and a Michelin star restaurant.

Where: The House in the Sea, Newquay, Cornwall

Postcode: TR7

Web: www.houseinthesea.uniquehomestays.com

If you are looking for an unusual place to stay then this is it. Perched on an island in Newquay bay, Cornwall is a truly unique B&B. Sitting atop a granite rock and commanding spectacular views of the Atlantic the 'House in the Sea' is on its own private island surrounded by the sea at high-tide.

At high-tide the house can only be accessed by a 70ft-high footbridge so you can be the king or queen of your own castle. Stargaze on the decking or take in the views from your own private sitting room.



And there is plenty to do in the area – of course there are miles and miles of beautiful sandy beaches. And if surfing is your (or your family's) thing the Relentless Boardmasters festival is on from 10th-14th August, the Eden project is a short drive away as is the popular village Padstow.

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