



JUBILEE JAUNTS

Can't find a castle in which to celebrate the key week of the Queen's big year? Move fast and you could still rent one of these 20 fab cottages, says *Sean Newsom*

What do you get when you add two Jubilee bank holidays to a half-term just as summer is getting into its stride?

Holiday-booking bedlam, that's what. Across England and Wales schools will be out between May 28 and June 5, with Thursday, June 2, and Friday, June 3, earmarked as national holidays to enable us all to get in the spirit of the Queen's 70th-anniversary celebrations. And where better to toast our most durable of monarchs than from a charming holiday cottage with friends and family at your side? Many of the best properties have already gone; several belters remain. Here are 20 of the latter that caught our eye.

DINYAN CORNWALL

This is good value for Cornwall: a big creekside house with a sense of drama that costs less than £3,000 for a peak week. Aside from its lush Helford River setting, it's the double-height living room, decorated with paddles, that provides the wow factor (although no one's going to complain about the views from the bedrooms). The house is not suitable for the under-fives, but anyone else with just a drop or two of *Swallows and Amazons* spirit is going to be in heaven here, whether they're swimming, fishing or wandering its wooded paths.

Details Seven nights' self-catering for eight from May 28 for £2,501 (cornishholidaycottages.com)

SCOTSTOWN FARMHOUSE SCOTTISH BORDERS

This apparently modest house, not far from West Linton, hides a soaring, double-height living space/kitchen warmed by a wood-burning stove. The enormous walled garden next door is perfect for picnics, barbecues and games of hide and

seek. To the south, big walks and bike rides await in the Southern Uplands. **Details** Seven nights' self-catering for seven from May 28 for £954 (sawdays.co.uk)

PITCOMBE BARN SOMERSET

House-party heaven awaits in this swanky hilltop barn conversion set at the end of a long lane two miles east of Castle Cary. You get a generous oak-and-glass dining room for your set-piece dinners and there's a separate conservatory for the lazy mornings that follow as well as quiet little corners around the garden where you can gather to gossip about your guests. Just be sure to bring someone musical along with you; the grand piano in the sitting room is begging to be played.

Details Seven nights' self-catering for 12 from May 28 for £10,000 (scottwilliams.co.uk)

BRICK HOUSE FARM HEREFORDSHIRE

Worried about bank holiday overcrowding? There's no need in western Herefordshire. This richly verdant stretch of England has never been a honeypot,

and Brick House Farm, near King's Pyon, lies in one of its quietest pockets. The house has been given a well-mannered makeover, but at the start of summer it's the outdoor space that will really count. You'll find terraces aplenty on which to lounge, as well as big country walks beckoning you up steep hills.

Details Seven nights' self-catering for 14 from May 27 for £5,998 (boutique-retreats.co.uk)

THE CROWN GLOUCESTERSHIRE

Where could be more apt? Apartment 2 at the repurposed Crown Inn stretches back from a Tetbury side street, so there'll be a bit of traffic noise, but that's a small price to pay for such a crisp, bright and affordable base. Around one corner soars the magnificent spire of St Mary's Church. The 17th-century Market House lurks behind another. Once you're done day-tripping to the Westonbirt Arboretum or walking the Cotswold scarp, you'll find lots of restaurants on hand if you can't be bothered to cook.

Details Seven nights' self-catering for two from May 27 for £999 (holidaycottages.co.uk)

BEUDY AERON CEREDIGION

You'll never want to leave the dining/living room at Beudy Aeron, near Aberaeron. With a giant terrace and a folding wall of glass, it seems to embrace half of Ceredigion. During every meal, every sundowner drink and every cup of tea, you'll be staring across the trees on that plump, midsummer patchwork of hedges and fields. Deeper in the house there's a second sitting room with a wood-burner. Every day will be a wrestle between those terrace views and seaside adventures on the Ceredigion coast.

Details Seven nights' self-catering for four from May 27 for £1,639 (underthethatch.co.uk)

4 THE BAY SCOTTISH BORDERS

Here's the Berwickshire coast as you never imagined it – reinvented as the home of chic, sharp modernist beach houses of the kind you would usually find only in Greece. One of a pair of luxury penthouses in St Abbs, overlooking the North Sea, 4 The Bay has giant sun decks and sliding walls of glass to enjoy those long evenings. Even if the sun doesn't shine, there's lots to do: exploring the first Queen Elizabeth's cannon-proof walls at Berwick, surfing on the local beach and birdwatching at St Abbs Head.

Details Seven nights' self-catering for four from May 28 for £1,870 (crabtreeandcrabtree.com)

FOX COTTAGE DORSET

One caveat: this tiny terraced cottage sits next to Beaminster's elegant 15th-century church, which means chiming bells every quarter of an hour throughout the day. Every three hours they ring out the tune of the hymn *Hanover*. Most of us will love that, of course, along with the statement wallpaper in the bedroom, the wood-burning stove in the lounge and the sun-trap back garden. Lyme Regis is the obvious day trip, but there are long walks around Beaminster to be enjoyed first.

Details Seven nights' self-catering for two from May 27 for £772 (classic.co.uk)

CONGROVE BARN'S BATH

What a venue for an endless June evening. The two Congrove barns face each other across a fragrant summer garden in a quiet valley northwest of Bath, with badminton and croquet on hand as the shadows lengthen, and plenty of terracing for alfresco suppers. You can even lie back in

Continued on page 8 →



Above: a sun deck at 4 The Bay on the Berwickshire coast. Top: Dinyan in Cornwall. Below left: the living room at Beudy Aeron, near Aberaeron. Below right: a bedroom at Brick House Farm in Herefordshire



Travel UK

→ Continued from page 7
the hot tub and do a bit of stargazing. Inside, one of the barns is set aside for sleeping, the other for cooking, lounging and games of table football. Both share the same richly textured, rustic-chic style. **Details** Seven nights' self-catering for four from May 27 for £1,950 (luxurycotswoldrentals.co.uk)

PELE TOWER CUMBRIA
You get two national parks for the price of one at Killington Hall. On the doorstep lie the outer reaches of the Yorkshire Dales National Park, while 14 miles west you hit Windermere and the drama of the Lakes. Outdoorsy types will have a ball, whether they're paddling, pedalling or just charging up the nearest fell. Back at base, you'll get an interesting perspective on the Queen's 70-year reign; the revitalised Pele Tower, attached to a slightly younger hall, is five centuries old. **Details** Seven nights' self-catering for four from May 28 for £2,241 (premiercottages.co.uk)

THE SHEPHERD'S HUT CO DURHAM
Fingers crossed – by the end of May it should be warm enough to use the alfresco bath at the Shepherd's Hut near Ingelton. Inside there's also a hot shower and a wood-burning stove, but just imagine: you've spent the day hoofing through the North Pennines, or marvelling at Durham's cathedral, and now, with a long summer evening ahead, you can fill the tub, raise a glass to Her Majesty and listen to the birdsong. Dinner is best taken on the sun deck.



Above: the Gardener's House in Bedfordshire. Top: the Shepherd's Hut near Ingelton, Co Durham

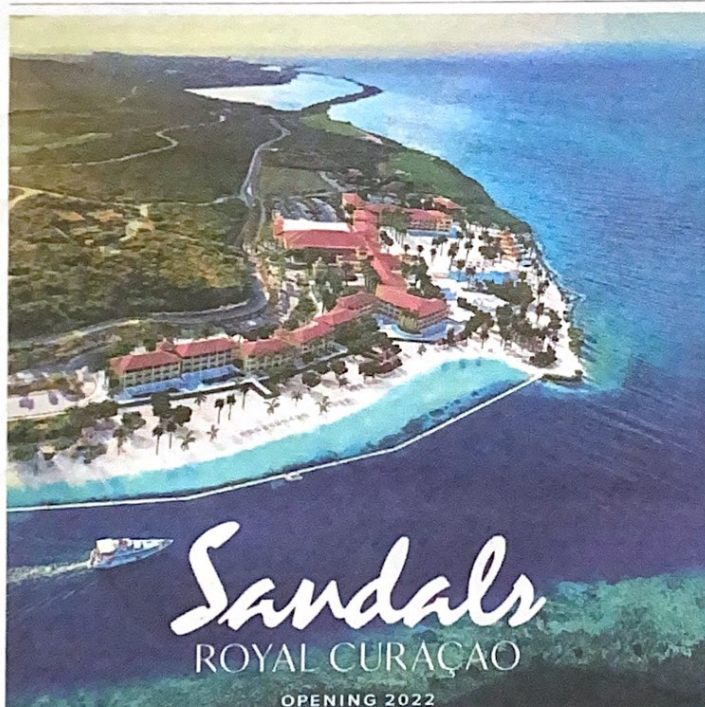
Details Seven nights' self-catering for two from May 28 for £650 (premiercottages.co.uk)

ULTIMATE HARBOURSIDE DEVON
The lounge is a marvel. Shaped like the hull of an upturned boat, it connects this tall quayside house in Ilfracombe with Cheyne Beach at the back. So you have bobbing boats in one direction and rock pools in the other. The decor is smart and seaside-stripy, and the French windows

on two of the floors will be a real bonus on bright mornings, with the tide in and the sea an iridescent turquoise. **Details** Seven nights' self-catering for eight from May 28 for £3,569 (stayindevon.co.uk)

HARE HOUSE SHROPSHIRE
Planning to watch Trooping the Colour on Thursday, June 2? Hare House, near Shrewsbury, will provide a suitably regal backdrop. It's set in the grounds of Peplow Hall, a handsome, red-brick 18th-century mansion whose formal gardens are even more stately than its architecture. At the house itself the style is west London meets the Cotswolds, with a free-standing bath, a hot tub in the garden and giant hares cavorting across the wallpaper. **Details** Seven nights' self-catering for five from May 28 for £2,580 (peplowhall.co.uk)

THE BREAKERS BEACH HOUSE KENT
At the end of a quiet road leading to Folkestone's Sandgate beach, this is a bonkers but brilliant base for a group of friends in search of something different. Frescoes in the kitchen, fluted columns, decadent Tamara de Lempicka prints – the house may be full of bold decorative flourishes, but the location is so good, even the most conservative self-caterer will be won over. Never more so than on a bright sunny morning, when you're all breakfasting on the first-floor balcony, peering across the Channel. **Details** Seven nights' self-catering for seven from May 28 for £5,338 (oliverstravels.com)



Sandals
ROYAL CURAÇAO
OPENING 2022

For Complete Peace of Mind, We've Got You Covered for travel in 2022 including*:

- Complimentary in-resort COVID-19 testing where required
- Plus we provide a replacement stay policy if your holiday is interrupted by Covid-19

Sandals
HOLIDAY ASSURANCE

The Brand You Can Trust Book with Confidence

Nestled in the picturesque Southern Caribbean, the all-new Sandals Royal Curaçao, opening in June 2022, features innovative Sandals' signature firsts. From a 2-Level Infinity Pool, to all-new luxurious and breath-taking suites. This brand-new Sandals resort is redefining the Luxury Included® experience.

7 NIGHTS IN OUR BRAND NEW RESORT IN CURAÇAO



SEP 2022	FROM £2,205pp
Carisia Luxury	AUG 2022 FROM £2,389pp
	JUL 2022 FROM £2,785pp

Prices include economy flights with KLM from London Heathrow, Birmingham and Manchester via Amsterdam. Prices include all savings. Plus 13 other UK regional airports available at an additional cost.

VOTED THE WORLD'S LEADING ALL-INCLUSIVE RESORTS 26 YEARS IN A ROW AT THE WORLD TRAVEL AWARDS

Call 0800 022 3443 | Visit sandals.co.uk or contact your local travel agent

OUR CALL CENTRE IS OPEN 7-DAYS A WEEK.

*For more information on Sandals Holiday Assurance visit <https://www.sandals.co.uk/holiday-assurance/>. Save 5% on selected resorts, durations, and travel dates. This discount, plus savings of up to 45% off apply to the accommodation portion of the holiday. Save up to £700 on selected room categories and durations. Offers valid for travel up to 4 December '24. Book by 3 May '22. Prices are based on 2 people sharing a room, flying with KLM from London Heathrow, Birmingham and Manchester via Amsterdam, and include Sandals airport transfers, tips and taxes. Prices are correct at time of print, subject to availability and can change or be withdrawn without notice. See full terms and conditions by visiting <https://www.sandals.co.uk/specials/uk-offers>. Unique Caribbean Holidays Ltd, registered office 2nd Floor Nucleus House, 2 Lower Mortlake Road, Richmond, England, TW9 2JA, acts as an agent for Sandals and Beaches Resorts Intl. All holidays are ABTA (Y6413) and ATOL (11174) protected.



Left: Ultimate Harbourside in Ilfracombe. Top: First Light in north Cornwall. Above: head off for walks from Pele Tower in Cumbria

WHEELWRIGHTS COTTAGE KENT

The modest clapboard exterior of this Staplecross cottage gives no hint of the wonders within. But fling open the sky-blue door and suddenly you're in a world of cool modern colours, lights and furniture. Mustard sofas, a rose-pink kitchen, sage green lamps; they're all so pretty you'll want to take them home at the end of the trip. Before that, though, get busy exploring: Battle Abbey, medieval Rye and the beach at Camber are all a short drive away.

Details Seven nights' self-catering for five from May 28 for £1,261 (bloomstays.com)

1 QUAYSIDE DEVON

You get a different perspective on north Devon from this little Appledore side street. Here, you're in a world not of beachcombers and surfboards, but sailmakers, boatyards and bobbing yachts, with a pretty little townhouse worthy of a sea captain. Inside, there's

a soothing symphony of greys, blues and woody browns and a spacious master bedroom under the eave. Just beyond the mouth of the estuary the coast reverts to type on the vast beach at Westward Ho! **Details** Seven nights' self-catering for five from May 27 for £1,924 (luxurycoastal.co.uk)

LOFTWEN LONGHOUSE POWYS

Ever fantasised about running away to a smallholding in the hills? This might just be the place. Loftwen is a traditional Welsh longhouse, rescued from dereliction by its new owners, and surrounded by 320 acres. Inside, there's an inglenook fireplace, a bread oven and vibrant local fabrics amid the knobbly, whitewashed walls. Amazingly, given the seclusion, it's only a ten-minute walk into the tiny town of Llanwrtyd Wells, where you'll find coffee shops and the Neuadd Arms, which has its own microbrewery. **Details** Seven nights' self-catering for six from May 30 for £1,580 (canopyandstars.co.uk)

ASHINGTON HOUSE KENT

Why not make your seaside break a little bit Jane Austen by staying in this handsome, 18th-century brick house in the middle of Deal? History buffs will love it. From here the only way is backwards: first to Henry VIII's artillery fort nearby, and thence to medieval Sandwich and Roman Richborough. You won't, however, be battling with feeble lighting and an ageing kitchen back at the house; this is a recent refurb, and alongside the original fireplaces and occasional

antiques, you'll find 21st-century details in all the right places.

Details Seven nights' self-catering for six from May 30 for £1,454 (originalcottages.co.uk)

GARDENER'S HOUSE BEDFORDSHIRE

"I loved it," Jessie Hewitson enthused last spring, when she and her family had a sneak preview of the Gardener's House for *The Times*. If your taste runs to parterres, country mansions and 90 acres of parkland and gardens then chances are you will too. The property occupies a tower and a private garden in the grounds of Wrest Park, a 19th-century homage to all things French. Back at the house, the interior is bright and well-equipped – but no match, of course, for what lies outside. **Details** Seven nights' self-catering for six from May 30 for £2,575 (www.english-heritage.org.uk)

FIRST LIGHT CORNWALL

Right in the middle of Rock, this house strains every sinew to catch the Cornish light. The crisp, neat and seasides bedrooms are all downstairs, leaving masses of space for a giant, open-plan living/dining/rooking space on the first floor, lit by a wall of south-facing glass. From here a door opens onto a big rooftop terrace with views of Rock's little beach and the Camel estuary beyond. Boat trips, beach days, cliff walks: it's the perfect venue for a sunny breakfast conference, discussing your options for the day ahead. **Details** Seven nights' self-catering for eight from May 27 for £3,640 (latitude50.co.uk)

DialAFlight



Where you'll always get a bigger choice, better value and expert advice

Calls answered **LIVE** in **FIVE** seconds

Our favourite hotels in the **MALDIVES**

with great offers, flights & transfers included

Why 98% say they would book again*

- ✓ Calls answered LIVE in FIVE seconds
- ✓ Good old fashioned customer service
- ✓ Expert personal Travel Managers
- ✓ Your plans automatically updated on the DAF app
- ✓ 24/7 emergency helpline
- ✓ Insider knowledge. Access to fare classes you'll never normally see
- ✓ Any Air Miles automatically added
- ✓ Your bookings help children learn to read

OBLU NATURE Helengeli

Enjoy 2 free excursions and a free spa treatment at the all inclusive Helengeli Island



7 nights fr £2,039pp inc flights & transfers

- Just a 50-minute speedboat ride from Malé, and renowned as a paradise for divers, with a spectacular range of marine wildlife including silver-tipped sharks
- There are 116 villas, all decorated in a contemporary tropical style
- The gorgeous ELENA spa offers a menu of Thai, Balinese and Asian massages

OBLU SELECT Lobigili

Enjoy 2 free excursions and a free spa treatment at this all inclusive adults only resort

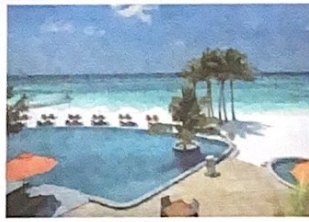


7 nights fr £2,399pp inc flights & transfers

- Set across two linked islands on the north-western tip of North Male Atoll
- All day dining is available at the Yang-Yang restaurant and experience a culinary extravaganza in a dream-like setting at Blu Speciality Underwater Restaurant
- The ELENA Spa and Wellness Centre offers a full menu of treatments

OBLU SELECT at Sangeli

Enjoy the stunning all inclusive island of Sangeli with 2 free excursions and free spa treatment



7 nights fr £2,235pp inc flights & transfers

- Reached by exhilarating 50-minute speedboat ride, and home to some of the most exotic dive sights in the world
- Guests can choose between stand-alone villas and suites or over-water villas with direct lagoon access
- Dining options include the hotel's main restaurant called The Spice

OBLU XPerience Ailafushi

Save 10% on a hassle-free, laid back all inclusive family holiday on Ailafushi Island



7 nights fr £1,499pp inc flights & transfers

- Maldivian charm awaits at this all inclusive family-friendly resort set on the shores of a private tropical island
- There are 268 villas, set on the beach and overwater, including 44 two-bedroom family villas
- The ELENA Spa & Wellness Complex is a luxurious and tranquil place

Call for free advice **0330.100.2213**

www.dialaflight.com

CLIENT TRUST ACCOUNT

ATOL Protected

ABTA

*Based on 6082 TripAdvisor reviews