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**IMMEDIATE MEDIA**



Serene stays

# The GOOD LIFE

Hide away on your honeymoon at one of these unique self-catering boltholes in the UK

If escaping, just you and your new spouse – with not even a hotel receptionist to disturb your serenity – is your idea of heaven, then a self-catering getaway should be top of your list. Forget set breakfast times, well-meaning waiters hovering nearby to top up your wine glasses or other guests overhearing your dinner conversations – at a self-catering hideaway you can make your own rules, and not see another soul if you don't want to. From tranquil treehouses to luxury shepherd's huts and everything in between, here is our edit of the UK's most romantic retreats.



Pickwell Manor



## The Bothy at Turley Farm Barns, Dolly End, Oxfordshire

If the promise of a peaceful working farm in the Cotswolds doesn't tempt you, maybe picture-perfect views of a pond and a patchwork of fields as far as the eye can see will. A stay here means you can get back to nature – your only neighbours are the resident horses, chickens, cats and dog. The good life continues with the chance to take a dip in the swimming pond, plus, you'll get home-laid eggs and plenty of logs for the wood-burner, so you can snuggle up away from the outside world.

From £114 per night, [sawdays.co.uk](http://sawdays.co.uk)

## The Cwtch Hut, Usk, Wales

Really getting away from it all has never been harder, yet this pocket-sized hut, which translates as cuddle cottage, feels like it's barely been touched by modern life. Rolling countryside and castles galore are easily explored from this luxe bolthole, perfectly nestled between the Wye Valley and the beautiful Brecon Beacons National Park. And kayaking and canoeing are available on the River Wye if you want to get your adrenaline going. Or you can just lie back in your hammock, visit the natural pond in the grounds and cook al fresco at the fire pit.

From £375 for two nights, [thelittledomain.com](http://thelittledomain.com)



## The Loft Treehouse at Pickwell Manor, Braunton, Devon

What is it about being up high in the trees that feels so delightfully romantic? Maybe it's watching the light rake through the branches – or perhaps it's that no one else can see you. This treehouse perched in the woods of Pickwell Manor is a heavenly haven that's small enough to be intimate but large enough to feel luxe – you can stretch out on your king-size bed and there's a full-size kitchen for cooking up a romantic meal. Outside there's a balcony, where you can listen to the waves lap at the beach below as you toast your newlywed status.

From £380 for two nights, [pickwellmanor.co.uk/the-loft](http://pickwellmanor.co.uk/the-loft)





### Quarry Gardens Lodge, Moray, Scotland

Quarry Gardens Lodge is set on the Spey Valley estate, complete with a lake, a walled garden and a stretch of 18th-century cottages. The eight-acre Walled Garden is open to the public during the day but is all yours to enjoy in complete privacy after hours. Take it all in from the beautifully finished lodge, a serene secret retreat for two within the walls. Carry a picnic hamper to the woodland and bask in the joy of knowing you're in complete seclusion before taking a soak in the free-standing tub and cuddling up in front of the log burner.

From £100 per night, [sawdays.co.uk](http://sawdays.co.uk)



### The Sanctuary, Lymington, Hampshire

Outdoor Jacuzzi hot tub? Check. Fire pit? Check. Fairy-light festooned garden? Check. This home away from home has it all. Throw open the huge bi-fold doors to watch pheasants and deer as you sip coffee under the pergola. This unique space is described as a "pocket-sized private health farm" where you can indulge in barefoot yoga on the lawn, or hire his'n hers cruiser bikes for pedalling around the countryside.

From £1,095 per short break, [uniquehomestays.com](http://uniquehomestays.com)



### The Raft at Chigborough, Maldon, Essex

We can't think of anything more romantic – or relaxing – than cosying up together on this unique raft, that's home to a two-storey wooden cabin. Tethered to the bottom of a calm lake, surrounded by woodland, every view from this charming cabin is of the glass-like shimmering lake. On board, you can cook up a barbecue for two and stretch out on the balcony with a celebratory drink, all to a soundtrack of bird song. Or take the rowing boat over to the wood-fired hot tub by the bank for a soothing soak under the stars.

From £195 per night, [canopyandstars.co.uk](http://canopyandstars.co.uk)





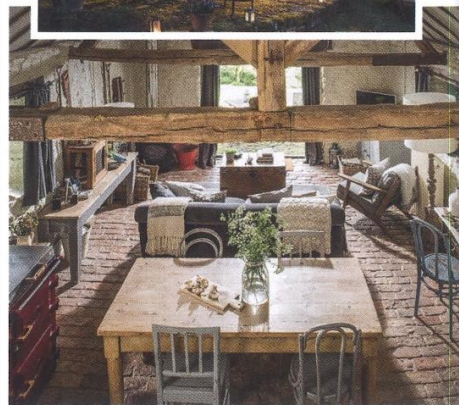
## Serene stays



### Cleave Treehouse, Exeter, Devon

Add a touch of whimsy to your honeymoon, with a house in the clouds. Being six-and-a-half metres above the ground in this off-grid treehouse means you can constantly enjoy the incredible view over the rolling acres of an 11th-century farm. Inside, you'll be greeted by cool Scandi-chic interiors with a mezzanine floor hiding a cosy bed with floor-to-ceiling views of the treetops. When it's chilly, stay warm around the wood-burner; and on finer days you can sunbathe on the generous deck where's there's also an outdoor bath – and it's big enough for two.

*From £135 per night,  
canopyandstars.co.uk*



### Wishbone, Malvern, Worcestershire

This retreat looks like it's popped out of a storybook: a beautifully styled shabby-chic self-catering barn conversion that wouldn't look out of place in Tolkien's Shire, wrapped in 16 acres of natural beauty between an apple orchard and private fishing lake.

The upstairs hayloft is your very own cosy hideout perfect for a lazy afternoon, with a wooden door that you can throw open to the wilderness. And if you're after some of the luxe extras of a hotel, here you can book a mobile spa therapist to give you a treatment in the comfort of your romantic retreat.

Where do we sign up?

*From £850 for a short break,  
uniquehomestays.com*

*Extend the invite...*

### Dry Creek House, Polzeath, Cornwall

Fancy taking some friends away with you? This hideaway is the perfect place for a buddymoon. Set in its own flower meadow, and sleeping up to eight, it's a dreamy place to celebrate your newlywed status with its polished high-end design and wraparound balconies. It's just minutes from Polzeath Beach, which can be accessed via a private path. Enjoy long days on the beach, balmy al fresco suppers – and when you want some time just the two of you, cosy up with a movie in the cinema room.

*From £1,495 for seven nights,  
latitude50.co.uk*

