

# *the* Green Parent

## Family Holiday Guide

2022 EDITION





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# the Green Parent

## Family Holiday Guide 2022








Over the last few years, the joys of holidaying in the UK have been made more clear than ever. From glistening seas to heart-stopping mountains and bucket-and-spade beaches, our islands have something for every family, and some of the cosiest accommodation too.

In this guide we've highlighted some of the most spectacular things to do in the country. Our compilation of magical forests unearths fairytale woods, perfect for spotting fairies and dragons. And we're sharing our favourite, wide beaches that, no matter how hot a day or how high the season, never get full. We've uncovered places that are soaked in myth and legend, adding another dimension to already spectacularly beautiful landscapes; find out where to find Humpty Dumpty's grave, or what loch is best for spying kelpies. If you'd rather spot more conventional wildlife, you're in luck, as we've gathered together surefire places to see dolphins, stags, red kites and seals.

You'll need somewhere incredible to lay your heads on your adventures so inside you'll also find some gorgeous family and earth-friendly places to stay in the UK and Europe.

We hope you find inspiration for your next holiday in these pages, and would love to hear about your trips and see your pictures. Do email us with your memories and tip-offs for next year's Guide at [letters@thegreenparent.co.uk](mailto:letters@thegreenparent.co.uk).

### KEY TO SYMBOLS

-  Beach Nearby
-  Baby Equipment
-  Wood burner or Fire
-  Outdoor Play Equipment
-  Wifi
-  Pets Allowed
-  Swimming Pool

Please mention  
The Green Parent  
Family Holiday Guide  
when booking  
your holiday



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We are an editorially led magazine, which means intelligent, non-biased journalism. Advertising space is available to those companies with a desire to make the world a greener, more positive place [thegreenparent.co.uk](http://thegreenparent.co.uk)

## Mythical Places

A mystical tale can lend an extra layer of magic to an already beautiful place. Share the story attached to each area with your fellow travellers as you explore these stunning spots



### Cerne Abbas, Dorset

The iconic, nude figure of a man, etched into the hillside above Cerne Abbas is the biggest chalk carving in Britain. His history has intrigued generations, but recent analysis has revealed him to be almost certainly medieval, possibly representing the early Anglo Saxon god Heleth, and that he might have spent centuries grassed over and forgotten. Wander and ponder his heritage on these chalky, grassy hills, surrounded by butterflies and wild flowers. [nationaltrust.org.uk](http://nationaltrust.org.uk)



### Giant's Causeway

It's not difficult to imagine the hexagonal basalt columns of this promontory echoing to the sounds of giants shouting. It's said to have been built by Finn McCool, a huge Irish warrior, who challenged his Scottish counterpart, Benandonner, to a duel, only to realise that he might have bitten off more than he could chew. Walk the clifftop trails, sit in the wishing chair, polished from years of hopeful visitors' bottoms, and see Finn's boot, a rock near Port Noffer. [nationaltrust.org.uk](http://nationaltrust.org.uk)

### Whitby, Yorkshire

Whitby's imposing, gothic abbey dominates the skyline above the narrow-streeted, quirky little town, an inescapable reminder of its most famous fictional visitor, Dracula. Writer Bram Stoker brought the blood-sucking count ashore beneath these cliffs, and there are plenty of reminders of the proto-legend around the town, from walking tours to tourist attractions. But there's more magic in the bracing air; Humpty Dumpty is said to be buried in St Mary's churchyard, while the people of nearby Staithes claim that two mermaids once washed up on its shores. [visitwhitby.co.uk](http://visitwhitby.co.uk)



### Loch Curuisk

The Isle of Skye is steeped in enchantment, but perhaps one of its most atmospheric sites is this jaw dropping freshwater loch, found at the foot of the Black Cullin range of mountains. As well as being the spot where the Skye Boat Song was first documented, it is said, to be where you'll find Kelpies, shape-shifting horse-like water spirits, with a supernatural strength. These spiteful beasts trick the unwary into riding on their backs, then carry them into the watery depths. Take a boat trip to spot them, but if that proves unfruitful, you'll find giant (30m!) sculptures of the creatures on the mainland in Falkirk, near the M9.



# Aber Cottages



Perfect for unwinding and getting back to nature. Two comfortable, individual cottages on an organic working farm, where animals and nature abound.

Collect eggs for supper, melt marshmallows over a campfire, or just lay back and gaze at the stars. Recharge your EV for free using our micro-hydro produced electricity. Great walking from the doorstep taking in the best our National Park has to offer. Jacob



Sheep trekking and Farm Experience days available, dogs and horses welcome.

## FAMILY FACILITIES

Play area, farm trail, campfire, den building, egg collecting and organic food.

**GREEN CREDENTIALS** Organic farm, GTBS Gold, spring water, selfsufficient energy, EV charging.

**ADDRESS** Aber Cottages, Aberhyddnant, Crai, Brecon, Powys LD3 8YS

**WEB** [abercottages.com](http://abercottages.com) **TEL** 01874 636797

**EMAIL** [info@abercottages.com](mailto:info@abercottages.com) **SLEEPS** 2 to 12

**PRICES FROM** Weekly: £694 Short Breaks: £368

# Croft Farm and Celtic Cottages



Croft Farm & Celtic Cottages has been welcoming families to these beautiful, award winning cottages for over 30 years. Croft is a smallholding lying four miles from the stunning Pembrokeshire beaches and bays and three miles from the historic market town of Cardigan. Imagine your child's delight waking on a farm, running out to play and helping feed the animals. Family-friendly facilities include a luxury indoor heated pool as well as hot tubs.



## FAMILY FACILITIES

Animal feeding and egg collecting, indoor and outdoor play areas, indoor pool

**GREEN CREDENTIALS** Wood pellet biomass heating, 100% renewable electricity, GTB Silver Award

**LOCATION** Croft, Cardigan, Pembrokeshire SA43 3NT **WEB** [croft-holiday-cottages.co.uk](http://croft-holiday-cottages.co.uk)

**EMAIL** [info@croft-holiday-cottages.co.uk](mailto:info@croft-holiday-cottages.co.uk)

**SLEEPS** 2-12 **TEL** 01239 615179 **PRICES FOR**

**FAMILY OF 4 FROM** Weekly: £676 Short Stay: £406

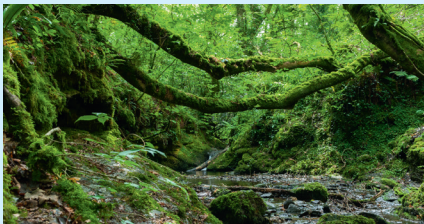
## Magical Woods

Among the trees, you'll find magic. Discover fairies, ghosts and even dragons in some of the UK's most ravishingly beautiful forests



### Tollymore Forest Park, Northern Ireland

A mix of ancient forest and more newly planted woods, this 1600-acre wood was once the back garden of a great house. The owners preferred wild landscapes to formal gardens, but you'll still find a church-like barn, fairytale bridges, and rare, exotic trees dotted around the woodland, as well as cascading rivers. Camp overnight at the beautiful site in the woods, or try horse riding or orienteering. [nidirect.gov.uk](http://nidirect.gov.uk)



### Lydford Gorge, Devon

The ancient trees of this wooded area hide a mysterious secret; the deepest gorge in the south west, which can feel almost like a prehistoric rainforest. Wander and discover the spectacular, 30m White Lady waterfall (said to be haunted), the roiling Devil's Cauldron and even the odd pixie door and face in the trees. Those brave enough to navigate the slippery rocks will find a National Trust tearoom and playground ample reward. Ticketed. [nationaltrust.org.uk/lydford-gorge](http://nationaltrust.org.uk/lydford-gorge)

### Puzzlewood, Gloucestershire

Part of the Forest of Dean, this ancient woodland is reputed to have inspired JRR Tolkien's Middle Earth, and its enchanting trees and rocks still fire creativity today; it's been used as a location for productions including Star Wars, Dr Who and Merlin. It's a family friendly place, with trails, a farm and a willow maze. Ticketed [puzzlewood.net](http://puzzlewood.net)



### Wistman's Woods, Devon

Twisted and gnarled as a crone's fingers, the lichen-festooned trunks of this fairytale forest are straight out of a Disney film. Bearded lichen can grow up to 50cm long, and dangles from the trees, rumoured to be planted by druids. Feel the magic as you walk up the valley towards Longaford Tor, with its spectacular views, but be sure to avoid the hounds that are said to live in the trees and hunt human souls. [visitdartmoor.co.uk](http://visitdartmoor.co.uk)



## North Hayne Farm Cottages



Set in beautiful North Devon, our 8 family friendly award winning cottages sleep 2-10 each with their own private hot tub to relax in at the end of a busy day. Come and help feed the animals twice a day, collect the eggs, bottle feed the Spring lambs, groom the goats, hold the chicks and enjoy daily donkey rides each morning. Enjoy outdoor freedom with our farm trails and Free Rangers Club. EYFS curriculum-based activity packs also available, an indoor Games Room and Under 7's Play barn. Locally prepared meals to order as well as Holistic therapy treatments and babysitting.



### FAMILY FACILITIES

Hot tubs, Animals, Autism Friendly, Holistic Therapies, Activity clubs, Donkey rides.

**GREEN CREDENTIALS** Plastic free champions, Local Suppliers, Bat walks, Nature trails, energy management, waste management.

**LOCATION** North Hayne Farm, Bishops Nympton, South Molton, Devon EX36 3QR

**WEB** [northhaynefarmcottages.co.uk](http://northhaynefarmcottages.co.uk)

**EMAIL** [info@northhaynefarmcottages.co.uk](mailto:info@northhaynefarmcottages.co.uk)

**TEL** 01769 550807 **SLEEPS** 2 to 10

(or up to 47 if whole complex booked)

**PRICES FROM Weekly:** £484 **Short Stay:** £290

## Hideaway Camping



We have a unique mix of accommodation here including an American airstream (sleeps 5), 2 x igloo's (sleeps 5), a gypsy caravan (sleeps 2), shepherds hut (sleeps 2) and Little owl camping pod (sleeps 4) All glamping units come with bedding, full cooking facilities, heating, outside fire pit and seating. Our large camping field has well spaced out pitches, all with their own fire pit. We have two shower blocks with hot showers, flushing loos, compost loos and washing up facilities. The site is set within 24 acres of fields and woodland, with a stream and pond. A magical site where kids (and adults) can explore and run free, perfect for reconnecting with nature and each other.



### FAMILY FACILITIES

Toys, books, fairy glade, pet pigs, hammock garden, nature trails, swings, playground, camping shop, craft shop **SLEEPS** 2-14

**GREEN CREDENTIALS** Compost loos, solar power, Bore hole water supply, recycling.

**LOCATION** Higher Melbury, Broadbury, Okehampton, Devon EX20 3PG

**WEB** [hideawaycamping.co.uk](http://hideawaycamping.co.uk) **TEL** 01837871777

**EMAIL** [info@feelgoodfriends.com](mailto:info@feelgoodfriends.com)

**PRICES FROM** Weekly: Camping £56, Glamping £440 Short Stay: Camping £10, Glamping £75



## Sandy Balls Holiday Village



Whether you want to relax, or explore, Sandy Balls is for you. Chill out at the spa or take a dip in the pool. Make friends with our resident alpacas or hop aboard a Segway through the forest. And what a forest! Here you can escape to ancient woodlands, open moors and wild heathland.

Whatever your budget, we've got you covered; from the classic caravan to our Exclusive Heartwood accommodation. Sink into a hot tub holiday, enjoy a log cabin with woodland views or soothe your spirit in a Zen holiday home. Oh, and bring the dog too.

With the New Forest on your doorstep, a host of activities to keep the whole family happy, amazing accommodation and a warm welcome from our Holiday Heroes, you'll be returning to Sandy Balls time and time again!

With the New Forest on your doorstep, a host of activities to keep the whole family happy, amazing accommodation and a warm welcome from our Holiday Heroes, you'll be returning to Sandy Balls time and time again!

### FAMILY FACILITIES



Bike hire, Resident alpacas, Forest walks, Arcade, Shop, Restaurants, Activities

**GREEN CREDENTIALS** Electric park vehicles, local menu, recycling, David Bellamy Awards winner

**LOCATION** Southampton Rd, Fordingbridge, Hampshire SP6 2JZ

**WEB** [awayresorts.co.uk](http://awayresorts.co.uk)

**EMAIL** [enquiries@awayresorts.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@awayresorts.co.uk)

**TEL** 03301 277 345 **SLEEPS** 4-10

**PRICES FROM** Weekly: £430 Short Stay: £158





## Dorset Hideaways



From coastal towns and villages such as Lyme Regis, Weymouth and Swanage, to country retreats near Yeovil, Evershot and Beaminster, Dorset is a versatile county filled with natural beauty. With thatched cottages and lakeside barns, lighthouse keeper's cottages and houses overlooking the sea, we've got something for everyone. Many of our properties are dog friendly too, so your four-legged friend can enjoy the abundance of walks this region has to offer. Our expert local team is always on hand to help find your perfect getaway and assist you throughout your stay, so why not escape to Dorset today?



### FAMILY FACILITIES



Games rooms, hot tubs, walking/cycling nearby, bird watching (some properties) **SLEEPS** 2 - 25

**GREEN CREDENTIALS** Solar panels, air source heat pumps, walking trails, biomass heating (some properties)

**LOCATIONS** Across Dorset **TEL** 01929 448 708

**WEB** [dorsethideaways.co.uk](http://dorsethideaways.co.uk)

**EMAIL** [enquiries@dorsethideaways.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@dorsethideaways.co.uk)

**PRICES FROM** Weekly: £690 Short Stay: £306

## Norfolk Hideaways



When you are looking to spend a truly relaxing weekend on the coast or in the beautiful Norfolk countryside, no one is better equipped to find your ideal property than Norfolk Hideaways. Our award-winning team is on hand to help you choose the right self-catering property; with cosy cottages for 2 to luxury retreats for 31, close to beautiful sandy beaches, in rural hotspots or quaint market towns, we've got something for everyone and every budget. Many of our properties are dog friendly, too!

### FAMILY FACILITIES



games rooms, hot tubs, walking/cycling, Christmas markets nearby (some properties)

**GREEN CREDENTIALS** Solar panels, air source heat pumps, walking/cycling trails, wildlife areas, natural settings (some properties)

**LOCATION** Across Norfolk

**WEB** [norfolkhideaways.co.uk](http://norfolkhideaways.co.uk)

**TEL** 01328 887 658 **SLEEPS** 2-31

**EMAIL** [enquiries@norfolkhideaways.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@norfolkhideaways.co.uk)

**PRICES FROM** Weekly: £318 Short Stay: £246

## Biggest Beaches

We dream of wide beaches with acres of space. Big enough to fly kites, play cricket and run unhindered, even at the height of summer



### Holkham, Norfolk

The resinous scent of pines drifts across the top of these sands that stretch into the horizon. There are a few stylish, jolly beach huts, and an eco-friendly cafe. The Lookout, on the Nature Reserve (whose woods, salt marshes, sea lavender and redshanks beckon birdwatchers), but apart from that, just space. Be sure to heed the eerie tide siren when it sounds; the water speeds across the flat beach. [holkham.co.uk](http://holkham.co.uk)



### Woolacombe, North Devon

This three-mile stretch of soft golden sands has been hailed as the best beach in the country, and with good reason. The surf is rolling, it's easy to get to, and – provided you're prepared to walk a little – there's always plenty of space. Find bucket-and-spade shops and cafes in Woolacombe at the northern end, or find more room southwards. [visitdevon.co.uk](http://visitdevon.co.uk)

### West Wittering, West Sussex

The best spots on this popular beach are at the foot of the west-facing dunes of East Head. Make a camp in a sandy hollow and gaze out across Hayling Island. Dogs are welcome year-round, so bring your pooch for a swim. When you tire of the sands, tootle over the dunes and explore the wetlands and little bays behind. [westwitteringestate.co.uk](http://westwitteringestate.co.uk)



### Luskentyre, Outer Hebrides

The emerald seas and white, powdery sand of this Isle of Harris beach look tropical, although the waters are bracing rather than bath-like. Bordered by towering dunes, one of the most pleasant ways to approach the unspoilt acres of space is to cycle the three-mile, single-track road to the beach. It might be the most popular beach on Harris, but its breathtaking size means there's plenty of space for everyone. If you're really lucky, you might spot one of the wild, white 'pale ponies' that roam the sands.



## Heath Farm Holiday Cottages



Five award-winning luxury self-catering holiday cottages, each sleeping 2–4 adults, lovingly converted from old stone farm buildings set in 70 acres of meadow and woodland. An exquisite and tranquil base for exploring the Oxfordshire Cotswolds. These very individual stone cottages offer guests the ultimate in comfort, quality and cleanliness and a chance to enjoy the high standards of craftsmanship which is the hallmark of this idyllic retreat. Award winning. Gold standard, Four and five star self catering. Open fires and free firewood. Spring water on tap. Owners on site. Pet free accommodation. Electric vehicle charging point.

### FAMILY FACILITIES



Games room, Games lawn, Nature trails, Boating/fishing pond **SLEEPS** 2-14

### GREEN CREDENTIALS

Awarded Gold by Green Tourism

**LOCATION** Chipping Norton, Oxfordshire

**WEB** [heathfarm.com](http://heathfarm.com) **TEL** 01608683270

**EMAIL** [cottages@heathfarm.com](mailto:cottages@heathfarm.com)

**PRICES FROM** Weekly: £553 Short Stay: £420

## Glamping Hideaways



Looking to get back to basics? Fall in love with the simple things in life with Glamping Hideaways, an idyllic self-catering glamping agency with a unique collection of glamping locations throughout the UK, from shepherd's huts and lodges to yurts and safari tents. If you're looking for a way to get back to nature, enjoy some fresh air, unplug for a few days and spend some quality time together as a family, then we have your perfect holiday ready and waiting. Forget the cold tent and lumpy sleeping bag; instead, treat yourself to a cosy bed in a unique, comfortable home-from-home.

### FAMILY FACILITIES



Games available from honesty shop, woodland setting, child friendly (variable by site)

**GREEN CREDENTIALS** Energy management, recycling facilities, local produce, woodland trails, natural settings, timber from sustainable forest (some properties)

**LOCATION** Across the UK **TEL** 01328 803 803

**WEB** [glampinghideaways.co.uk](http://glampinghideaways.co.uk) **SLEEPS** 2-31

**EMAIL** [enquiries@glampinghideaways.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@glampinghideaways.co.uk)

**PRICES FROM** Weekly: £480 Short Stay: £144

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# the Green Parent

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♥ Some lovely messages from our readers ♥

*This magazine is highly inspirational. It always centres me and brings me back to my inner truth and the things that I really believe in. **Natasha***

*I just love that you've been spreading a message of connection, intention and empowerment for 100 issues! Thanks for being a lighthouse. **Lucy***

*I was feeling wobbly about our home education journey and then I read The Green Parent - it's helped me remember the reasons we chose this. **Sally***

subs.thegreenparent.co.uk

## Rural Retreats



Comfortable, stylish and full of character, the Rural Retreats portfolio represents over 600 of the finest self-catering luxury holiday properties throughout the UK and Ireland. In 2021, Rural Retreats came top of the table of UK Holiday Cottage Companies compiled by Which?. From quintessential cottages and country houses to quirky windmills and lighthouses; from big and beautiful homes to romantic getaways and dog friendly stays, you're sure to find the perfect holiday home with Rural Retreats.

### FAMILY FACILITIES



Games rooms, hot tubs, spa facilities, tennis courts, walking/cycling nearby (some properties)

**GREEN CREDENTIALS** Solar panels, air source heating pumps, ground source heating pumps, biomass heating, walking/cycling trails, wildlife areas, natural settings (some properties)

**LOCATIONS** Across the UK and Ireland

**TEL** 01386 897 959 **SLEEPS** 2 - 54

**WEB** [ruralretreats.co.uk](http://ruralretreats.co.uk)

**EMAIL** [info@ruralretreats.co.uk](mailto:info@ruralretreats.co.uk)

**PRICES FROM** Weekly: £566 Short Stay: £250



## Little Clogs Holidays

Exceptional child friendly holidays in the most beautiful parts of the Netherlands and Belgium. Perfect holidays for little ones with magical woodland trails, sand dunes and playgrounds on the beach. Little Clogs have handpicked the best holiday parks with their excellent pools, play areas and activities, farm holidays in luxury glamping tents and a small selection of hotels. Extremely accessible from the UK these are destinations rich in diversity where you can stay in safari lodges overlooking giraffes or in sustainable houses on the water, explore the many islands, or discover the fairytale world of Efteling. Beautiful nature abounds yet the famous cities are never far away!



### FAMILY FACILITIES



Kids clubs, children's accommodations, pools, woodland walks, play areas, toddler facilities  
**GREEN CREDENTIALS** Natural settings, sustainable accommodation, woodland trails, cycle networks, organic produce **SLEEPS** 2 - 24

**LOCATIONS** Netherlands and Belgium

**WEB** [little-clogs-holidays.co.uk](http://little-clogs-holidays.co.uk)

**EMAIL** [info@little-clogs-holidays.co.uk](mailto:info@little-clogs-holidays.co.uk)

**PRICES FROM Weekly:** €199 in Feb, €1009

in August **Short Stay:** €139 in Feb, €659 in August (Mon to Fri) **TEL** 07803604866

## Spot Wildlife

Take the maybe out of a domestic safari and spot your favourite animal



### Blakeney Point, Norfolk

With their soulful, black eyes and fluffy coats, seals are one of the most adorable of the UK's wild creatures. Over 3000 pups are born each winter at England's largest colony; Blakeney Point Nature Reserve. It's best to book a boat trip from Morston Quay to see these shy mammals, as they're easily disturbed. Don't forget your binoculars! Find boat recommendations at [nationaltrust.org.uk](http://nationaltrust.org.uk)



### Bwlch Nant yr Arian Visitor Centre, Aberystwyth

Over the last two decades, the magnificent red kite has returned in droves, soaring above the hills of the UK. They are plentiful in Wales; see them swoop and dive in large numbers at their daily feed at this centre, which is perched on a dramatic hilltop with views of Cardigan Bay and the Cambrian Mountains. After the frenzy, follow the Barcud Coch (red kite) trail around the Centre's lake, or spot sculptures and poetry that bring local folklore to life. Free. [naturalresources.wales](http://naturalresources.wales)

### Badger Watch, Dorset

There's something of the ancients about badgers; their black-and-white faces are an intrinsic part of our wildlife landscape. Badger Watch Dorset is home to an extensive, 100-year-old sett, with around 12 adults, plus new cubs each year. Every night from spring to autumn, the area is floodlit and hides open nightly for viewers. You are virtually guaranteed to see badgers, owls, foxes, rabbits and bats, and visitors are welcome to stay until midnight. Booking essential [badgerwatchdorset.co.uk](http://badgerwatchdorset.co.uk)



### Cairngorms National Park

Scotland has the largest population of red deer in Europe, and these impressive creatures are a symbol of the country. The Cairngorms National Park is home to many stags and hinds. The annual 'rut' when newcomers challenge the dominant stag, roaring, with antlers crashing, takes place between September and November. Good places to spot the beasts include Glen Buick, in the uplands of the Atholl Estate and around the Ladder Hills, east of Glenlivet. [cairngorms.co.uk](http://cairngorms.co.uk)



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