

Fun places to stay

From a double-decker bus to a windmill, discover the most unique places to get cosy in the UK

Hobbit house

Perthshire, Scotland

Nestled into the hillside, with grassy roofs, round doors and several nooks and crannies, these traditionally built stone and wood homes are sure to transport you to the magical world of *The Lord of the Rings*.

With your own hobbit barrow to help transport luggage, a delightful short walk from the car park leads you to your quirky holiday home, where you'll discover your own wood-burning stove, double ring gas hob, slipper bath with hand-held shower and handmade rustic bed with stargazing window.

An eco-friendly toilet and hand-carved wooden hand basin are found next door, while access to fridge/freezer is adjacent to the car park.

Surrounded by glorious open countryside, the area is rich in wildlife, particularly birds. Red kites regularly fly overhead.

● Prices from £175 per night at this adults-only house. Visit glampsites.com or call 020 3637 8739

Rockhouse retreat

Worcestershire

This luxury cave dates back over 700 years and is built into a hollowed sandstone cliff amid a fine woodland setting. Today, the cave is an indulgent cavern with underfloor heating, mood lighting and hot running water.

The Retreat is hidden in Habberley Valley, edging the lush Wyre Forest. Follow the wildlife trails or forage in the forest before returning to your

Cosy up in this romantic cave



fantasy cave and sitting out on the romantic terrace. With a crackling fire pit and rolling hill views, you won't want to leave.

● Prices per night start from £195. Visit coolstays.com

Double-decker bus

Gloucestershire

Set in a secluded scenic paddock in the village of Newham-on-Severn, the Red Bus is a unique experience. The converted 1970s vehicle sleeps six, and guests can spill out onto the decking area and enjoy a barbecue while the kids play in the sandpit. Based in The Forest of Dean, there are cycle paths to explore as well as the ancient woodland site Puzzlewood.

● A week's hire costs from £519. Visit hideaways.co.uk or call 01747 828170



Signal box cottage

Devon

The Signal Box sits alongside the original 19th-century train station on the old single-track branch line known as Primrose Line. The box has been lovingly converted while retaining its unquestionable charm.

Its upside down layout means the open-plan kitchen and lounge make the most of the lovely views on the first floor, while a staircase leads down to the two bedrooms.

Outside, you'll find pretty gardens and plenty of walks, ideal for lovers of the great



Get the family on track with a stay at this quaint cottage

outdoors and those interested in railway heritage.

If you're keener on retail therapy, head to the nearby market town of Kingsbridge. Found on the Salcombe estuary, it's surrounded by lush, green rolling countryside.

● A week's stay at the four-berth Signal Box starts from £395. Visit mulberrycottages.com or call 01227 464958

The windmill

Suffolk

If you're looking for all-out luxury with a unique twist, this historic 1891 windmill, set in rural Suffolk,

This luxurious abode isn't run of the mill

should top your list. Slide open the patio doors and enter the four-storey home, where you'll find two decadent bedrooms and exclusive living spaces. Finished with exquisite attention to detail and seriously stylish furnishings, you can while away your days in complete and utter comfort.

Outside, pretty gardens spill out onto the idyllic landscapes that surround the sun-kissed patio.

While in the area, visit the Tudor town of Lavenham with its many historical attractions, or head to Bury St Edmunds before going boating on the Norfolk Broads.

● Prices per night from £325 (minimum two-night stay). Visit coolstays.com

A railway carriage

Somerset

Jump aboard this recently refurbished 100-year-old Great Western Railway coach. Located in a quiet siding at Blue Anchor station on the West Somerset Railway, the UK's longest

heritage line, it's a stone's throw from a long sand/shingle beach.

Sleeping six, the carriage has three bedrooms, a living/dining area, comfy seating and TV/DVD plus a WC, shower and kitchen.

It's ideally placed for exploring Exmoor, North Devon and West Somerset. While you're here, hop on the steam train which puffs its way along the coastline to the seaside town of Minehead.

● A week's hire costs from £515. Visit toadhallcottages.co.uk or call 01548 202020



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