

TOWERGATE'S GREAT BRITISH SUMMER

Want to spend your summer enjoying the very best
of the Great British summertime?



Contents

Towergate's Great British Summer Map Page 1

Top 10 Beach Huts Page 2

Top 10 B&Bs Page 3

Top 10 Caravan Parks Page 4

Page 5 Top 10 Waterways

Page 6 Top 10 Holiday Homes

Page 7 Top 10 Sailing Wildlife

Page 8 Top 10 Classic Car Driving Routes

Top Ten Beach Huts 2016



A

The Boho Hut, Hove Esplanade, East Sussex

This thoughtful fusion of authentic Sri-Lankan 'nick-nacks', tracked down with the help of a kindly tuk tuk driver, and contrasting patterned wallpaper exudes vibrant beauty. Jessica Christie-Miller also lends the hut to her sister's residential home.



B

Hut 279, Hove, East Sussex

"Our beach hut is a force for good", says Scott Roedersheimer of The Grace Eyre Foundation, which for over 100 years has been supporting individuals with learning disabilities. Hut 279 provides an inclusive and positive creative space for the charity to enrich the lives of people both with and without learning disabilities.



C

No. 303, Brightlingsea, Essex

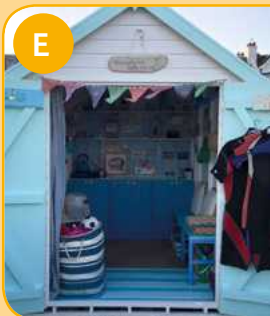
A hut for the history books! Having returned from serving in the Royal Navy after World War II, Uncle Jack used his demobilisation gratuity to invest in timber for his dream hut on the Brightlingsea coast. Since then, six generations, including current owner Janette White, have loved hut no. 303.



D

No. 31, West Bay, Thanet, Kent

An Aladdin's cave absolutely brimming with fascinating kitsch collectibles, treasures and trinkets, Lili Sanchez's beach hut, A.K.A. 'shed' is loved all year round. Having moved to the area a few years ago, Lili discovered her fondness for beach huts when she rented one for the day.



E

No. 14, Bexhill-on-Sea, East Sussex

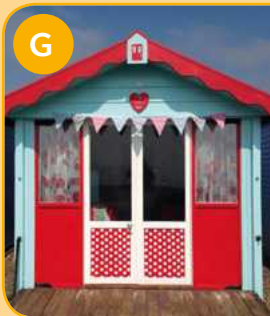
Lisa Hammond's mother, Sally, had long yearned for a beach hut, but had sadly passed away when a plot became available after a nine year long waiting list. The family came together and accepted the offer – creating a holiday haven with an open-door policy. Colourfully decorated with a traditional seaside feel.



F

No. 65, Calshot Beach, Hampshire

"A special place with an intriguing past, a cherished present, and a warmly anticipated future" is how Cathy Knapman describes her beloved dream hut. Having worked tirelessly to create her 'ship shape Cath Kidston' styled escape for a large (and growing) family, Cathy takes great joy in relaxing, after many stressful years.



G

My Happy Hut, Dovercourt, Essex

Following difficult times, leading to her relocation to the area as a single mother with three young children, Anna Baria and her family have found happiness in this aptly named hut. With a red and white polka dot exterior that would not be out of place in a fairy tale illustration and traditional pastel interior.



H

Serenity-on-Sea, Bournemouth, Dorset

Liz and Martin Baum's beach hut is relaxing retreat and inspiring creative space. Martin is our very own 'beach hut bard', having written his best-selling book about Shakespeare in the hut, after using it to regain his confidence in the face of health problems.



I

Millie, Walton-on-the-Naze, Essex

Victoria and her hut Millie are no strangers to Beach Hut of the Year, having been a finalist in 2015. Since then, Millie has been lovingly transformed from her kitsch Cath Kidston style into a vibrant, joyful and unique ice cream parlour theme – featuring a giant ice cream - making it even more of a local attraction.



J

Buggleskelly, Glyne Gap, East Sussex

Train driver, Chris Dewey's hut is painted and decorated in the style of a Southern Region train station or signal box, apt given that the railway runs close behind the hut. The name is inspired by his favourite film - the classic Will Hay comedy 'Oh, Mr Porter!'

The Top 10 B&Bs



A

Laurel House

Location: **Culgaith, Cumbria**
www.laurel-house-cumbria.uk

This Cumbrian farmhouse was built in 1750. The host's traditional Cumbrian breakfast won the Visit Britain Breakfast award in 2010. The Lake District and is only a ten minute drive from Centre Parcs.



B

Stonewater House

Location: **Arran, Scotland**
www.stonewaterhouse.co.uk

Stonewater is settled in Arran's largest town, Lamlash, overlooking the pier and the Firth Of Clyde. Perfect to enjoy sunrises and sunsets. Of course you'll be perfectly placed to explore the island from here too.



C

Huccombe House

Location: **Beesands, Devon**
www.southdevonbandb.co.uk

This 'idyllic' rural retreat in Knightsbridge offers an elegant and comfortable stay. The house-proud owners ensure the rooms are spotless and customers commented on the 'delicious' breakfast.



D

Abbots Lee

Location: **Cheltenham**
www.abbotslee.co.uk

Abbots Lee is one of the most loved properties on review sites thanks to its beautiful interior and great central location. You can be sure of a warm welcome and help or advice if you need it.



E

Kinrara B&B

Location: **Whaley Bridge, Derbyshire**
www.kinrara-bedandbreakfast.co.uk

This spacious, comfortable B&B is the perfect spot to get away from it all. And despite its grand size, indoors and out it remains a cosy base from which you can get to know the 'Gateway to the Goyt Valley'.



F

Laverly Farm B&B

Location: **Glastonbury**
www.laverleyfarmbedandbreakfast.co.uk

Great for walks and cyclists, this friendly, family home sits in the world famous town of Glastonbury. Head off for a walk into the beautiful countryside and a cake and coffee will be waiting for you on your return!



G

Long Mountain B&B

Location: **Welshpool, Wales**
www.longmountainbandb.co.uk

It's no surprise that Long Mountain bed and breakfast is an award winner (Wales GOLD 2014). Its first class accommodation is second to none and is in the perfect spot to enjoy the great Welsh countryside.



H

The Old George

Location: **Dorset**
www.theoldgeorge-broadwindsor.co.uk

Set in a 17th century inn (rebuilt in 1850 following a fire), The Old George has been respectfully modernised and offers everything you need for a perfect get away in the heart of Dorset.



I

Hammersmith B&B

Location: **Orkney, Scotland**
www.hammersmithbb.co.uk

Nowhere near London, the Hammersmith B&B is actually on the Scottish island of Orkney. A famous location for Whale and Dolphin watching. This B&B comes highly recommended and is perfectly located.



J

The Studio B&B

Location: **Portree, Skye, Scotland**

Described as a 'gem of a find', the first things you'll notice The Studio is the surrounding landscape. You'll feel as if you have been dropped in a movie set and thanks to its thoughtful owners you are guaranteed a comfortable, cosy room.

Top 10 Caravan Parks



A

Castle Cary Holiday Park, Dumfries and Galloway

Castle Cary Holiday Park is perfect for a quiet and relaxing holiday. Situated in the heart of romantic Galloway in Scotland, Castle Cary has much to offer for all ages and constantly adds and improves its facilities each year.



B

Concierge Camping, West Sussex

Located on the grounds of the Ratham Estate, Concierge Camping offers 15 fully serviced hardstanding pitches, each separated by hedging and with satellite TV sockets and superfast broadband. With luxury toilets and a shower block - plus electric car and electric bicycle hire, as well as regular bicycle hire.



C

Nantcol Waterfalls Campsite, Gwynedd

Nantcol Waterfalls Campsite offers an entirely different kind of luxury. With no mobile signal, you can forget about the outside world and truly find peace. It's a natural paradise: nestled at the foot of the rugged Rhinog Mountains range in Wales.



D

Park Foot Holiday Park, Cumbria

Situated in the beautiful Lake District, Park Foot Holiday Park offers endless possibilities when it comes to breath-taking scenery. With direct access to Lake Ullswater, the park offers free launching facilities for guests, boat hire and plenty of fishing.



E

Port Ban Holiday Park, Argyll and Bute

Winner of the Daily Record's best camping holiday destinations in Scotland 2016, Port Ban Holiday Park is a 'wee taste of heaven'. Its beautiful, secluded coastal location offers stunning views of the islands of Islay and Jura.



F

Sandy Balls Holiday Village, Hampshire

Beautiful and family friendly, Sandy Balls Holiday Village is set in the ancient New Forest National Park, where ponies and wild pigs roam free. Sandy Balls has been welcoming guests for almost 100 years - so they must be doing something right!



G

Stowford Farm Meadows, Devon

Set amongst 500 acres of rolling Devon countryside and mature woodland, Stowford Farm has plenty of space. It also provides a vast range of family friendly activities. A heated pool, woodland walks, Petorama and kiddies kars, food and drink, horse riding centre, pitch and putt and crazy golf!



H

The Old Oaks, Somerset

Relax, recharge and unwind at this adult's only touring park and campsite. Offering larger-than-average, beautifully landscaped and spotlessly clean pitches as well as a fishing lake, Old Oaks touring park is an ideal location for couples and families (with adult children). Themed nights, activities and organised trips are available.



I

Whitemead Forest Park, Gloucestershire

Nestled in the heart of the Forest of Dean, Whitemead Forest Park houses a collection of log cabins, glamping, modern accommodation, and camping pitches. With 27,000 acres of ancient forest, the park is the perfect setting for some rest and relaxation - but with plenty of facilities.



J

Wooda Farm Holiday Park, Cornwall

Situated on the border between Devon and Cornwall and just a mile away from the seaside resort town of Bude, Wooda Farm Holiday Park offers a plethora of on-site activities and a range of local attractions. It's the perfect site for families with young children.

Top 10 Scenic Waterways



A

The Avon Ring

Route: Southwest of Birmingham, connecting Stratford-upon-Avon, Evesham, Tewkesbury, Worcester and the southern outskirts of Birmingham

Length: Four waterways covering 109 miles/174km with 129 locks

Fun fact: Stratford-upon-Avon was the hometown of William Shakespeare.



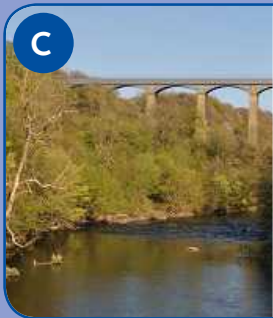
B

The Monmouthshire and Brecon Canal

Location: South Wales

Length: 33 miles/53km

Fun fact: Much of the canal runs right through the Brecon Beacons National Park.



C

The Llangollen Canal

Location: Border of England and Wales

Length: 41 miles/65km

Fun fact: The part of the canal stretching between Chirk and Llangollen was awarded World Heritage Site status by UNESCO in 2009.



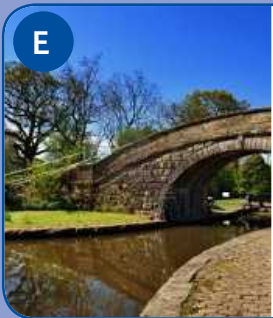
D

The South Pennine Ring

Route: Between Manchester and Huddersfield

Length: 70 miles/112km with 197 locks

Fun fact: The Standedge canal tunnel is the longest canal tunnel in the UK at 5,500 yards or 3,125 miles.



E

The Lancaster Canal

Route: From Lancaster to Westhoughton

Length: 41 miles/66km

Fun fact: The Lancaster Canal has the longest lock-free stretch of manmade waterway in the country.



F

The Caldon Canal

Route: From Etruria in Stoke-on-Trent to Froghall, Staffordshire

Length: 18 miles/28km

Fun fact: Famous British potter Josiah Wedgwood was a major driving force between the Caldon Canal - initially constructed as part of the Trent and Mersey Canal to transport porcelain.



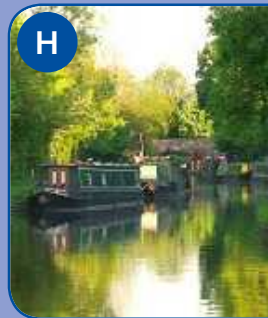
G

The Four Counties Ring

Route: Links the counties of Cheshire, Staffordshire, Shropshire and the West Midlands

Length: 110 miles/180km

Fun fact: Stoke-on-Trent, which the Ring passes through, is home to the Bone Mill in Etruria where 'bone china' gets its name from.



H

The Grand Union Canal

Route: Connects London and Birmingham via Northamptonshire and Warwickshire

Length: 137 miles/220km

Fun fact: The Grand Union Canal is the longest of all the canals and waterways in the UK and is often referred to as the 'trunk route' of the system by canal enthusiasts.



I

Lough Neagh

Location: Northern Ireland

Length: 18 miles

Fun fact: This is the largest freshwater lake in the British Isles - the third largest in Europe.



J

Pontcysyllte Aqueduct and Canal

Location: Wales

Length: 11 miles/18km

Fun fact: Built during the Industrial Revolution, the aqueduct is constructed entirely of cast and wrought iron and is also a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Top 10 Holiday Homes



A

Hawthorn Cottage - Perthshire, Scotland

A comfortable, traditional holiday home in great surroundings. Guests reported having never had such a good night's sleep! You can even bring the dog to accompany you on breathtaking walks around Loch Tay.



B

The Longknowe - Northumberland, England

Described as a 'comfortable stone farmhouse in magnificent upland setting', The Longknowe is elegant and peaceful, surrounded by spectacular views. It is large enough for a family gathering and is especially beautiful in winter.



C

The Laurels Barn - Shropshire, England

Set in a beautiful detached, converted barn, The Laurels Barn is situated in the quaint hamlet of Grimpo in Shropshire. Just 20 minutes from the town of Shrewsbury and a great stop over if travelling the Shropshire Union Canal.



D

Raceside Cottage - Cumbria, England

With an owner who is clearly passionate about her property (having restored the once dilapidated barn to award commendation standard), you know you're in for a great stay in very comfortable surroundings.



E

St Catherines Cottage - Isle of Wight

This charming stone cottage has been in the same family for three generations. The breath-taking views are a draw for most customers, but the family also benefit from being situated very close to the notorious, award winning, Buddle Inn – an old smugglers haunt.



F

Craig-y-Do - Llangrannog, Wales

If your ideal get away is to a clifftop, old fashioned feel retreat, then this is the spot for you. There is a big focus on outdoors here with plenty of space on the property overlooking some incredible cliff views, whilst still being right in the local village.



G

Magpie's Nest - Horrabridge, England

This perfectly compact hideaway is beautifully appointed and has everything you need for a quiet few days away. It has only just opened to visitors so everything is still shiny and new! The thoughtful owners also provide arrival treats. A great hub from which to explore the local area.



H

Tan Y Coed - Gwynedd, Wales

Tan Y Coed is a comfortably modern, airy home - the jewel being a great kitchen. You'll certainly be hungry as it is conveniently located just a stone's throw from famous Mawddach Estuary path. A great location to soak up beautiful views and local history.



I

Trebor - Devon, England

This beautiful Edwardian terraced house has been decorated to a high level and can sleep up to eight, so it's perfect for a large group. The garden is equipped with a barbecue so you can enjoy the outdoor space while you are not exploring the local historic waterfront.

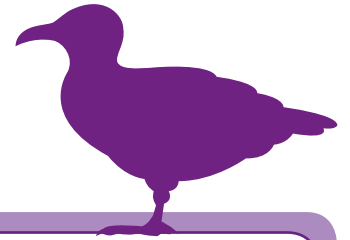


J

Weavers Cottage - Broadway, England

It's not often that you find a holiday home as luxurious and comfortable as Weavers Cottage. Guests are consistently delighted with their stay and comment that the garden is a lovely surprise too.

Top 10 Sailing Wildlife Hotspots



A

Lundy Island

Location: North Devon

Wildlife: Puffins, basking sharks, dolphins and a permanent colony of seals - zero rats

When: September to November is breeding season for seals but you should stay away from pups during this time



B

Cardigan Bay

Location: West Wales

Wildlife: Dolphins, porpoises and seals

When: May to November are the best months and early morning, evening and immediately after high tide. There is a New Quay Dolphin Monitoring Group. Try Winston Evans Boat Trips.



C

Bressay and Noss Shetland Islands

Location: Scottish coast

Wildlife: Dolphins, sharks, whales, otters and eagles (possibly Shetland ponies too)

When: Minke and hump back whales can be seen from May - September, just visit the southern tip of Shetland for a good view. If it's bottle nosed dolphins you're after, head to the east coast July - September.



D

The Causeway Coast

Location: Northern Ireland

Wildlife: Ravens, peregrine falcons, fulmars, common scoters, sand pipers, night-jars, garden warblers, herons and great crested grebes, sand martins, basking sharks, Atlantic grey seals and harbour porpoises. It's a paradise for wild flowers too.

When: Best enjoyed in the spring/summer



E

Flamborough

Location: Yorkshire

Wildlife: Gannets, down faced puffins, crested, peregrine falcons, kittiwakes, shags, guillemots, razorbills and fulmars

When: Between July and September



F

North Berwick

Location: Scotland

Wildlife: Puffins and seals

When: Puffins are best in May but are viewable all year round and seals April-September



G

Stackpole Quay

Location: South Wales

Wildlife: Velvet swimming crabs, sea hares, prawns and inland there are beautifully tranquil and wildlife rich lily ponds with otters.

When: Summer



H

St Brides Bay

Location: West Wales

Wildlife: Large population of Gannets, dolphins, porpoises, wales, seals and shearwaters

When: April-September



I

Berry Head National Nature Reserve

Location: South Devon

Wildlife: Sunfish, Alpine swifts, orchids and 25 species of butterfly

When: July and August for Sunfish, spring-summer for orchids and butterflies



J

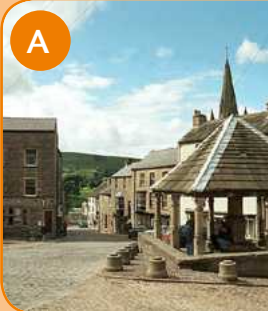
The Isle of Skye

Location: North Scotland

Wildlife: Pine martins, sea eagles, Atlantic salmon, seals, whales, dolphins, otter, red deer and golden eagles

When: April-October

Top 10 Driving Routes



A

Penrith to Alston

A686 - North West England

In the North West of England you'll find the A686, a 20 mile road journey that has been named 'one of the greatest drives in Britain'.



B

Loch Lomond to Loch Ness

A82 - West Scotland

Bigger is not always better, but in the case of the A82 bigger is definitely best. The A82 takes you on a 140 mile journey which begins at the largest lake in the UK, Loch Lomond, a fresh water Scottish loch which crosses the Highland Boundary Fault.



C

Evo Triangle

A5 West, A543 North-East to B4501 - North Wales

Many enthusiasts have heard of the 'EVO Triangle', a 20 mile trip across north Wales where you encounter quick straight roads, sharp corners and long extended bends. The rural moorlands stretch as far as the eye can see, with civilisation fading into the distance.



D

Bealach na Bà

North West Scotland

Bealach na Bà (Pass of the Cattle) offers stunning scenery in the Scottish highlands. It is an unforgettable drive for those who take the adventure, with remarkable views across Wester Ross, Skye, Rum and the Outer Hebrides.



E

The Cheddar Gorge

B3135 - South West England

This route offers 14 glorious miles that take you through the Somerset countryside. Situated in the West Country, the route incorporates the likes of Cheddar Gorge; 10 miles from Bristol and only eight miles east of Weston-Super-Mare.



F

Belfast to Derry

Northern Ireland

Take your journey to Northern Ireland. Drive along the north east coast and capture the sights of the magnificent Glens of Antrim which comprises a total of nine glens that radiate from the Antrim Plateau to the coast. At the foot of Glenarm you'll find a charming little village which provides the setting of the grand Glenarm Castle.



G

New Forest

Southern England

Located in southern England, enthusiasts can enjoy the sights and sounds of the New Forest National Park. This alluring drive provides the views of scenic pastures and acres of forestry as you wonder through nature's wildlife.



H

Barnstaple to Newquay

South West England

England is full of charming routes for classic enthusiasts to appreciate and another great journey from Barnstaple to Newquay (along the A39) takes you along the Cornwall coast. Drive through long meandering roads with around 160 miles of Britain's beloved coastline to savour.



I

The Cotswolds

Cheltenham to Burford - Midlands

A rural medieval area that is home to thatched villages, defined rolling hills and impressive scenery, the Cotswolds holds a special place in many visitors' hearts.



J

Buttertubs Pass

North England

5.5 miles of pure Yorkshire roads that Jeremy Clarkson once described as 'England's only truly spectacular road', allows enthusiasts to test themselves as they encounter challenging corners, steep hills and rapid descents; but lets not forget the gorgeous views!

BONUS ROUTE Snake Pass A57

Peak District

The A57 crossing between Sheffield and Manchester offers its snake-like roads to classic car drivers; although its name derived from the Snake Inn that is located along the route. The pass features tight bends and steep hills which always means fast descents. With 20 miles of exceptional scenery and an elevation of around 1,680ft above sea level.