



The Old Post Office, Llanigon

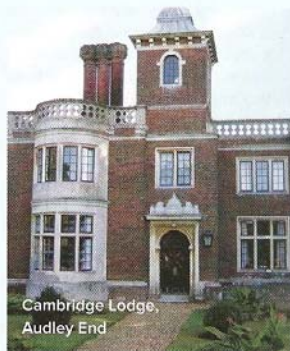
Culture breaks

THE OLD POST OFFICE, LLANIGON, HEREFORDSHIRE

Dozens of second-hand bookshops draw lovers of the written word to Hay-on-Wye. At this B&B, ochre-painted rooms and restored Welsh rustic furniture are a fetching reflection of its Brecon Beacons setting. **From £30pp B&B. Call 01497-820008; oldpost-office.co.uk.**

CAMBRIDGE LODGE, AUDLEY END, ESSEX

This stunning house was originally the gatehouse to Audley End. A seat on the front lawn gives beautiful views of its parkland. Best bit is walking through after the day's visitors have gone. **Three nights costs from £416 for four people. 0870-3331181; english-heritage.org.uk.**



Cambridge Lodge, Audley End

HOLIDAY INN NORWICH CITY, NORWICH

You'll find eclectic arts offerings among the city's medieval lanes. This month, dash from open-to-all lectures at the uni (uea.ac.uk) to the *Dinnerladies* musical at the Theatre Royal. **From £47.50pp B&B. Call 0871-4234896; holidayinn.co.uk.**

NORTH STREET, CROMFORD, DERBYSHIRE

A stay in a restored millworker's house gives an insight into the industrial revolution. Pay a visit to Arkwright's "dark, satanic mill", which now has a popular veggie café and canal walk. **Four nights costs from £262 for four people. Call 01628-825925; landmarktrust.org.uk.**

PORTBRADDAN COTTAGE, WHITE PARK BAY, ANTRIM

This 19th-century cottage overlooks Antrim's prettiest beach. Northern Ireland's compactness means you can cram in the trips, from a Titanic walking tour in Belfast to Antrim Castle. **Three nights costs from £416.71 for six people. 0844-8002070; nationaltrustcottages.co.uk.**

THE BATH ARMS, CROCKERTON, WILTSHIRE

Stourhead Gardens, Stonehenge and Lacock are all do-able in a day. Cleverly, the owners have kept the bar traditional, while giving a couple of rooms a city-chic makeover. **From £40pp. Call 01985-212262; batharmscrockerton.co.uk.**

great uk getaways



Tigh an Dochais, Isle of Skye

Rural idylls

TIGH AN DOCHAIS, ISLE OF SKYE

Big-sky views of Broadford Bay are the USP at this award-winning, five-star B&B. You'll find contemporary bedrooms with full-length glass windows opening on to waterfront decking – sunset heaven! **From £40pp B&B. Call 01471-820022; skyebedbreakfast.co.uk.**

DUNSDALE HOUSE, NR WOOLER, NORTHUMBERLAND

Is this Northumberland's remotest spot? It's a shuzzed-up farmhouse high in the fells. Stride out on walks in all directions, or cycle, fish or ride. **From £595 for a week, sleeping eight (ref 344). 01697-746777; northumbria-byways.com**

DOVEDALE COTTAGES AT CHURCH FARM, STANSHOPE, DERBYSHIRE

A visit to the Peak District National Park demands traditional accommodation. Church Farm Cottage has abundant original features and a fragrant cottage garden, perfect for afternoon tea. **Three nights costs from £349 for four people. 01335-310243; dovedalecottages.co.uk**

THE BLACK SWAN HOTEL, RAVENSTONEDALE, CUMBRIA

The Eden Valley is a little known stretch of countryside. Explore it from this village inn, where the 11 bedrooms are nicely revamped and the food is gastro-pub standard. **From £37.50pp B&B. Call 01539-623204; blackswanhotel.com.**

BARNSDALE LODGE, RUTLAND

Favouritism! Residents of England's smallest county are charged just £50 per double B&B (except Sats) at this hotel on Rutland Water. Food is rural and satisfying. **From £49.50pp in June when you quote "w&h". Call 01572-724678; barnsdalelodge.co.uk. >>**

