

# DAYS OUT IN THE UK



See knights fight it out at **Cressing Temple, Essex**

## ENGLAND

**TODAY:** Drink a toast to England and St George with real ale at the medieval tavern as you feast on hog roast at **Cressing Temple** in Essex, home to Europe's two finest Templar barns. At the St George's Day Joust and Fayre, there'll be knights in shining armour crossing lances and archers with their longbows ready to do battle. For more info go to [www.cressingtemple.org.uk](http://www.cressingtemple.org.uk) or call 01376 584903.

**TODAY:** Calling all dragon hunters – St George needs your assistance. Help damsels in distress on the Dragon Trail for Children and track down all the mini model dastardly dragons at **Housesteads Roman Fort** at Hadrian's Wall. The successful "slayers" will be get a prize. From 10am to 6pm. Entrance is £4.10 for adults, £2.10 for children. For more info visit [www.english-heritage.org.uk](http://www.english-heritage.org.uk)

**APRIL 28:** Join Strictly Come Dancing's Ian Waite for two-some dance classes at Nirvana Spa. Price per couple is £30 a day. Call 01189 897575 or see [www.nirvanaspa.co.uk](http://www.nirvanaspa.co.uk)

## SCOTLAND

**TODAY:** Take time out to savour the flavour of spit roast, smoked fish and dairy dishes at the Celtic Food and Drink Festival at **Kenmore's** Scottish Crannog Centre by Loch Tay. Prehistoric cuisine meets modern organic and local food producers as you sample some of Perthshire's finest products, inspired by the underwater discoveries of Iron Age food remains. Admission is £5.25 for adults, £3.30 for children with family ticket at £16. From 11am to 4pm. For more info visit [www.crannog.co.uk](http://www.crannog.co.uk) or call 01887 830583.

**APRIL 30:** Infamous late-night revelry with pagan rituals will take over **Edinburgh** for the riotous Beltane Fire Festival. Celebrations to herald the arrival of summer begin on the Acropolis with a procession where the fire will be lit and reaches a climax with the crowning of the Green Man by the May Queen. Tickets from £5. From 9pm-1am. To book and for more details go to [www.beltane.org](http://www.beltane.org)

## WALES

**APRIL 29:** Put your sight, hearing, touch, smell and taste all to the test at the Sense and Sensibility Day at **Erdidig** in Wrexham. Find out how humans and animals use their senses to look at the world, and take part in experiments to see just how good your own reactions are. From noon to 4pm. Admission is £8 for adults, £4 for children, and a family ticket is £20. For more info go to [www.nationaltrust.org.uk](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk)

**UNTIL JUNE 3:** Marvel at Leonardo da Vinci's technically astounding images in a display at the National Museum **Cardiff**. The Ten Drawings exhibition is a fascinating revelation of the artist's wide-ranging interests and drawing techniques – from painting to architecture to botanical research. Entrance is free. For more info log on to [www.museumwales.ac.uk](http://www.museumwales.ac.uk)

MARJORIE YUE

## YOUR HOLIDAY £

	2.28	Hungarian Forint	334.04
Australian Dollar	2.28	Maltese Lira	0.59
Bulgarian Lev	2.68	NZ Dollar	2.56
Canadian Dollar	2.14	S African Rand	13.36
Croatian Kuna	9.94	Swiss Franc	2.28
Cypriot Pound	0.80	Thai Baht	62.56
Czech Koruna	37.75	Turkish Lira	2.54
Egyptian Pounds	10.17	US Dollar	1.90
Euro	1.40		

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# THE B & BEST

Winning ways... Moorlands is a former vicarage

## Stay in style at guest house award-winners

By GILL WILLIAMS

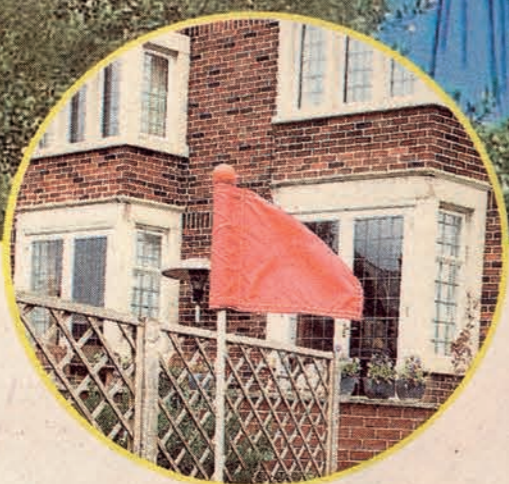
### MOORLANDS COUNTRY HOUSE, NORTH YORKSHIRE

LANDLADY Gill Leonard used to visit Moorlands when she was a little girl, never dreaming she'd one day own and run the house as a B&B. The former vicarage, built in 1895, scooped the other Silver Prize in this year's Enjoy England awards. It lies within the North Yorks Moors National Park with sweeping views across to Levisham. The decor is rich and colourful with all of the seven rooms individually designed. Portions at breakfast and dinner are generous to fuel brisk walks across the moors and along the coast.

**HOW MUCH?** B&B costs £60pp per night and dinner, bed and breakfast costs £85pp per night. Go to [www.moorlandslevisham.co.uk](http://www.moorlandslevisham.co.uk) or call 01751 460229.



Decor is rich and colourful



### NUMBER ONE, BLACKPOOL

WHEN LAWRENCE Llewellyn-Bowen visited Number One Blackpool on The Holiday Programme last summer he was delighted they'd used his wallpaper in the hall. "I was very impressed that he knew it was his!" says landlady Clare Smith. Television cameras are not unusual at Number One Blackpool, which this week was named best B&B in Visit Britain's Enjoy England awards. Dean Sullivan – Jimmy Corkhill from Brookside – also filmed there last summer and the Gadget Show's Jon Bentley and Suzi Perry are regular visitors. The B&B is a period home on Blackpool's South Shore with its own gardens and putting green. Rooms have king-sized beds, 42in screen plasma TVs and bathrooms with LCD TVs and piped music.



The bathrooms have LCD TVs

**HOW MUCH?** B&B from £60pp per night when two share (£75 single) or book three nights or more and receive a champagne breakfast hamper on one morning. Go to [www.numberoneblackpool.com](http://www.numberoneblackpool.com) or call 01253 343901.



### OLD SCHOOL, NORTHUMBERLAND

GUESTS checking into the new rooms at The Old School might be a little prickly. That's because these special guest rooms on the edge of the woods are designed for poorly hedgehogs being nursed back to health by wildlife groups. Their accommodation, say the owners, "will be on a bed and breakfast basis, of course." The Old School near Newton on the Moor has just scooped a Silver in the Enjoy England awards, and has also received a Green Tourism award. The 18th Century stone property is surrounded by woodland for walks. You're five miles south of Alnwick for trips to the castle and The Alnwick Garden and to the west you have the Northumberland National Park.



One of the rooms

**HOW MUCH?** B&B costs £40pp for the first night when two share but book two nights or more and the rate drops to £38pp per night. Call 01665 575767.



### RICKLA, ORKNEY

RICKLA may be one of Britain's more remote B&Bs but that didn't stop it scooping Scotland's top Thistle Award. The five-star B&B run by Jacky and Stewart Anderson is tucked away in 50 acres of protected countryside, a habitat for elusive Orkney voles. It's within a short drive of puffin nesting sites, and is close to some of Europe's best-preserved neolithic sites, including the village of Skara Brae and the Ring of Brodgar. Guests stay in a separate wing and each bedroom has a sun lounge with views across the Harry and Stennes lochs and Hoy Hills. Local produce on the menu includes heather honey and Harry Loch trout.

**HOW MUCH?** B&B costs £55pp per night when two share. From August self-catering is £680 for two people for a week. Call 01856 761575 or go to [www.rickla.com](http://www.rickla.com)



Five-star wild views



### THE SHELLING, SUTHERLAND

SCOTTISH breakfast dishes such as John O' Groats-milled oatmeal, venison sausages and Loch Fyne kippers have earned this B&B several key awards. The B&B, run by Joan Campbell, has also been granted five-star status with the AA and Visit Scotland. The Shelling overlooks Melvich Bay near Thurso and stands within a 15-acre smallholding, just a 20-minute drive from the bird sanctuary at Forsinard. Take a cruise to spot seals and minke whales from John O'Groats and spend a day exploring the old Norse settlement at Thurso, Scotland's most northerly mainland town. The late Queen Mum's Castle of Mey is just 40 minutes drive away.

**HOW MUCH?** The Shelling is open from late April until early October. B&B starts from £35pp per night or from £33pp per night for bookings of two nights or more. Call 01641 531256 or go to [www.theshelling.co.uk](http://www.theshelling.co.uk)



Owner Joan prepares fish



### LLANERCH VINEYARD, SOUTH WALES

WINE tasting is all part of the fun when you check into Llanerch Vineyard, an award-winning B&B in South Wales. Guests are encouraged to follow trails through the vines and beyond to woodland and lakes. It's also a telly star, having been featured on the BBC's Holidays Out programme. Llanerch Vineyard is carved out of 19th Century farm buildings that look across the vineyard. The B&B rooms are in the Andrews family's Glamorganshire farmhouse and there are self-contained studios in converted winery buildings. The 20-acre estate is in the Vale of Glamorgan yet just a quarter hour's drive from the centre of Cardiff for nights out and shopping expeditions.

**HOW MUCH?** B&B costs from £49 for single occupancy and £69 for two people sharing per night. Call 01443 225877 or go to [www.llanerch-vineyard.co.uk](http://www.llanerch-vineyard.co.uk)



Sip wine from the vineyard



### BRYN TIRION, NORTH WALES

STRETCH your legs along Offa's Dyke long-distance footpath when you take a spring break to Bryn Tirion. The five-star award-winning B&B – fringed by cottage gardens and meadows – is in the Clwydian Hills, designated an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. The Loggerheads and Moel Famau Country Parks are just a few minutes from the front door and Snowdonia is about 45 minutes drive away. Antique furnishings, claw-footed bathtubs and Laura Ashley bed linens show period style never loses its shine. Breakfast is served in the conservatory and there's a sun lounge for late afternoon snoozes.

**HOW MUCH?** B&B starts from £30pp per night when two share and from £40 per night single. Bryn Tirion also has a self-catering apartment from £270 per week. Go to [www.bryn-tirion.com](http://www.bryn-tirion.com) or call 01352 810 444.



Rooms have period style