



Great getaways

Cuddle up this autumn on a break in the UK, write RUTH SUPPLE and EDWARD HYDE ...

Rural retreat

The picturesque Cotswolds village of Broadway is a perfect place for a getaway at any time of the year and a great place to stay is the gorgeous and understated Russell's.

This restaurant with rooms is set on the High Street of the stunning village and ideally placed to explore its many shops, art galleries and undulating countryside on the doorstep.

Russell's, owned by Andrew and Gaynor Riley, is named after the influential Arts & Crafts designer Sir Gordon Russell. Russell's, based in his former home, is a listed building and oozes artistic elegance combined with modern styling and convenience. William Morris was a regular visitor to Russell's furniture workshop and the fascinating Gordon Russell museum lies just off the High Street and a branch of the Ashmolean Museum has recently opened in the village.

Arriving after a long journey one Sunday evening, we were warmly greeted by staff who led us upstairs to our stunning loft room, overlooking the High Street and the Cotswold Hills. Never mind one night, we could have stayed a week in this sumptuous room, which featured a super king size bed, a seating area with two armchairs, flat screen TV and a beautiful natural stone bathroom with freestanding bath and large shower.

It has a modern, airy restaurant, which leads onto an informal courtyard through large glass doors. Seven luxuriously appointed bedrooms



Feature king size loft bedroom at Russell's



Russell's exterior



Food at Russell's

await the tired traveller:

The restaurant itself isn't open on Sunday nights, so we grabbed fish and chips from the neighbouring Russell's fish and chip shop, which were absolutely delicious.

Our one-night break proved to be one long eating fest as we tucked into a hearty fry up in the award-winning, modern restaurant the following morning, then tried to walk it all off around the shops. After a simply fabulous three-course lunch back at Russell's, we took one of its walking guides and headed into the Cotswolds Hills to hike off some calories.

Russell's owner Andrew Riley said: "Our guests love the combination of art and natural beauty in Broadway and the surrounding area. We have something for everyone."

It is certainly somewhere we plan to return to again and again.

Rooms at Russell's are priced from £115 per night. For bookings, email info@russellofbroadway.co.uk or visit www.russellofbroadway.co.uk

Rooms with a view

If you're planning an adrenaline-fuelled breakaway this autumn and winter, then the stunning Peak District has plenty to entice visitors with everything from abseiling, caving, orienteering and climbing on offer for the adventurous types.

And the beautifully situated Maynard hotel in Derbyshire is perfectly placed to enjoy these outdoor activities, or just snuggle up and soak up the beautiful views from its spacious bedrooms.

Not only is the hotel set in the stunning scenery of the Peak District, but it's less than 10 miles from the centre of Sheffield, with its great shops, ideal for anyone wanting to get in some early Christmas shopping.

"The hotel's proximity to the city makes it an ideal place for people to get immersed in the wonders of the Peak District, without having to travel for hours on end," said Jane Hitchman, director at The Maynard, which has launched a series of packages to cater for the diverse needs of families, couples and groups holidaying in the beautiful Peak National Park.

"Hiking and rambling have always been popular pursuits in the Peak District and long will they remain so, but we know that for some visitors the desire to get their adrenaline pumping is overwhelming. We have designed these packages for more daring guests who



The Maynard

want to enjoy the area without the hassle of things separately and with the peace of mind that comes from using a trusted organisation."

The Maynard is a privately-owned boutique hotel and restaurant, which offers luxury accommodation and a sublime menu in its award-winning two AA rosette restaurant overlooking the gardens and beautiful Derbyshire countryside.

To help you discover breathtaking scenery, historical landmarks and hidden treasure, the hotel has compiled a series of detailed walking guides. Stunning walks can be found around

Padley Gorge and Surprise View.

The hotel is also only a few miles drive away from stunning attractions like Chatsworth, Haddon Hall, Bakewell and Castleton.

With a lot of The Maynard's custom coming in the form of hikers, the hotel operates a dog-friendly policy, so your pooch can enjoy the fresh air and rolling hills as well for a small fee.

The Maynard can be contacted on 01433 630321 or email info@themaynard.co.uk.

Celebrity following

You can be assured of a very warm welcome at the award-winning four-star Stanneylands country house hotel in the "footballers' wives" territory of Wilmslow in Cheshire.

And whether you're jetting off from nearby Manchester Airport, are planning to do some Christmas shopping in Manchester city centre or viewing the skies at nearby Jodrell Bank, Stanneylands is a great place to base yourself away from the madding crowds.

Part of the Prima Hotel group, it has 55 comfortable bedrooms including deluxe suites, executive accommodation and fine dining in its 2 AA Rosette Restaurant, plus the contemporary Calico Café Bar offering bistro-style light bites and afternoon tea. Stanneylands is also a favourite haunt of many celebrities including those from *Coronation Street*, so you may be able to do some star spotting during your stay.

Stanneylands has a lovely, homely feel to it; and nothing is too much trouble for its friendly staff, who went out of their way to ensure our stay was excellent. And the food was absolutely fantastic.

For more information and bookings, call Stanneylands on 01625 525225 or visit primahotels.co.uk/stanneylands/



Stanneylands in Cheshire



The main restaurant



One of the executive bedrooms

Discovering the north-west

The historic Roman city of Chester is always a lovely place to wander around, whatever the British weather is doing.

Cheshire is also a great base for exploring nearby north Wales, and the two great cities of Liverpool and Manchester.

Nestling in 27 acres of Cheshire woodland, Macdonald Craxton Wood Hotel & Spa is perfectly placed for all these places, though you may not want to venture far from its secluded beauty.

Macdonald Craxton Wood Hotel & Spa blends the best of British tradition with 21st century comfort and style. The food is excellent and you can choose from a range of inspired British classics with a twist, or try the chef's signature sharing platters.

Next door to the hotel is a self-contained conference and event centre and neighbouring that is the hotel's newly-transformed Vital Health & Wellbeing Club and Spa, where we enjoyed indulgent back massages in a specially designed couple's suite, then chilled out afterwards in the spa's pretty garden.

For more information and bookings, call 0844 879 9038 or visit www.macdonaldhotels.co.uk/



Craxton Wood

