

Prestonfield House
The Sunday Mirror
17th November 2024

SUNDAY **Mirror** THE HEART OF BRITAIN
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with Iceland the food WAREHOUSE
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COLEEN EXCLUSIVE
I'm moving on from Wagatha Christie...
just call me Coleen
from Liverpool



I'M A CELEBRITY
Get Me Out Of Here!
SEE PAGES 4&5

£1BN BOOST FOR BUSES



WAIT'S OVER For bus reforms
EXCLUSIVE
By MIKEY SMITH
Deputy Political Editor
BUSES are getting a £1 billion boost in plans unveiled tomorrow.
Labour has promised to bring London-style services to the whole country.
Transport Secretary Louise Haigh will reveal which areas get what when she introduces the government's Buses Bill.
She said: "Everyone will finally be able to rely on the high quality bus services they've deserved for so long."
FULL STORY: PAGE 7

Labour vows London-style services all over the country

The ace of bases

Jane Knight rounds up hotel experts' favourite places to stay in the UK

Not everyone wants to escape to the country; the built environment can be just as refreshing. Here, as *The Good Hotel Guide* (goodhotelguide.com) for 2025 goes live online, the editors pick 12 favourite bases from which to explore the UK's towns and cities...

Grays Court, York

Tucked away down a narrow, cobbled street, this beautiful hotel, with an oasis garden bounded by the city wall, dates in parts from Norman times, with later additions.

Bedrooms are furnished with antiques, one has a William IV four-poster, some look out to York Minster.

You can lunch on small and large plates in the panelled Jacobean Long Gallery and dine on organic home-grown produce in the Georgian Bow Room. Museums, art galleries and independent shops are nearby.

■ Book it: rooms from £240, B&B grayscourtyork.com

YES,
MINSTER
Grays
Court
in York

time to

EXPLORE

Overnight success



SNOW-GO York's Coppergate AD 960

A winter's tale lands at Jorvik

Winter has arrived at JORVIK Viking Centre with a brand-new experience exploring what 10th-century York might have been like during the colder months.

For the first time in its 40-year history, visitors will get to see the world-famous recreation of Viking-age Coppergate with a snowy makeover.

After being introduced to the archaeology of the site, guests will hear how it might provide clues as to how York's Viking residents cared for their livestock, fed themselves and kept warm over winter.

The Time Sleighs then whisk them on a trip back in time to a chilly morning in York in AD 960.

Snow has settled everywhere - from the quayside to the market stalls - and a new lighting scheme of blue and turquoise creates a much cooler atmosphere.

Dr Howard Jones, chief operations officer, said: "Since we first opened in 1984, we've presented our recreation of Viking-age Coppergate as a moment frozen in time in the spring, but this year we've taken inspiration from one of the archaeological finds - ice skates made of bone - to show what the city might have looked like in mid-winter."

Prebook A Winter Adventure at JORVIK Viking Centre, £36.50 adults, £11 children, jorvikvikingcentre.co.uk

Hire price not a higher price

Outdoor retailer Trekkitt has launched a rental service for premium outdoor gear.

Its collection for hire contains a range of selected products from top brands such as Rab, Fjällräven, Mountain Equipment and Osprey.

The rental fee will be between 15-20% of the RRP per week. A great alternative to purchasing expensive kit that might only be needed once or twice, users can find an item on Trekkitt's website, click 'hire' rather than 'buy', then select dates.

Items can be returned using a prepaid label at the end of the agreed hire period or can be purchased, (either the same product or from stock) for a 30% discount.

All products will be checked, fully laundered and, if needed, repaired or have DWR coatings reapplied, between users. trekkitt.co.uk



THIRST IN THE Q
Bar at The Queensberry, Bath



FRIENDLY DROP-IN
The Old Bridge, Huntingdon



WELSH WONDER
The Angel Hotel



SCANDI CHIC
Brocco on the Park

CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

The Cookie Jar, Alnwick, Northumberland

In the centre of a historic market town, Debbie Cook has transformed a former convent into a fun hotel and restaurant serving modern British cooking. Each bedroom has a Hypnos bed, home-baked cookies, a drench shower and Penhaligon's toiletries.

They're all lovely, but the stand-out is the Chapel Suite with copper bath and stained-glass window. Alnwick Castle is practically next door and Barter Books in the disused Victorian station is bibliophile heaven.

Book it: rooms from £205, B&B. cookiejaralnwick.com

Darwin's Townhouse, Shrewsbury

Animal and plant wallpapers, maps, globes and natural-history artefacts adorn this Georgian townhouse named in honour of Shrewsbury's most illustrious son.

It's a B&B with the ambience of a private home, with a dog-friendly garden lodge for those who want to bring the beagle.

After breakfast in the conservatory, you might walk the River Severn path or explore the town's Tudor backstreets.

The Lime Tree, London SW1

Occupying two handsome 19th-century Belgravia town-

houses, this hotel is praised for its understated charm, after an extensive lockdown redesign and refurbishment. Reasonably priced bedrooms come in various sizes, some with a wrought-iron balcony, all very chic with good fabrics and Farrow & Ball colours.

Breakfast, brunch, light lunches and tea and cakes are served in the Buttery, and guests can use the little back garden, with good restaurants close at hand, including the legendary Poule au Pot.

Book it: rooms from £215, B&B. limetreehotel.co.uk

The Old Bridge, Huntingdon, Cambs

A cream tea awaits arrivals at this riverside hotel in a market town just an hour by train from London.

Although under new owners, it remains a local institution, a friendly drop-in with an all-day lounge menu, and foodie fare served in the restaurant or on the patio.

There is a good choice of characterful bedrooms, and a bottle shop for daily wine tastings.

A museum dedicated to Oliver Cromwell is housed in the grammar school he attended.

Book it: rooms from £189, B&B. oldbridgehuntingdon.co.uk

Hart's Hotel and Kitchen, Nottingham

Built in 2003 to an eco-friendly design, on the ramparts of what



CAPITAL VENTURE
The Lime Tree in London

survives of Nottingham Castle, this sleek hotel stands in a peaceful, leafy setting, away from the city bustle.

Bedrooms and suites are contemporary, tasteful and uncluttered but generously equipped.

You can dine or drink cocktails in Hart's Kitchen or alfresco, from a menu of creative takes on the classics. Breakfast features freshly squeezed OJ and bread from the owners' bakery.

Book it: rooms from £169, room-only, cooked breakfast £17. hartspnottingham.co.uk

The Angel Hotel, Abergavenny, Monmouthshire

In a market town dubbed 'the gateway to Wales', this Georgian coaching inn offers spiffy, commodious rooms and suites for visitors, and social gathering spaces for everyone.

Food is served all day in the Foxhunter Bar, with formal dining from an eclectic menu in the Oak Room. At breakfast there are breads and pastries from the next-door Angel Bakery, while fine-dining sister restaurant the lauded Walnut Tree is 10 minutes away by taxi.

Book it: rooms from £185 B&B. angelabergavenny.com



SWISH LIST
White Hart Hotel, Lincoln

Brocco on the Park, Sheffield

An Edwardian park-side villa has been brilliantly made over as a Scandi-chic hotel. Each of the air-conditioned bedrooms has an espresso machine, smart TV, mini fridge, fresh milk, homemade cakes and Bramley toiletries.

The Dovecot room with free-standing copper bathtub commemorates a visit from Picasso in the 1950s.

Food is served in the restaurant and alfresco all day, with a midweek small-plates menu, and à la carte and tasting menus at weekends.

Book it: rooms £140, B&B. brocco.co.uk

The Queensberry, Bath, Somerset

They're serious about food and service, yet an irrepressible sense of fun runs through this hotel, which is named after Oscar Wilde's nemesis, the 9th Marquess of Queensberry, and spread over four townhouses.

The best bedrooms

have floor-to-ceiling windows; cheaper club rooms are small but chic with ravishing use of colour. There's a relaxed menu in Old Q Bar, and Chris Cleghorn's Michelin-star menu in the Olive Tree restaurant.

Book it: rooms from £182, B&B. thequeensberry.co.uk

White Hart Hotel, Lincoln

In a great setting at the city's historic heart, within sight and sound of the cathedral, this former coaching inn has had a swish makeover by new owner Andrew Long.

From cosy doubles to the luxury King Edward Suite, the rooms are spruce, all with an espresso machine, a mini fridge and a dusky palette.

Bistro classics are on the menu in Antlers restaurant. It's the perfect base from which to explore 'England's most underrated city'.

Book it: rooms from £119, B&B. whitehart-lincoln.co.uk

Number Thirty-Eight Clifton, Bristol

Set at the top of one of Bristol's highest hills, this Georgian merchant's house is an uber-cool B&B with views across the city to the Mendips from sexy, uncluttered bedrooms at the rear.

All have a fridge and luxury toiletries; some a copper roll-top bath and walk-in shower. Drinks can be taken in the lounge, the library, or on a suntrap rooftop terrace.

Book it: rooms from £155, B&B. number38clifton.com

Prestonfield House, Edinburgh

Peacocks patrol the parkland at this impossibly glamorous 17th-century country house in the city, under Arthur's Seat.

Theatrical interiors are filled with artworks and antiques, tapestries and curios. Romantic bedrooms, some with a four-poster, have rich velvets, flowing drapes, dark patterned wallpapers and marble bathrooms.

A gourmet candlelit dinner is served in Rhubarb restaurant, and if your budget won't run to that, you could come by for afternoon tea.

Book it: rooms from £375, B&B. prestonfield.com

Prices quoted per night for a double room. More info at goodhotelmagazine.com



Photo credit: Greenwood Photography

SWEET SUITE
The Cookie Jar