

TRAVEL

The best British breaks for 2024

From a festival of the sea in the Isles of Scilly to a mystery road trip in the Scottish Highlands, there are plenty of reasons to take a holiday close to home this year. Sarah Baxter picks 30 irresistible options

This is the year that travel is truly back - predictions are that 2024 will break records for global tourism. So does that mean domestic holidays are dead? Nope. The latest report from trade association ABTA reveals that 58 per cent of British travellers are planning a UK trip in 2024. Even with the whole world open to us, we want to go on holiday close to home.

The continuing demand for more sustainable, lower-carbon breaks is a contributing factor. But it's

This is also a year to celebrate National Landscapes, the new name given to the country's 46 Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty in late 2023 (national-landscapes.gov.uk). More than a rebrand, it is a reason to re-engage with these diverse areas. It

There then is English wine, and wine tourism, which is booming - check out events such as Norwich Wine Week (norwichwineweek.co.uk) and new trips from Wine Years of Kent (wineyears.co.uk). Or maybe use the National Gallery (nationalgallery.org.uk) as your guide to celebrate its 200th anniversary, the institution is lending 12 headlin-

Whatever your interests, here is a selection of great British holiday ideas to inspire an unforgettable break on home soil this year.

▲ Nelly's group will celebrate the maritime heritage of the archipelago this summer.

THE PLACE TO BE



Explore your favourite destinations & **save up to 40%** across 52 hotels in Thailand, Japan, Laos, the Middle East, the Maldives and more.

CENTARA RESERVE CENTARA CENTARA CENTARA

BOOK DIRECT ON OUR WEBSITE FOR BEST PRICE PROMISE, DINING DISCOUNTS & MORE
 @centralhotels.com • 1.800.441.1111

CENTARA

HOTELS & RESORTS



A TOUCH OF LUXURY

Lounge around *Lincolnshire*

A top wellness trend for 2024 is boosting your energy in natural ways, and Lacey Manor Spa, on the edge of the Lincolnshire Wolds, is just the place. Opened in 2022, it's been designed to bring the countryside in; there's a natural swimming pond (perfect for wild swimming and cold-water therapy), an indoor-outdoor vitality pool and saunas infused with herbs from the garden. Alternatively, you can indulge in its speciality hammams, rituals and massages using hand-harvested seaweed.

Lacey Manor Spa (01472 873466; laceymanorspa.co.uk) offers a two-night weekend escape from £240 per person per night including full-board accommodation, spa access and two treatments each.

Live the high life *Suffolk*

For some, the cost of living isn't a crisis; 2023 became the year of the Six Figure Family Holiday, with high-net-worth individuals spending big. For a taste of that high life, rent 17th-century state-of-the-art Orpheus manor (where, incidentally, Gordon Brown held a cabinet meeting during the 2008 financial crisis that effectively saved the banking system). Follow the mile-long driveway to discover, among other things, a heated outdoor pool, a high-spec Dolby Atmos cinema, the same bathtubs you'd find in Buckingham Palace and general rococo-meets-Hollywood flair.

Unique Homestays (01672 881812; uniquehomestays.com) offers seven nights at Orpheus from £9,995, sleeping 14.



Take a vineyard tour as part of a holiday celebrating English wines in East Sussex. A High Life Orpheus Manor in Suffolk.

Raise a glass *East Sussex*

As English wine increases in quality, wine tourism is becoming a popular activity. In response, Gallivant Camber Sands, a swish adults-only hotel in the heart of British wine country, has collaborated with Gushorne Estate to offer exclusive quaffing for guests. Book a Discover English Wine stay for a self-guided Gushorne tour and tasting. Or upgrade to the Ultimate English Wine Experience, which includes a private winery tour, tutored tastings of rare bottles and a sumptuous dinner with wine pairing.

The Gallivant (01797 226072; thegallivant.co.uk) offers a one-night Ultimate English Wine Experience from £2,045 or Discover English Wine stay from £375 for two.

Drink a dram or two *Argyll & the Isles*

Did you know we're halfway through Whisky Year Zero (July 2023-June 2024), the 200th anniversary of the 1823 Excise Act, which shaped Scotland's "Whisky Coast"? To celebrate, Tartan Road has devised a new luxe tour. You'll be driven around the most exciting distilleries in Campbeltown, Islay and beyond, and given VIP tours, tutored tastings and the chance to blend your own bottle. You'll also explore the dramatic landscapes and spirited communities from which whisky comes.

Tartan Road (01843 462066; tartanroad.co.uk) offers an eight-day Ultimate Whisky Tour from £6,500pp B&B accommodation, chauffeur-guide and tours.

Ride the dragon *North Wales*

Take a nostalgic steam-hauled journey along the most scenic tracks in Wales. Steam Dreams Rail Co's new Welsh Dragon trip will trundle over Barmouth Bridge and along the Cambrian Coast, follow the North Wales route between Snowdonia and the sea, and plunge through the little-visited Marches on the Heart of Wales Line; journeys between Wales and the start/end in London are steam-pulled too.

Steam Dreams Rail Co (steamdreamsblog.wordpress.com) offers a four-night Welsh Dragon trip from £295pp including B&B accommodation and travel, departs Sept 15.

[Continued on page 4](#)

Raise a glass

East Sussex

As English wine increases in quality, wine tourism is increasing in popularity. In response, Gallivant Camber Sands, a swish adults-only hotel in the heart of British wine country, has collaborated with Gusbourne Estate to offer exclusive quaffing for guests. Book a Discover English Wine stay for a self-guided Gusbourne tour and tasting. Or upgrade to the Ultimate English Wine Experience, which includes a private winery tour, tutored tastings of rare bottles and a sumptuous dinner with wine pairing.

The Gallivant (01797 225057; thegallivant.co.uk) offers a one-night Ultimate English Wine Experience from £1,015 or Discover English Wine stay from £375 for two.