

10 holiday cottages



Pier pressure
Left and below, Two The Crescent is on the seafront in Cromer. Bottom, the eye-catching bathroom at Yarrow Cottage, in Churchill



are this year's highlights), Cromer is a happy vestige of glory days by the seaside. It's also a good base for exploring the wilds of north Norfolk, but you need a suitably classy place to stay. Try Two The Crescent: an elegant yet family-friendly Georgian property, bang on the seafront. It has a posh kitchen and is minutes from Galton Blackiston's gourmet chippy (nolcromer.com). *Sleeps 11; from £995 a week; 01263 715779, norfolkcottages.co.uk*

17 NETHERSILL, NORTH YORKSHIRE

Near the headwaters of the Wharfe, in the prettiest part of the Yorkshire Dales, an eco-farm incorporating "the best of the past with the best of the present" is the fulfilment of a lifelong ambition for its owners, Chris and Fiona Clark. The result is a wonderfully green retreat, teeming with wildlife – including red squirrels – that offers fly-fishing on the Wharfe and lies right on the Dales Way. Hay Mew is their self-catering cottage. *Sleeps 4; from £453 a week; 01756 761126, nethergill.co.uk*

18 WHITBY, NORTH YORKSHIRE

Here's a cracking find: Pier Apartment is a newly refurbished property on the quayside, with magnificent views across the harbour to the cliff-top ruins of Whitby Abbey. Quayside, which won chippy of the year in 2014, is just down the road, Whitby fish market is opposite and the beach is at the end of the street. Bold colours and modern furnishings dominate the interior. *Sleeps 4; from £495 a week; 01947 600700, yorkshireholidaycottages.co.uk*

19 BERWICK-UPON-TWEED, NORTHUMBERLAND

If you want to get any closer to the River Tweed than the front room of this former fisherman's shelter, you're going to need a boat. Built in 1734, Whitesand Shiel was rescued from ruin in 2013 and restored to create a romantic bolt hole, a mile upstream from Berwick's historic town centre. Our favourite feature is the sitting room in the eaves, with a glass wall offering fabulous views of the Tweed. And you don't need a car: the cottage is a 10-minute walk from Berwick station. *Sleeps 2; from £700 a week; 01573 226711, www.crabtreeandcrabtree.com*

20 EILEAH SHONA, SCOTLAND

South Shore Cottage is the most remote of six very remote properties on the extremely remote island of Eilean Shona, at the mouth of Loch Moidart – 35 miles west of Fort William. Leave your car at Castle Tioram, catch the boat from Dorlin pier and settle into a week of solitude. South Shore Cottage lies in the west of the island, a short walk from the turquoise Aonach lagoon, and you can forget

15 PARWICH, PEAK DISTRICT

Parwich is an achingly pretty limestone village in some of Derbyshire's finest hiking and biking territory. The Tissington and High Peak trails are close at hand, the Limestone Way passes through the village, and Doveclade lies four miles west. Stay at the Studio, a fabulous barn conversion with a woodburning stove and a double bed on the mezzanine. The local pub, the Sycamore – also the village shop – is just up the lane.

Sleeps 2 and a dog; from £399 a week; 01244 356666, sykescottages.co.uk

16 CROMER, NORFOLK

Famous for its abundant crab (stock up at Davies' Fish Shop, on Garden Street), its sandy beach and the defiantly retro Pavilion Theatre, on the pier (Basil Brush and the Barron Knights

"triangle": the prime location between Cirencester, Burford and Stow-on-the-Wold. New for 2015, Yarrow Cottage is typical of the nascent strain: innocuously pretty thatched cottage on the outside, sumptuously seductive living space on the inside, with Indian and Balinese influences and a show-stopping bathroom starring a freestanding copper bath. Yes, it's all a bit OTT – but this is the Cotswolds, remember.

Sleeps 4; from £1,050 a week; 020 8740 3097, beachspoke.com

14 CRICCIETH, LLYN PENINSULA

The Auction House comes with the following warning: "Taxidermy and suits of armour on display; might not

appeal to everyone." But we can't

think of many finer things with which to share our holidays than a stuffed ferret and a shiny helm. This baroque extravaganza, in Criccieth is delightfully bonkers throughout – from the life-sized archer to the

