

# Luxury

A sumptuous Michelin-starred legacy and a generous helping of the world's most elegant hotels are just a fragment of the luxury experiences England has to offer. Sip Champagne amid royalty at the races, dabble in the pastimes of the English aristocracy and indulge in England's very own exotic island escape.



> Isles Of Scilly © Britainonview



> Game hunting © Britainonview



> Chewton Glen suite © Chewton Glen

## 1 Michelin-starred dining

From fine china and gourmet English ingredients to pioneering global chefs, England's Michelin-starred restaurants have it all. The gastronomic accolade has been newly awarded to over twenty English kitchens for 2013, and four restaurants retain their exquisite three-Michelin-starred status. Relish two of these in the village of Bray in Berkshire. Savour jelly of quail and salmon poached in liquorice gel at the innovative Fat Duck, and delight in flawless French finesse at The Waterside Inn.

[www.michelintravel.com](http://www.michelintravel.com)

[www.thefatduck.co.uk](http://www.thefatduck.co.uk)

[www.waterside-inn.co.uk](http://www.waterside-inn.co.uk)



> Selfridges © Britainonview

## 2 Exotic island escape

Jet off to the sugar-white beaches and exotic greenery of the Scilly Isles for an enchanting island getaway just 28 miles from the rugged Cornish coast. Arrive by helicopter for superior aerial views of this sand-fringed archipelago, or take a luxury yacht across the azure waters and bask in the balmy sea breezes of the Gulf Stream. Royal favourite Star Castle on St Mary's features generous suites with private verandas and panoramic sea views.

[www.thebare necessities.co.uk](http://www.thebare necessities.co.uk)

[www.star-castle.co.uk](http://www.star-castle.co.uk)

[www.simplyscilly.co.uk](http://www.simplyscilly.co.uk)



> Chewton Glen © Chewton Glen

## 3 Chewton Glen, Hampshire

Soak up the luxury of this beautiful country house hotel, set on the edge of the historic New Forest National Park. Enjoy afternoon tea on the lawns, wander round the 130 acres of picturesque grounds, indulge in a spa treatment, or stay in one of the hotel's treehouses! With its captivating blend of the modern and the historic, Chewton Glen promises to surprise and delight you!

[www.chewtonglen.com](http://www.chewtonglen.com)

## 4 Game hunting

Experience the deep-rooted rural English pastime of game hunting. Aristocratic experience specialist More Than Good Manners runs duck, pigeon and clay pigeon shoots complete with shooting lessons and glamorous black tie party to finish. Other upper class pursuits include riding side-saddle like a true lady, fishing for rainbow trout on a glistening lake and handling a magnificent golden eagle.

[www.morethangoodmanners.com](http://www.morethangoodmanners.com)

## 5 Designer shopping with a personal shopper

Book in advance, and hire a personal stylist for stress-free designer purchases at Westfield London's high-end shopping zone The Village. Get tailored advice as to the most flattering items from the likes of Prada and Dior, and see the latest from high-end favourites such as Jimmy Choo and Burberry.

<http://uk.westfield.com>



> Eastnor Castle interior ©Britainonview / Joanna Henderson



> Cookery classes. ©Britainonview / Joanna Henderson



> Eastnor Castle ©Britainonview / Joanna Henderson

## 6 Private box at Royal Ascot

Flamboyant hats, designer dresses, flowing Champagne and the notable presence of the royal family characterise Ascot Racecourse's annual Royal Ascot meeting. For a superior view of this truly English spectacle hire one of the 255 private boxes overlooking the prestigious grounds, and enjoy a private dining room, balcony and bar area, as well as all the racing action taking place below.

[www.ascot.co.uk](http://www.ascot.co.uk)



> Royal Ascot © Britainonview / Grant Pritchard

## 7 The Chester Grosvenor, Chester

Encased in a Tudor revival Grade II-listed building, the Grosvenor's dignified suites filled with contemporary luxuries sit at the heart of the historic walled city of Chester. A compact spa pampers guests with a herb sauna and salt grotto, and the hotel's Michelin-starred restaurant Simon Radley at The Chester Grosvenor is a favourite with the city's social elite – highlights include the creative flavour pairings and decadent ingredients of the tasting menu.

[www.chestergrosvenor.com](http://www.chestergrosvenor.com)

## 8 Raithwaite Hall Country Retreat, Yorkshire

On the edge of the wild and windswept North Yorkshire Moors National Park, this five-star hotel has the feel of a secluded country retreat while being in easy reach of the cobbled streets and harbour-side restaurants of nearby Whitby. Unwind with an enriching algae wrap or rose facial in the spa, roam the 80 acres of leafy countryside and opt for the spacious Penthouse Suite for a private terrace overlooking the landscaped gardens.

[www.raithwaitehallwhitby.co.uk](http://www.raithwaitehallwhitby.co.uk)

## 9 Castle stays

Bask in the stately grandeur of one of England's castles. For the ultimate regal weekend, hire an entire kingdom such as richly furnished Eastnor Castle in Herefordshire or the high-design interior of Carr Hall Castle in Yorkshire, complete with indoor pool and hot tub. Lavish and atmospheric hotel rooms include the cosy opulence of Augill Castle in the North Pennines, and Medieval Amberley Castle in Sussex.

[www.eastnorcastle.com](http://www.eastnorcastle.com)

[www.amberleycastle.co.uk](http://www.amberleycastle.co.uk)

[www.carrhallcastle.co.uk](http://www.carrhallcastle.co.uk)

[www.stayinacastle.com](http://www.stayinacastle.com)

## 10 Culinary explorations at Le Manoir

Create fabulous dinner party cuisine amid the plush manor-house setting of Raymond Blanc's hotel and restaurant Le Manoir aux Quat' Saisons in idyllic Oxfordshire. Discover the secrets behind dishes such as coconut and lime leaf soup, and complement culinary endeavours with dinner at the two-Michelin-starred restaurant.  Essentially arrange a Le Manoir cookery package that includes  luxury suite and a chauffeur-driven transfer from London.

[www.manoir.com](http://www.manoir.com)



> The Chester Grosvenor © Britainonview



> London Eye © Britainonview / Pawel Libera



> Abbey Road © Britainonview / Jack Barnes



> Hot air ballooning © Britainonview

## 11 Champagne tasting on the London Eye

Gaze out across London's distinguished skyline while enjoying a selection of fine Champagnes in the comfort of a private capsule on the London Eye. Inside an exclusive Champagne Tasting Capsule on this Thames-side landmark, a Champagne expert from renowned London wine institution Vinopolis guides tasters through five exquisite Pommery Champagnes in front of unparalleled views of England's capital.

[www.londoneye.com](http://www.londoneye.com)

## 12 Classic British cars

Explore winding country lanes from the stylish seat of a classic car. Drive the most iconic names in motoring with the vintage collection at The Open Road in Shakespeare's birthplace of Warwickshire. For a super-fast selection of deluxe sports cars, book a Red Letter Days racetrack driving day, at locations across England.

[www.theopenroad.co.uk](http://www.theopenroad.co.uk)

[www.redletterdays.co.uk](http://www.redletterdays.co.uk)



> Classic car experience © Britainonview / Roques Rogery

## 13 Private sunrise balloon flight

Glide into the dawn hand-in-hand with a romantic sunrise balloon flight. Exclusive balloon rides for two soar to up to 3,000ft, giving 360-degree vistas of the waking world below. After floating back down to earth, passengers toast the experience with a glass of chilled Champagne from picturesque coastal spots to stunning cities such as Bath and York.

[www.redletterdays.co.uk](http://www.redletterdays.co.uk)

## Hidden Gems



> Therma Bath Spa © Britainonview / Jon Spauill

## 14 Exclusive dip in the sacred Cross Bath

Soak in the waters of England's only natural hot springs in the privacy of the Thermae Bath Spa's Cross Bath. The oval Cross Bath sits apart from the popular main spa, in its own golden-stoned enclosure. Private gatherings bathe and take refreshment with Champagne and canapés on this sacred spot, where the Celts once worshiped the goddess Sul.

[www.thermaebathspa.com](http://www.thermaebathspa.com)

## 15 Thornbury Castle, Gloucestershire

Thornbury Castle is England's only Tudor castle hotel. Once inside its commanding 500-year-old walls, guests stay in historic bedrooms such as the Duke's Bedchamber, where King Henry VIII and Anne Boleyn once slept. The 77 stone steps in the tower lead to the sumptuous furnishings and silk wall hangings of the Tower Bedchamber, which claims the largest hotel bed in the country, at 10ft wide.

[www.thornburycastle.co.uk](http://www.thornburycastle.co.uk)

## 16 Studio session

Join the elite team at EMI Music Publishing for a day of music making. Budding composers can get help bringing existing material to life, or the team of professionals can create a unique track to commemorate any special occasion. Studios to pick from include London's iconic Abbey Road, a favourite of English music legends The Beatles. Make it a truly exceptional day and bring in a popular recording artist to feature on the track.

[www.quintessentiallyescape.com](http://www.quintessentiallyescape.com)