

# 24 Travel Great British houses



bathroom (an extra double room is available but they'd have to share the same bathroom). Explore the grounds with its ruined medieval church and dovecote or head to Edinburgh or Glasgow, both within an hour's drive. **Details** B&B doubles are from £110 per night (01577 840236, walseylodges.com)

## 4 Wrackelford House Dorchester, Dorset

Take part in traditional country pursuits such as partridge and pheasant shooting or fly fishing when you stay at this Georgian country estate. After the day's exertions, have drinks and dinner around the elm circular table in front of an inglenook fireplace at the Shooting Lodge (also available for self-catered lets for up to nine people). The main house has five rooms with marble bathrooms and is decked out with antiques, and art. **Details** B&B doubles are from £140 per night (01305 264141, walseylodges.com)

## 5 Rowton Manor Chester, Cheshire

This bite-sized country pile is ideal for small groups wanting to experience the grandeur of an historic manor house. The grade II listed Elizabethan house marries traditional features such as English and French oak panelling with all the mod cons. Three king-size rooms come with luxury en suites with walk-in showers and contemporary bath tubs. Take afternoon tea in the rose garden, explore the lake and parterre or tinkle the ivories in the music room. Chester,

with its fortified Roman wall and amphitheatre, is nearby.

**Details** Three nights for six is from £1,325, a week from £1,625 (01637 881183, uniquehomestays.com)

## 6 Pentillie Castle Saltash, Cornwall

Tuck into a locally sourced breakfast in the elegant dining room of this boutique B&B on a 2,000 acre estate next to the River Tamar. The nine light and bright bedrooms, one with a four-poster, are decked out in a modern country house style with antiques, immaculate bathrooms, crisp white bed linen and waffle bathrobes. Take afternoon tea in the drawing room with its wood floors, high ceilings and gilt mirror. Play croquet on the lawn, explore the American Garden or book a pheasant shoot, salmon or trout fishing.

**Details** B&B doubles are from £130 per night (01579 350044, pentillie.co.uk)

## 7 Scargill Castle Co Durham

Order a Tudor banquet to eat in the baronial dining hall of this restored 16th-century fortification that's been converted into a delightful retreat for two. An arched entrance hall leads into the dining hall with its long oak table. A stone spiral staircase leads to the cosy oak-floored living room where a woodburning stove sits within a Tudor fireplace. A further flight leads to a romantic double bedroom adorned with Persian rugs. Bowes, Barnard and Richmond castles are nearby.



**Details** Three nights for two costs from £320.40, a week is from £600 (ruralretreats.co.uk)

## 8 The Tower Abergavenny, Powys

Stay in your own castellated Elizabethan tower, a wing of all 16th-century manor house set in a mature walled garden.

On the top floor is the bedroom with a hand-carved four-poster bed, wood floors and oriental rugs. Descend the hand-carved oak staircase to an elegantly tiled bathroom with a roll-top bath, original black marble wash stand and power shower. The octagonal sitting room has stone-mullioned lead windows, oak beams, chandelier and an open fire. Go walking in the Black Mountains or along the Offa's Dyke footpath, fish the River Usk and have a drink at the ancient Skirrid Inn.

**Details** Three nights' self-catering for two costs from £388, a week is from £479 (01874 676446, breconcottages.com)

## 9 Chilverbridge House Arlington, East Sussex

Have breakfast delivered to your room at this stylish manor house in the picturesque Cuckmere Valley. Co-owner Nina has decked out the bedrooms in boutique hotel style with sleek en suites, goose down duvets and 400-thread count linens. Breakfast is a lavish affair with eggs benedict or scrambled egg and smoked salmon. Play croquet in the seven-acre grounds, also home to a heated outdoor pool. Glyndebourne, the Bloomsbury set's Charleston farmhouse and Brighton are all at hand.

**Details** Double B&Bs cost from £130 (07748 395 327, chilverbridgehouse.com)

## 10 Harptree Court East Harptree, Somerset

Play croquet on the lawn or knock a ball about on the tennis court when you stay at this elegant Georgian manor house

reached via a long drive in the picturesque Chew Valley. All four double rooms offer high ceilings, picture windows and deep roll-top baths. Breakfast is a thoroughly English affair; you can even have boiled Harptree eggs and soldiers. Cheddar Gorge, Bath and Wells cathedral are within easy reach. **Details** B&B doubles are from £130 per night (01761 221729, harptreecourt.co.uk)

## 11 The Gatehouse Bridgnorth, Shropshire

Prince Rupert, a nephew of Charles I and commander of the royalist troops, took refuge in this twin-turreted Elizabethan gatehouse. Marvel at the thick brick Tudor walls, carved oak spiral staircase, two panelled bedrooms and rare 16th-century ornamental plasterwork. Recently refurbished, it now comes with designer bathrooms, a sleek kitchen, underfloor heating and satellite TV. If you can't bear cleaning, cooking — or even opening the front door — a maid, cook and butler can be arranged.

**Details** Two nights' self-catering for four is from £495 (01746 714616, www.uptoncressethall.co.uk)

## 12 Hellifield Peel Castle near Skipton, North Yorkshire

Francis and Karen Shaw lovingly restored this magnificent ruined castle located in a picturesque setting between Skipton and Settle. There are five boutique hotel-style bedrooms including Chapel, with its stained glass and stone mullioned windows, 17th-century four-poster bed and turret bathroom with deep volcanic-red bath.

**Details** One night's B&B is from £170 (01729 850248, peelcastle.co.uk)

## For big groups

## 13 Felin Newydd Manor House Powys

Fancy hiring a Mr Carson for your own weekend house party? This Georgian



## Smart insurance for car hire

UK & Europe

Worldwide

USA & Canada

Did you know, damage to your hire car could cost you on average £350? Even if you have an excess waiver from the car hire company.

### We think there's a better way!

Protect yourself with excess protection insurance from insurance4carhire.com and we'll even cover damage to the windscreen, tyres, roof & undercarriage\*\*

**From £39.99** for UK & European annual cover  
or just £3.99 per day

Get quick cover today  
**insurance4carhire.com**

0844 892 6233 Mon-Fri: 9.00am-5.00pm

**insurance4carhire.com**

Available for drivers aged 21-85 only. \*Prices correct at date of publication. The average settled claim in 2013 was £350. \*\*Excludes damage caused by wear and tear. Please see our website for full details of cover. Insurance4carhire.com is a trading name of Towergate Underwriting Group Ltd, which is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority.