

VALENTINE'S VIBE

From luxury hotel suites to cosy glamping huts, we've got the perfect break to get you in the mood



Velvet Morning is as cosy as it gets



Muck about on the water



Y Stabl will appeal to romantics

The pretty cottages at Pontardawe



Dine in style at No. 131



A regency townhouse with all mod cons

LOVE SHACK

BEACON HILL HIDEAWAYS, NORTHUMBERLAND
THE LOWDOWN Buried deep in the Northumbrian countryside, two brand new shepherd's huts offer a snug retreat for couples wanting to escape to their own private wilderness.

With gorgeous views of the surrounding woodland and plenty of wide-open space, it's the perfect place to cosy up in your own little love nest.

ROMANCE FACTOR Despite the rustic vibe, both Bluegrass and Ryegrass huts have been styled with a 21st-century eye for design. And you won't be without your home comforts and mod cons, with luxe furnishings, a log-burning stove, Bose bluetooth speaker and Smart TV in the luxury bedroom.

If you do venture outside, the Beacon Hill hideaways spa, pool gym and salon are a minute's walk

away. There's also tons to explore further afield, including the National Trust Cragstone House at Rothbury, walking in the Cheviot Hills, the restaurants and pubs of market town Morpeth and miles of unspoilt beaches. With Bamburgh Castle, Dunstanburgh Castle, Holy Island and Alnwick Castle also nearby, history lovers will be in their element, too.

HOW MUCH? Huts start at £125 per night. Visit beaconhill.co.uk/northumberland.

HIGHLAND HAVEN

THE STATION HOTEL, SPEYSIDE, SCOTLAND
THE LOWDOWN With a roll-top bath on a mezzanine overlooking pretty Speyside - the home of malt whisky - a suite at the four-star boutique Station

hotel is the ideal way to spend a romantic night or two. If you can bear to leave your room - complete with a four-poster bed and mood lighting - you can take a stroll along the River Spey or discover deserted beaches and historic castles.

ROMANCE FACTOR Enjoy a candlelit, three-course meal in the hotel's Pagodas restaurant, which serves traditional Scottish dishes such as Aberdeen Angus beef, and locally sourced chicken and duck. Then head to the Spirits Café bar and get starry eyed over the 300-plus varieties of whisky. Or try Toots café bar and bistro for bar snacks.

HOW MUCH? The Valentine package is available from 10-18 February for £250, including a dinner, bed and breakfast

stay in a Luxury Superior Suite, Prosecco, a box of Belgian chocolates and a single rose. Add on two spa treatments for £60. Visit stationhotel-speyside.com.

BOUTIQUE BOLTHOLE

NO. 131, CHELTENHAM
THE LOWDOWN This stunning townhouse is perched on the corner of the Imperial Gardens in Cheltenham, the regency spa town on the edge of the Cotswolds. Referred to by locals as 'Nam, it's been a holiday hotspot since some bright spark discovered a magical mineral spring here in the 18th century.

But while 131 is gorgeously Georgian from the outside, inside it's elegantly modern, with the 11 rooms bristling with goodies, from the Bose iPod dock to the Nespresso machine.

ROMANCE FACTOR The stunning restaurant is the main attraction - Jo Whiley and Trevor Nelson DJ'd here during the Cheltenham Jazz Festival. So after strolling hand-in-hand down the tree-lined promenades, head home and prepare for perfection. Cornish cod, Hampshire pork, Cotswold chicken... it's all delicious. Steaks are the main event, with the menu boasting everything from an 8oz sirloin to a 32oz T-bone.

HOW MUCH? From £120 a night



Jo Whiley played at No. 131

based on two sharing, with a 25 per cent discount at i-escape.com/no-131.

DREAM BOAT

VELVET MORNING, LITTLE VENICE, LONDON
THE LOWDOWN How does staying on a gorgeous boutique barge, er, float your boat? Recently refurbished with chic but cosy interiors, 100-year-old narrow boat Velvet Morning can be hired from its lovely owner Sam for stays at one of two moorings in the capital - Little Venice or Kings Cross - so you and your beau can channel your inner Rosie and Jim (OK, you can't actually sail it but you get the idea).

ROMANCE FACTOR There's a wood burner to keep you toasty, a gorgeous roll-top bath from which you can gaze at passing swans through a little window, and the cosiest nook of a bedroom that just fits a comfy double with room for a couple of candles and books. No TV to dilute the romance here. The main seating area also becomes a sofa bed.

If you want to venture on to dry land, from the Little Venice mooring the Summerhouse pub is a two-minute walk along the canal. And check out nearby Clifton Nurseries, which is

putting on a Valentine's menu in its magical glass house café The Quince Tree.

HOW MUCH? Velvet Morning sleeps up to four people and costs from £120 per night. Visit bedsonboard.com.

COSY COTTAGE

SWANSEA VALLEY HOLIDAY COTTAGES, PONTARDAWE, NEATH PORT TALBOT
THE LOWDOWN Cuddle up in one of four secluded holiday cottages in the ancient parish of Cilybebyll, on the east side of the beautiful Swansea Valley.

Surrounded by pretty bluebell woodland, mountain streams and hillside pastures, it's an impossibly idyllic setting for some quality time together.

ROMANCE FACTOR After a romantic wander among the picturesque countryside, warm up by a roaring log fire before snuggling down in your luxury four-poster bed.

Take a guided tour of Margam Park, enjoy a waterfall walk in The Vale of Neath or discover March Hywel Mountain. With Swansea Bay coastline just 20 minutes away, there's even the chance for a bracing walk along the beach.

HOW MUCH? From £240 from 10-12 February, based on two sharing the Y Stabl cottage. Visit walescottages.com.

SPA OF THE WEEK

Norton Park Winchester

Who goes? Hollyoaks star Ben Richards and his wife, TV presenter, Kirsty Duffy enjoyed a spa break here.

Why is it so special? Set in 54 acres of Hampshire parkland and boasting its own beautiful landscaped gardens and lake, Norton Park is a four-star hotel on the outskirts of Winchester. Featuring 166 modern rooms, plus 13 within the 16th century manor house itself, the hotel has a wide range of facilities including a leisure complex and its own restaurant.

Meanwhile, the spa features a gym, 15-metre pool, relaxation room, nail bar, sauna and steam room.

What sort of treatments are on offer? The signature ESPA back, face and scalp treatment (£85) delivers

triple results by targeting three key areas and will leave you walking on air. Or treat yourself to a Salt and Oil Scrub (£35) - the perfect antidote to dry, winter skin.

Are there any packages? The Spa Day for two allows you to choose an hour-long treatment from an enticing menu, including rebalancing and revitalising facials, back massages, manis and pedis, as well as a light lunch, and use of the facilities (from £54.50pp).

The Overnight Spa Break includes one night's B&B, £28 towards dinner, two 30-minute treatments or one 60-minute ESPA Ritual (from £105pp). ■



Ben and Kirsty have stayed

Norton Park hotel, Sutton Scotney, Winchester SO21 3NB. Call 01962 763000 or visit qhotels.co.uk

CELEB HANGOUT

MANCHESTER HOUSE
18-22 BRIDGE STREET, SPINNINGFIELDS, MANCHESTER M3 3BZ

Who goes? David Beckham held a private party here recently and Manchester United's Marouane Fellaini was on the next table when Star visited.

Vibe: From the outside, this chic eatery could be mistaken for an office block. But climb up to the second floor and you'll find leather booths sitting alongside exposed metal beams to create an industrial-chic setting with a luxurious twist.

Best for: The 14-course taster menu. Yes, 14! With the most unusual combinations, including goat's cheese and onion soup, and steamed pigeon with cherry broth, you'll be blown away by the unique dining experience here. The Manchester tart dessert provides a feast for your eyes as well as your belly. Afterwards, soak up the city views with a cocktail on the 12th floor.

Contact: Call 0161 831 0288 or visit australasia.uk.com.



Becks partied here



Enjoy a relaxing soak with a view



Grab a snack at Toots Café

TRAVEL: ANNA BAILEY; POLLY MCCORMIE; ROBYN MORRIS; GEORGIA TREVITT; JAMIE DOWNHAM. SPA: TERRY WHITBY; HANGOUT: JENNIFER OVERHAH; PHOTOS: GETTY IMAGES