

provide the entertainment. The site is 15 miles from picturesque Helensburgh, with its awardwinning La Barca tapas and wine bar (labarcahelensburgh.co.uk). **THE DEAL:** Seven nights in a caravan holiday home for eight from December 20 costs £450 with pitchup.com.

mirror.co.uk/traveltop10

DARLING DERBYSHIRE Seven nights from £140pp

If you want to be with loved ones but still have your own space, the five holiday cottages at Wolfscote Grange in the Peak District could suit you. For example, Swallows Return is a cosy barn conversion which sleeps up to six while Wolfscote Cottage has room for four people. Set above the Dove Valley on a family sheep and cattle farm, the cottages have an old world charm. Look out for buzzards and wild hares as you follow one of the many excellent walking routes. Bakewell and the spa town Buxton are both about 12 miles away. THE DEAL: Seven nights from

December 28 costs £840 at Swallows

Return and £565 at Wolfscote Cottage with Derbyshire Cottages. mirror.co.uk/traveltop10

THE OUT OF THIS WORLD BREAK

Seven nights from £204pp
If you're looking for a quirky festive stay, Office Piece cottage on the edge of Rendlesham Forest should fit the bill. The Suffolk forest has become known as Britain's Roswell after a series of claimed UFO sightings. It's surrounded by trees and you should expect to spot wildlife wandering through the gardens of this isolated property. And the bonus is you can have a New Year's fireworks party without

disturbing anyone. Nearby civilisation is the hamlet of Friday Street, which makes a great base for walking, cycling and exploring rural and coastal Suffolk and the heaths area. Cycle the marked woodland paths or follow the Rendlesham. UFO trail – if you dare. **THE DEAL:** Seven nights from December 26 costs

£1,225 for up to six people with Suffolk Secrets. One pet is welcome. mirror.co.uk/traveltop10

THE LAKES
Five nights from
£127pp

Escape to the Lake
District for Christmas with a stay at
The Sawyers Cottage in Coniston,
Cumbria. The traditional stone
property has an outdoor hot tub to
relax in as you take in the wonderful
views of mountain peaks and
Coniston Water, at the foot of the
valley. Herdwick sheep graze on the
fells and Ambleside, at the head of
Lake Windermere, is seven miles
away, making it an ideal base for
walking, rock climbing and

mountain biking. Tarn Hows – one of the National Trust's most popular tourist sights – is two miles away. THE DEAL: Five nights from

two miles away.

THE DEAL: Five nights from December 22 costs £1,020 for up to eight people with The Coppermines and Lakes Cottages.

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THE HOSTE

Burnham Market, Norfolk
WHERE AND WHY
In the heart of the charming

village of Burnham Market, this four-star boutique hotel dates back to the 14th century. Its most famous regular was Lord Nelson - as documented in the hotel exhibition. We stayed in a safari-themed penthouse suite with four-poster bed and a walk-in wardrobe so vast the children had enormous fun playing hideand-seek inside it. There is also a garden, spa and bar. ON THE MENU People flock here for the AA rosette award-winning seasonal and local food. I plumped for the delicious Laverstoke park buffalo mozzarella salad (E9) and a main of grilled halloum (£14). My partner ate the wonderful Hoste chicken



liver and pork páté (£7) and a special of fillet of pork loin (£16). Our children devoured

plum tomato soup (£4),

linguini with bolognese (£8) and pork sausages with creamed potatoes and carrots (£8). Service was exceptional, as was pudding -sticky toffee pudding with caramel sauce (£8). Breakfast was an informal buffet served in the conservatory. WHILE YOU'RE THERE On the doorstep there's an array of independent shops and the hotel can suggest walks to explore the area. At Burnham Overy Staithe you can watch the locals moor their boats next to the freshwater grazing marshes and salt marshes of Holkham nature reserve. Look out for lapwings, redshanks and pink-footed geese. We went crabbing off the jetty before driving five minutes up the coast for a walk along the boardwalk, past pine woods to the long stretch of sand. The children were thrilled to see horses cantering along the beach and loved splashing in shallow pools. WAKE-UP CALL From £130 8&B. thehoste. com, 01328 738777 KAY RICHARDSON



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