



Cool cottages in ... the Cotswolds

Whether you're after a family stay, a group getaway or just relaxing *à deux*, one of our five stylish cottages in this pretty area should suit

1 The Folly Didmorton

Owned by Jo Berryman, an interior designer, the four-bedroom Folly (there's another bedroom in an outbuilding, so it sleeps 10) looks like your classic honey-stone farmhouse. Inside, however, it's more Olga Polizzi-meets-Tim-Burton than Old Macdonald's farm. Elaborate velvet cushions and jewel-coloured sofas are matched with rustic wooden tables, copper bathtubs, vintage finds and classy crockery. There's a tennis court on site and bicycles to borrow if you are feeling energetic, or you can just snuggle up with a DVD and call in the caterers to cook dinner for you.
● no phone, thefollyluxurycottage.com. From £1,780 a week (£178pp based on full occupancy - 10 sharing)

2 Little Stalls Kemble

This contemporary barn conversion sleeping two is easy to reach if you fancy a holiday in the country, but don't have your own wheels - Kemble has a train station, with links to Gloucester, Swindon and London. Little Stalls is on the edge of the village, looking out across fields. The



4 The Potting Shed near Kingham

If the Notting Hill-in-the-Cotswolds Daylesford Farm brand, with its organic honey-sweetness and GOOP-esque take on farm living, gives you the creeps, you will want to give this Daylesford-owned cottage a wide berth. But if organic candles, pale stonework, antler hooks and expensive woollen throws are your thing, you will love the contemporary country chic of the Potting Shed, which sleeps four adults and two children. To add to its joys (or not), it's 50m from the brand's farm shop, spa, cafe and cooking school.
● 01993 824 252, manorcottages.co.uk/properties/POTT. From £677 a week



5 Coates Mill Cottage, Winchcombe

This 200-year-old cottage, sleeping four, satisfies plenty of Cotswolds cravings. A chocolate-box building with an open fire, a pretty garden and a mill stream running nearby, it's surrounded by great walking territory. Like the rest of the house, its two king-size bedrooms are elegantly decorated - understatedly classy rather than showy. It's also within 10 minutes' walk of the centre of Winchcombe, home to the posh Lion Inn (thelionwinchcombe.co.uk) and Michelin-starred 5 North Street (5northstreetrestaurant.co.uk) if you fancy splashing out.
● 01242 771110, furtherafield.com. From £875 a week
Rhiannon Batten

open-plan kitchen and living area is much lighter and brighter than you would expect in a one-bedroom cottage, thanks to a row of floor-to-ceiling French doors. And, with a kingsize bed in the bedroom, you shouldn't find yourself counting any outlying sheep.
● 01285 770308, kemblefarms.co.uk/holiday. From £435 a week

3 Culls Cottage Southrop

Don't be put off by the fact that this renovated 17th-century cottage is right by a road. Inside the three-bedroom property (sleeping six) all is calmness and serenity, with flagstone floors, a woodburning stove, partial underfloor heating (one of several eco features) and clean white walls offset by

exposed stone and wooden beams. If the setting is historic, the styling isn't. Furnishings are crisp and modern, with a leaning towards luxury (wine glasses are Riedel, the kitchen is home to a Gaggia espresso machine, smellies are organic), but there are toys and books for children, plus cot and high chair.
● 07860 337763, cullscottage.net. From £1,335 a week

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