



Top 10 ..Cosy hotels

ROARING log fires, good food, fine ales, cosy rooms and long walks – if there's one thing we British do really well it's good old-fashioned country inns and hotels...

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1. THE BLACK SWAN, HELMSLEY, NORTH YORKS

LOCATED in one of the prettiest villages on the North York Moors, the Black Swan is a good place to enjoy fine food, great walking and real log fires.

A historic inn turned boutique hotel, this black and white timbered Elizabethan building dates back to the 15th Century.

To warm up after a walk, head to the award-winning tea room for teas from around the world and artisan pastries. Recently awarded entry into the prestigious Tea Guild, it features alongside other world-famous hotels including The Ritz and The Dorchester, and in April 2010 was awarded the Tea Guild's Top Tea Place 2010.

THE DEAL: Dinner, bed and breakfast from £129.
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2. THE BELL, SKENFRITH, MONMOUTHSHIRE

THIS 17th Century coaching inn, situated on the banks of the River Monnow, offers a peaceful escape deep in the heart of the wild Welsh countryside and is perfect for walkers and fishermen.

There are 11 individual rooms, an award-winning restaurant with fresh organic vegetables supplied by their own kitchen garden, and some breathtaking views for all to enjoy. The Bell boasts a Michelin pub of the year award from 2007 and two AA rosettes for its fine food.

THE DEAL: Double rooms including breakfast and morning paper from £110.
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3. ACORN INN, EVERSLOT, DORSET

THIS 16th century coaching inn features in Thomas Hardy's Tess of the D'Urbervilles and in many ways hasn't changed much since then. It's the perfect base for exploring the Jurassic Coast and Lyme Regis.

The open fire, exposed brick walls and old brown leather banquettes help create a real old world atmosphere.

The 10 en-suite rooms are all individually decorated and named after characters in the novel. The restaurant serves old-fashioned hearty fare such as chicken pies and roast duck.

THE DEAL: Double rooms are from £99. Well-behaved dogs welcome! Go to www.sundaymirror.co.uk/travel/top10

4. PEAT INN, FIFE

THIS "restaurant with rooms" is definitely at the luxury end of the cosy inn market. There are just eight rooms available, all elegantly and luxuriously fitted out complete with Italian marble bathrooms.

The cuisine attracts foodies in the know from far and wide and includes langoustine bisque, wood pigeon salad, roast partridge and wild halibut.

Situated just outside St Andrews, it's a gorgeous getaway for golfers and long-suffering partners. Walkers will enjoy the Fife Coastal Path from Culross to the Tay Bridge along some of the prettiest coastline in Britain.

THE DEAL: Double rooms from £195. Closed until February 14, for kitchen refurbishment. Go to www.sundaymirror.co.uk/travel/top10



5. MASONS ARMS, BRANSCOMBE, DEVON

THIS friendly 14th Century hotel with inglenook fireplace and cosy rooms makes a perfect romantic winter hideaway in a pretty village just a stroll from the beach and coastal walks.



The hotel offers a good selection of St Austell ales and fine food with fish being a speciality.
THE DEAL: Special midweek winter deal until February 10 is £25pp per night, including breakfast. Go to www.sundaymirror.co.uk/travel/top10

6. THE SAMLING, LAKE DISTRICT

Tom Cruise and the Beckhams are a few of the stars who have checked in to this boutique hotel on a hill. It's very relaxed, with open fires, comfortable sofas and more than 80 acres of grounds to explore. Nearby is Windemere, the best known stretch of water in the beautiful Lake District. It's worth working up an appetite for the Samling's acclaimed restaurant... and breakfast in bed.



THE DEAL: Rooms from £190 a night, including breakfast with Mr & Mrs Smith. Go to www.sundaymirror.co.uk/travel/top10

7. THE PEACOCK, ROWSLEY, DERBYS

NESTLED in the heart of the Peak District, this award winning restaurant with 16 luxury rooms is in a stunning ancient building crammed with antiques.



Roast rib of Derbyshire beef is a firm favourite here. But although there is an old-fashioned feel to the cosy bar and formal dining room, the Peacock has all mod cons too. Great location for fishermen and walkers.

THE DEAL: Rooms are from £80 for singles, £150 for doubles. Go to www.sundaymirror.co.uk/travel/top10

8. THE GEORGE, RYE, EAST SUSSEX

SITUATED in the centre of the medieval town, this four-star hotel in 1066 country dates back to 1575. Relaxed and comfortable, the rooms have the latest luxuries.



Fresh produce is locally sourced and the fish and seafood comes straight from the trawlers in Rye Bay. Build up an appetite with a bracing walk along nearby Camber Sands.

THE DEAL: Double rooms from £135 a night including full English breakfast. Go to www.sundaymirror.co.uk/travel/top10

9. THE VICTORIA, HOLKHAM, NORFOLK

THE Victoria started life as a pub, but now has bedrooms too, with exotic furnishings and intriguing bric-a-brac for an opulent and eclectic feel to individual rooms.



Much of the food served in the restaurant comes from the farms of the Holkham Estate, including venison and wild game from local shoots. There's a great selection of local beers and a decent wine list.

THE DEAL: Doubles from £90 per night. Go to www.sundaymirror.co.uk/travel/top10

10. KINGS ARMS HOTEL, HAWKSHEAD, CUMBRIA

THIS 500-year-old inn in the Lake District is full of charm and character, with many period features and even a heated beer garden!



It is listed in the good beer guide and is always bustling with life. Comfortable accommodation, real ale and home-cooked food make this a real winter winner.

THE DEAL: Midweek winter special includes dinner, bed and breakfast for £88 per night. Go to www.sundaymirror.co.uk/travel/top10



