

The 50 best B&Bs in

From cool castles to beach hideaways and rustic chic, Sarah Smith and Tom Chesshyre pick the finest

Best for families

1 Ty'r Chanter

Crickhowell, Powys

This tasteful family home, set against the backdrop of the Brecon Beacons, has deep sofas, tartan throws and stone floors. It's run by the Pettifers, who have their own four boys (and a whole host of animals). Excellent touches include two playrooms, murals and nightlights in the bedrooms — plus Tiggy's ability to arrange wellies, stairgates and picnics.

Details B&B doubles cost from £95 for the Blue Room, which shares a bathroom with a twin-bedded room. Children under 12 are an extra £20 (01874 731144, tyrchanter.com)

2 Chipperkyle

Dumfries and Galloway

This listed Georgian laird's house has a relaxed country-chic style. The Dicksons make you feel immediately at home with welcoming tea and cake, a burning log fire and masses of sofas in which to lose yourself. The freshly baked bread each morning is heavenly. There are 200 acres of grounds, plus the family's spaniels, Socks and Whin, cats and a donkey. There's also a tennis court.

Details B&B doubles cost from £175 for two adults and two children under 12 (01556 650223, chipperkyle.co.uk)

3 Long Crendon Manor

near Thame, Bucks

Once a *Midsomer Murders* location, this half-timbered manor house has it all. Pool? Tick. Maze? Tick. Croquet lawn? Tick. After breakfasting in the beamed dining room, relax by the log fire in the oak-panelled drawing room. Of the three rooms, the Lady De L'Isle bedroom is ideal, with an adjoining room with twin beds. Kids can feed the ducks and pigs.

Details B&B doubles are from £100 in the Lady De L'Isle room, with £50 for each child aged 12 or over (01844 201647, longcrendonmanor.co.uk)

4 Staverton Hall

Daventry, Northants

There's an outdoor heated pool, trampoline, ping-pong table and snooker table at this whitewashed Georgian hall that's ideal if you want to join another



family or relatives. This is because three out of the four tastefully decorated rooms can be used as a private annexe.

The hub of the house is the elegant drawing room, where you can curl up on squishy sofas in front of the fire. Staverton has a ten-acre estate with panoramic views of the countryside.

Details The annexe (sleeps 8) is from £200 a night, including breakfast and children's teas (01327 878296, stavertonhall.co.uk)

5 Beryl Wells, Somerset

This small Gothic mansion with 14 rooms has an elegant drawing room, a lounge with board games and an honesty bar with wine and beer. The B&B is by parkland with a pond, and there's a heated pool and a garden play area. There's also a doll's house and a children's DVD library.

Details B&B doubles cost from £100, then it's an extra £30 per child (01749 678738, beryl-wells.co.uk)

Chipperkyle in Dumfries and Galloway (2), and below, West Stow Hall (7)

6 Mine Hill House

Banbury, Oxfordshire

This secluded 18th-century house has a big double room with twin bedroom. The panoramic views of the Cotswolds countryside and the food is sophisticated. There's a ping-pong table and a trampoline.

Details £135 B&B a night for a family of four (01608 685559, minehillhouse.co.uk)

7 West Stow Hall

Suffolk

This stunning Tudor house has a "Explore me" trail, a steam engine in the garden, and a border crossing. You can take children around the estate's acres of woods and fields.

Details One B&B double and twin costs from £160 (01286 728127, weststowhall.co.uk)

8 Tovey Lodge

Ditchling, East Sussex



Tastefully posh but friendly