



Five Sustainable UK Summer Getaways

(Originally written for the Sustainable Restaurant Association blog.)

This editorial feature highlights five UK holiday destinations with a sustainability focus — blending travel writing with ethical hospitality storytelling.)

You remember that feeling — you never forget it — that inescapable, feverish anticipation, sat at your desk on the last day of term. With every tick of the clock, your heart skips an extra six beats. As the afternoon sun creeps ever closer to the horizon, you creep ever closer to the classroom door. Your teacher? They've given up as well. Nobody cares about the life cycle of a kingfisher. It's five to three on the last day of term.

And then it strikes. The school bell screams the sweet ring of freedom, and the whole class — nay, the whole school — erupts out of the building and into the next six weeks of freedom.

That feeling never leaves you. You may be slightly more dignified as you leave work on the last day before the summer holidays, but deep down, regardless of how tightly your tie is done up or how shiny your shoes are, Alice Cooper still screams in your brain as you vacate the office, factory, or dance studio (delete where applicable).

This week we would like to celebrate the summer by highlighting some SRA-certified holiday destinations.

The Gallivant

We start along the East Sussex coast near Rye with the restaurant and hotel The Gallivant. Offering a range of different-sized rooms to suit your party, this Scandinavian-inspired hotel is a mere stone's throw from the beach. In the warmer months, The Gallivant provides lovely outdoor spaces where you can eat and drink. You can enjoy cocktails on their beachfront terrace, light snacks in their shingle garden, or take advantage of having the beach on your doorstep by opting for their beach picnic service.

Last month, The Gallivant was awarded the highest sustainability rating of three stars by the SRA for achieving its ambitious goal of sourcing almost all fresh ingredients within a ten-mile radius. The Gallivant is a wonderful coastal gem not to be missed.

Urban Beach

Next, we travel to Urban Beach, an award-winning boutique hotel just a five-minute walk from Bournemouth beach. Urban Beach strives to stand out from the hundreds of other hotels on Bournemouth's seafront by offering stylish yet affordable accommodation with a relaxed, unpretentious atmosphere for both couples and families.



The hotel also boasts an impressive ground-floor bistro serving fresh, seasonal dishes sourced from local suppliers. It comes complete with a fully stocked bar featuring homemade colas, local Dorset ales, and fresh fruit juices. Urban Beach is the perfect beachfront destination for you and your family to enjoy the British summertime.

Chewton Glen

For many people, a summer holiday means an escape from the daily grind: a chance to seek refuge in relaxation, to be pampered, and to indulge in ultimate luxury. If you share that desire, look no further than Chewton Glen, a lavish country house hotel and spa surrounded by 130 acres of Hampshire countryside.

Voted the Best Hotel for Service in the UK, Chewton Glen offers exclusive spa treatments, including the luxurious Treehouse Treatments. From the tranquil setting of a private treehouse, you can enjoy a deep-pressure massage that “draws on the energy of the surrounding forest.” It is about as far away from a rambling holiday in the Yorkshire Dales as you can get — but if relaxation is what you crave this summer, settle for nothing less than Chewton Glen.

The Battlesteads Hotel

Now we have a summer holiday location for animal lovers. If the idea of leaving your beloved dog behind removes any joy from your summer adventures, then Battlesteads Hotel is ideal for you. Offering dog-friendly rooms that welcome our furry family members, this destination lets you enjoy superb walking trails around Northumberland National Park and Kielder Water and Forest Park as a complete family unit.

The Felin Fach Griffin

Finally, we travel to The Felin Fach Griffin, a quaint dining pub located between the Black Mountains and the Brecon Beacons, where they believe in “the simple things in life done well.” With magnificent views of the countryside that make Wales one of the UK’s top holiday destinations, The Felin Fach Griffin offers a chance to return to a slower pace of life, where you can sleep and eat in humble, welcoming comfort.

Sustainability is also central to The Felin Fach’s philosophy. They support the community by serving customers only the best local produce, including beers, wines, and fruit juices from the surrounding areas.