

## **Six top locations for a Covid-secure summer holiday**

**With Covid travel restrictions likely to remain in place for the coming holiday season, here are six of the best places to holiday in the UK while avoiding the crowds:**

It's been a long old year. If you weren't lucky enough to get away last summer when lockdown was easing, then you may well have been stuck in your house for a full year. Quite frankly, we all deserve a holiday, but with travel to other countries still up in the air, we're all going to be looking closer to home for our summer holidays. However, with everyone bursting to get out and about, our best known get away spots will likely be overrun. Instead, let's look at six lesser known but no less gorgeous places to go and explore.

### **#1: The Old Way**

Are you brave enough to walk the Pilgrim's Path? This incredible 250 mile walk – about 3 weeks – will take you from Southampton to Canterbury. Between will be some unforgettable views, from Arundel Castle to the soaring South Downs, and the cosy coastal towns of Winchelsea and Rye. What's better is that many churches along the path will offer sanctuary, meaning you can stay overnight without breaking the bank. Religious or not, this is an incredibly unique experience that you won't soon forget.

### **#2: The Llangollen Canal**

Narrow-boating may not be something you've considered before, but there's few better ways to holiday while avoiding big crowds. This scenic canal crosses the border between England and Wales, merging picturesque country side and ingenious engineering. At 46 miles long with 21 locks, you could spend a good few days taking in the stunning surroundings – perfect if you're looking for a holiday that's a little bit different.

### **#3: Lundy Island, Devon**

You can't get more 'away from the world' than Lundy Island. This tiny island off of the coast of Devon is home to more puffins than humans, and covered in historic buildings, some of which have been developed into holiday rentals for adventurous holiday makers. These include cottages built into the castle on the island, as well as the old lighthouse. If you feel like you need to hit 'reset' and refresh yourself after this year, Lundy Island might be the place for you.

#### **#4: Old Man of Storr, Isle of Skye**

The Isle of Skye is a mystical place steeped in folklore, and nothing portrays that better than Old Man Storr, a massive pinnacle of rock that can be seen from miles around. Part of Trotternish Ridge, the Storr was created by a colossal ancient landslide, leaving one of the most picturesque landscapes in the world. The Storr Walk will let you explore the gorgeous area on foot, after which you can return to one of the cosy towns dotted around the Isle, like Portree, to enjoy the local culture.

#### **#5: Portmeirion**

Looking at pictures of Portmeirion makes it look positively tropical, so you may be surprised to hear it is located in North Wales. Built by 20<sup>th</sup> Century Welsh architect Clough Williams-Ellis, who wanted to show how a naturally beautiful location could be developed without ruining it, through a method called sympathetic development. This has resulted in a stunning village with sub-tropical gardens, stylish hotels, cottages and restaurants, with the backdrop of Castell Deudraeth overlooking it all.

#### **#6: The Garden of Cosmic Speculation**

Come and be mesmerised by this bizarre sculpture garden located in Dumfries, Scotland. The gardens were created by Charles Jencks, a landscape architect and cultural theorist. The garden is inspired by modern cosmology and physics, making way for some incredible

sculptures such as the 'Black Hole' which blend seamlessly into the landscape, as they were designed using mathematical formulae.