Top 5 escapes from London life this summer

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It's no secret that when it comes to the summer months, Londoners can be seen darting out of the capital to escape the hustle and bustle of city life. But where are the best places if you're craving a digital detox?

Swapping the bright lights and sky scrapers for country pubs and historical architecture, more and more of us are desperate for a quick escape from our busy lives. For couples it's about reconnecting, families want a short term iPhone reprieve and access to green spaces and for friends its a rare chance to properly catch up and let your hair down.

The Cotswolds for quintessentially British charm

Countryside walks and pub lunches - Broadway Cottage - Ideal for families and groups of friends (Ref: S24485)

Prices from £438 for 3 nights.

Located within 30 acres of farmland near the historic villages of Broadway and Chipping Campden. This cottage sleeps up to 4 people. The balcony brings has wonderful views across the neighbouring fields. Situated at the northern tip of the Cotswolds and just a few miles from the start of the Cotswold Way, guests will find a plethora of footpaths, bridleways and cycle paths stretching straight from the properties, leading through magnificent scenery to some of the prettiest villages the area has to offer. The owners keep a small herd of rare breed sheep and the grounds are a haven for birds and wildlife.

Just a stones throw away is the historical city of Oxford where you can visit the infamous Oxford University buildings and have a wonder around the Bodleian Library, New College or Christchurch which were used as film locations and inspirations in Harry Potter. You can also try your hand at punting where you will pass the spectacular Botanical Gardens and University meadows on your route.

Academia and romance combined - Oxford Cottage - Couples retreat (Ref: S15711)

Prices from £469 for 3 nights.

Spectacular attached studio conversion lies adjacent to the owner's home in the quaint hamlet of Grafton in the heart of the Oxfordshire countryside provides an excellent holiday location.

Pretty market-town Stratford-Upon-Avon is also a firm favourite amongst Londoners which owes its status as the home to the great English playwright and poet, William Shakespeare. The Royal Shakespeare Company also resides in the town which makes for a historically enriching experience.

Historic roots in Stratford Upon Avon Cottage - Romantic break for two or a get-away with friends (Ref: S15936)

Prices from £358 for 3 nights.

Just three miles away from Stratford-upon-Avon, this detached holiday barn conversion is in the perfect location for visitors wishing to really explore, enjoy a romantic break for two or a get-away with friends. The property is surrounded by open fields and countryside, making this the perfect spot for walkers, ramblers and cyclists of all ages.

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The beautiful town of Bath which takes just under two and a half hours by car, could be the place to escape to from London this Summer. Hot springs, a prestigious thermae Spa and beautiful Georgian architecture are to name but a few of what make up this charming countryside town. Many Londoners are taking breaks in Bath to scout around the city ahead of a potential property investment.

Social spaces and architectural appeal - Bath Cottage - Ideal for families and groups of friends (Ref: S20022)

Prices from £427 for 3 nights.

This spectacular accommodation was constructed in 1821 as the brewing hall of a former brewery supplying around 14 pubs in Freshford, now providing spacious holiday accommodation for up to 4 guests. There is a sleeping area at each end of the huge living space and original features, such as the magnificent stone barrel-vaulted ceiling and natural stone walls have been retained. It is located in the heart of a conservation area in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and is within walking distance of the medieval church and village pub.

Finally, the fifth and final place popular with Londoners escaping the city is the seaside town of Brighton. Located to the south of London and just under two hours by car, Brighton boasts the famous pebble beach, as well as the Pier with many cafes and bars to relax and unwind and take in the cosmopolitan atmosphere.

Beach fun for families and shopping galore - Brighton Cottage - Retreat for couples or small families (Ref: S26240)

Prices from £458 for 3 nights.

Comfortable period cottage peacefully tucked away with its own enclosed garden, only 5-minute walk from the beach and a 2-minute walk from various shops, tea rooms, eateries, inns and church. The glorious South Downs has excellent walks and cycle routes.

- ENDS -

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