



MARVELLOUS MANORS

Whether it's a romantic getaway, a multigenerational retreat or a fairytale wedding, manor house stays cater for every occasion, says **Lina Molloholli**

1 here's a particular fascination with stately homes right now, thanks to spellbinding country piles being featured in popular TV shows such as *The Traitors*.

According to recent Google data, searches for 'Ardross Castle', the filming location for the BBC show, skyrocketed by 4,500% during the reality show's second season, making it Scotland's most-searched castle. The phrase 'flights to Scotland' also soared by 55%, returning to pre-pandemic levels for the first time. Clearly, what's on screen sells.

From the rolling hills of the English countryside to the windswept Scottish lowlands, *Travel Weekly* homes in on a selection of manor houses that you can rent for clients seeking a truly legendary getaway. ➤



LATHAM HALL, SHROPSHIRE, ENGLAND

Set amid Shropshire's rolling greenery, Latham Hall is a late-Georgian property brimming with character. Stepping inside the asymmetrical facade, guests are greeted by a cosy and bright interior adorned with antique furnishings, fine tapestries and chandeliers. Following a meticulous restoration, the manor now offers luxurious accommodation for up to 12 adults and two children across six bedrooms, all en suite. There's also an array of amenities to enjoy, including a cinema room, hot tub for six, fire pit and all-weather tennis court. History enthusiasts can visit nearby medieval castles such as Ludlow or Stokesay, while charming market towns including Shrewsbury and Bridgnorth beckon with their Tudor architecture, artisanal markets and quaint independent shops.

Book it: The Wow House Company offers a week's stay from £4,250, including a welcome hamper, parking, TV entertainment package and a variety of games. In-house catering, activities and spa treatments are available at extra cost. thewowhousecompany.com



LAW CASTLE, AYRSHIRE, SCOTLAND

Located at the foot of Law Hill, quirky Ayrshire Castle (known locally as Law Castle) was built in the 15th century as a wedding gift for Princess Mary, daughter of James II of Scotland. The castle's history includes a stint as both a court and a prison, before being restored in the 21st century as a holiday getaway for up to 14 guests. Six four-poster bedrooms, five bathrooms, a Grand Hall and a kitchen ensure there's plenty of space, while each stony room is kept cosy with wood-burning stoves, squishy armchairs, ornate tapestries and velvet drapes. Outside, the grassy slopes are ideal for picnics, with views over the Firth of Clyde. Leisurely drives to Ayrshire's golf courses to sample a traditional Scottish pastime are also an option.

Book it: Oliver's Travels offers a week's stay from £5,206. Private catering, local excursions and airport transfers cost extra. oliverstravels.com

DESTINATIONS

UK & IRELAND | MANOR HOUSE STAYS

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TEMPLE GUITING MANOR, CHELTENHAM, ENGLAND

In the heart of the Cotswolds, this petite early-Tudor manor dates from the 15th century, but comes with plenty of 21st-century creature comforts. Twelve guests can be spread across five bedrooms, while the vaulted dining hall is a fine setting for a Sunday roast. The creeper-covered home offers an array of entertainment including a heated outdoor pool (shared with the estate's barn accommodation), tennis court, cinema room and private lake with rowing boats. For a day out, Sudeley Castle, a medieval stronghold-turned-museum, is nearby, while Cotswold Wildlife Park is a little farther afield.

Book it: Abercrombie & Kent offers a seven-night stay from £14,726 including a welcome hamper, two complimentary massages and rowing equipment. akvillas.com



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GILMERTON HOUSE, EAST LOTHIAN, SCOTLAND

Only a short drive from Edinburgh, this inviting Georgian property includes 10 pretty bedrooms – each tastefully decorated with historic touches, from plaques dedicated to the original owners to antique books the noble family once read. There is also a billiards room, a music room with a grand piano, an expansive woodland trail and a golf driving range.

Book it: A week's stay starts at £15,000 with golf, whisky tastings and clay-pigeon shooting available on request. The Lodge, which can accommodate six guests, can be booked for an additional charge. gilmertonhouse.com



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CHRISTIE MANSION, ISLE OF WIGHT, ENGLAND

Both sea air and an air of mystery preside over Christie Mansion, an impressive six-bedroom 1929 house that's all art deco on the outside and stained-glass grandeur on the inside. The house is tucked away on the eastern coast of the Isle of Wight and offers the perfect setting for a seaside holiday, with two beaches and the Hideaway cafe and bar within walking distance. Amenities include an 18-seat dining table, sun terrace, barbecue and a games room with a poker table.

Book it: Luxury Cottages offers a week's stay from £4,354, with spa treatments available at extra cost. luxurycottages.com



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DABTON HOUSE, DUMFRIES AND GALLOWAY, SCOTLAND

Dabton House, a stout villa on the huge Queensberry Estate, was designed in 1820 and in recent years has served as the family home of the Earl and Countess of Dalkeith and their four children. Dabton House opened its doors to overnight guests last summer, offering the chance to stay in storied pastel-coloured halls and explore its 27 acres of woodland. The property features 11 en suite bedrooms, a games room, drawing room, library and sauna with spa treatment room. The Queensberry Estate offers miles of walking and cycling routes with bike (and e-bike) hire available, alongside activities including fishing and clay-pigeon shooting.

Book it: Weekly rates start at £12,000, with catering and activities available at extra cost. dabtonhouse.co.uk



PICTURES: Walter Dalkeith, Jamie Bennett