

Book to the Shepherd's Hut in Northumberland.

## THE SHEPHERD'S HUT

**Contributing Editor Eimear O'Connell and husband Malcolm** stepped out Bluegrass Farm, Northumberland. **DIGS** With a wood-burning stove (and central heating), a so-so size bed, Le Creuset kitchen accessories and Molton Brown toiletries, we woke up to stunning countryside views with just cows for company. Relax wrapped in blankets on deckchairs and enjoy a bookshelf of best-reads, a digital radio and a TV (not that we switched it on). **CAMP SITE** Expect an indoor beauty salon and spa with a jacuzzi, steam room and heated floors. Bliss! After a full-body massage, £40, we hit the private grounds with Peggy Sue and Percy, Eimear's dogs, who love to be pampered. For kids, there's a games room and adventure playground. There's also a tennis court and a mini observatory with telescopes for stargazing - so romantic. **EXPLORE** Half an hour's drive away from Alnwick Castle, AKA Hogwarts in

the Harry Potter films, which offers tours from March till October, £13.95. (Alnwickcastle.com), or visit the beautiful Alnwick Garden, £7.70 (Alnwickgarden.com). Embleton Bay is one of Northumberland's best sweeping beaches, while market town Morpeth has indie department store Rutherford & Co (Rutherfordsofmorpeth.co.uk). **REFUEL** Self-catering at the hut's modern kitchen is a breeze. But we treated ourselves to excellent Siam chicken wings, £4.95, at Morpeth's Nadon Thai (Nadonthai.co.uk). Try historic coaching inn The Anglers Arms in Weldon Bridge for Whitby scampi and chips, £11.95 (Anglersarms.com). **BOOK IT** Bluegrass Shepherd's Hut is open all year, from £135 a night (Beaconhill.co.uk).

Eimear steps up her holiday game

Book now for Spring

# CARRY ON GLAMPING!

## THE BELL TENT

**Deputy Editor Ellie O'Mahoney, husband Mark and son Elliott, two,** visited The Farm Camp, Wiltshire. **THE DIGS** Beautiful bell tents include beds made of wooden pallets, feather pillows and a wood burner to keep you cosy. Tea-light chandeliers and a stash of marshmallows to toast over your campfire complete the lovely touches. **THE CAMPSITE** There are only four tents that sleep up to four each, but if you want extra privacy, book Wossnem away from the cluster. The idyllic outdoor kitchen has a communal table and hanging paraffin lanterns, and there are hot showers, eco-friendly toiletries and surprisingly fragrant compost loos. Plus, the farm's indoor pool is down the lane. **EXPLORE** Try sheep-herding with Tim, the camp's founder, £15, or an archery lesson, from £14. Don't miss Longleat Safari Park 14 miles away, either. Entry

costs £33.95 (Longleat.co.uk). You'll see tons of animals, including very cheeky monkeys! Later, head for the Thermae Bath Spa, from £35 per person for two hours, to plunge into Britain's only naturally warm, mineral-rich waters in the rooftop pool (Thermaebathspa.com). The nearby Kent and Avon Canal also offers a fab footpath through the picturesque valley. **REFUEL** Head to the Hartley Farm Kitchen across the field for the farmhouse breakfast, £8.50, then hit the farm shop for home-made sausage rolls, tarts and pies, plus beer from its microbrewery (Hartley-farm.co.uk). For dinner, don't miss the Seven Stars pub down the lane for belly of Wiltshire pork, mustard mash and spiced cider sauce, £14, and a crackling fire (Sevenstarswiltshire.co.uk). **BOOK IT** Open from Easter. Stays start from £79 a night (Thefarmcamp.co.uk).

Sinead, Riley and Harris rock out

Grab your wellies because Team Fabulous have tested out three stylish camping breaks, from woodland bell tents to plush en-suite lodges

## THE LODGE

**Editor Sinead McIntyre, husband Alistair and five-year-old twins Riley and Harris** checked into Feather Down at Loop Head, Co Clare, Ireland.

**THE DIGS** The giant Canvas Frills lodges sleep six and have two bedrooms, an en-suite, plus a hidey-hole cupboard with double mattress - quickly claimed by the twins! Lanterns, an outside shower and wood stove are nice touches. **THE CAMPSITE** Book pizza-making in the clay oven and share slices with fellow campers, gather nightly around the fire pit for sing songs and sign up for yoga with co-owner Trea, - you'll feel amazing afterwards.

**EXPLORE** Head to nearby Kilkee and wander around the seaside town

shops before paddling on the beautiful Blue Flag beach. The Pollock Holes are huge rock pools deep enough to swim in and teeming with sealife. Flat rocks provide the ultimate sunbathing spot, too. Take a trip to Carrigaholt, home to the largest resident group of bottlenose dolphins in Europe. Boats sail daily to catch a glimpse of them - adults cost £30, children £17.50 (Dolphinwatch.ie). Closer to camp, walk to Querrin Pier and dip your toes in - just watch out for crabs! **REFUEL** The Diamond Rocks Cafe in Kilkee (where Russell Crowe has eaten) has stunning views and serves incredible seafood chowder (Diamondrockscave.com). Or try the Guinness-battered fish and chips, £11, overlooking the sea at Keatings in Kilbaha (Keatingsbar.com). For posh nosh, you can't beat Murphy Blacks Restaurant in Kilkee. Two courses and a glass of wine costs £23 before 6.45pm (Murphyblacks.ie).

**BOOK IT** Open from July. Three-night weekend stays start from £240 (Featherdown.co.uk). **F**

Veg your bets at Hartley Farm Kitchen

Longleat: erm, we'll take this tent please

## TRAVEL

You can't moo-ve for animals at Feather Down; have a field day in your own lodge