

GREAT UK ESCAPES

# 10 best places to stay by rivers and lakes

From a boathouse in the Lakes to a castle in Somerset, here's where to get away from it all.

By Andrew Eames

You get two properties for the price of one here. The double bed and the kitchen are in the “floating suite”, an open-plan converted narrowboat called *Blackbird*, moored on a freshwater lake. Up a path is the on-shore part of the property, a wooden-clad boathouse that has been converted into a luxury bathhouse, with slipper bath and sofa, which has its own alfresco dining spot. The boat and boathouse are set in 20 acres of dragonfly and butterfly-rich shore. The lake isn't suitable for swimming, but the beaches of Bude are a skip away. Those with experience can apply for a fishing licence too.

**Details** Four nights' self-catering for two from £400 ([hostunusual.com](https://www.hostunusual.com))



Blackbird narrowboat, North Devon

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**Blackbird narrowboat, Blagdon Water,  
North Devon**