

Living off the land

22 IKHNART ROCK WILDERNESS GER CAMP

EASTERN GOBI, MONGOLIA
Cast off the fetters of settled life with a visit to this wilderness camp on the slightly greener edge of the Gobi Desert. Your nomad's home will be a traditional yurt (a 'ger' in Mongolian), supported by hand-painted pillars. Practise your best Genghis Khan scowl as you get ready for a ride across the steppe on horse or camel.
♦ Four-day tour from £580pp; nomadicjourneys.com

23 LA PIANTATA LAZIO, ITALY

Sleeping options at this agriturismo in the rippling hills of northern Lazio are mostly classic rural Italy in style, with two standout exceptions. A pair of treehouses, built under and around a spreading oak and a maritime pine worthy of a Michelangelo sculpture look out across fields of lavender – some of which makes it into a homemade beer. You can also taste and purchase lavender honey and organic olive oil.
♦ Treehouses from £360; lapiantata.it

24 NAMI NAMASTE MUHU, ESTONIA

The island of Muhu is more than just a transit point for people en route to its neighbour Saaremaa, biggest among Estonia's Baltic archipelago. It's a microcosm of forests, meadows, reed-fringed shores and a handful of villages where generations-old crafts still thrive. Muhu can also prove a gastronomic revelation, at least if a stay at Nami Namaste is anything to go by. Rooms are scattered around its grounds, in stone houses or in wooden outbuildings, all sharing a pared-back Nordic style. Cooking classes use much produce from the gardens and what's found growing wild across the island, and baskets

of home-baked bread are never far away. Lounging around is encouraged, whether in a hammock or a hot tub.

♦ Two-day package from £275; naminamaste.com

25 COUNT KÁLNOKY'S TRANSYLVANIAN GUESTHOUSES

MIKLÓSVAR, ROMANIA
Rural Romania is a holdout for traditions long abandoned in most of Europe, and the guesthouses dotted around one Transylvanian village are decorated and furnished in a style that would have seemed quaint when Bram Stoker picked up his pen. Everyone gathers for hearty dinners at the village pub before retiring to rooms warmed by tiled stoves and protected by garlands of garlic.
♦ From £140; guest.transylvaniancastle.com

26 LES MANOIRS DES PORTES DE DEAUVILLE

NORMANDY, FRANCE
In the department of Calvados, one veteran manor house feels as closely connected to the land as Normandy's famous produce. The half-timbering on the butter-coloured outer walls is a thing of beauty, while the fireplace in the lounge has the weight of four centuries in its stones. The 27 rooms and suites are more contemporary-chic than quaintly cosy.
♦ From £175; portesdebeauville.com

27 MIDDLETON LODGE

NORTH YORKSHIRE, ENGLAND
BEST VALUE Long-distance drivers haring past Scotch Corner are missing a trick: barely more than a mile away is a rest stop worthy of a Jane Austen adaptation. Alongside the Palladian country house itself are an old coach house, potting shed, dairy and farmhouse, all divided up into rooms with individual character, some of

them taking in views and scents of a Grade II-listed kitchen garden.

♦ From £160; middletonlodge.co.uk

28 SÃO LOURENÇO DO BARROCAL

ALENTEJO, PORTUGAL
Vineyards, olive groves and wizened holm oaks spread across three square miles of an estate in the sun-baked interior of Alentejo. Staying in its whitewashed rooms is almost like being part of a small village, a sense that only heightens in August and September, when guests can get involved in the wine harvest.
♦ From £410; barrocal.pt

29 THE YAN AT BROADRAYNE

CUMBRIA, ENGLAND
The old Broadrayne Farm is a substantial building, yet it still seems to crouch in view of the fells all around. Where oats and barley were once piled high, guests sleep in rooms of softly muted colours where skylights point up at hill-walkers' goals, and gather at tables heavy with Lake District produce.
♦ Two nights from £180; theyan.co.uk

30 IL BACIARINO

TUSCANY, ITALY
Set just outside the archetypal hilltop village of Vetulonia, the five cottages at this agriturismo share views over oak-clad hills towards the Tyrrhenian Sea. The terrace tables just wouldn't look complete without a bottle of red on each. Hammocks and outdoor day-beds conspire against any activities, though it would be a shame to miss the cooking classes.
♦ Three nights from £195; baciardino.com



Nami Namaste, Estonia/Below: Count Kálnoky's Transylvanian Guesthouses, Romania



PHOTOGRAPHS: ADRIENNETTS; MITT/MINICO; GANDHARMAN/GAMIBO; NELSON/GAMIBO; STEPHANE FRANCE/ONYXWORLD.NET



La Piantata, Italy. Above: Salad at São Lourenço do Barrocal, Portugal. Top: Ikhnart Rock Wilderness Ger Camp, Mongolia