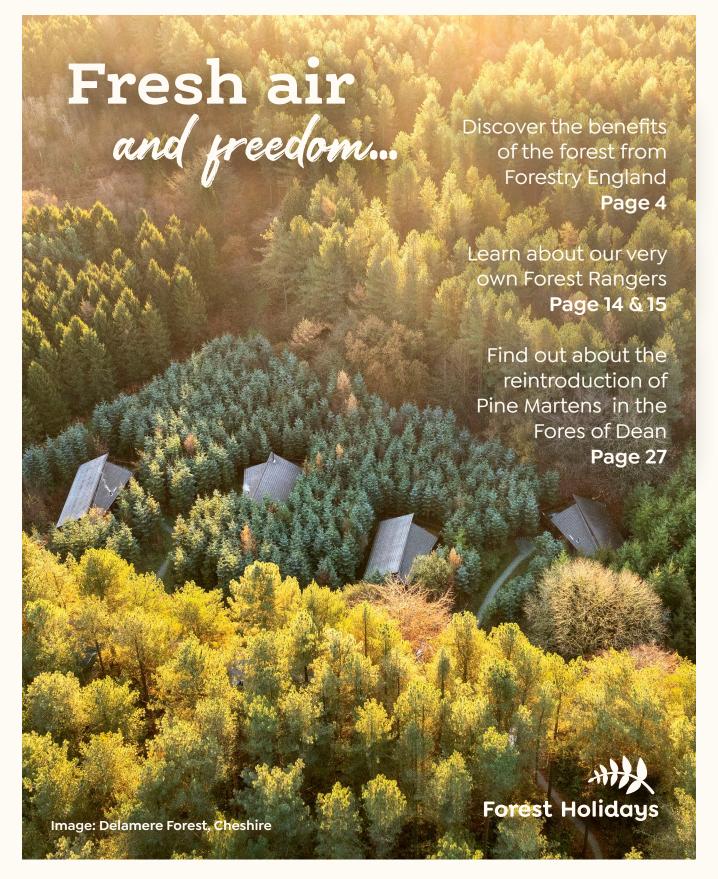
Forest Life'

A guide to finding your #ForestFeeling





Pause for a moment

Here's how we find our #ForestFeeling - and how to discover yours.

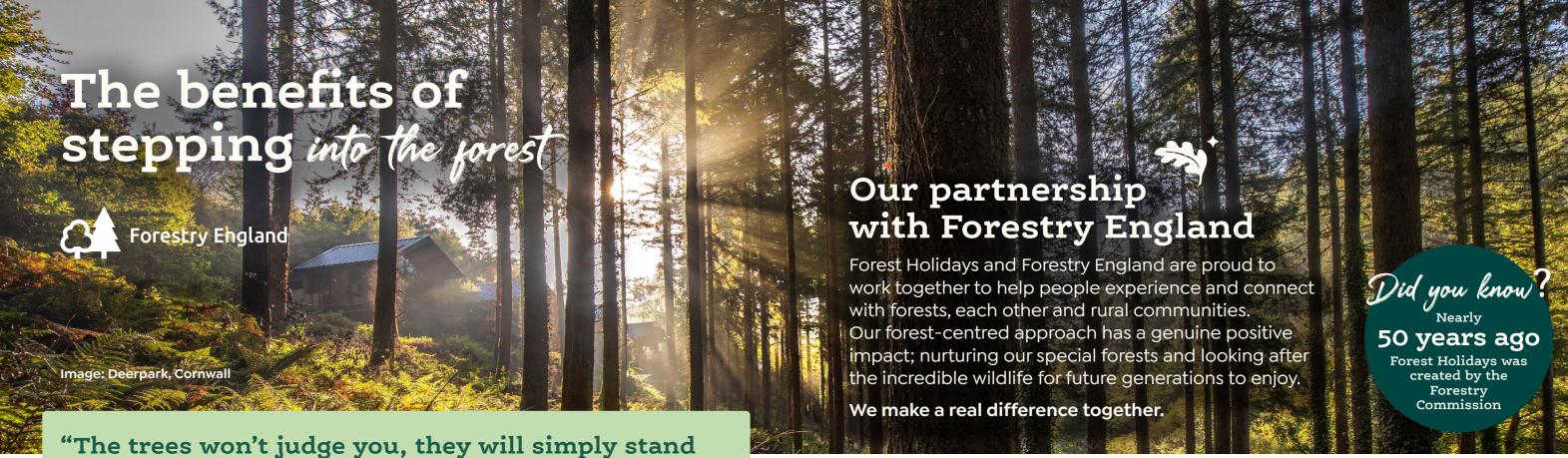
When people connect with nature, good things happen. And we believe the earlier this happens, the better. As soon as children cultivate a sense of real natural wonder, they open a whole new world of creativity and curiosity.

Come and join us for a different view of the forest. After all, we are so much more than a holiday.









alongside you and help you process whatever life is currently throwing at you."

THE FORESTS HAVE THE ANSWER

However you're feeling, the forest can have the answer. When you're feeling low in energy, the dynamic environment of the forest can provide a pick-me up and ample opportunities to get a buzz of adrenaline as you walk, run or cycle.

If I'm feeling stressed or anxious, the sensory experience of the forest helps to soothe my senses and calm me down. And I'm not alone in that experience! Studies show that people relax best while seeing greens and blues.

KEY FINDINGS FROM RECENT FORESTRY ENGLAND RESEARCH

A recent report published by Forest Research in December 2021 found that visits to the UK's woodlands boosts mental health and is estimated to save £185 million in treatment costs annually. This report builds on previous research which shows that visiting forest environments can help lower blood pressure and pulse rate, reduce cortisol levels and suppress sympathetic nervous activity.

THE IMPORTANCE OF ACCESS TO NATURE AND FORESTS

Being able to regularly visit forests and spend time in nature is an essential part of my daily life. I need to be able to breathe in fresh air and absorb the fascinating patterns of colour and sound created by nature.

If I can't get to a forest or woodland, I enjoy finding nature in unexpected places like the cracks between pavement slabs. And wherever you are, you can always look up what are the clouds doing?



Ellen Devine Forestry England Wellbeing Project Manager



In the last five years

1 million guests

have stayed with us and connected with nature through a Forest Holidays break

To date, Forest Holidays have invested

£100 million

into Britain's forests, increasing recreational use, improving facilities, and creating and maintaining trails.

Cycling is a wonderful way to explore the forest

Want to improve your bike skills? Forestry England have launched their brand-new Forest Rider packs.

With 'cycle like a pro' tips and tricks to transform your cycle skills, a logbook to track your progress, extra puzzles and stickers, take up the challenge and discover the forest on two wheels. There's even a chance for you to win an amazing prize for you and your family.



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EXPLORE MORE

Sometimes it's as simple as exploring a new path or uncovering a hidden gem beyond the beaten track. Nature has endless possibilities, and there's nothing quite like sharing its beauty with the people you love most. From foraging in sunlit Hampshire hills, to enjoying a peaceful Forest Bathing Experience in the heart of our Forest locations, with no care in the world and a chance to just...be!



JUMP IN MUDDY PUDDLES!

For the adventurous type, splash in those puddles like you once did, express yourself and have fun. The possibilities are endless with the forest at your feet.



STEP AWAY FROM YOUR PHONE

Disconnect from the digital world for a while (even just ten minutes). Feel free from the demands of your life and carve out meaningful and mindful habits. Use your ears to listen to the birdsong on the breeze, the scrunch of beechnuts underfoot and the rippling of the nearby stream.



WELCOME TO FOREST FEELING

You deserve a proper holiday filled with real freedom, real fun and real moments. Where you can reconnect, refuel and run wild. A holiday where your morning soundtrack is birdsong, and your barbecues are bathed in the evening glow.

Taking great photos in the porest

We've gathered a few ways to take better snaps. And the good news is you can just use your phone! Tag us in your forest photos on social and use our hashtag #Forest Feeling

- (©) @forestholidays
- f @ForestHolidaysCabins



TIP 4: Look at something from a different angle

We are used to viewing things from 5-6 feet off the ground but you may discover a unique shot if you can find a way to get above your subject, or shoot it from below. Perhaps you can get right up close, or shoot it from an interesting angle. Experiment with where you place the camera to give a fresh vantage point on a familiar subject.



TIP 1: Teach yourself to recognise good light

The single biggest tip I can give you is 'learn to recognise and appreciate good light', then capturing it becomes the easy part. Is the light coming in through the trees in a beautiful way? What is the colour of the light? Is it bouncing off a reflective surface and doing something interesting? Is it creating unique shadows? If you can learn to see good light you are halfway to becoming a good photographer!



TIP 5: Catch the detail

It's not all about shooting people and places. Notice the little things; keep your eye out for the small details we all walk past every day. By getting in close with your camera, you could be giving us a glimpse into a world we never stop to notice. Think about patterns on the leaves, insects, shapes in the bark of a tree.



TIP 2: Choose an interesting subject

Is it too obvious to say that shooting something engaging will make for an engaging photo? If you think your shots are too boring, the problem may be this simple.

Shoot something which tells a story, or freezes a moment in time. That day the kids were playing with that pile of leaves. That light setting over those hills.

Remember, it's what you put in front of the lens that will make the photograph, not the camera.



TIP 6: Look for lines

Lines are everywhere: the horizon, trails in the sky, trees, roads. Think about how you can use these lines to point out your subject or create an interesting shape in the frame. Sometimes you can use lines to point at your subject by placing them at the convergence of these lines within the frame. Sometimes you can use the lines to create a frame around the subject. Start to notice the lines around you, and use them to your advantage.



TIP 3: Don't neglect your background

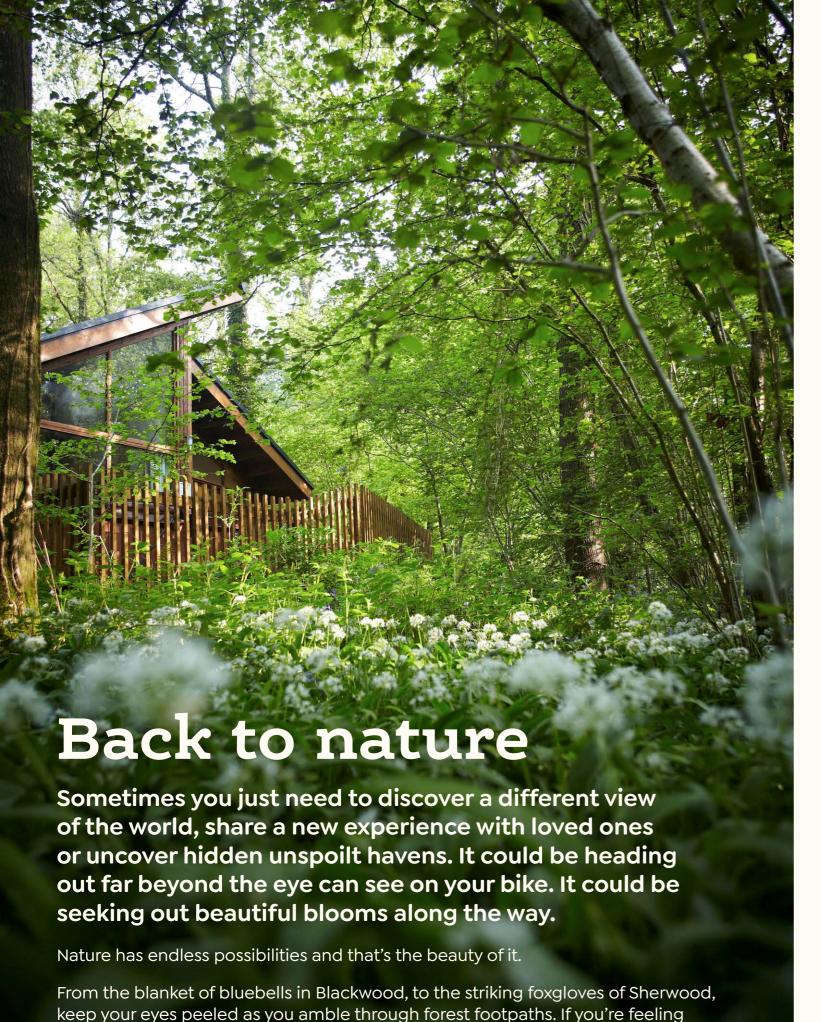
Your subject will only make up a portion of your frame. Ask yourself what you are filling the rest of the frame with. How bright or dark is the background? What is the dominant colour? Does it serve to highlight what's going on, or does your subject get lost against the scene behind it? If your background isn't working, notice it, and shift position to frame your subject and to place them in the scene



TIP 7: Wait for the decisive moment

This is where all the tips come together in a single moment. Many times people will put the camera to their eye to take one picture. Watch a little longer, adjust your position, look at what the light is doing, observe how your subjects are moving, and wait for the moment something magical happens.

Get creative and snap away



adventurous, forage your way through swathes of wild garlic in the Forest of Dean.

JUST BE IN THE FOREST

Nature has the power to make us feel better. It's waking up to sunlight streaming through the window. It's spotting a roe deer as you wander through woodland. It's soaking up the local atmosphere in off-the-beaten-track areas of the UK. It's allowing nature to seep through you.

SPOTTED IN THE FOREST

A range of different butterfly species – in particular, the Purple Emperor at Blackwood, can be seen between July and August. It's the UK's second largest butterfly, but it's quite elusive so can be tricky to spot. Our Forest Ranger Alison knows the best spots to see them around the forest.

Bats can be spotted at dawn and dusk at most of our locations, foraging for insects.

Nightjar. You're more likely to hear them than see them, so listen out at dusk for their distinctive 'churring' call.

Reptiles like slow worms, reptiles, grass snakes, adders all can be difficult to see. Our Forest Rangers can point out some likely spots around our locations.

LISTEN TO NATURE TOO

Use your ears as much as your eyes as you wander. It's magical just listening to the sounds of nature, it awakens the senses. What can you hear? The birds singing, leaves gently rustling, the buzz of bees around wildflowers. Allow the sounds to flow through you and feel its calming effects.

What have you spotted recently?

The Independent found that 55% of those that took a staycation in 2020 enjoyed it so much that they no longer feel the need to travel as far for holidays. The way we travel is shifting and there is a new appreciation of all











Did you know?

that Great Britain has to offer.

Image: Forest of Dean, River Wye

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We've committed to a net positive impact on biodiversity





To find out more about our sustainability commitments as a business, view our **impact report**.

Here's what you can do to support our efforts in these four key areas...



- Fnjoy the forest and spend time reconnecting with nature.
- Find your Forest Feeling on a Forest Ranger activity and learn from their knowledge of the environment.
- ✓ Share your Forest Holidays experience with others.



Community

- Support local by purchasing our locally sourced items and menu offering in the Forest Retreat.
- Enjoy a hot drink in the Forest Retreat and 10p of your purchase will go towards supporting new rural businesses through the Prince's Countryside Fund.



Environment

- Reduce energy usage by turning off the lights when they're not in use.
- ✓ Use the bins provided to separate your waste to recycle properly.
- $oldsymbol{\mathfrak{G}}$ Save water where possible by turning off taps and having short showers.



Biodiversity

- Create habitat piles using old logs and branches on location.
- Give nature a helping hand. Pick up any litter you see, the forest and wildlife will thank you for it.
- Put up a bird feeder or nest box.



Our Forest Rangers are experts in helping you have fun in the great outdoors. They're bursting with passion for wildlife and know the forests like the palm of their hand.

An entire forest at your feet. Let us show you around...

Did you know?

By teaching children to understand the forest and its wildlife, our Forest Rangers inspire the next generation to love and look after our natural environment.

Here's a sneak peak of some of our Forest Ranger activities...



WILDLIFE WONDERS

Explore the forest together. Get everyone together for a feel-good wander through the woods and uncover forest secrets as you go. Let your curiosity lead the way!



FOREST SURVIVAL

It's the simple things in life – like how to light a fire and how to build a woodland shelter. Then it's time to relax around the campfire and toast some marshmallows.



MINI FOREST RANGERS

Calling all budding explorers! Who wants to be a fully certified Mini Forest Ranger? Kids will have a blast building dens, hunting for minibeasts, making art and letting their imagination run wild. Rosy cheeks guaranteed.



NATURE TOTS

An hour of woodland play for little ones. There's no better place for pre-schoolers to play and learn than the forest. Your Forest Ranger will run lots of lovely activities to keep little ones entertained...

Explore the forest at night!

NOCTURNAL ADVENTURE

Join your Forest Ranger for an adventure under the stars, just as the forest comes to life. Step into a forest full of wonder...something magical happens when the sun goes down.



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Our Forest Rangers...



WHAT DOES CONNECTING WITH NATURE MEAN TO YOU?

It's the tiny things that make a big difference. Everyone will fall in love with something different. I might get a guest who just falls in love with all the different shapes of pinecones that they never noticed before... it inspires them to find nature spots closer to home.

I love to think how rooted trees are. We're all so busy running around from place to place, but the trees have just been rooted here the whole time...just watching us! It's really reassuring, I find. We have a real responsibility to protect our trees and make sure they are always still here.

WHAT DO YOU LOVE ABOUT YOUR JOB?

Being able to share what I love about the forest. Everyone's got their own interests, so we always go with the flow with Forest Ranger experiences... But we always have fun!

I love it when people ask me questions and I don't know the answer, it means I have something new to find out to share with future guests!





WHAT INSPIRED YOU TO BECOME A RANGER?

I spent my childhood outdoors, immersed in nature and loved the freedom and simplicity of those times.

Upon leaving the military, I took off on worldwide travel adventures and I experienced an incredible diversity of wildlife. This was a very transformative period for me and I believe that it reawakened my wildlife passion. I have written a book about this period of my life now.

Also as my environmental consciousness expanded, I witnessed countless examples of the increasing pressures on the natural world such as habitat degradation and species decline. I felt a passion burning within to become an advocate for nature and to make a positive difference whenever and wherever I could.

WHAT PART OF THE JOB ARE YOU MOST PASSIONATE ABOUT?

I often get those magic moments when I feel that I've inspired someone or influenced them to take positive action for wildlife.

I also love highlighting the healing power of nature and offering opportunities for individuals to deepen their connection with the natural world.







Forest Rangers love working with local community groups to help and support them in any way they can. This includes raising funds for local charities and supporting species monitoring, habitat creation and careful woodland management.



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Discover the great outdoors with Peter Rabbit ** and friends To mark 120 Years of Mischief, Peter Rabbit has teamed up with Peter Rabbit has teamed up with

To mark 120 Years of Mischief,
Peter Rabbit has teamed up with
pioneering garden designers
Grow2Know so your little one
can grow, learn and play with
Peter Rabbit and his friends.

We love the outdoors as much as Peter Rabbit and his friends. We thought you'd love some of their easy gardening activities in celebration of Peter's birthday.



© Frede

© Frederick Warne & Co., 2022

Have some jun!

MRS TIGGY WINKLE'S HANGING BASKETS

Learn how to upcycle a colander to use as a hanging basket.

CLICK HERE to find out more

SQUIRREL NUTKINS CUTTINGS

Learn how to grow new plants from root vegetables.

CLICK HERE to find out more



Eat and explore

PETER RABBIT™ AFTERNOON TEA

Return to the Forest Retreat and tuck into a glorious Peter Rabbit themed afternoon tea with scrumptious sandwiches, scones, cakes and more against a beautiful natural backdrop.

THE PETER RABBIT™ DISCOVERY TRAIL

Open up an activity pack filled with nature-based challenges, explore our woodland trails using the map, follow clues and enjoy puzzles as you go.



Create

PETER RABBIT™ CRAFT TIME

Bring the whole family together and get stuck into some Peter Rabbit inspired arts and crafts.

Advanced

booking essential

Paint your very own piece of Peter Rabbit pottery, enjoy all sorts of colouring and crafts and take that little bit of Peter Rabbit magic home with you.

* Children need to be accompanied by an adult.



Make your own holiday your own

Personalising your break is easy. Browse our Peter Rabbit activities and start piecing together your perfect escape. Simply pre-book online, then kick back and relax... We'll do the rest.

* Limited time only. Activities and extras are subject to change and availability.

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A bit about our friends at Go Ape

Now in its twentieth year, Go Ape is the UK's number one forest adventure.

With 70+ experiences across 34 UK locations, their mission is to encourage everyone to live life more adventurously.

Whether you are a thrill seeker looking for action-packed fun or simply after some quality time with friends and family. Days out with Go Ape are about having fun and creating unforgettable memories.

High up or low down they have adventure covered. From their original Treetop Challenge and all-terrain Forest Segways to Nets and Axe-Throwing.

They're located in some of the most enchanting forests across the UK - many of them are a stones throw from our cabins. Like the iconic Forest of Dean in Gloucestershire to the lush Dalby Forest in North Yorkshire.

Adventurous steps to wellbeing...

We know that being outside in nature can positively impact your Mental Health. Our friends at Go Ape explain how outdoors adventures can benefit your mental health. Go Ape is all about encouraging everyone to live life more adventurously, because we know that taking risks and turning "I can't into 'I can!" not only helps build confidence, but also builds resilience that can help you in your everyday life.

BEING ACTIVE!

Studies show that regular exercise not only helps to keep you fit but also improves your Mental Health. Being active raises the endorphin levels in your body which can reduce pain levels and boost the feeling of pleasure, resulting in a sense of well-being.

FINDING YOUR BRAVE

We get it, heights can be scary. However, you'll be amazed how easy it is to forget about being canopy high when you have an obstacle to concentrate on and stunning forest scenery all around

APPRECIATING THE GREAT **OUTDOORS**

Go Ape's 34 sites are all located in beautiful places. Take a breath and settle your spirits in acres of forestry and keep an eye out for woodland wildlife.

BUILDING YOUR SELF-ESTEEM

Unsurprisingly, doing things that you are good at is a great way to build your self-esteem and help you feel better! However, testing your abilities is also a fantastic way to build self-confidence.

Though many people are concerned with their physical health, it is just as important to recognise what is happening inside you.



EXCLUSIVE OFFER

Get 10% off your Go Ape adventure (exclusive to Forest Holidays guests). Find your nearest location at goape. co.uk/locations or at the Forest Retreat.



Fact

2000+ guests

have enjoyed visiting Go Ape during their forest break in the last three years!





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The mighty BBQ. Everyone loves them. What's not to love?

The sizzle of steak, the smoky aromas, and the eye-catching colours of a crunchy salad is the ultimate recipe for an evening al fresco.

Enjoy the simple joy of fresh air over supper. Watch as nature comes to life as the sun goes down. Sunsets shouldn't be missed, they're a way for us to reset each day.

Kick back, relax and unwind in the great outdoors before cooking up a storm on the BBQ.



Our barbecue hamper

We know how to BBQ.

If you're staying with us, one of our team can deliver a locally sourced hamper to your cabin so it's ready and waiting for your arrival.

Each year, our guests spend an estimated **£20 million**in local rural communities near our locations.





your stay

Meet our makers...

We want you to discover hidden gems, buy local produce and souvenirs, and explore the very best local attractions.

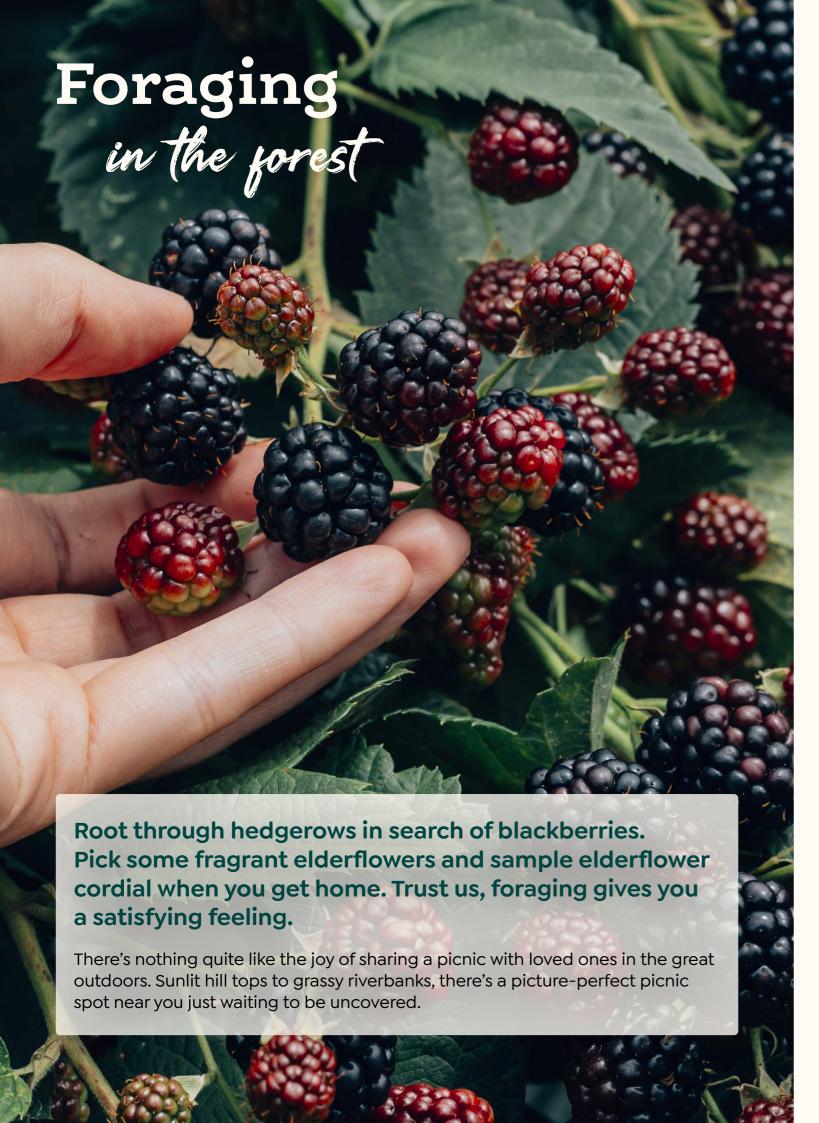
Weetwood are an Independent, family owned and family run, award winning Brewery and Distillery set in the rural Cheshire countryside. You'll find their award-winning family-run distillery just a couple of miles from Delamere Forest on the outskirts of the village of Kelsall.

'We're delighted to work closely with Forest Holidays, knowing that people are enjoying our products whilst having a great time. This is something that is really rewarding for the team at Weetwood.

We really admire the focus on sustainability that runs through the Forest Holiday experience. We continue to increase own commitment to tread as carefully in our local environment as we can. You may see us at work locally foraging botanicals, be it elderflowers in early summer or sloe berries in late autumn. We continue to harness our local surroundings to help make the best drinks that we can.'

Thanks Weetwood

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Nettle crisps



(You can't knock it until you've tried it!)

We chatted to Alison, our Forest Ranger at Blackwood. She loves the wonder of the forest and all that it has to offer. Here, she shares her nettle crisps recipe.

Go on, give it a try.



Forest Ranger, Blackwood Forest



'I make nettle crisps for guests to try on a survival session. Using rubber or leather gloves, pick some nice big nettle leaves without pulling the whole plant up. Put a dash of vegetable oil in the bowl with the nettles and gently mix (I use marigold gloves for this). Then spread them out on a baking sheet and grind some salt on them. Put them in a medium heat oven for 6-7 minutes.'

Hey presto, nutritious nettle crisps without any sting.

Full of vitamins and minerals and antioxidants. Just keep them in an airtight container.



Our conservation fund in action:

Butterfly enhancement project

In partnership with Forestry England and **Butterfly Conservation, the project in** Basing Wood, Hampshire, has enhanced access for the local community, expanded wildlife habitat and improved public understanding of, and engagement with, wildlife conservation.

The project encourages a mix of butterflies, including the white-letter hairstreak, white admiral, purple emperor and grizzled skipper.







- Tree felling and scrub management along butterfly and moth wildlife corridors
- Creating small glades within the woodland
- Management of forest meadows
- Disease-resistant elm planting to benefit the white letter hairstreak
- **Ongoing monitoring of butterflies**
- Re-energising the local conservation volunteer network



ALISON, OUR FOREST RANGER AT **BLACKWOOD FOREST SAYS...**

I would like to say how pleased I was to be part of the butterfly enhancement programme in conjunction with Forestry England. The White Letter Hairstreak butterfly, as with many other species, are having a tough time at the moment and need all the help from us they can get with habitat enhancement.

This butterfly is known for its dependence on Elm trees for the larval foodplant. It was during the 1970s and 1980s that their decline started due to a virulent strain of Dutch Elm disease. Spores of the fungus, which causes the disease, are carried by elm bark beetles. These infect the tree and feed on its bark thereby weakening the tree.

Now, there are disease resistant Elm trees from Spain which are able to protect themselves from the infection. We planted many of these species of trees in Basing wood and I planted some in Blackwood so, fingers crossed, this lovely little butterfly, which flies in June and July, will visit Blackwood.



Meet Jess Our Ecology Expert

Image: Blackwood Forest, Hampshire

Jess is great. She's fully on board with everything we do from our conservation fund to supporting the natural world. Here we ask her a few questions about her role...

JESS, WHAT IS THE **CONSERVATION FUND?**

The Conservation Fund was created by Forest Holidays to annually support nature conservation projects within the forests that surround our locations. It's a great opportunity to partner with local organisations like the Wildlife Trusts and Butterfly Conservation as well as our partners at Forestry England to help maintain and enhance habitats and protect endangered or declining species to boost biodiversity. The projects we have supported have been very varied, ranging from the reintroduction of beavers at two locations to protecting veteran oak trees near Sherwood Forest.

WHAT'S BEEN YOUR FAVOURITE PROJECT TO BE INVOLVED WITH?

My favourite project to have been involved with so far has been Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust's Pine Marten reintroduction project in the Forest of Dean. We supported with the feasibility study and have continued to support the project throughout its successful journey. Gerry, our Forest Ranger from the Forest of Dean, has been involved in the project as well, helping to prepare the 'release pens', collecting scats from the forest and also helping with the radio tracking.

WHAT DO YOU LOVE ABOUT YOUR JOB?

I'm very lucky to have a job that fits perfectly with one of my personal passions of protecting and enhancing the natural environment and supporting biodiversity. To be able to work with like minded. passionate people like our Forest Rangers, and have a role where I know we can make a difference in protecting the habitats on our locations is so exciting and I love that we can share these amazing places with our guests.





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BECOME A FRIEND OF THE COUNTRYSIDE

"The Rural Start-Up Fund will really help me to connect with other local businesses and organisations to grow a quality sustainable nature tourism offer in the area" said Gemma Wren, founder of NaturesGems. You can help us support more people like Gemma by becoming a Friend of the Countryside through The Princes Countryside Fund. By donating just £3 a month, you'll help to create a real future for rural Britain.



PROUD TO RELAUNCH NATIONAL PARKS FUTURES

Since its launch in 2019, National Parks Futures, in partnership with Forest Holidays, has connected over 8,500 young people with nature through flagship projects and a UK Travel Fund. Our aim is to connect 20,000 young people with nature in the next five years, inspiring the next generation to care for and protect our precious green spaces and improving their well-being through time spent in nature.



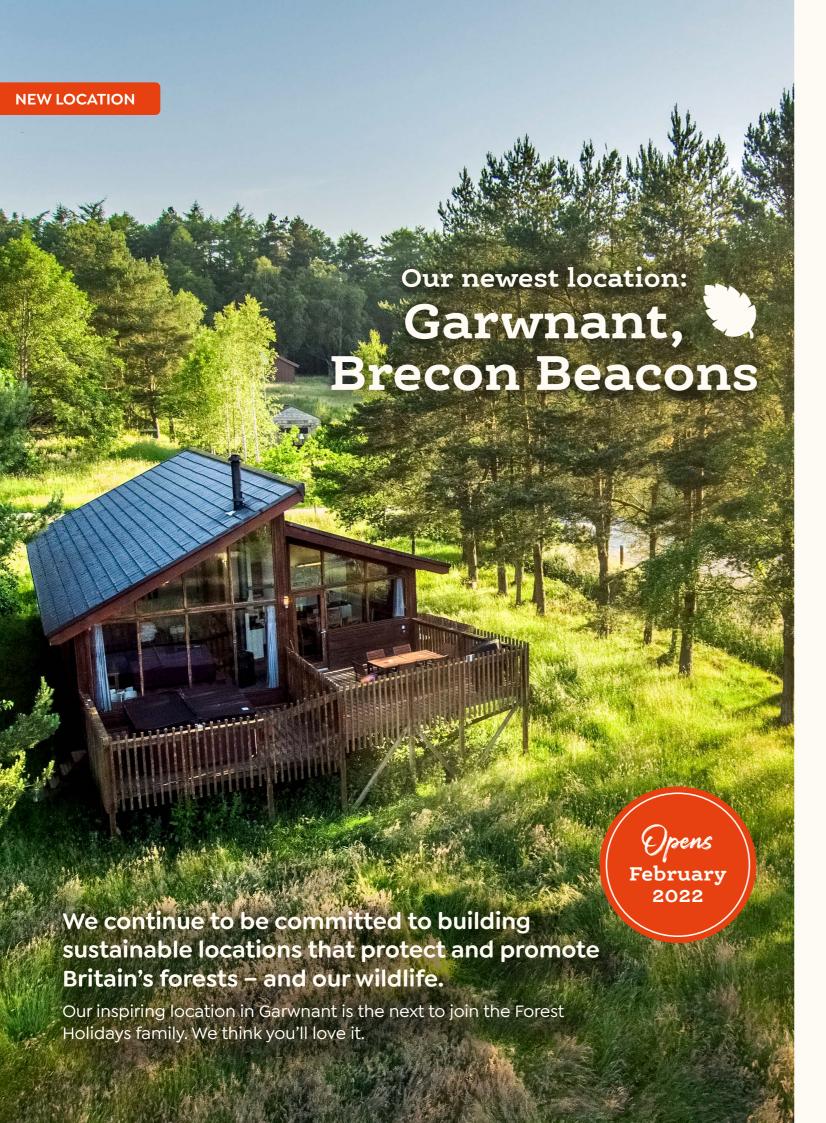
PLANT A TREE FOR THE JUBILEE

The Queen's Green Canopy (QGC) is a unique tree planting initiative created to mark Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee in 2022. Thousands have taken part across the UK, and each and every one of our 12 beautiful locations has joined in. The planting of trees will create a legacy in honour of The Queen, which will go on to benefit future generations. That's something that's very close to our heart.



OVER £32,000 RAISED FOR THE BRITISH HEART FOUNDATION

Most of our cabins across all of our locations have had a little makeover. Some of our furniture went on to be sold in British Heart Foundation shops all over the country. We're proud that these used sofas, mattresses and dining chairs from our cabins have found themselves another home. We're passionate about making a difference and the funds raised will go some way to helping fund more ground breaking research with the British Heart Foundation.



Our cabins at Garwnant will be situated within a Dark Skies Reserve, meaning it's a phenomenal spot for stargazing. There's nothing quite like looking up at the clear night sky from your bubbling hot tub. If you're lucky, you might even see the Northern Lights!

There's so much to explore. On your cabin doorstep is Brecon Beacons National Park. Fancy taking on Pen Y Fan, the highest peak in southern Britain? Roam around wideopen hillsides and beautiful forests, tucked-away lakes and lively waterfalls.

Wake up to the amazing sound of birdsong...and not just any birdsong. The Brecon Beacons are home to rare birds like willow warblers, nightjars, bullfinches and many more.

On the Brecon Beacons stunning slopes, you'll see loads of amazing plants found nowhere else in the world. See if you can spot an Attenborough's Hawkweed, the first British species to be named after Sir David!







Where will you discover next?

Forest Holidays take you somewhere else, somewhere away from the everyday. To a place where your alarm clock is birdsong, your neighbours are squirrels, your playground is the trees, and your backdrop is a starry sky. Tick all 12 Forest **Holidays locations off your** travel wish list and get ready to find adventure in Britain's most beautiful forests.

Did you know

When you take a forest holiday, you help create a brighter future for Britain's woodlands by supporting local rural economies. people and wildlife.





