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## The Telegraph

### Book It: Four festive hotels for a Christmas holiday in the south of England



With its cosy vibe and proximity to London's best shopping, The Beaumont is a great hotel for a pre-Christmas city break

Destination festive shopping at its best. Post-dash winter-warmers compulsory.

#### The Angel Inn, Petworth, Sussex

##### Best for... rustic cosiness

**The low-down:** Nestled in the quaint market town of Petworth, stuffed to the gills with charming antique shops, The Angel Inn is a comfortable and characterful retreat. The historic coaching inn has been transformed into a luxe destination pub, and with roaring fires and a spacious bar provides a wonderful backdrop for a festive gathering. There's a real sense of stepping back in time with modern comforts. Upstairs are six individually styled rooms – chandeliers, his 'n' hers sinks and flat-screen televisions – while downstairs retains an old-world charm complete with wonky staircase, exposed beams and head-butting doorways. Dogs and families are welcome, just be sure to interact with the colourful locals propping up the bar.

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**Out and about:** Petworth has one of the biggest concentrations of antique shops in the South East (Augustus Brandt is vital), so there's plenty to keep enthusiasts happy, but it's also a foodie haven. The Angel's inspired seasonal menus are peppered with locally sourced produce, but check out the New Street Bar and Grill for something a bit special. Fill your boots – and your Christmas stockings – at The Hungry Guest deli with its walk-in cheese store, celebrate the traditions of a Georgian Christmas at Petworth House or venture into the deer park landscaped by Capability Brown for a crisp winter walk.

**Stella loves:** Nespresso machines and bathrobes in every room make for a relaxing morning.

*Rates from £90 B&B; [angelinnpetworth.co.uk](http://angelinnpetworth.co.uk)*



The Angel Inn is a comfortable and characterful retreat in the quaint Sussex town of Petworth

## No15 Great Pulteney, Bath

### Best for... post-shop pampering

**The low-down:** The charms of this boutique bolthole, which fuses together two Georgian townhouses, are revealed on one of Bath's grandest streets, just a short stroll from the charming festive market with pop-up chalets. There are 40 thoughtfully designed rooms, from cosy lofts to grand suites, and a brand new spa too for some special-anniversary or round-number-birthday pampering. An hour-long "blissful scrub" in the super special space will definitely pep you up for some Christmas shopping. There are plenty of restaurants, cafes and bars within walking distance, but if a hard day's sightseeing have left you pooped, Café 15 serves breakfast, afternoon tea and winter warmers including tempura cod cheeks and hot chocolate fondant.

**Out and about:** The Green Rocket Café, 10 minutes away on foot on the other side of the River Avon, is an award-winning vegan and vegetarian eatery. A five-minute stroll takes you to the Holburne Museum, Bath's first public art gallery. Even closer is the Boater Pub, which on home match days, is a joyously-boisterous gathering spot for Bath Rugby Club supporters.

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**Stella loves:** The larder near the bedrooms for midnight snack runs, with treats including old-fashioned sweets, fresh milk and tubs of ice cream.

*Rates from £149 B&B; [no15greatpulteney.co.uk](http://no15greatpulteney.co.uk)*

**Read the full review: [No15 Great Pulteney](#)**



Located on one of Bath's grandest streets, No15 Great Pulteney is just a short stroll from the city's charming festive market

## Lainston House, Winchester

### Best for... pre-Christmas spirit

**The low-down:** The five-star, red-brick country retreat is a gem, built in the 17th century for Charles II as a love nest. Rooms run from the romp-ready (with walnut four-poster bed) to a blissful base for fun family weekends. All have handmade mattresses and indulgent bathrooms, plus 24-hour room service. Foodies will love the cookery school, [SEASON](#) – try Christmas baking in its state-of-the-art-kitchen, and its intimate three-AA-Rosette restaurant, Avenue, where seasonal ingredients, game and British produce are the main event. When you're ready for outdoor action, Lainston House offers falconry handling with its resident owls, croquet or tennis, and one-on-one clay pigeon shooting.

**Out and about:** Ancient [Winchester](#) is just a 15-minute drive away, and it's a city that puts on its finery for Christmas. Apart from the cute [craft market](#), which surrounds the cathedral, there's also a [big ice rink](#) and cosy riverside strolls. Take an official tour if you're intrigued by the city's rich past; Jane Austen is buried here and Alfred the Great called it home.

**Stella loves:** The hotel is set in 63 acres of [Hampshire](#) parkland, so dreamy strolls along the awesome lime avenue (the longest in England), or a potter around the walled kitchen garden, are right on your country house doorstep.

*Rates from £175 B&B; [exclusive.co.uk/lainston-house](http://exclusive.co.uk/lainston-house)*

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Read the full review: [Lainston House](#)



Lainston House is a 17th-century country house near Winchester, with opulent rooms and an excellent restaurant

## The Beaumont, Mayfair

**Best for...** the bright lights

**The low-down:** Smack-bang in the middle of London, [The Beaumont](#) sits just behind the twinkling Christmas lights of Oxford Street. But it's not all hustle and bustle, thankfully. When you walk through the doors, you'll be met with a quiet sense of grandeur and the warm, welcoming staff. This is as intimate and cosy as central London hotels get: you won't want to leave (especially once you've clapped eyes on the spa).

**Out and about:** You are a stone's throw from Oxford Street to satisfy all your shopping needs, and a few minute's walk to Selfridges – perfect for all those last-minute Christmas presents.

**Stella loves:** The American Bar, for guests only, is a great spot for an Old Fashioned in one of the bar's super comfy leather chairs. You'll feel like an extra from Mad Men.

*Classic rooms from £395; [thebeaumont.com](http://thebeaumont.com)*

Read the full review: [The Beaumont](#)



The Beaumont is a dignified refuge from the Christmas bustle of Mayfair

Available online at: <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/travel/hotels/articles/book-it-four-hotels-for-a-christmas-holiday-in-england/>