

Venues in Britain – Weddings, parties and meetings

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167 entries – all with colour photos

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Alastair
Sawday's

Sawday's have turned 15 years experience seeking out special places to stay into finding special places to get together whether you're planning a wedding, a fortieth birthday party or a creative work session. Forget about trawling through thousands of websites, this book will narrow down the search and pinpoint the best.

There are farms, a windmill, castles, boats, churches, yurts and tipis, art galleries, retreats, restaurants, historic houses and more. There's something for everyone; outrageous luxury, grandeur, stunning style, exquisitely green ways of doing things, organic food, grand Elizabethan clutter, gardens to dream of, simplicity and sophistication. You'll find some wonderful and imaginative people too – we include places whose owners are as interesting as their venues.

- Celebrate in a beautifully restored 1880s Arts & Crafts mansion above Lake Windermere. The discreet concierge service will help organise everything – from baby-sitting to hot air ballooning. A pianist, a chef, a yoga teacher – even a luxury yacht are just a call away. Indulge!
- Swanky dos not your style? How about a rustic wedding in Somerset? Farmer John will pick you up from the country church on a flower bedecked trailer, then all back to the farm for cider, hog-roast and a good old hoe-down
- Champion all that is good about being green when you meet in a unique building at the cutting edge of ecological design. Acres of organic gardens, large spreading trees, a grass labyrinth. Dine organically on produce from the potager
- Organising a London do and want something a bit different? A convivial light and airy art gallery with a Club Room upstairs. Spill out into the charming, flower filled courtyard on balmy, summer evenings

For more information and review copies contact Sarah Bolton (sarah@sawdays.co.uk) or Bethan Riach (bethan@sawdays.co.uk) Tel: 01275 395433

Things we can do for you: suggest and compile round-ups and features, provide photos, arrange giveaways and competition prizes.

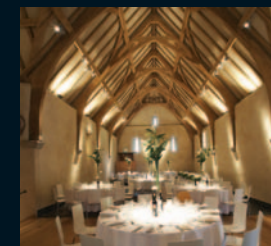
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Alastair
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Special Places

Venues in Britain

Weddings, parties
and meetings



“These books will repay
their purchase many
times over.”

The Good Book Guide

Edited by Kathie Burton



Maunsel House

Sweep down the yew-lined drive to your very own 13th-century manor house. Virginia creeper, clematis and roses riot; dogs, doves and peacocks greet you and Sir Ben and Kirsty throw open their doors. You can marry in a light-strewn gold and creamy Georgian ballroom, all ornate mirrors and dripping chandeliers, leading to immaculate lawns or marquee; or outdoors in a pretty gazebo. Inside, Kirsty has worked magic with Farrow & Ball paints and fresh flowers to brighten a treasure trove of heirlooms – ancestral portraits, butterfly collections and the Slade coat of arms. Dine under the stars in the secluded pergola or snuggle up in the bar with its open fire, then skip upstairs to pretty four-posters, a jacuzzi bath, chaise longues, ornate writing desks... and the King's Room bridal suite with high vaulted ceilings and an 8'x 6' bed draped in damasks and silks. Next morning, breakfast on fresh eggs at a magnificent, solid walnut table. Lounge in the library crammed with delights from Chinese vases to a stuffed bear; stroll around the woodland walk. Don't hold back: this place was made for parties.



Room hire 2 + pagoda + marquee: Board (max 30). Cabaret (max 250). Theatre (max 100). Reception (max 300).

Catering In-house & own caterers.

Sleeps 48: B&B or catered house for 26; S/C cottages for 22.

Closed Never.

Directions Junc. 24 from M5, dir. North Petherton, follow brown tourist signs for Maunsel House.



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Fforest

Camping, but not as you know it. This is one of the most enchanting places for a party, an intimate wedding, even an informal business meeting, large or small. Those averse to gas stoves or mud underfoot, be happy: breakfast is a relaxed communal affair, there's a cedar barrel sauna and a solar-powered shower block. Tents – nomad, kata, or dome – are built on raised platforms to keep dry. The four adjoining 'croglfts' have underfloor heating, wood-burners and super porch kitchens that let the world in but keep out the rain. All has been designed in tune with nature and leaves the barest mark on the environment; rainwater is recycled, wood is reclaimed, loos are composted and clean. Team builders will love the activities, on and off site: bushcraft, surfing, canoeing, abseiling... more sybaritic souls can retreat to the lodge lounge for a coffee, explore the woodland or find a spot from which to soak in the views. Food is local and seasonal, perhaps a hog roast for hungry wedding guests; brides can calm pre-wedding nerves in their luxurious crog cottage before dancing the night away under the stars. Quite unique.

Room hire 2: Cabaret (max 100). Theatre (max 90). Reception (max 100).

Catering In-house catering. Self-catering in tents.

Sleeps 108 S/C camping.

Closed January & school holidays.

Directions From Carmarthen A40 West to Penblewin r'bout. Third exit onto the A478. At Pen-y-Bryn turn right and follow brown signs for Canoe Trips.



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