

## Escapes



### THE BOOT ROOM Ripon, North Yorkshire

For months I had been fantasising about having

a break for a couple of days all on my own, somewhere really remote and peaceful – and at last, I decided to go for it. Arriving at The Boot Room on Fountains Estate, one of the National Trust's special places and a World Heritage site near Ripon, Yorkshire, I can tell it's not going to disappoint.

The one-bedroom cottage oozes rustic cosiness. An antique lambing chair sits in a corner of the living area and deer-patterned William Morris wallpaper provides a quirky backdrop for the head of the bed (and a nod to Studley Royal deer park just outside). On my first night, I don't even have to leave the cottage – for £7, the catering team here can provide a delicious pie or casserole for guests to simply pop in the oven – so I settle in for an uninterrupted spell of reading.

Feeling refreshed the next morning, I head out for a walk through the expansive deer park (marvelling at how close I can get to its antlered residents) towards Studley Tearoom, where I sit outside for a cream tea with freshly baked scones, taking in the stunning views of the water garden. The rest of the day is spent wandering the estate, gawking at

the countryside's beauty and basking in the near-silence. *Folly! 2018*, an exhibition (on until 4<sup>th</sup> November) in which four striking contemporary artworks reimagine the whimsical structures that dotted the landscape here in the 18<sup>th</sup> century, adds an extra element of fun to my surroundings.

In the afternoon, I stumble across the magnificent 'Surprise View' – a breathtaking vista over the ruins of the old Fountains Abbey and water garden from a high point in the woodland. My walk back down leads me to the abbey ruins, which are amazingly atmospheric and Instagrammable. I upload my photos over a late lunch and a large glass of wine at the nearby Mill Cafe. Back at The Boot Room, settling in for another deep sleep, I feel a million miles away from the city. It's a little slice of homely, peaceful paradise – well worth a visit.  
REBECCA HASTINGS

**TRIP NOTES** From £192 for a three-night stay. Book via [nationaltrust.org.uk/holidays](http://nationaltrust.org.uk/holidays)



Clockwise from above: a deer park is on the doorstep; the tastefully decorated bedroom; a compact cottage, it's the ideal base for two; the dramatic abbey ruins; The Boot Room has a cosy interior

