

HOLIDAY HOME OF THE WEEK

The Outbuilding, Appledore, Kent



WHY?

In the pretty village of Appledore, a garden workshop has been transformed by a lifestyle journalist and interior designer into holiday accommodation worthy of a boutique hotel.

LOCATION

Dinky Appledore sits on the edge of Romney Marsh between Ashford and Rye. It is sleepy, with a village pub, church, antiques shops and tea room and walks along the Royal Military Canal. The nearby train station has links on Southern to Ashford, Hastings and Eastbourne and connections to London.

AMBIENCE

The Outbuilding is photo-shoot beautiful. And with two under-fours in our party, we were relieved to find it is as robust as it is good-looking. There are toys galore, DVDs, baby kit, Bluetooth music system, Netflix and Wi-Fi, as well as a log burner.

ACCOMMODATION

The space has been designed to feel roomy. The open-plan kitchen and living room has a lofty, pitched ceiling and Crittall-style doors opening on to a decked patio. A forest-green galley bedroom has the most stylish bunk beds you'll ever see, custom-built beneath a skylight and complete with an embroidered Indian toran and bedspread. The main

bedroom has a roll-top bath and king-size bed, with pink-striped headboard and high-quality linens.

The interior design combines exposed brick walls with parquet flooring, herringbone and jade-green tiling in the bathroom, brass and marble accents and bold, dark colours. There are sheepskins and rugs to keep things cosy and framed Japanese drawings and pastoral oils on the walls. Crockery and antique furniture are elegantly mismatched.

FOOD AND DRINK

The kitchen has everything you need to make breakfast, cook a roast or work up something more elaborate. Alternatively, the owner has connections to many local businesses and can provide recommendations. We were directed to the wonderful Globe Inn Marsh (rambl

ins.com), a clapboard pub on the outskirts of Rye with a quirky, cosy, shack atmosphere.

WHAT TO DO

Rye is a lovely town to potter around, with boutiques, tea room and pubs. Make time to visit Rye Harbour, a 10-minute drive or cycle, where you'll emerge at the sea and nature reserve, where a new discovery centre will open this year. The marsh, shingle and lagoons are home to a variety of wildlife. Walks around Romney Marsh are flat and wonderful year-round; make time for a pint at the Red Lion in Snargate, which hasn't been decorated – proudly – since 1890.

WORTH WRITING HOME ABOUT

Amy, the owner, has been meticulous in creating a welcoming atmosphere. There's a scented candle and Bramley products by the roll-top bath, dog bowls by the garden door and she'll even make sure the garden trampoline, swing and see-saw are available. And the Outbuilding faces out from the house, ensuring privacy for all.

TO BOOK

The Outbuilding, Appledore, Ashford, Kent TN26. Cabins and Castles offers stays from £160 a night, minimum two nights (cabinsandcastles.co.uk/the-outbuilding-appledore).

Sophie Lam

Ask the owner

AMY MAYNARD

"There is a church nearby called Fairfield, part of which dates to the 13th century. You can get the antique key from the nearby farm house and walk across the fields to have a look inside. It's magical and eerily beautiful."

A WEEKEND IN

Downtown LA

Get to know the real Los Angeles away from the red carpets. Brunch on tacos, check out the Jeff Koons and take a submarine distillery tour. By **Nilufer Atik**



TRAVEL ESSENTIALS

When to go

For decades it has been thought of as the grittier, less appealing part of the City of Angels. But Downtown LA has undergone a cultural makeover in recent years and is fast becoming a must-see area for art and architecture lovers, foodies, and those in search of something more than A-list stars and shopping. With a climate that's mild to hot all year round and mostly dry, you will never find LA low on tourists. But if you are hoping for some relatively uninterrupted sightseeing coupled with pleasant temperatures, the best time to visit is late October, when you'll avoid crowds and save money on flights. For more, see discoverlosangeles.com

Where to stay

The Hoxton (1) in the trendy Fashion District, is a short drive from the Broad art museum and the food haven Grand Central Market (right). It has a rooftop pool and bar with glorious views, especially at sunset. Its 174 rooms range from Snug to Biggy and accommodate solo travellers as well as groups. Doubles from £128.

The Standard (2) is within walking distance of the Walt Disney Concert Hall and features 207 large, funky-coloured guest rooms, a rooftop pool and garden bar with views of LA. Doubles from £143.

The Ace Hotel (3) is located in the former United Artists Building on South Broadway. This 13-storey hipster hotel is near the Arts District and has 182 rooms decorated with pen graffiti by local artists. The Ace also has a theatre, gym and a rooftop swimming pool and sun deck. Doubles from £171.

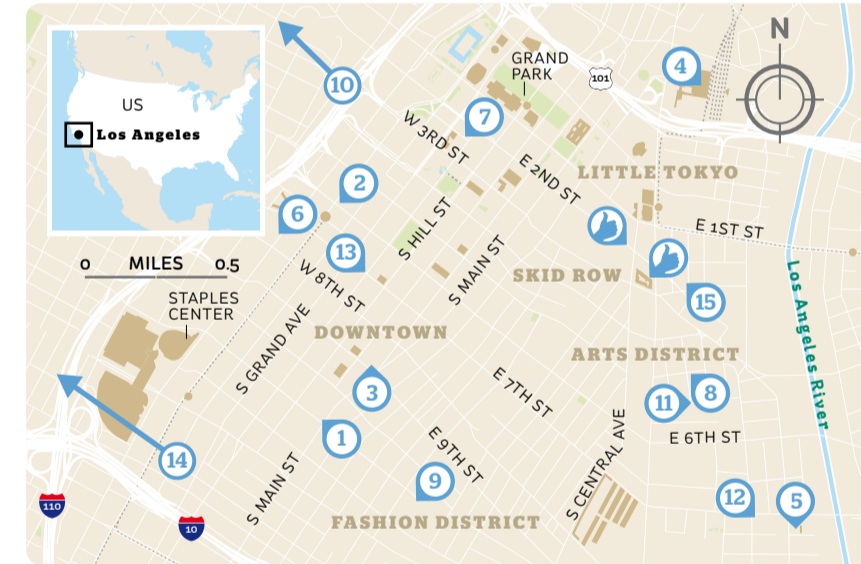
How to get around

Sprawling Los Angeles remains a drive-first destination, with busy roads. Uber is the easiest and fastest way to travel. Downtown's neighbourhoods, from Chinatown to Little Tokyo, the Arts, Jewellery and Fashion districts to the Historic Core. But to avoid traffic jams, use the Metro (metro.net) train service. The Red Line is the most useful for tourists and visitors, linking Downtown Union Station (4) to North Hollywood via Hollywood and Universal City. It also connects with the Blue, Expo and Orange lines. The Purple Line connects Downtown Los Angeles to Westlake and Koreatown, and the Blue Line runs from Downtown LA to Long Beach.

Single fares start at \$1.75 (£1.30) but buying a reusable TAP card is the cheapest option and you can add money to it at vending machines in stations.

The Metro Trip planner (socialtransport.org/tm_pub_start.php) is a useful tool for planning journeys.

The FlyAway bus runs a shuttle service



between LAX airport and Union Station every 20-30 minutes, taking around an hour; the return fare is \$19.50 (£15).

SATURDAY

Start the day

Fill your belly for some sightseeing with breakfast at Bon Temps (5), an all-day modern French brasserie that has industrial roots. Situated in the Arts District, the huge, airy warehouse-style eatery serves pastries to die for, with a substantial tea and coffee menu. The ricotta Danishes are so good it's hard to limit yourself to one.

Hit the shops

FIGat7th (6) is an upscale shopping centre on Figueroa Street. It's ideal if you want a quick shopping experience without having to navigate a huge mall. Stores include Victoria's Secret, Target, MAC, Zara and Bath & Body Works.

Don't miss

Jeff Koons' collection at The Broad (7) (above right) has work from each stage of his diverse career, including his 1988 work *Michael Jackson and Bubbles*, and the stainless steel *marvel Tulips*. Opened four years ago, The Broad is

winning tour has won numerous awards. Reservations required, from \$37 (£28).

Time for a drink

The cocktail menu at the Latin-inspired Dama (9) in the Fashion District combines classic and tropical favourites, with everything from a traditional daiquiri to a tequila-based Latin Lover. The venue has a plush indoor lounge, three private terraces and large outdoor patio.



Dinner reservation

An evening out at Musso & Frank (10) on Hollywood Boulevard is like stepping back in time to the days of old Hollywood glamour. It may require a short taxi ride from Downtown to get there, but just a sniff of the filet mignon (\$52/£40) at this historic grill is worth it (closed Mon).

SUNDAY

Go for a stroll

The LA Graffiti tour takes visitors on a two-hour journey through the history of Downtown's vibrant graffiti and mural scene. Local artist guides provide insights into techniques used by their peers as you venture into lofts and warehouses. Departs at the corner of Colyton and Palmetto in the Arts District (11) (\$12/£9, laartours.com/graffititour).

Lunch break

Have brunch Mexican-style at Guerrilla Tacos (12) It started as a food truck in 2012 in the Arts District, but Chef Wes Avila's food became so popular, that he opened a restaurant last year.

Alternatively, Bottega Louie (13) is a restaurant, gourmet market, patisserie and café on Grand Avenue serving pizza, pasta and small plates, as well as weekend brunch in a bright, bustling space.

Time to relax

For a glimpse of the unfiltered side of Hollywood, take a tour around the back streets (biketourshollywood.com). The two-and-a-half-hour, eight-mile round trip on electric bikes highlights entertainment industry landmarks and neighbourhoods such as Sunset Strip and Beverly Hills. Tours depart from the Roosevelt Hotel (14) on the Walk of Fame, \$49pp (£38).

Have a treat

With flavours including honey lavender and black olive brittle and goat's cheese, the Salt & Straw ice cream parlour (15) has a cult following. New flavours debut each month.

Ask a local

CLARISSA TROOP
Executive producer

"A lot of people forget about Little Tokyo. There are a lot of delicious restaurants there: Pasta e Pasta is an Italian Japanese restaurant and whatever you do, don't forget the soft-serve ice cream at Bae."

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