



Win a hotel break with NFU Countryside

Recommend a friend and enjoy a free night away for both you and your friend – plus the chance to win a trip of a lifetime to Monte Carlo

NFU Countryside's recruitment drive is well under way and dozens of members and their friends have already booked up their hotel stays. So, if you're looking for an ideal birthday or Christmas present for a relative, or have a neighbour who loves the best of the British countryside, sign them up!

There is no limit to the number of friends and relatives you can recruit – the more new members you recruit, the more free nights away you will receive.

Friends and relatives of members can join in three ways:

- 1 Visiting www.countrysideonline.co.uk
- 2 Calling the Countryside Helpline on 0870 840 2030
- 3 Or by completing the 'Recommend a Friend' application form, which was inserted into

the September edition of Countryside. (If you would like extra copies of the form, please go to www.countrysideonline.co.uk to download a copy of the form or call us on 0870 840 2030).

Don't delay too long – the offer finishes on 31 December 2010.

Why should you take part?

- The existing member will receive a free night away in a hotel for two people, for every friend they recruit.
- The friend or relative that has been recruited will also receive a free night away in a hotel for two people.
- Every time a member recruits someone they will automatically be entered into a prize draw to win the trip of a lifetime to Monte Carlo, worth £2,000.

The lowdown on Countryside membership

As a member of NFU Countryside, you get exclusive access to a range of benefits, including:

- The 116-page Countryside magazine, delivered to your door.
- NFU Countryside discounted events and competitions.
- Save up to 9% on a new Volvo and get free metallic paint
- Save up to 45% on BupaCare.
- Save up to 8% off your next holiday with the NFU Travel Service and Thomas Cook.
- Huge savings at Alton Towers, Chessington World of Adventures and many more with the Merlin Entertainments Group.
- Improve your cash flow and increase sales all at discounted rates with Chip and Pin.
- Access to rural news and views on www.countrysideonline.co.uk
- You are part of the NFU family – the force behind food and farming in the UK.

Membership fees

- One year: £41.50 or £36.50 if you join online – saving you £5!
- Three years: £99 – saving £25.50!



It's a hard life, but not today...

Sometimes in life you have to take the smooth with the rough... and so it is this month, as intrepid Countryside editor Martin Stanhope tests out one of the hotels that is part of the 'member get member' campaign.

When my colleague Sarah explained the latest Countryside recruitment campaign, my first reaction was: 'What's the catch?' 'There isn't one,' she said, 'go and try it for yourself.' 'Never one to turn down a good thing, that's just what I did, from start to finish.

Ease of booking

Once you've sent off the form, you will receive a booklet of hotels in the post. The trickiest bit is choosing where to stay. There really are some top-notch places, from every corner of the UK.

I rang the number in the booklet, gave them my unique reference number (also in the booklet), my favoured hotel and date – five minutes later they called back to confirm the booking. They also sent me a confirmation email (I can't survive without a bit of paperwork!) and that was that, the date was in the diary.

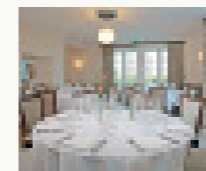
The hotel

A two-minute drive from the medieval charms of Ludlow lies Fishmore Hall.

In 2007, it was virtually derelict, now it oozes class. Inside this beautifully-restored Georgian house, 15 luxurious bedrooms and designer bathrooms make it the perfect place for a long, lazy weekend break or mid-week stay to discover this fascinating part of the country.

The hotel enjoys views over gorgeous Shropshire countryside, with the terrace view a particular delight, with Longhorn cattle grazing contentedly and stunning views toward Cleve Hill.

Fishmore Hall was also runner-up in the Sunday Times best value rural hotel 2010.



Food and drink

Fishmore offers everything from very reasonable bar snacks to a high-spec a la carte menu. Their head chef

David Jaram and his team use ingredients sourced from local producers in the Shropshire Marches.

The room

The room was beautifully decorated with a bed the size of an aircraft carrier and everything else you'd expect. The mini-bar was stocked with local food and drink, with free bottles of still and sparkling spring water – very welcome after a long drive. And, of course, the litmus test for any hotel – the brand of toiletries?

Big tick here with four bottles of Moulton Brown's finest for the guest – however I did draw the line at using the 'Instant Indian Cress hair conditioner', as lovely as it sounds.

Location, location

Shropshire is dotted with historic market towns and quaint villages, one of the prettiest being Ludlow, laid out in the valley beneath the hotel. Famous for its food festival, fascinating shops, celebrated restaurants and historic castle, Ludlow is the perfect starting point to discovering this unspoilt county.

Final thoughts

As the days shorten, this deal is a fantastic pick-me-up – my main regret is that I couldn't stay for longer. The only obvious drawback to the deal is that food isn't included. However, for me, a nice evening meal with drinks, followed by a full English breakfast, toast, coffee, the works, all came to a nudge under £30, and didn't seem a major hardship.

So, if you've got a friend or relative who you think might be right for Countryside membership, sign them up, and you'll both get a little treat as a thank-you.

Contact

Fishmore Hall, Fishmore Road, Ludlow, Shropshire, SY8 3DP
Tel: 01584 875148
Email: reception@fishmorehall.co.uk
Web: www.fishmorehall.co.uk

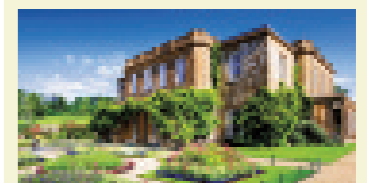
5 others to choose from...

It's not just Fishmore Hall that you can stay in, but hotels the length and breadth of the UK – here's five others to whet your appetite.



Castell Malgwyn Country Hotel, Cardigan, Pembrokeshire

Experience the tranquility of this historic Georgian mansion house, built in 1795.



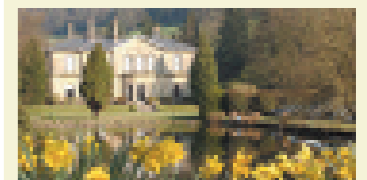
Cricket St Thomas Hotel, Chard, Somerset

A Grade II-listed country house in the heart of Somerset, with fantastic lakes and gardens to explore.



Hempstead House, Sittingbourne, Kent

A Victorian country house hotel close to the cathedral cities of Canterbury and Rochester



Hackness Grange, nr Scarborough, North Yorkshire

This grand Georgian country house sits in acres of private grounds on the edge of the North York Moors National Park.



Moneess House Hotel and Country Club

Come for a warm Scottish welcome at this hotel, set in 35 acres of picturesque countryside in the heart of Perthshire.