



Autumn Breaks

From spooky staycations, to sleeping under the stars, we look at some of the more unusual breaks on offer this season.

Cosying up by a crackling fire is hard to beat, but there's lots more to do on a staycation at this time of year. The beauty of October is that the weather gods can be relatively kind. You can still expect a mixed bag, but generally speaking, it's not cold enough to stop you getting out and about.

More than the summer, autumn is a great time of year to try something a little bit out of the ordinary, and with the evenings drawing in, there's often got to be an added dimension to make the trip worth it.

From glamping with the family, to a romantic night in a luxe log cabin to one or two spooky stays, here are some of the slightly different autumn and Halloween breaks on our radar right now.

FURTHER SPACE GLAMPING, MULTIPLE LOCATIONS

With the promise of darker skies, brighter stars and dreamy fire pits, these Further Space Glamping pods sound like the ideal

way to enjoy October. Offering the comfort and warmth of a hotel, but giving the best of the outdoors too, the pods can sleep up to four people and have wifi and a coffee dock. Certain sites even boast a hot tub.

Locations include Thornfield Farm, Co Antrim, which is close to the Dark Hedges, made famous as the setting for Kingsroad in *Game of Thrones*. Visit further.space

FITZ OF INCH, STRADBALLY, CO LAOIS

Who says a short staycation can't include the whole gang? True, it can be tricky to find a location that caters for large numbers of your friends and family, but it's not impossible. This luxurious 18th Century property doesn't come cheap, but you can book the entire place for your own special break. With antique furnishings, plush beds and lots of added extras like a cinema experience, table tennis, a hot tub, fire pit and use of the onsite barns, it's got lots to entertain a large group.

Do note, while it's dog-friendly, it is now an adult-only destination. Visit fitzofinch.ie



CASTLE LESLIE ESTATE, CO MONAGHAN

This restored house on the historic Leslie estate is rumoured to be haunted. The Leslie family has lived on the estate since 1665. According to legend, Norman Leslie was seen by Lady Marjorie Leslie beside the chest of drawers in 1914, a few weeks after he had been killed on the battlefields of France. His ghost is not the only one to have been seen either. Whether you believe in ghosts or not, it's an atmospheric place to stay at