The best UK hotels opening from July 4, and the rules for post-lockdown stays

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Hotel Endsleigh, in Devon's Tamar Valley, reopens in July

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By **Telegraph Travel**
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The Prime Minister has announced **July 4** as the date that UK hospitality can reopen its doors, including hotels. The news is a much-needed boost for the travel industry and many hotels are now preparing to open in the coming weeks.

However, when hotels do return, stays will look rather different. In Government guidance released on June 24, establishments were advised to implement a series of measures to ensure the safety of guests and staff.

What will check-in and public areas look like?

Hotels and other guest accommodation options have been advised to take additional measures to make reception areas safer with increased cleaning protocols in place throughout the day, with particular consideration for any shared facilities. It also advised hotels to encourage guests to use hand sanitiser or handwashing facilities as they enter the premises and regularly during their stay.

The duration of activities such as check-in should now be kept as short as possible, and keys should be cleaned in between guest use. Queues may form outside hotels like they have done outside supermarkets, and hotels have been asked to introduce queuing systems using barriers should they be needed. Larger hotels may opt to stagger check-in and check-out times, or place markers on the floor to maintain social distancing.

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It was also announced on June 23 that the two-metre social distancing rule can be reduced to one metre with risk mitigation: this is known as one-metre-plus. Suggestions to reduce the risk range from improved ventilation and clever table layouts to the use of masks and screens.

The Hoxton, Southwark will limit the use of its public spaces for now

Sharan Pasricha, Founder and Chief Executive of Ennismore, which owns the Hoxton group, several of whose properties are in London, said: “Our lobbies have always been spaces [where] we've encouraged guests and locals to come and hang out, eat and drink, but for now, we'll be limiting capacities to ensure social distancing is maintained, adding hand sanitising stations, and spacing out seating so everyone feels safe.

“We also know guests are looking for flexibility so with ‘Flexy Time’, guests can check in and out as early or late as they like. We introduced this last year, but it's going to prove a real benefit now as you won't have a crush of people checking in/out at the same time.”

Simon Maguire, Managing Director of Luxury Family Hotels, said of the one-metre-plus rule: “[This] also enables guests to enjoy a friendly environment and one that feels as close to normal [as possible], which we know will be welcomed by many.”

Other guidelines in the document ask accommodation providers to consider minimising lift usage from reception and to provide clear signage for new lift rules. Guests that are able to may be asked to use the stairs instead, and will be encouraged to wear masks in communal corridors and other public spaces.

Staff should be accessible to guests via phone, emails and guests apps; and contactless payments and pre-payments for rooms as part of the online booking will be encouraged where possible to limit cash payment for bills.

Will hotel rooms look different to before?

The official Government guidance has not offered specific advice on whether soft furnishing and more should be removed from hotel rooms, so in many cases rooms may look similar, if not exactly the same, as before.

One key change is that all bedrooms must have private showering facilities. Current Government guidance states that private rooms in all indoor accommodation with en-suite showering facilities, or one designated shower facility per guest room, will be able to reopen. Shared toilet facilities can also be opened. However, if shared toilet and shower facilities are in the same room, guests can only use the shower if it is assigned to one household or support bubble or run using a reservation and clean rota.

Hotels have also been asked to display signage (for example, posters or leaflets) on basic hygiene practices such as handwashing in each room. This information could be available in different languages and communicated to guests ahead of their stay.

Can I eat in the restaurant or drink in the bar?

The new ‘one-metre-plus’ rule will likely be most useful for hotels in their restaurants and bars, as it will enable increased capacities. Jane Pendlebury, Chief Executive of HOSPA, the Hospitality Professionals Association, said: “To outline the difference it makes, revenue management modelling suggests that two-metre social distancing, which effectively creates a four-metre diameter, reduces restaurant revenue to as little as 7 per cent – a non-viable return given the factors involved.

“This changes considerably though as the distance is reduced. The proposed one-metre distancing, equating to a two-metre diameter of space, allows for around 45 per cent of revenue. While this is still a huge reduction, if hoteliers and other restaurateurs are creative in their approach, they can work to increase those margins by implementing a variety of measures. This, at least gives them a chance to head in the right direction, enabling the opportunity to develop a workable service.”

Restaurants and bars will also be asked to collect contact details from customers as part of track and trace measures. Some hotels may opt to only open dining spaces to hotel guests initially, before opening to the public.

Additional guidelines for reopening hotel restaurants and bars include: minimising customer self service of food, cutlery and condiments; using table service where possible ro reduce the number of people moving about the space; and assigning a single staff member per table.

In hotels where room service is offered, guests should be able to order over the phone and meals will be delivered outside the room on a butler’s tray. Hotels may also encourage tips to be added to the bill, to minimise the use of cash.

Sharan Pasricha, Founder and Chief Executive of Ennismore, shared additional measures they are taking in the Hoxton hotels: “In our restaurants, we’ve taken away heavy touch items [such as] menus and replaced them with QR codes to bring up menus on diners’ phones.”

Andrew Grahame, CEO of Farncombe Estate, added of the estate’s plan to reopen its own hotels: “In restaurants we will be giving guests more space between tables and reservation times for lunch and dinner will be staggered so we have as much space as possible. We’ve also extended the areas as well as timings of where we’ll serve breakfast, and buffet items will now be [available] on request from the kitchen. [...] For those that prefer to dine in the comfort of their room, we’ve increased our in-room dining options to offer more choice.”

Robin Hutson, Chairman and Chief Executive of The Pig group, reflected on hospitality’s need to maintain a social atmosphere: "If it's deemed to be safe, we would rather open without masks. People come to our establishments for much more than just food, drink and a bed to sleep in; they come for a convivial, social atmosphere, so we'd like to try to achieve as much of that environment as we can." He also explained that they have developed some "in-keeping" screens that go with their décor, as opposed to perspex.

Farncombe Estate's Dormy House will reopen with a raft of safety measures

What about spas, pools and other facilities such as gyms?

All spas and pools have to remain closed for now, and this includes those in hotels. However, Business Secretary Alok Sharma has suggested that this could change by mid-July. Indoor leisure facilities have also been told to wait before reopening, including gyms, which means those hoping to shift any lockdown lethargy will be restricted to the current means available to do so.

What about Scotland and Wales?

Wales will lift its travel restrictions from July 6, as long as the spread of coronavirus is still under control. This would allow for Welsh residents to travel around the country, and also allow those from England and Scotland to travel into Wales. Currently the rules require that people stay local, within five miles from their home.

This does not necessarily mean that hotels and other accommodation options will be able to reopen from this date though.

First Minister Mark Drakeford has advised: "If you have a static caravan that has its own kitchen or bathroom, if you're renting a cottage or going to a hotel that has turned itself into self-contained accommodation, there will be a clear signal... that you should use the next three weeks to get everything you need in place, and you will be able to start taking bookings for after July 13."

The situation is similar in Scotland, where First Minister Nicola Sturgeon has said that hotels should remain shut until July 15. Self-catering breaks will be allowed from July 3.

Below, we round up the very best places that are planning to reopen, county by county.

Calendar of key hotel opening dates in the UK

If you are looking for key dates of European hotel openings, see here.

ENGLAND

Cotswolds (Gloucestershire, Oxfordshire, Warwickshire, Wiltshire and Worcestershire)

Slaughters Manor

Reopening date: July 4

Straight off the starting blocks will be Slaughters Manor. This beautifully sited Cotswold manor hotel was something of a faded grande dame at the start of 2016, but after a substantial revamp is now a ritzy venue with an energetic vibe.

The Farncombe Estate, Broadway

Reopening date: July 13

The estate includes **Dormy House**, a pretty boutique property; **Foxhill Manor**, an Arts & Crafts manor; and **The Fish**, a collection of treehouses, shepherd's huts and chic rooms. No firm plans have been released but they are hoping to reopen on July 13 at the earliest.

Dormy House in the Farncombe Estate

Cornwall

Hotel Tresanton, Saint Mawes

Reopening date: July 4

Tresanton, part of the micro Polizzi Collection is located on Cornwall's subtropical Roseland Peninsula. The sea-facing terraces and beach club garden are the places to be – otherwise, walk the coastal path to St Just in Roseland churchyard to view the 13th-century Grade I listed church. "I hope that all the special measures we have to take will not ruin your enjoyment of these really wonderful corners of both Devon and Cornwall," Polizzi said in a video posted to the website. Bookings will open in June.

Chapel House

Reopening date: July 4

When Chapel House reopens, it is expected its Super Suites, which have their own private entrances, will prove popular. With gardens and many terraces, guests can socially distance with confidence.

Carbis Bay

Reopening date: July 4

With its own Blue Flag beach, Carbis Bay looks set to be a popular option when it welcomes back guests. The 125-acre estate includes fine-dining, watersports and myriad accommodation options.

The Scarlet

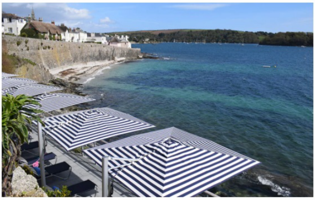
Reopening date: July 4

The best spa hotel in Cornwall, overlooking the golden Mawgan Porth beach. Treatments, however, will not yet be available. Other measures will include contactless check-in and in-room dining, plus there'll be yoga and meditation classes.

Fowey Harbour Hotel

Reopening date: July 4

All 13 properties in the Harbour Hotels group will open again on July 4. Their property in Cornwall's foodie Fowey, overlooking the estuary, has an immaculate split-terrace garden which is bisected by the South West Coast Path – walk down it for 10 minutes and you'll get to Readymoney Cove with its French Chateau-like fortress.



Tresanton is nestled on the hillside, with enviable sea vistas, beyond subtropical gardens.

Fowey Hall

Reopening date: July 4

An impressive Queen Anne mansion, park of the Luxury Family Hotels group, thought to be Toad's original 'Toad Hall', with 36 rooms, rambling gardens and spectacular views of the estuary and coastline. The group is offering bookable swimming times (when pools can reopen), picnic lunches and socially distanced spa treatments at its properties.

Polurrian on The Lizard, Lizard Peninsula

Reopening date: July 4

This luxurious family hotel perched on the cliff tops of the Lizard Peninsula (sunsets are fantastic), overlooks its own secluded beach. It also has easy access to the South West

Coastal Path. Six self-catering villas are available.

The Lugger

Reopening date: July 13

The Bespoke Hotel group will initially open a handful of its best properties, including The Lugger. This 17th-century old smugglers' inn is situated right on the water's edge of the peaceful fishing port of Portloe, and offers a stylish yet homely retreat.

Cumbria

Gilpin Hotel, Lake District

Reopening date: July 4

Gilpin Hotel are making preparations to reopen on July 4. They have two restaurants, so they can space tables safely (pre-ordering will also be available), while some spa treatments will be offered in the near future.

Gilpin Hotel is one of the first to confirm reopening in the Lake District CREDIT: BEN BARDEN PHOTOGRAPHY LTD

Devon

Hotel Endsleigh, Tamar Valley

Reopening date: July 4

Hotel Endsleigh, also part of the Polizzi collection, sits at the top of a gentle slope which ends at the Tamar River. “They will probably be slightly different hotels to what you’ve been used to [...] but we’re fortunate at Endsleigh to have a 100-acre Repton garden” said Olga Polizzi, owner of the properties, in a video posted to their website. And its Grade 1 listed garden is its strong suit, with verdant glades, secret grottoes, ancient trees, a shell house and formal parterre. Bookings will be available in June.

The Pig at Combe, Gittisham

Reopening date: July 6

All of The Pig properties reopen on July 6. This quirky countryside idyll in Devon’s peaceful Otter Valley is the perfect spot for a post-lockdown break. Expect social distancing measures inside, but the same friendly, informal atmosphere guests of The Pigs have come to love.

Burgh Island Hotel, Bigbury-on-Sea

Reopening date: July 7

This Art Deco hotel is known for inspiring an Agatha Christie novel and unusual location on a private tidal island, which can only be reached by sea tractor at high tide. Burgh Island Hotel is returning with a raft of safety measures including pre-arrival questionnaires and extended restaurant hours. Guests will have to wait to enjoy its popular murder mystery parties, which are not set to return until November.

The Cary Arms, Babbacombe Beach

Reopening date: July 4

There's already a waiting list for south Devon's 'inn on the beach', located on Babbacombe beach and overlooking the English Riviera. The six nautical beach huts (with their own entrances and sea views) and cottages will likely prove the most popular for post-lockdown breaks. Measures will include an o3 gas generator for cleaning, a 50 per cent capacity in the restaurant and bar, and online check-in.

There's already a waiting list for the reopening of The Cary Arms

Salcombe Harbour Hotel & Spa

Reopening date: July 4

Salcombe Harbour Hotel & Spa, on the 'English Riviera', is surrounded by sun-soaked coastline, sparkling seas and is set directly on the South West Coastal Path. It's also a short walk, sail or boat ride to some of Devon's safest and prettiest swimming beaches.

Dorset

Summer Lodge, Evershot

Reopening date: July 4

Summer Lodge is in the village Evershot, little changed since Thomas Hardy wrote it into Tess of the D'Urbervilles, in the rolling Dorset Hills. The hotel is set on four acres, with the village on one side and a 400-acre deer park on the other. The hotel is launching a family-friendly Fossils and Forage experience for when it reopens, including fossil-hunting on the Jurassic Coast and a visit to Dorchester's Dinosaur Museum (when it reopens).

The Eastbury, Sherbourne

Reopening date: July 4

The Eastbury, a few minutes' walk away from Sherbourne Abbey, will open the doors to its Georgian-inspired townhouse once again. The pretty garden is a boon, and extra measures during this period will include online check-in, reduced capacity in public areas and time-allocated slots for breakfast (when busy).

The Pig on the Beach, Studland

Reopening date: July 6

Studland is one hell of a bucolic beauty with the added benefit of long beaches, and The Pig couldn't have picked a better spot: high above the chalk cliffs, with spectacular views of the Old Harry Rocks formation.

All of The Pigs, including their Dorset property on Studland Bay, reopen on July 6

Moonfleet Manor, Weymouth

Reopening date: July 4

A handsome Georgian manor overlooking Chesil Beach and the Fleet Lagoon with 36 bedrooms, extensive gardens and a magical setting. ast along the shore is secluded Church Ope Cove, a great spot for swimming, diving and fishing. It's also part of the Luxury Family Hotels group.

Hampshire

Chewton Glen, New Milton

Reopening date: July 4

Family five-star favourite Chewton Glen in Hampshire will also be opening its doors again, with a host of new measures to include a deep-cleaning machine that will avoid the problem some hotels are facing of rooms having to be vacant for 72 hours after checkout.

Four Seasons Hotel Hampshire, Winchfield

Reopening date: July 4

Dalston meets Downton Abbey at this Georgian manor house with a hipsterfied vibe. The array of activities range from clay-shooting and cycling to yoga, croquet and catch-and-release fishing in the lake. There are also floodlit tennis courts and a child-friendly Highwire Adventure obstacle course featuring zip wires, tree-canopy bungee jumps and hairy high ropes.

Families will be welcoming the reopening of Chewton Glen in July

Burley Manor

Reopening date: July 4

Grand old house Burley Manor, on the outskirts of the picturesque village of Burley, will reopen in July. New measures include extensive staff training, contactless and express check in/out and contactless payment. There will also be reduced capacity in their Mediterranean-inspired restaurant and an increase in outdoor dining capacity.

New Park Manor, Brockenhurst

Reopening date: July 4

A 17th century hunting lodge in the heart of the New Forest which is popular with families. It's also part of the Luxury

Family Hotels group which is employing socially distanced measures at its properties, such as bookable swimming times.

The Pig, Brockenhurst, and The Pig in the Wall, Southampton

Reopening date: July 6

Hampshire's two Pig properties, the original at Brockenhurst and its second in Southampton, both reopen today along with the other Pigs in the litter.

Lime Wood

Reopening date: July 4

One of England's most prolific spa hotels is set to reopen as soon as it can, although the Herb House Spa itself will remain out of action for the forseeable future. Until such time as massages and hydrotherapy treatments are deemed safe again, the hotel will be looking to lure the 'Down from London' crowd with some hearty Italian food and the promise of a good walk or two in the surrounding New Forest.

Kent

The Pig at Bridge Place, Nailbourne Valley

Reopening date: July 6

The Pig at Bridge Place has seen a historic Grade II* listed Kent house transformed into a haven of fun, good living and hospitality. The Hop Pickers' Huts at a perfect post-lockdown choice: they are ranged along the Nailbourne stream, accessed via a boardwalk and are romantic little wooden boltholes, beautifully finished (think Bakelite light switches and telephones, roll top baths, monsoon showers, wood burners) with their own entrances.

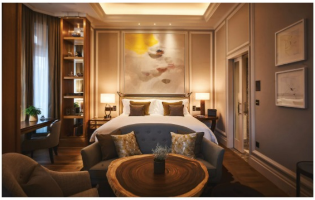
A Hop Pickers' Hut at The Pig at Bridge Place CREDIT: © JAKE EASTHAM/JAKE EASTHAM

London

Belmond Cadogan

Reopening date: July 4

The Belmond Cadogan looks set to be among the first major hotel reopenings in the UK, weeks after the group allows guests into two Italian properties again. This Chelsea hideaway, which opened in 1887, underwent a multi-year £39 million renovation that was completed in early 2019.



The Cadogan Hotel, which first opened in 1887, stands on Sloane Street midway between Chelsea and Knightsbridge

Four Seasons London

Reopening dates: July 4

Four Seasons Hotel London at Park Lane and Four Seasons Hotel London at Ten Trinity Square both reopen on July 4. The former, an Art Deco property which towers over Green and Hyde Park, is in one of the most established postcodes in London, while the latter is a deft renovation of the muscular, 1920s former Port of London Authority headquarters, dominating historic Tower Hill above the Tower of London and the River Thames.

Treehouse London

Reopening date: July 4

Treehouse London, the 'little brother' of renowned sustainability-driven US brand 1 Hotels, which opened last year will re-open on in July. All food at The Nest restaurant and terrace, now reservations only, will have a menu app, and some dishes will be delivered in picnic baskets. Tables will be placed at two-metre distances.

Oxfordshire

Belmond Le Manoir aux Quat'Saisons

Reopening date: July 14

Raymond Blanc's Le Manoir aux Quat'Saisons, also part of the Belmond group, will be back in July, as riotously luxurious as ever. The 15th-century, honey-coloured Oxfordshire manor house is a temple to fine dining.

Raymond Blanc's 15th-century, honey-coloured Oxfordshire manor house is a temple to fine dining CREDIT: PAUL WILKINSON PHOTOGRAPHY LTD

Somerset

The Pig near Bath

Reopening date: July 6

The Pig near Bath, in Hunstrete, is a 25-minute drive from central Bath, with Bristol 25 minutes in the other direction. The sweeping, wooded hills of the Mendips are a few minutes down the road also.

The Royal Crescent Hotel & Spa

Reopening date: July 10

In Bath itself, the Royal Crescent hotel will be welcoming guests back to its two townhouses in the city's showpiece Georgian crescent, plus a large and beautiful garden and further buildings to the rear. It combines 18th-century heritage with 21st-century indulgences. Expect elegant and individual bedrooms, first-rate food and an enticing spa.

Surrey

The Merry Harriers, Hambledon

Reopening dates: July 4

The Merry Harriers' accommodation includes four rooms above the pub, three in a converted barn and five shepherd's huts. Breakfast will no longer be served as a buffet, and guests staying more than one night will receive complimentary room service.

Guests can also go llama trekking through the scenic Surrey Hills at The Merry Harriers

Wiltshire

Lucknam Park, Colerne

Reopening date: July 13

Family-friendly Lucknam Park will be opening new cottages on site alongside its usual rooms. Al fresco dining options will replace the restaurants, including take-away picnics and 'destination dining' at beautiful spots in its 500-acre grounds. There will be a big focus on outdoor activities, including forest bathing, cycling, horse riding and equine therapy, tennis, archery and falconry. The spa and gym reopening is still to be confirmed, depending on government advice, though there are walking and running trails for those who want to exercise.

Woolley Grange, Bradford-upon-Avon

Reopening date: July 4

This 17th-century home with extensive gardens is a firm favourite with families visiting Bath and the Wiltshire countryside. It has 14 acres of gardens, tennis, an outdoor pool and lawns just perfect for cricket or football. It's part of the Luxury Family Hotels group.

Lucknam Park is known for its activities, some of which will be available when it reopens in July

Suffolk

The Ickworth, Bury Saint Edmunds

Reopening date: July 4

The Ickworth, also part of the Luxury Family Hotels group, is a Georgian Italianate palace, and now jointly owned by the National Trust. Its 1800 acres of parkland are perfect for a post-lockdown, socially distanced weekend. There are also 11 apartments available.

Surrey

Beaverbrook

Reopening date: July 4

The former home of press baron Lord Beaverbrook, now a country house hotel in the Surrey Hills, has come up with a new 'house party' initiative to help boost its summer trade. The hotel's 35 rooms are spread between the Main House, the Garden House and the Coach House, meaning groups of guests can hire out whole sections of the property without bursting their social bubbles.

Yorkshire

The White Hart, Harrogate

Reopening date: July 4

The White Hart, in the centre of Harrogate, is preparing to reopen its rooms and two-Rosette restaurant in July.

- The best hotels in Yorkshire

The Black Horse Kirkby Fleetham

Reopening date: July 4

This cute pub with rooms in Kirkby Fleetham, which continued to offer its fish and chip Friday as a takeaway option through lockdown, is also reopening. It's a half-an-hour drive to Nidderldae, the Yorkshire Dales and the North York Moors National Park.

Marmadukes, York

Reopening date: July 4

Marmadukes is a homely Victorian townhouse bursting with original Georgian and Edwardian antique furniture and endowed with an award-winning restaurant. It's a short stroll away from the city centre so perfect for weekenders.

Marmadukes, a perfect city break pad in York

Lamb & Lion Inn, York

Reopening date: July 4

This Georgian pub with rooms has a period feel, simple rooms and choice of good pub food or smarter modern British. There's a bar, with cask ales, and a large beer garden with Minster views.

Guy Fawkes Inn, York

Reopening date: July 17

A historic pub-with-rooms, in a plum position by York Minster,with a gas-lit bar and dining-room. Bedrooms feature four-poster beds and a scattering of antiques, and the restaurant offers above-average pub classics.

Grantley Hall, Ripon

Reopening date: August 1

Palladian palace **Grantley Hall** will reopen with new measures in place, including reduced capacity, using two rooms for breakfast to provide more space and in-room dining.

Lough Erne Resort in Northern Ireland reopens in July

Feversham Arms, Helmsley

Reopening date: July 4

The Feversham Arms has been providing bed and board to travellers on the North York Moors since the 1850s, so little wonder this veteran of the trade is ready to return as soon as lockdown rules permit. Precisely what safety and social distancing measures it will put in place for its 33 bedrooms and snug restaurant remain to be seen. It has a popular spa that presumably will remain closed.

SCOTLAND

Glenapp Castle, Ayrshire

Reopening date: July 15

This baronial pile on the Ayrshire coast is one of the first Scottish hotels to announce a reopening date following Holyrood's announcement that hotels north of the border *could* reopen on July 15. Rather fortuitously, the hotel is gearing up to unveil its new self-contained penthouse apartment, four bedrooms, four bathrooms, a lounge and dining room with space for 16 guests, sauna, library, a games room a personal treatment room.

Gleneagles

Reopening date: July 15

The major Scottish player has been busy adapting to a post-lockdown landscape throughout its 850 acres, which include everything from country pursuits, championship golf courses, a fabulous spa and two-Michelin-starred food.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Lough Erne, Fermanagh

Reopening date: July 20

The five-star, 600-acre Lough Erne Resort reopens with a few new measures in place, including advance check-in and express check-out, staff and guest temperature checking, amongst others. Guests will be encouraged to go outdoors and embrace the outstanding natural beauty surrounding the resort, including its golf course. The hotel is also now accepting future bookings for events including weddings.

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