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Travel

Kip, Architect's Hut review: Idyllic eco-friendly escape in Dorset built by hand during lockdown

A lockdown project for one couple has resulted in the perfect isolated eco-retreat in Dorset.



The hut in its bucolic surroundings (Photo: Kip Hideaways)



By Jennifer Sterne

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Lockdown had plenty of drawbacks. But one perk was the time it gave many to work on projects that life otherwise got in the way of, such as building an environmentally sensitive escape in Dorset by hand.

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LOCATION

The angular, rust-red cabin is a 15-minute drive from the nearest train station in Moreton, in Dorset. The closest village is Milton Abbas, but really your only neighbours is a herd of cows in the adjoining field.

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Ambience

With a big picture window looking out onto the rural surroundings, you are immediately at peace when you arrive at the hut, which has been positioned in a rewilded patch of land.



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You are immediately at peace (Photo: Supplied)

The interiors are clean-lined but cosy, and the outside area has been designed so that guests can soak up the surroundings as darkness falls, when the weather allows. We indulged in the wood-fired hot tub as we cooked sausages on the fire pit, overlooking the Dorset countryside.

Inside there's a projector and screen, to make the most of the space on cold or rainy evenings.

The accommodation

The modular space is cleverly designed with no corner left unused. There is a compact but fully equipped kitchen as well as a sofa and dining table, with the bed on a mezzanine level.

A sliding door reveals the colourful capsule shower room with its modern innovations.

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local delicacy of Poole mussels.



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Inside the modular cabin (Photo: Kip Hideaways)

Things to see and do

It's easy simply to stay and enjoy the peace of the isolated surroundings. However, it's an easy 40 minute hike to Milton Abbas, home to the magnificent Milton Abbey, then an hour further to Antsy where you can refuel with a pub lunch at The Fox Inn.

The hut is also ideally located for a visit to the Jurassic coast. The hosts recommend exploring Kimmeridge Bay or walking some of the South West Coast path from Worth Matravers.

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... the finishing touches. We were impressed by the electronic blinds that can be operated from bed. Letting the day in with views of the rolling Dorset hills is not a bad way to wake up.

To book

From £100 per night for two, available through [Kip Hideaways](#) (annual membership is £17 or £3.99 a month). Breakfast is an additional £30 for two nights.

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