

FIND YOUR FREEDOM WITH OUR GUIDE TO
THE CRAFTY FOREST
EXPRESS YOURSELF WITH OUR FIVE ARTY EXPERIENCES

Fancy your own pottery throwdown or making a marvellous mosaic? Head into the Forest of Dean for a crafty escape with our five favourite arty independents and let your creative spirit run wild.



1 COOKING MASTERCLASS

Head to Harts Barn Cookery School for a fabulous foodie experience, seek out a vintage bargain at Fiddle Faddle, then stay nearby at the delightful Parish Mill Holidays.

2 POTTERY TIME

Go potty for pottery with a Pottery Trial Class run by Hot Pot Pottery near Coleford. Stay nearby at the delightful Saltbox Escapes. Fishing on a spring-fed lake at Broadstone Fisheries.

3 HAPPY SNAPPING

Snap up new skills whilst exploring one of the UK's first Sculpture Trails, home to incredible installations by world-leading artists. Stay 15 mins' walk away in a 100-year-old cottage. Mindful bathing with Forest Bathe.

4 ARTS & CRAFTS SHOPPING

At Taurus Crafts, the arts and crafts capital of the Forest to pick up locally-made arts and crafts as gifts or something special for the home. Stay in a dog friendly cottage or camp at Forest Oak Farm.

5 MOSAIC MARVELS

Mosaic magic awaits at Rachel Shilston's Inspiring Creativity studio in Lydney, which runs a variety of fun workshops and themed events. Stay nearby in the elegant Edale House B&B.



COLEFORD
FOREST OF DEAN

GO POTTY
FOR POTTERY



GO TO:

Make tracks for Hot Pot Pottery - a rustic studio run by husband and wife team, Katie and Charles.

DO THIS:

Get stuck into the clay with a Pottery Trial Class run throughout the year. Suitable for complete beginners and children five years and above, this two-hour hands-on class gives you the chance to try out three techniques, including working the clay on the potter's wheel. At the end of the class, choose three favourite pieces to glaze and fire, before celebrating your new-found skills in the tea room. Groups of four or more can pre-order meals to be dished up post-pottery fun.

STAY HERE:

Sleep in a beautifully renovated 19th-century stone cottage at nearby Saltbox Escapes. Expect a well-equipped modern open-plan living space, plus exceptional views across the outstanding countryside.



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CANNOP VALLEY

FOREST OF DEAN

GET SNAPPY WITH SCULPTURE



GO TO:

The 4.5 mile Forest of Dean Sculpture Trail was one of the first to open in the UK and features beautiful sculptures and installations by some of the world's leading artists, bedded down between trees and rooted into the forest floor.

DO THIS:

Join professional photographer and Forest local, David Broadbent of Forest of Dean & Wye Valley School of Photography, for a fascinating masterclass discovering the stunning artworks and unique landscape along the trail. With over 35 years' photography experience, David runs one-to-one courses to help you skill-up or sharpen your style, as well as group sessions. Each session is tailored to your needs and walking pace, lasting two to five hours.

STAY HERE:

Woodside Cottage, a 100-year old cottage set in the Cannop Valley just a 15 minute walk from the start of the Forest of Dean Sculpture Trail (sleeps six, in three bedrooms). a well-equipped modern open-plan living space, plus exceptional views across the outstanding countryside.



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LYDNEY FOREST OF DEAN

MAKE MERRY WITH MOSAICS



GO TO:

Lydney, the Gateway to the Forest, where you'll find mosaic maestro, Rachel Shilston. Her bright, modern Inspiring Creativity studio is a vibrant den of creativity large enough to accommodate groups of up to 30. There's also a funky fully-licensed chill out zone where you can refuel with a hot drink (or something a little stronger).

DO THIS:

Make a unique mosaic under Rachel's expert guidance on her Mosaic for Beginners workshop. First, choose your design: from bees and owls to beach huts and hearts. Then bring it to life using gorgeous vitreous glass tiles, ceramic beads and glass pebbles. Rachel will show you the steps to take to create something to be proud of and she'll teach you how to grout your design so you can finish it off back at home with complimentary grout. Also keep an eye out for Rachel's fabulous themed mosaic events that she runs during the year. They're a winning experience and some even include food, cocktails and entertainment.

STAY HERE:

Edale House B&B in Parkend, a stylish Georgian guest house offering four-star accommodation in six individually-furnished rooms. Don't miss the nearby Fountain Inn for dinner.



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LONGHOPE

FOREST OF DEAN

COOK UP A
**CULINARY
MASTERPIECE**



GO TO:

The award-winning Harts Barn Cookery School where you can stir fry a feast thanks to accessible, practical, and affordable cooking classes. You'll find the school set amongst a rural complex of craft businesses, one of which is the Forest Larder. Here you can pick up a range of local delights such as honey, meat, cheese, eggs and beer.

DO THIS:

Book a Forage and Feast or an Afternoon Tea Experience. Or, if they don't take your fancy, why not learn Chinese cooking or how to make artisan bakes? The range of classes is huge and they offer one-on-one and group courses. Whatever you want to cook or bake, they can teach you. Then pop into Dean Wye Hampers before browsing the antiques, crafts, jewellery and vintage homeware at Fiddle Faddle arts and crafts shop.

STAY HERE:

Parish Mill Holidays features a pretty self-catering 17th century stone cottage (sleeping up to five) and a cosy one-bedroom stone lodge (sleeping two). Run by Tracey and David, both properties are built with local Forest stone and come with their own private gardens and hot tubs as well as seven acres of gorgeous gardens and pastures to explore.



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LYDNEY
FOREST OF DEAN

SHOP 'TIL YOU DROP

AT THE ARTS AND CRAFTS
CAPITAL OF THE FOREST OF DEAN



GO TO:

Taurus Crafts, a vibrant arts and crafts centre that's home to a diverse range of indie businesses. Alongside the friendly cafe, garden centre and gift shops, there's always something creative and crafty going on whether it's a seasonal event or fun workshop. There's much more than you might imagine at this hidden Forest of Dean treasure.

DO THIS:

Watch a stone carver in action, book a chocolate-making class with The Chocolate Bar, get a picture framed or book into a ring-making class with The Studio Jewellery School and make your rings in either silver, gold, palladium or platinum.

STAY HERE:

Forest Oak Farm - 20 acres of family-run farmland where you can either camp or check in to one of the dog-friendly holiday cottages overlooking the fields.



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