



*The outstanding collection of independent 4 & 5 star self-catering holiday cottages*

## FACT SHEET

Premier Cottages (PC) is the UK's leading independent association of 4 and 5 star holiday cottages, offering a choice of over 880 properties throughout Great Britain and Ireland.

### History:

Premier Cottages was created in 1997 by 20 founder members that banded together to form a 'marketing cooperative'. Feeling restrained by the confines of a traditional agency, their aim was to provide first-class service and a quality product, with direct contact with the customer. PC is run by a Board of Directors, all of who are cottage owners. Members pay a registration fee in addition to a fee for inclusion in the brochure and website.

### Quality:

Premier Cottages is the only UK brochure to offer 4 and 5 star graded properties exclusively. Many cottages are regular award-winners in their national tourist boards' regional and national self-catering awards. In the last 5 years, 8 members have won silver and gold awards in the Enjoy England Excellence Awards, and 29 have won the same awards on a regional tourism level.

### Green Tourism:

In its 2009 programme, Premier Cottages shows the strongest commitment to green tourism demonstrated to date by any company in the UK cottage rental sector, with almost one third of members participating in nationally accredited Environmental Tourism programmes.

### Geographical spread:

Premier Cottages features over 880 properties in England, Scotland, Wales, Ireland, the Isles of Scilly and the Channel Islands. 2009 sees a significant growth in the selection of properties in Northumberland and Ireland.

### Product range:

Premier Cottages has always been an excellent source for those seeking accommodation in cottage clusters. The 2009 programme features more independent properties than in previous years, ranging in size from a honeymoon retreat in Shropshire to a selection of Party Houses in the Peak District that caters for up to 40 people.

- Unusual properties include a tree house, a semi-moated hall house and an old windmill in Norfolk.

Sample property: The newly opened 'Treehouse' at West Hayes is the UK's first five star self-catering tree house, situated in the conservation village of Halse in Somerset. The 'Treehouse' combines the

uniqueness of outdoor life with the luxury of all indoor mod cons, from plasma televisions and an Ipod docking station to under-floor heating and, of course, a dishwasher and washing machine. A one-week stay at The Treehouse ranges from £650 in low season to £1300 in August with [www.premiercottages.com](http://www.premiercottages.com).

- **Large properties:** Visitors to the website can search for availability in houses that sleep 10 or more guests.

**Sample property:** Trevasse Granary is situated on a working farm in Herefordshire with its own five-acre coarse fishing lake. The former 18<sup>th</sup> century barn features 8 en-suite bedrooms, a dining room that seats up to 20 and a games room with Jacuzzi and views over the Black Mountains. Short-breaks start at £1,600 (sleeps 16) with [www.premiercottages.com](http://www.premiercottages.com).

- **Families:** Many cottages are part of small complexes – often clusters of converted outbuildings on a farm – sharing child-friendly amenities such as an indoor or outdoor pool, games room and outdoor recreational facilities.

**Sample property:** Compton Pool Farm nestles in 14 acres in a valley in South Devon. Dating back to the 12<sup>th</sup> century, the farm has been converted to provide 5 Star accommodation in ten cottages with shared facilities that include a heated indoor pool, tennis court, games barn, exercise room and children's play area. Prices start at £500 per week (sleeps 4) with [www.premiercottages.com](http://www.premiercottages.com).

- **Luxury:** Facilities range from state-of-the-art bathrooms and kitchens to maid service, indulgent spa packages, luxury hampers and home-cooked meals.

**Sample property:** Mill Granary Cottages, Gold winner of 'Enjoy England awards for Excellence 2008' (self-catering holidays). Two properties, sleep 7 and 8, with top-of-the range kitchens and bathrooms, masses of space and south facing gardens. Prices start at £650 per week (sleeps 7) with [www.premiercottages.com](http://www.premiercottages.com).

- **Disabled facilities:** Many properties comply with the relevant disability categories.

**Sample property:** Hidelow House Cottages, near Malvern, Worcestershire, has 3 bespoke fully wheelchair accessible cottages sleeping 2 to 12 people. Prices in Hidelow Lodge (sleeps 5) start at £325 per week with [www.premiercottages.com](http://www.premiercottages.com).

- **Pets:** Pets are welcome at approximately half the properties, by prior arrangement.

[www.premiercottages.com](http://www.premiercottages.com): Each property is featured on the Premier Cottages website with detailed property and individual cottage descriptions. The site offers several search options:

- **Late Availability Search** – known available cottages for the next 22 days,
- **Standard Availability Search** – for all of 2009,
- **Search by distance** – unique search function that allows visitors to search for known available cottages within the number of miles entered from post code entered,
- **Christmas & New Year Availability**,
- **Large Cottages** – search for a cottage that can sleep & dine between 10 & 40 guests, or a property several cottages one of which allows the number of guests (entered in search) to dine together,
- **Standard Search** – search all cottages by selection of required criteria.

All searches allow to search by a selection of required criteria (Real fire or wood burning stove, Disabled facilities, Pets welcome, Smoking allowed, Indoor or Outdoor swimming pool, Fully inclusive prices, and/or Green tourism business scheme rated).

Other options include: Download PDF file version of property's Premier Cottages brochure entry, Download E-brochure (by region), Add to a favourites list, Click through to property's own website, Subscribe to Premier Cottages email newsletter, User 'FeedBack', Email property page link to a friend, Detailed (Google powered) location maps, List of Award winning properties, On-line brochure request option.

#### Number of cottages featured by regions:

- 47 in Shropshire & Herefordshire
- 83 in Northumberland & County Durham
- 60 in East Anglia, East Midlands & Lincolnshire
- 70 in Cotswolds
- 153 in Devon
- 30 in Ireland
- 2 in The Isles of Scilly
- 10 in Channel Islands
- 143 in Cornwall
- 41 in Lake District & Cumbria
- 62 in Peak District and Derbyshire
- 22 in Dorset & Somerset
- 16 in Surrey, Kent & Sussex
- 73 in Yorkshire & Lancashire
- 13 in Scotland
- 68 in Wales

*Note: cottage numbers as at 04-Feb-09.*

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