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Barometer: Travel

By Tom Robbins

No longer just for children, a new breed of luxury tree houses are appearing amid the leaves in England's forests

Fair Oak Farm, East Sussex



Purists might complain that most modern tree houses actually sit on wooden stilts rather than being entirely supported by a single tree, but hammering nails into trunks is rather frowned upon these days and few trees would cope with the weight of the amenities on offer.

These two circular tree houses, which opened late last year on a farm only an hour's drive from London, boast double beds, wet rooms, kitchens, WiFi, DVD libraries, sheltered balconies and, best of all, uninterrupted views over the Sussex countryside. The Bluebell steam railway, Ashdown forest and Lewes castle are all close by.

Sleeps two, from £150 for two nights; www.fairoakfarm.co.uk