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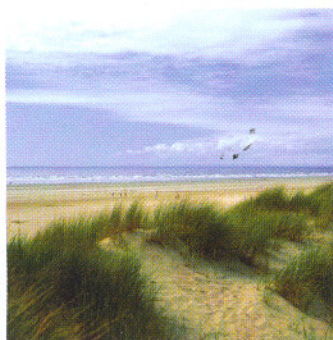
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## ECO RESORTS A WALK IN THE PARK

With British National Tourism Week (March 10-18) highlighting domestic travel options, the work of savvy hoteliers pitching Britain's national parks to affluent eco-conscious clients seems spot on, reports *Georgie Hobbs*.

This July sees the opening of Bluestone, an eco-village in Pembrokeshire Coast National Park (below), while Natural Retreats plans to up its accommodation in Yorkshire Dales National Park. William McNamara OBE, Bluestone chief executive, plans to open 186 lodges, 30 cottages and 17 studios, eventually bringing the room count to 355 throughout this year. Guests will also have exclusive sessions at the new all-weather Blue Lagoon water park nearby, heated by a biomass energy centre. McNamara believes the lodges fill a gap in the market. "We're not here to force anyone to listen to our eco principles, it's more of a gentle persuasion through common sense and sound principles," he said. All south-facing loges will be heated by solar panels and the pub and three restaurants will use locally-sourced ingredients.



Natural Retreats will open nine new zero-carbon lodges (above) at its Aislabeck, Yorkshire, retreat in 54 acres of private woodland with natural springs for drinking water. "We attract a market that is keen to 'do the right thing', without sacrificing any comfort," said Natural Retreats' founding partner Ewan Kearney. The company also has applications pending in the Lake District, Snowdonia and the North York Moors national parks and is

aiming to create 14 more Natural Retreats by 2010.

**Five nights at Natural Retreats costs from £880 per residence (sleeps six), [naturalretreats.com](http://naturalretreats.com); a four-night midweek break in Bluestone costs from £600 per residence (sleeps four), [bluestonewales.com](http://bluestonewales.com)**

**ECO TIPS REEF ENCOUNTER** Nisbet Plantation Beach Club in Nevis has installed an artificial reef to breathe life back into its beach and the sealife. Nevis has also launched a geothermal programme to produce electricity for the whole island with enough left to export to other islands too ([nisbetplantation.com](http://nisbetplantation.com)). **CARBON CUTS FOR CLIENTS** Eco-conscious clients can now offset the CO<sub>2</sub> emissions of their holiday with ITC Classics via Climate Care ([itcclassics.co.uk](http://itcclassics.co.uk); [climatecare.org](http://climatecare.org)). **KIMPTON CARES** Kimpton boutique hotels has pledged to



make a lifelong commitment to environmental responsibility. Its new Great Meetings, Great Causes programme includes a range of incentives ([kimptonhotels.com](http://kimptonhotels.com)). **HUG A TREE** With on-site animal sanctuary and zero-tolerance approach to hunting and deforestation, Ko Samui's first luxury boutique hotel is still setting trends. Tongsai Bay composts leftover food which is then used to cultivate organic vegetables and herbs ([tongsaibay.co.th](http://tongsaibay.co.th)). **NATURAL NOURISHMENT** Cybele Forest Lodge & Health Spa is now committed to natural gardening methods to keep new chef Candy Dormehl's kitchen stocked with herbs and vegetables ([cybele.co.za](http://cybele.co.za)). **PERU FOR YOU** Inkaterra, Peru's first travel company to go carbon neutral, has opened two luxury boutique hotels – Titilaka Inkaterra Puno and La Casona, both of which offer tailor-made adventures taking in local wildlife ([inkaterra.com](http://inkaterra.com)). **WILD AT HEART** Cute Wild Child bracelets are available from CC Africa's safari shops. Each £5 bracelet will fund a child's lesson's in conservation on one of its reserves ([africafoundation.org](http://africafoundation.org)). **ON THE ROOF** The Fairmont Royal York in Toronto has created an organic rooftop herb garden (left) where it grows enough herbs in salvaged four-poster beds to supply its three kitchens ([fairmont.com/royalyork](http://fairmont.com/royalyork))