

You see the following announcement on a travel website:

Outdoor Activity Holidays

If you've been on an outdoor activity holiday, then we'd love to hear from you. Maybe you went horse-riding, rock climbing or windsurfing, for example. Write a review for our website evaluating the location, facilities and activities, and explaining why you would, or wouldn't, recommend it to other holidaymakers.

Write your **review**.

GET AWAY FROM IT ALL

Imagine an old quaint cottage located at the far end of a country road; surrounded by mountains and without an internet connection or even a telephone signal. This is what I called home for a week while doing volunteering work for the National Trust in a remote area of the Peak District called the Dark Valley.

Let's admit it, the place is not for everyone. It is devoid of luxuries, with very basic sleeping facilities in the form of dormitories and shared bathrooms. However, it isn't without its charms. The ground floor had a renovated modern spacious dining room with a massive table in the centre where we, the international group of volunteers, shared dinners and enriching conversations that continued in the adjacent living room while sitting cosily around the fireplace.

I suppose it begs the question. What were we doing during the day? Well, no less than repairing the weathered façade of the farmhouse. Construction work! Something most of us didn't know the first thing about. Luckily, we had the help of an expert who came round to give us the tools and all sorts of explanations and encouragement. Although it was hard work, the atmosphere was joyful and we had plenty of breaks. Once the day's work was done, by mid-afternoon, some of us mountain-lovers set off to explore the area. What a treat!

I would recommend this type of working holiday to people of all ages, who are into volunteering, sharing and don't mind a bit of discomfort in the knowledge that the treasure they'll be taking home is unique: new friendships with open-minded people, a taste of the English countryside and learning new skills. All in all, an unforgettable experience.
