SPECTACULAR VIEWS: The Charles Bathurst Inn nestles within the Yorkshire Dales National Park

Inside, it is spacious with a sort of art deco theme – light blue walls are complimented by dark wood and leather furniture and plush textiles.
The bathroom is decidely roomy with a powerful shower over the bath. There's also plenty of storage space and a couple of chairs in which you can sit and watch the world go (slowly) by.
The on-site restaurant, meanwhile, prides itself on using the best quality local ingredients – something which has won it countless plaudits from critics.
Its menu changes daily and is hand-written on a huge mirror above a roaring fire.
You place your order at the bar and are shown to your table when your starter is ready – all very civilised.
The chef sources lamb and beef which is all reared locally and fresh fish arrives six days a week from Hartlepool and fruit and veg travels only from as far afield as Snape.
All this care and attention shows in a well-thought out menu and beautifully presented and tasting food.
It's certainly popular with both tourists and locals alike and both nights we stayed, the restaurant and bar were packed out.
The breakfast, meanwhile, is among the best I've ever had.
It's very easy to see why people return here time and time again.

Exploring

Its excellent location makes it not only convenient for that pesky walking, but for generally exploring the area.
CB's – as I'm now officially calling it – is on the unclassified road that if you follow long enough will lead you the highest pub in England, Tan Hill.
Once famed for being the Everest windows pub (remember the ad where Ted Moult dropped his feather?), it's now become something of a mecca for animal lovers, too.
Outside some of the many Dales sheep roam freely and when we arrived we were greeted by the endearing bleats of two newborn lambs.
Indoors, this somewhat rough but ready bar is also home to a dog curled up beside an open fire and later as we're perusing some newspapers, a cat walks across our laps.
Shortly, it's the lambs' feeding time and they're invited in to have their bottles in the bar – prompting a mass of 'oohs' and 'aahs' from the assembled customers.
It might not be everyone's cup of tea, but we loved it. And even if you're not an animal fan, the Tan Hill, with 360 degree views to die for, is still the perfect place to watch the sun go down.

travelfacts

- Vicki Robinson stayed at the Charles Bathurst Inn, Arkengarthdale, North Yorkshire.
- For reservations, call 01748 884567 or see the website www.cbinn.co.uk for more details.
- The tariff is £108 per room per night for bed and breakfast (Mon to Thursday) and £123 per room per night bed and breakfast (Fri - Sun).
- A two night dinner, bed and breakfast break is £141 per person (£70.50 pppn) Mon to Thur and £159 per person (£79.50 pppn) on Fri to Sun.
- YEP readers can enjoy an exclusive offer available in June – save £50 off a 2 or 3 night dinner, bed and breakfast break per booking, by calling and quoting code YJ11
- Prices for the Lexus CT 200h start from £23,485. It is available from Benfield Lexus on Domestic Road, Leeds. Call 0845 481 2498 to book a test drive.

LOCAL INGREDIENTS: Beautifully presented food at the Charles Bathurst Inn

The CB is also on the doorstep of the tiny village of Langthwaite and a short hop from Reeth with its quaint village green and honesty box for parking fees. It has just a handful of shops but is great for whiling away an hour or two. We dropped in to the White House tearoom which was like taking a trip back in time with its dainty china and potted plants. The food, though, was plentiful and delicious.
Another short hop took us to the market town of Richmond with its Georgian architecture and bustling market square.
The town's ancient castle and its ramparts give a magnificent view across the Swale Valley and there's a fascinating, but gloomy tale to be had within its walls.
An exhibition tells the story of how the castle was used during the First World War to imprison a group of conscientious objectors – several of them from Leeds – who refused to fight for King and country. These included 'the Richmond 16' who were taken to France and sentenced to death. Eventually the sentence was commuted to 10 years' hard labour but it's still far from a happy ending and disturbing to consider it happened less than a century ago.
Elsewhere in the well-heeled town, the Georgian Theatre Museum and the Friary Tower and Gardens are well worth a look.
But my favourite place had to be York House Emporium – an incredible shop packed to the rafters with all manner of antiques, furniture, collectibles, cushions, jewellery, bags and other miscellaneous objects of interest.
It's easy to lose yourself in here for hours on end because there is simply so much to see, with every surface and wall covered. Even the backyard is packed with interesting articles and if you look carefully, you might just notice one or two of the local cats lapping up the sunshine between chimney pots and plantstands.
Slightly further afield lies the village of Aysgarth, best known for its waterfalls which famously featured in the Hollywood movie *Robin Hood, Prince of Thieves.*
Sitting high above the falls is St Andrew's Church, which is said to have the largest churchyard in England.
Wherever you choose to venture, of course, it's reassuring to know you'll be heading back to a fine home base at the end of the day.
For us, the wonderful CB's filled that role to a tee – even if we didn't get so much as a splash of mud on our walking boots...

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