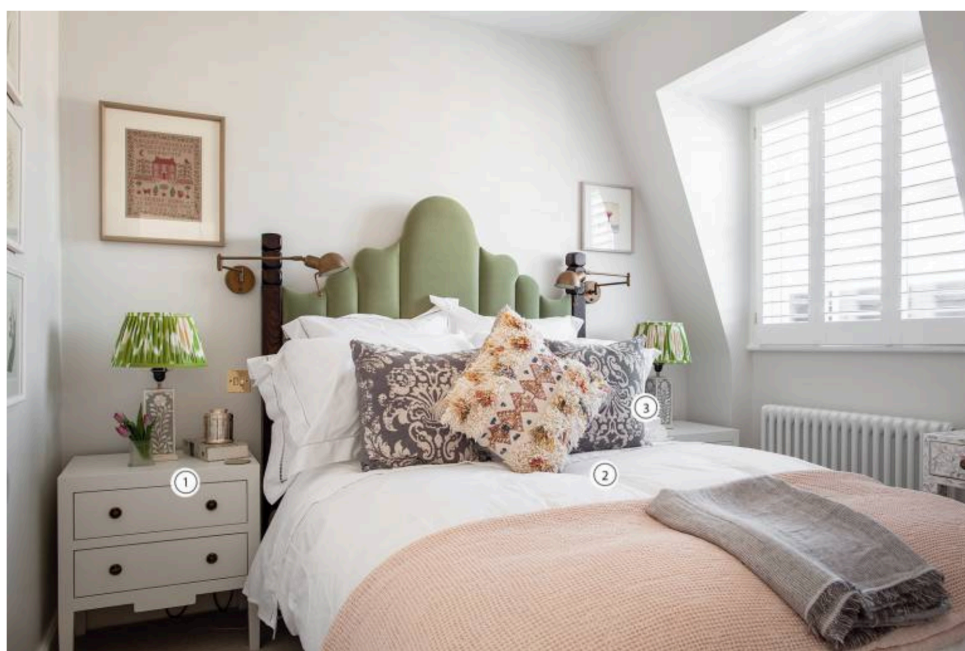


ONE ROOM

Guest star

Often the spare room is a dumping ground, but now is the season to get it visitor-ready. *Jessica Doyle* shows how

Perhaps underused at other times of the year, the spare room becomes a pressing concern at Christmas. In an ideal world, a guest bedroom would be just that, but in reality most do double duty as an overflow storage space, laundry room, playroom... The list goes on. If you have people coming to stay, clear out clutter where possible, and take inspiration from the following examples to make this holiday season one that your guests will remember for all the right reasons.



THE COUNTRY-HOUSE-HOTEL LOOK

‘Make the bed and bedding as luxurious as your budget will allow,’ advises interior designer Davina Stanley (paperandwhite.com), who decorated this spare room. ‘A cashmere throw is a good touch, and I also like to include a tray loaded with a scented candle, some carefully chosen books, a note with the Wi-Fi code and a vase of flowers.’



Leave a tray with a coloured-glass water jug and tumblers on the bedside or dressing table. Hint carafe, £32, and tumblers, £24 for two, LSA (lsa-international.com)



A patterned quilt will add warmth and wow factor, plus a dose of cheerful colour. Cotton block-printed quilt, from £195 for a double, The Mews (themewsfurnishings.com)

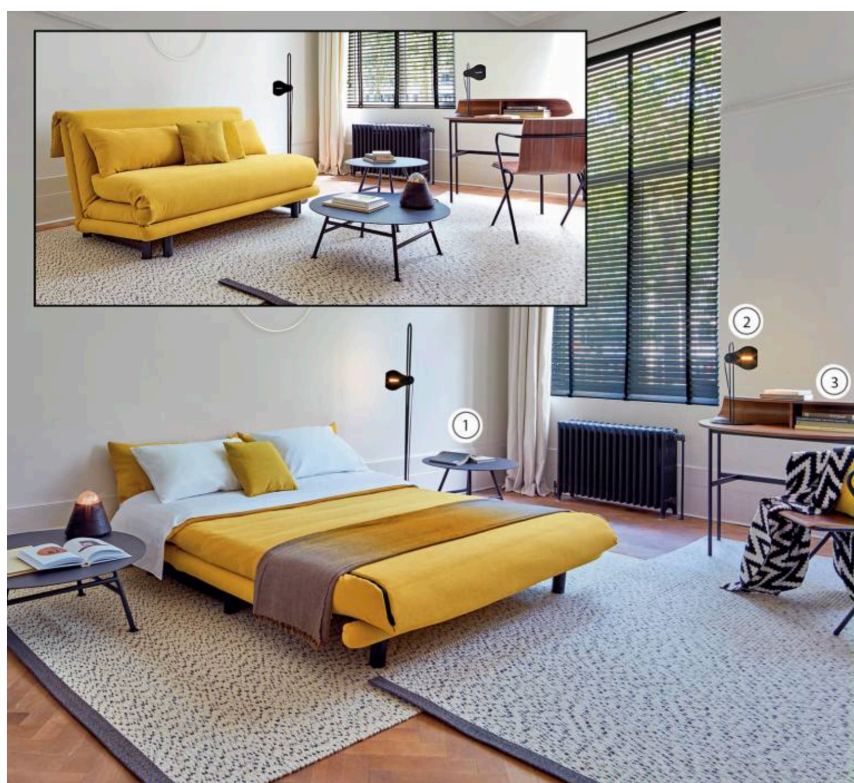
3



Pretty pillowcases will give character to crisp white bedding. Cotton scalloped-edge pillowcase, £26, Sarah K (sarahk.co.uk)



A mirror is essential in a guest room – here's a decorative option. Bone-inlaid mirror, £109, Sophie Conran (sophieconran.com)



THE HARD-WORKING SPACE

When the spare room doubles as a home office, a good sofa bed is invaluable. This one from Ligne Roset (from £1,947, ligne-roset.com) is a smart, low-profile sofa by day, while at night it unfolds easily into a comfortable bed – and thanks to its armless design, your guests won't feel as though they're sleeping on the sofa.



Hang a spare dressing gown on the back of the door to make visitors feel at home. Linen robe, £80, Piglet (pigletinbed.com)



① A compact side table with a drawer is useful for holding a hairdryer and toiletries. Oak No.185 bedside table, £199, John Lewis (johnlewis.com)



② An angled desk lamp with a metallic finish can work just as well on a bedside table. Brass Clanger desk light, £84, Pooky (pooky.com)



③ This mid-century-style desk is roomy enough for work, but also makes a smart dressing table – just add a mirror and flowers. Wooden desk, £599, West Elm (westelm.co.uk)



ONE FOR THE KIDS

Dress up a children's room, as interior designers K&H Design (kandhdesign.co.uk) have done here, with a Christmas banner, a pop-up decoration on the table and a little present on each bed. Keep an extra stocking handy for any small guests who might have forgotten theirs.



With more than a passing resemblance to a reindeer, this hanging rail is both practical and seasonally bang on. Mango-wood Avar clothing rack, £89, Swoon (swooneditions.com)

①



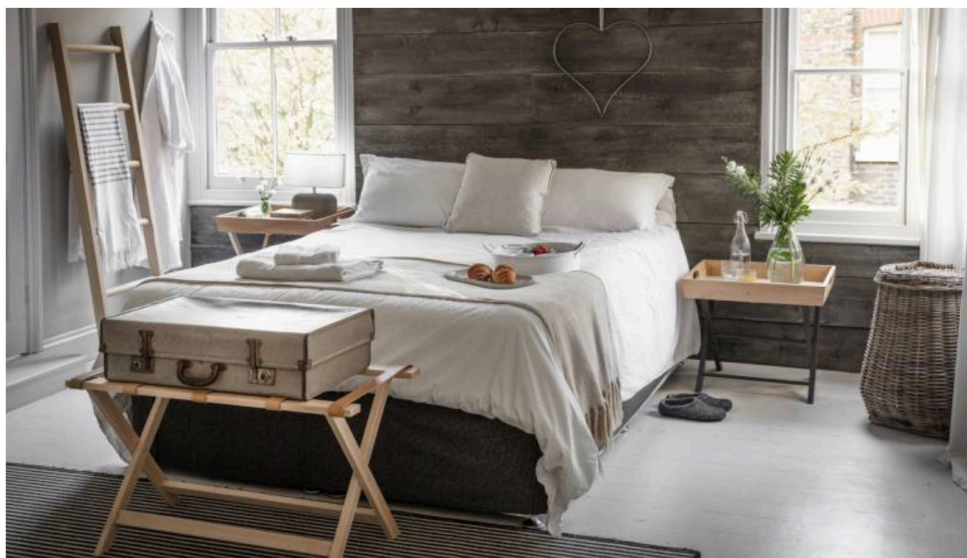
A printed, washable duvet is a practical choice – just chuck the whole thing in the washing machine between guests. Polyester duvet, £32.50 for a single, Marks & Spencer (marksandspencer.com)



Den by day; extra bed by night – this sweet teepee makes a fun addition to a child's bedroom all year round. Cotton teepee, £106, Nobodinoz (smallable.com)



Perfect for impromptu sleepovers: a comfy chair that converts into a bed when you remove the cover. Cotton-covered chair bed, £120, Great Little Trading Co (gltc.co.uk)



THE HOME FROM HOME

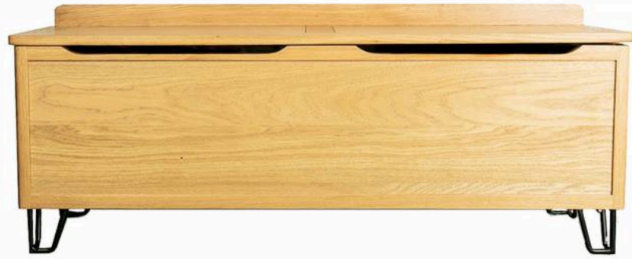
It's the little thoughtful details that elevate a spare room: here, there's a foldable luggage rack for guests to put their bags on, a ladder for hanging towels and a good-sized bedside table each side of the bed (all from garden-trading.co.uk). Bud vases with flowers are the finishing touch.



Interior designer Joanna Wood suggests leaving biscuits or sweets in a little tin on the bedside table. 'Everyone likes to indulge at Christmas.' Silver-plated treats tin, £50, Soho Home (sohohome.com)



There's generally no need for a full wardrobe in a spare room, but a hanging rail is helpful – this one even incorporates a shoe rack. Brass bellboy rail, £395, Loaf (loaf.com)



A storage ottoman at the end of the bed is an alternative to a luggage rack, and you can keep bedding in it too. Oak Brunel blanket box, £399, Heal's ([heals.com](https://www.heals.com))



Pile up cushions to add comfort, texture and a pop of colour. Cotton-velvet cushion, £28, Truly ([truly.co.uk](https://www.truly.co.uk))



Hamam towels look chic and are lightweight, so they are quick-drying, easier to wash and take up less space. Cotton towel, £28, Hammam & Home ([hammamandhome.co.uk](https://www.hammamandhome.co.uk))

Publication: The Telegraph [online](#)

Date: Saturday 7th December

Monthly Unique Visitors: 87,640,320