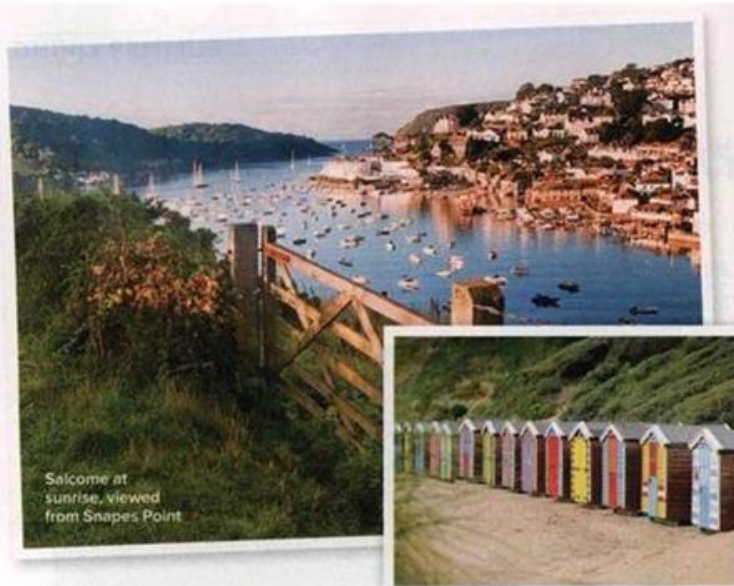


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## *Hidden gems* **IN DEVON**

Pile in the car and head south west for a staycation in one of these special escapes you'll want to return to year after year...

**T**he southernmost English county before Cornwall, Devon is an agricultural region famed for its indulgent produce - rich clotted cream, bountiful fresh seafood, and sweet ciders are just a few of the treats awaiting visitors.

Tourism to the region is enduringly popular, driven by the spectacular

and quintessentially British landscape and the promise of warm, sunny summers. Visitors flock year after year to the majestic and rugged Jurassic Coast, the sandy beaches of the English Riviera and the wild beauty of the Dartmoor and Exmoor national parks. Maybe it's time to join the staycation crowd and set your sights on the south west...

### **3 BEST BEACHES**

Devon's not exactly short of lovely coastline, but these are the beaches to make a beeline for...

**1 Saunton Sands**  
This stunning sandy beach on the North Devon coast might look pretty familiar - it's been used as a filming location for numerous television shows, movies and even music videos.

**2 Woolacombe**  
Three miles of picturesque golden sand have made this gorgeous spot an enduring favourite with families. Patrolled by RNLI lifeguards, it's the perfect place for kids to play in the water.

**3 Salcombe**  
A true English classic, this sandy beach's azure waters are reminiscent of the Mediterranean, and the smart town is full of stylish boutiques and restaurants, perfect for post-sunbathing indulgence.



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## **Foodie luxe** **LYMPSTONE** **MANOR**

**With elegance worthy of an Agatha Christie drama, this Georgian mansion sets a new standard in comfortable, country-house chic.**

Situated near Exmouth on the south coast, it's the domain of Michelin-starred chef Michael Caines, who greets his guests at the door, where walkers' muddy boots line the porch. Designed to be a home from home, the interior features a palette of tawny champagnes and lustrous golds, while the 21 guest rooms, all named after the area's abundant birdlife, come with luxurious beds built by local craftsmen and silver trays of complimentary gin and tonic. Caines' cooking takes centre stage.

The eight-course tasting highlight East Devon's superb produce and promise a delicious through the best of seasonal, British cooking.



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## Sleep in the sky

### PICKWELL MANOR TREEHOUSE

Sleeping in a little cabin in the forest's leafy canopy is the of childhood fantasies.

These days, treehouse hotels are not too uncommon, but few offer the picturesque setting of the

The Loft and The Hideaway, both with fabulous views over tranquil nature-filled fields or out to sea over to Lundy Island. The houses were built using both traditional craftsmanship techniques and modern technology. Indigenous woods such as larch and oak were used, and all power and water from solar panels and the estate's natural freshwater spring. This is rustic enough to remind you you are, but with the right amenities and mod cons to feel nicely plush. Large beds, woodburners and plenty of cushions keep the atmosphere comfortable and cosy, and amenities include en suite bathrooms, saunas, terraces and private balconies.

**BOOK IT** One night in a Classic garden-view room costs from £272.

To book, visit [lympstonemanor.co.uk](http://lympstonemanor.co.uk)



The luxurious Lympstone Manor is set inside a Grade II-listed Georgian country house, overlooking the mouth of the Exe estuary



**BOOK IT** A two-night stay in The Loft costs from £380; two nights in The Hideaway, from

To book, visit [pickwellmanor.co.uk](http://pickwellmanor.co.uk) or email [info@pickwellmanor.co.uk](mailto:info@pickwellmanor.co.uk)



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## SIMPLE PLEASURES

### Home from home COSY RENTAL COTTAGES

Towing all the kids to a hotel is often more stress than it's worth – hello holiday cottages! Often overlooked in favour of camping or B&Bs, a home-for-hire is the way to experience a destination like a local. Premier Cottages offers a range of stylish, cosy and quaint properties that allow guests to live out their Devon countryside fantasies. Our favourites are: Flear Farm Cottages in the South Hams – an idyllic farm complex with pretty boltholes, an indoor pool, animal petting and kids' play barn, all within easy reach of woodland walks and sandy beaches; Rose Cottage near Barnstaple, north Devon, an 18th century thatched two-bedroom dwelling bursting with period



Stay at the chocolate-brown Rose Cottage

features – inglenook fireplaces, stone walls and oak beams make the perfect backdrop for contemporary luxuries, such as the William Holland copper bath; or for a more romantic option, head to Swallow Barn on the edge of the Dartmoor National Park, a snug cottage just for two decorated in classic farmhouse style.



The intimate courtyard at Swallow Barn

**BOOK IT** Four nights in Rose Cottage costs from £499; two nights in Swallow Barn costs from £425. To book, visit [premiercottages.co.uk](http://premiercottages.co.uk)



Not a tent peg or a sleeping bag in sight!



Soak in your own private hot tub at Devon Yurt

### Glamping in style FUN YURTS AND HUTS

Devon's glorious countryside is its biggest attraction and the best way to get back to nature is by getting close to it!

We love Devon Yurt, on a working farm close to the Cornwall border, which offers just two luxuriously furnished tents – one suitable for two adults and up to four children, the other for a couple. Each has its own hot tub, wood-burning stove and barbecue, so you don't need to bring any

equipment with you. If the romance of a shepherd's hut appeals, take a look at Orchard Wagon just outside Exeter, where you can stay in a self-contained hut complete with kitchen and bathroom, hidden among the trees.

**BOOK IT** Devon Yurts cost from £395 per week. One night in an Orchard Wagon shepherd's hut costs £50. To book both, visit [canopyandstars.co.uk](http://canopyandstars.co.uk)

### It's festival season!

Find your ideal festival in the glorious landscape and temperate climate of Devon...

#### MID DEVON SHOW, TIVERTON, 27 JULY

This extravaganza includes shopping, food, fairground rides, music, farm animals, competitions, displays and countryside pursuits.

#### GLAS-DENBURY, NEAR NEWTON ABBOT, 5-6 JULY

Celebrating music and arts, this family-friendly, accessible event is packed with entertainment and children's activities.

#### POWDERHAM CASTLE FOOD FESTIVAL, EXETER, 5-6 OCTOBER

Treat your taste buds at the county's premier foodie affair, celebrating the absolute best of Devon's top-quality produce.

FEATURE: BRITNEY HAMILTON COURTESY PHOTOGRAPHS ALAMY