

# Welcome to Devon & Cornwall

*When it comes to white sand, wild surf and wide-open skies, nowhere in Britain can compare to Devon and Cornwall.*

## Coast & Countryside

Flung out on Britain's westerly edge, these side-by-side counties are celebrated for their natural charms: craggy cliffs cloaked in gorse, rocky tors on empty moors, golden beaches washed by surf. Every year millions of visitors flock here to feel the sand between their toes and paddle in the briny blue, and with miles of coastline, countryside and clifftops to explore, it's no wonder. And while the West Country's popularity inevitably means crowds, with the help of a decent map and an adventurous spirit, you'll always be able to find a patch of sand to call your own.

## History & Culture

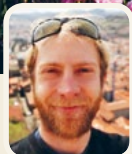
While the scenery is undoubtedly the star attraction, there's more to Devon and Cornwall than shining sands and wrap-around views. Thousands of years of history have left an indelible mark on the landscape, from neolithic monuments and Bronze Age villages to lonely minestacks and medieval castles. History buffs can explore the region's many houses and gardens, while culture vultures can immerse themselves in a packed calendar of festivals, celebrations, street parties and artistic events.

## Cooking Up A Storm

More recently, the West Country has made a name for itself as one of Britain's gastronomic hot spots. Thanks to the fabulous produce on its doorstep, Devon and Cornwall can now claim some of the nation's most innovative restaurants and talented chefs. Whether it's cracking open a fresh crab, barbecuing some just-caught fish on the beach or tucking into a genuine Cornish pasty, there's a wealth of foodie experiences waiting out west.

## Outdoor Adventures

If you want to experience the region's stunning landscapes at their best, you'll need to ditch the car and get active. Hiking trails and cycling paths criss-cross the countryside, and the South West Coast Path winds its way through a kaleidoscope of secret beaches, windblown dunes and majestic clifftops. But there are plenty more outdoor activities on offer, from coasteering over rocky crags, kayaking down a wooded creek or stargazing under Exmoor's night skies. It's a landscape just waiting to be explored.



## Why I Love Devon & Cornwall

by Oliver Berry

Cornwall is my home county, so it's the place I know better than anywhere else. I've travelled all over the globe, but there's something special about Cornwall, and I always find myself drawn back sooner or later. I reckon I've discovered pretty much every beach there is over the years, but there's always something new to see: the light, the weather and the changing seasons all bring out a different side to the Cornish landscape. For me, the Lizard and the Penwith coastline are every bit as spectacular as the more exotic places I've visited.

**For more about our authors, see p304.**