Devon & Cornwall

Newquay & North Cornwall
South Cornwall
West Cornwall & the Isles of Scilly

Exmoor & North Devon
Bodmin & East Cornwall
Plymouth & Dartmoor

Exeter & East Devon
Torquay & South Devon

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North Coast Explorer

Wild views and sea-smacked shores characterise this coastal road trip, which starts on Exmoor and winds west onto Cornwall’s stunning north coast.

Kick things off in Dunster with a visit to the ruby-red castle, then head west through the village of Porlock to take the spectacular hairpin road over Porlock Hill. Follow the road along the moor’s north coast to the twin seaside towns of Lynton and Lynmouth, and factor in time for a walk along the beautiful Valley of the Rocks.

Continue west to take in some old-fashioned seaside atmosphere in Ilfracombe, a classic candy-floss resort known for its Victorian villas and busy beaches, as well as an unexpectedly arty side thanks to Damien Hirst, who owns a restaurant in town. Further west brings you to beachy Croyde and Braunton, where you can learn the surfing basics or just stroll through the dunes. Next comes Clovelly, a lost-in-time village lined with cob cottages and cobbled streets, before you cross the Cornish border to Bude, another seaside town that’s surrounded by sandy beaches, including family-friendly Summerleaze and cliff-backed Crackington Haven.
This end-to-end road trip factors in the must-see sights of Devon and Cornwall. Begin in the historic city of Exeter, where you can get a grandstand view from the top of the cathedral's towers before heading west into the wilds of Dartmoor. This strange, stark landscape of open heaths and twisted tors is prime hiking territory, but there are plenty of pretty villages to explore, such as Chagford and Widecombe-in-the-Moor. More wide-open scenery unfolds as you travel over windswept Bodmin Moor, another dramatic landscape that's also home to Cornwall's highest hill, Brown Willy. From here, it's not too far to Padstow, a former fishing port that has reinvented itself as Cornwall's culinary hotspot.

Southeast of Padstow, in a disused clay pit, loom the giant greenhouses of the Eden Project, which house an amazing array of trees and plants collected from across the globe, and have become one of Cornwall's most iconic attractions. Heading southwest brings you to Truro - the county's capital and its only city, centred around an impressive 19th-century cathedral. Along the Fal River lies the historic harbour of Falmouth, a lively university town where you can explore the county's seagoing heritage at the National Maritime Museum. Next comes arty St Ives, awash with galleries and crafts shops, as well as the renowned (and recently revamped) Tate St Ives, which houses works by the town's artistic luminaries. Take some time to explore the nearby beaches - especially the grand sweep of Gwithian and Godrevy, sprawling for three glorious golden miles to the west.

Head further west into Penwith for a visit to the old town of Penzance, where you'll find some excellent art galleries and plenty of handsome period architecture. Nearby Newlyn is also worth a stop if you're a fan of fish and seafood, but it can't compare to Mousehole when it comes to scenery; this old pilchard port is wonderfully photogenic, with its combination of seaside cottages, winding lanes and granite harbour. If time allows, take in a play at the clifftop Minack Theatre, and finish with a stroll along the headland at Land's End - last stop on mainland Britain before the Isles of Scilly, 28 miles out to sea.
Devon and Cornwall have rightly earned a reputation for fantastic food and drink. Begin in **Beer**, with top-quality fish sourced straight off the boats in Lyme Bay, and officially certified as 100% sustainable. Saunter west to **Dartmouth** for a meal at Mitch Tonks’ seafood bistro, Seahorse, and a pint at one of the town’s atmospheric harbour pubs. Along the river near **Totnes**, make time for an organic lunch at Riverford Field Kitchen, a fantastic location if you care about food provenance. Nearby, you can indulge in some fine wine and cheese-tasting at Sharpham winery, and take a tour of the vines above the Dart River. Continue onwards to chi-chi **Salcombe**, a town renowned for epicurean indulgences: our tip is to go for oysters and crustaceans at the Crab Shed. On your way west, it’s well worth popping into **Plymouth** to sample the city’s famous gin, visit the fish market and dine by the harbour on the Barbican – there are some great bistro and street-food stalls to discover here, and it's also a prime spot for some fish and chips.

Then it’s on into Cornwall, with a detour over **Bodmin Moor** to visit the sublime St Tudy Inn, run by talented chef Emily Scott, and some wine-tasting at the renowned Camel Valley Vineyard. Continue on to **Port Isaac**, where seafood supremo Nathan Outlaw has made his base with a brace of restaurants – one for small plates, the other for seriously sophisticated dining (it's the only restaurant in Cornwall with two Michelin stars). From here, it’s a short spin along the coast to **Padstow**, Cornwall’s most famous foodie town, where you can dine at restaurants owned by celeb chefs Rick Stein and Paul Ainsworth, and taste beers at the up-and-coming Padstow Brewing Company. Finish with a bit more wine-tasting at Trevibban Mill, where you can also dine superbly at the vineyard’s excellent bistro, Appleton's at the Vineyard.

Next, cut down to the south coast to **Falmouth** for some mussels and seafood at the Wheelhouse, before continuing all the way west to **Penzance** for a meal at Bruce Rennie’s superb bistro, the Shore. Round the epicurean adventure off in **Newlyn** for the freshest crab, lobster and crustaceans you’ll ever taste.
Many people have memories of happy family holidays to the West Country, but there’s a lot more to it these days than just beaches and buckets and spades. For this family-focused adventure, begin in Exeter with a spooky tour of the city’s underground passages and a canoe down the river from Exeter Quay. Then factor in quality beach time in Torquay before visiting the predators and primates of Paignton Zoo, followed by a bit more beachtime at Bantham and Bigbury-on-Sea.

Over in Cornwall, brave the high-speed zip wires of Adrenalin Quarry, then head west to watch cute capucin monkeys at Wild Futures Monkey Sanctuary near Looe, cycle round the trails of Cardinham Woods and kayak along the river near Fowey. But whatever you do, there’s one thing no one in the family will want to miss – and that’s the amazing biomes of the Eden Project. Round things off with as much time as you can spare to explore the wonderful beaches of Cornwall’s north coast. Newquay is an ideal location, as you can learn to surf and hand-plane at Watergate Bay, coasteer on Holywell Bay or get deliciously dizzy inside a zorb near Porth.
Off the Beaten Track: Devon & Cornwall

**ST NECTAN’S GLEN**
Take a bracing dip in this secret pool on the north Cornish coast, shaded by trees and said to be frequented by fairies. (p187)

**BOSSINEY HAVEN**
Find some coastal solitude on this remote north-coast beach, sheltered under sheer granite cliffs. (p188)

**DOZMARY POOL**
This windswept lake on Bodmin Moor is awash with legends: it’s said by some to be where King Arthur received Excalibur from the Lady of the Lake. (p149)

**GOLITHA FALLS**
Trek to the gorgeous wooded waterfall near St Neot on the southern edge of Bodmin Moor: perfect picnic territory. (p148)

**CLAY TRAILS**
Cycle through an otherworldly landscape of turquoise mica pools and china clay remains. (p172)

**ZENNOR HILL**
Trek to the summit of this rock-strewn hill for an amazing 360-degree perspective of the wild Penwith Moors. (p218)

**HARTLAND POINT**
Drink in the drama from this out-of-the-way headland that most visitors never take time to explore. (p139)

**BOSSINEY HAVEN**
HARTLAND POOL

**DOZMARY POOL**
GOLITHA FALLS

**CLAY TRAILS**
LANTIC & Lansallos

**ZENNOR HILL**
Helford River

**LANTIC & Lansallos**
Leave the crowds far behind on these hard-to-reach beaches on the south Cornish coast, or just explore the spectacular stretch of coast path. (p174)

**HELFORD RIVER**
Follow in the wake of the smugglers and rivermen of old as you pilot a kayak down this beautiful, peaceful waterway. (p164)
PLANNING YOUR TRIP OFF THE BEATEN TRACK

**MORTEHOE**
If you’ve always had a soft spot for One Man & His Dog, head for the Exmoor village of Mortehoe, where you can learn to round up sheep under the guidance of a working shepherd. (p130)

**NORTHAM BURROWS**
Spot butterflies and birdlife in this wildlife reserve of sand dunes and salt-marshes hidden behind Westward Ho! beach. (p137)

**GRAND WESTERN CANAL**
Cycle along the towpaths or catch a horse-drawn barge along this 11.5-mile canal that winds through classic Devon countryside. (p65)

**WISTMAN’S WOOD**
Wander amongst the moss-covered trunks of this mysterious oak woodland, the last remainder of the great forest that once covered Dartmoor. (p116)

**START POINT**
Admire the wraparound view from this dramatic 19th-century lighthouse on the south Devon coast. (p88)
Map Legend

Sights
- Beach
- Bird Sanctuary
- Buddhist
- Castle/Palace
- Christian
- Confucian
- Hindu
- Islamic
- Jain
- Jewish
- Monument
- Museum/Gallery/Historic Building
- Ruin
- Shinto
- Sikh
- Taoist
- Winery/Vineyard
- Zoo/Wildlife Sanctuary
- Other Sight

Activities, Courses & Tours
- Bodysurfing
- Diving
- Canoeing/Kayaking
- Course/Tour
- Sento Hot Baths/Onsen
- Skiing
- Snorkelling
- Surfing
- Swimming/Pool
- Walking
- Windsurfing
- Other Activity

Sleeping
- Sleeping
- Camping
- Hut/Shelter

Eating
- Eating

Drinking & Nightlife
- Drinking & Nightlife
- Cafe

Entertainment
- Entertainment

Shopping
- Shopping

Information
- Bank
- Embassy/Consulate
- Hospital/Medical
- Internet
- Police
- Post Office
- Telephone
- Toilet
- Tourist Information
- Other Information

Geographic
- Beach
- Gate
- Hut/Shelter
- Lighthouse
- Lookout
- Mountain/Volcano
- Oasis
- Park
- Pass
- Picnic Area
- Waterfall

Population
- Capital (National)
- Capital (State/Province)
- City/Large Town
- Town/Village

Transport
- Airport
- Border crossing
- Bus
- Cable car/Funicular
- Cycling
- Ferry
- Metro station
- Monorail
- Parking
- Petrol station
- S-Bahn/Subway station
- Taxi
- T-bane/Tunnelbana station
- Train station/Railway
- Tram
- Tube station
- U-Bahn/Underground station
- Other Transport

Routes
- Tollway
- Freeway
- Primary
- Secondary
- Tertiary
- Lane
- Unsealed road
- Road under construction
- Plaza/Mall
- Steps
- Tunnel
- Pedestrian overpass
- Walking Tour
- Walking Tour detour
- Path/Walking Trail

Boundaries
- International
- State/Province
- Disputed
- Regional/Suburb
- Marine Park
- Cliff
- Wall

Hydrography
- River, Creek
- Intermittent River
- Canal
- Water
- Dry/Salt/Intermittent Lake
- Reef

Areas
- Airport/Runway
- Beach/Desert
- Cemetery (Christian)
- Cemetery (Other)
- Glacier
- Mudflat
- Park/Forest
- Sight (Building)
- Sportsground
- Swamp/Mangrove

Note: Not all symbols displayed above appear on the maps in this book
OUR STORY

A beat-up old car, a few dollars in the pocket and a sense of adventure. In 1972 that’s all Tony and Maureen Wheeler needed for the trip of a lifetime – across Europe and Asia overland to Australia. It took several months, and at the end – broke but inspired – they sat at their kitchen table writing and stapling together their first travel guide, *Across Asia on the Cheap*. Within a week they’d sold 1500 copies. Lonely Planet was born.

Today, Lonely Planet has offices in Franklin, London, Melbourne, Oakland, Dublin, Beijing and Delhi, with more than 600 staff and writers. We share Tony’s belief that ‘a great guidebook should do three things: inform, educate and amuse’.

OUR WRITERS

Oliver Berry

**Cornwall**

Oliver is a writer and photographer from Cornwall. He has worked for Lonely Planet for more than a decade, covering destinations from Cornwall to the Cook Islands, and has worked on more than 30 guidebooks. He is also a regular contributor to many newspapers and magazines, including *Lonely Planet Traveller*. His writing has won several awards, including The Guardian Young Travel Writer of the Year and the TNT Magazine People’s Choice Award.

Oliver also wrote the Plan Your Trip and Understand chapters. His latest work is published at www.oliverberry.com.

Belinda Dixon

**Devon**

Only happy when her feet are suitably sandy, Belinda has been (gleefully) travelling, researching and writing for Lonely Planet since 2006. It’s seen her marvelling at Stonehenge at sunrise, scrambling up Italian mountain paths, horse riding across Donegal’s golden sands, kayaking down south Devon rivers, gazing at Verona’s frescoes, and fossil hunting on Dorset’s Jurassic Coast.

Belinda is also an adventure writer – which has seen her trek the Himalayas, scale Scottish mountains in a snow storm, climb Dartmoor crags, surf and swim in England’s winter seas, become addicted to SUP and sleep out under the stars. See her blog posts at https://belindadixon.com.