



# Exeter & East Devon

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## Best Places to Eat

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## Best Places for History

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## Why Go?

From the heritage city of Exeter to rural idylls and spectacular shores, Devon's eastern corner delivers it all. On the Jurassic Coast, wave-carved cliffs range from russet-red to creamy-white. In between sit long pebble beaches, genteel resorts and quaint fishing villages, perfect for hiking, kite-surfing, fishing or strolling along the prom. In history-rich Exeter, discover Roman walls, a fine cathedral and a lively arts scene. The snaking River Exe estuary is ripe for exploration by boat, bike or on foot. Behind the shore, rolling red-soil hills shelter tucked-away villages and stately homes, while the village of Topsham offers birdwatching, boat trips and foodie stops galore. It's also a place to really experience local ways of life in action, whether at a livestock market, a village beach party or a rural pub.

## When to Go

- ➔ **Easter** Sightings, campsites and boat trips swing into action.
- ➔ **Apr** Foodies flock to Exeter's South West Food & Drink ([www.exeterfoodanddrinkfestival.co.uk](http://www.exeterfoodanddrinkfestival.co.uk)) festival.
- ➔ **Jun & Sep** Prime visiting times – fewer crowds and less traffic.
- ➔ **Jul & Aug** Warmer, drier weather, but school holidays bring higher accommodation costs and busier beaches and roads.



## Exeter & East Devon Highlights

- 1 Exeter Cathedral** (p52) Taking in sweeping rooftop views on a tour amid gloriously Gothic architecture.
- 2 Branscombe** (p64) Exploring the millennia-old home.
- 3 Beer** (p64) Catching your own supper on a fishing trip.
- 4 Topsham** (p60) Hopping on the *Sea Dream* ferry to

head out into the marsh-fringed Exe estuary.

- 5 Pebblebed Vineyard** (p60) Touring the vines then enjoying a tutored tasting.

- 6 Exmouth** (p62) Getting a totally natural high kitesurfing.
- 7 Powderham Castle** (p54) Glimpsing life as it was 'below stairs' at this endearing stately home.

- 8 Sidmouth Folk Week** (p63) Joining an impromptu jam session beside the beach during this vibrant annual music festival.