

Welcome to Devon & Cornwall

Welcome to the wild, wild west – a land of gorse-clad cliffs, booming surf, white sand and epic, widescreen skies.

World-Class Coastline

There's one aspect of the West Country that's impossible to miss – its epic coastline. Bordered on three sides by sea, the combined coastlines of Devon and Cornwall stretch for more than 530 miles, encompassing plunging cliffs, sandy bays, secluded coves, craggy headlands and postcard-pretty fishing villages aplenty. There's a beach to suit all tastes, whether you're here to laze in the sunshine, paddle in the blue or set out in search of the perfect wave. And with a good map and an adventurous spirit, solitude is never far away.

Living History

Whether it's the silhouette of a crumbling castle on a lonely hilltop, or the spectre of moody mine stacks spiking the horizon, the region's history plays out wherever you look. From its long legacy of fishing and seafaring to its illustrious mining heritage, Devon and Cornwall are crammed with fascinating reminders of the past. You could while away your days exploring ancient hillforts or mysterious stone circles, marvel at the ambition of the region's great gardens and country houses, or venture inside a decommissioned tin mine, an underground telegraph station or even a working lighthouse.

The Great Outdoors

Getting active is the best way to experience the region's landscapes. Hiking trails and cycling paths criss-cross the countryside, and the South West Coast Path winds its way through a kaleidoscope of coastal landscapes. But there are many more ways to get active: coasteering over rocky crags, kayaking down a wooded creek, paddleboarding to a remote cove or stargazing under pitch-black night skies. And there's a wealth of wildlife to spot too, from Exmoor's wild deer to the Lizard's red-billed choughs – and you'll never forget your first glimpse of a wild dolphin or basking shark.

Food Feasts

Fantastic fish and farm-made cheeses, small-batch beers and world-class wines, Michelin-starred bistros and quirky beach cafes: Devon and Cornwall can now proudly claim to be one of Britain's most exciting places to eat and drink. There's a good reason several of the UK's top chefs have decided to make their home here – some of Britain's best produce can be found right on their doorstep. Whether it's cracking open a fresh crab, barbecuing fish on the beach, picnicking on the cliffs or tucking into a traditional Cornish pasty, there's a wealth of foodie experiences waiting out west.



Why I Love Devon & Cornwall

By Oliver Berry, Writer

Cornwall is my home county, so it's the place I know better than anywhere. I've travelled all over the globe as a travel writer, but there's something special about the world out west, and I always find myself drawn back. I reckon I've visited 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 landscape. For me, the Lizard and the Penwith coastline are every bit as spectacular as any of the more exotic places I've visited.

For more about our writers, see p288