

MOTIVATE, EDUCATE AND REWARD



DEVON & CORNWALL

THE SPARKLING LIGHT reflected off the sea pervades this glorious maritime corner of England, so picturesque and charming that everyone who visits falls in love with it immediately.

With its whitewashed houses tumbling down to tiny harbours, thatched cottages and clotted cream teas, it's the perfect destination for your guests to recharge and bond while drinking in the picture-postcard scenes.

There are challenges too. And lots of fun. After all, what better place to learn to ride the waves than Cornwall, the best surfing coast in England? And where better to unravel a fiendish Murder Mystery than the English Riviera, birthplace of crime legend Agatha Christie herself?

LOCATION & ACCESS

The main gateway to Devon is Exeter.
The main gateway to Cornwall is St Austell.

By road

From London to Exeter: Approx. 3.5 hrs southwest/190 miles.
From London to St Austell: Approx. 5 hrs southwest/275 miles.

By air

Nearest international airport:
London-Heathrow airport.

Alternative airports:
Exeter, Bristol, Southampton airports.

By train

From London-Waterloo to Exeter: 2.5 hrs.
From London-Paddington to St Austell: 4 hrs.



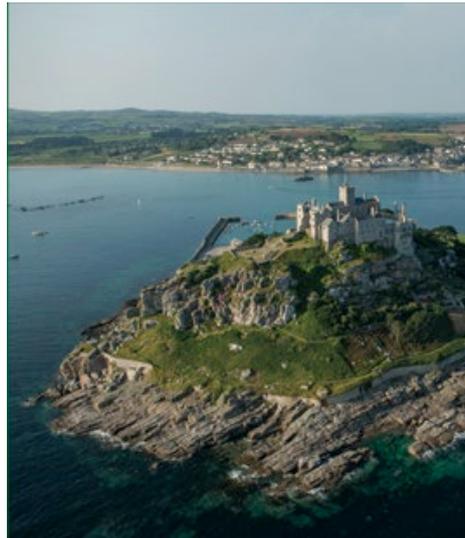
Devon



Stretching from the Bristol Channel in the north to the English Channel in the south, this picturesque rural county, peppered with thatched cottages, is a region of many contrasts – from the sweeping golden sands, stark cliffs and bracing winds of the north coast, a surfer's paradise, to the palm trees and sub-tropical flowers that flourish along the gentle coves and creeks in the south, setting for the crime novels of Agatha Christie.

Inland, there is a feeling of remoteness among the high open roads and sunken lanes, while the Dartmoor and Exmoor national parks provide perfect opportunities for getting active in wild, unspoilt open expanses.

Cornwall



Located in the far west of England, on a peninsula tumbling into the vast Atlantic Ocean, this beautiful county, much loved by author Rosamunde Pilcher, is wrapped by a dramatic coastline that stretches for almost 300 miles.

Here captivating fishing villages of slate and whitewashed stone shelter in steep harbours while spectacular beaches of pounding surf provide a natural playground for a variety of watersports. The wonderful intensity of light, particularly around St Ives, has long captivated artists, many of whom have made the county their home, while visitors can also savour luscious cream teas and Cornish pasties as well as a wealth of succulent fresh seafood, renowned across the nation.

National Parks & Gardens



Around a quarter of Devon lies within its two scenic national parks. The brooding uplands of Dartmoor, sprinkled with rocky outcrops ('tors') and prehistoric remains, and gentler Exmoor, where Exmoor ponies and pretty villages like Porlock and Dunster nestle in the folds of heather-clad hills, are both criss-crossed with miles of footpaths and bridleways, perfect for lovers of the great outdoors.

The region's mild maritime climate has also given rise to a number of outstanding gardens, particularly along the sheltered south coast. These include the lush sub-tropical jungle plantings of the famous Lost Gardens of Heligan as well as the futuristic 'biomes' of the Eden Project, which houses plants from around the globe.

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ARRIVAL

Step on board the British Pullman, sister train to the Venice Simplon-Orient-Express, and you are back in the heyday of great train travel. Seated in vintage carriages, your guests will be surrounded by a world of pure indulgence. Let them revel in luxury and nostalgia as they board a carriage dating from the 1920s or 1930s, staffed by liveried stewards. Their journey begins in style, with Bellinis and brunch on board as they glide through the English countryside en route to the West Country.



WHERE TO STAY

Bovey Castle, North Bovey, Devon
★★★★★ **64 rooms and suites**



Bovey Castle is history, excitement, glamour and adventure. Where else can your guests wear their Hunter wellies at 8am, golf spikes at 3pm and Manolo Blahniks for dinner?

Set in an unrivalled location in the heart of Dartmoor National Park, with far-reaching views, this luxury country resort boasts 64 beautifully-furnished rooms as well as an indulgent spa, 18-hole championship golf course and a wide range of traditional country pursuits, from deer stalking to fly fishing. With its relaxed atmosphere and outstanding service, it's a place where your guests can live out their dreams... then put their feet up!

Watergate Bay, near Newquay, Cornwall
★★★★★ **69 rooms and suites**



Set on a spectacular surfing beach on the Cornish coast, Watergate Bay Hotel is a place that's all about the balance of life; being active, eating and drinking well, getting cosy and, most of all, having a good time.

The beach is the doorstep so, from the moment your guests arrive, the Atlantic Ocean and the rugged coastline are an ever-present reminder that nature rules. Yet inside, every part of the hotel has been created to bring the best in contemporary Cornish comfort. From the chic bedrooms and five restaurants serving up fresh local produce to the ocean view infinity pool, it's a destination like no other.

The Scarlet, Mawgan Porth, Cornwall
★★★★★ **37 rooms and suites**



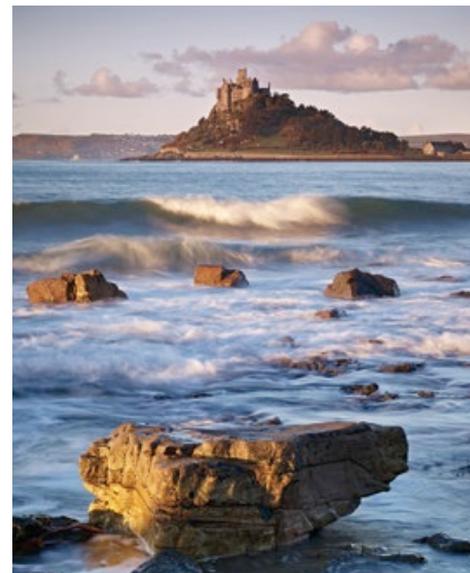
One of the loveliest hotels in England, and one of the greenest, the Scarlet certainly does nothing by halves.

This sleek designer hotel, overlooking the sea, is a serious contender for England's funkier bolthole, with 37 fabulous bedrooms, all with outdoor spaces and huge views. There is also an outstanding spa, plus choice of pools and cliff-top hot tubs where guests can stargaze, stormwatch or simply unwind while drinking in the ocean views.

In addition, the hotel has eco-friendly sustainable principles at its core while the decked terrace of the restaurant ensures unforgettable dining where guests can feast on the views while savouring the fabulous local food.

ACTIVITIES

Literary Tours (Full Day)



The world's most published crime writer, Agatha Christie, was born in Torquay on the South Devon coast, known as the English Riviera. Your guests can uncover her past at the Torquay Museum while the 'Agatha Christie Mile' winds past many landmarks associated with the author. Further south they can also visit Christie's garden at Greenway, above the River Dart, and Burgh Island, the atmospheric setting for works including *And Then There Were None*.

Alternatively, guests can follow the trail of English author, Rosamunde Pilcher, whose bestselling works, including *Shell Seekers* and *Coming Home* are set in her beloved county of Cornwall. This tour takes in many associations, including St Michael's Mount, Mullion Cove and Prideaux Place.

Dartmoor Challenge (Full Day)



Spanning around 368 square miles (1,000 sq km) of wild empty moorland, the Dartmoor National Park is a virtual wilderness, and the largest tract of open country in southern England.

This adventure day provides your guests with the opportunity to get out and experience this raw nature for themselves, with a wide range of land- and water-based activities. From canoeing on the River Dart, one of the best mid-grade white-water rivers in the country, to abseiling, archery and mountain biking, it's a wonderful way to take in the spectacular scenery at close quarters, while building great teamwork along the way.



Life on the Ocean Wave – Sailing Day (Full Day)



The sun-sparkled waters along the south coast of Devon and Cornwall offer endless opportunities for sailing. Choose from a variety of harbours, from small ports like Fowey, Dartmouth and Salcombe, set along their picturesque sheltered wooded estuaries to the glitz of Torbay on the English Riviera and the city buzz of Plymouth from where the Pilgrim Fathers set sail to America.

Whether it's a day of leisurely cruising or boat-on-boat racing action, professional instructors, and first-class equipment and facilities, combined with the stunning scenery, will ensure your guests enjoy an unforgettable experience, whatever their level of experience.

Learn to Surf (Full Day or Half Day)



The mighty Atlantic rolling onto the golden beaches of Cornwall and Devon's north coast provides the perfect conditions for surfing. In fact, top surfers from all over the world flock to Newquay to take part in the major championships here, while Croyde, Woolacombe, Widemouth and Polzeath are also popular places to catch the waves.

This activity is the perfect opportunity for your guests to have a go at something the area is famous for, while also having a lot of fun. Professional tuition is of course on hand to ensure they get the most from the experience.

Eden Project Tour, St Austell (Full Day or Half Day)



Constructed in a former china clay quarry, some 165 feet (50 metres) deep and the size of 30 football pitches, this unique garden sets out to explore man's delicate relationship with plants.

The garden was created to celebrate the Millennium Year 2000 and is a vibrant reminder of how plants and mankind need each other for our mutual survival. On this fascinating behind-the-scenes tour, your guests will learn about the thousands of plants without which man could not survive, both from our own temperate zone and other climatic zones, the latter housed in two enormous glass 'biomes', the largest conservatories in the world.

Country Pursuits (Full Day or Half Day)



Traditional English field sports have a long history and the beautiful countryside of Devon and Cornwall is the perfect place for your guests to try the sporting and rural pastimes that have occupied generations of English gentry. The experience can be as leisurely or competitive as your guests please with the opportunity to compete against each other or work to improve their own scores, under the watchful eye of expert instructors.

Clay shooting, air pistol and rifle shooting, and archery will keep their eyes on the target, while duck herding, gundog handling and falconry offer the chance to get hands-on with creatures of the countryside. Alternatively, guests can enjoy an introduction to the very English sport of fly fishing.

Cornish Cookery Classes (Half Day)



Food is an important part of any trip and these enjoyable cookery classes celebrate the best of local cuisine.

Let your guests try their hand at Cornish Pasty making. This traditional and delicious savoury pastry, stuffed with meat and vegetables, is particularly associated with Cornwall and a masterclass will guide your guests through the baking process step by step.

Alternatively head for Rick Stein's Padstow Seafood School, run by one of England's most loved celebrity chefs. Whether it's the perfectly fresh fish, the skill and enthusiasm of the chefs, the sea views out the window or the general relaxed feel of the place, people love this cookery school!

Golf at St Mellion or Bovey Castle (Full Day or Half Day)



The two challenging championship courses at Cornwall's St Mellion Hotel, including the Jack Nicklaus Signature Course, are the perfect choice for your delegates to hone their competitive skills with a friendly round. Not only is this one of the top 50 courses in the country, according to *Today's Golfer*, in the words of Jack Nicklaus himself, 'St Mellion is potentially the finest golf course in Europe'.

Alternatively, guests can enjoy the challenging 18-hole championship course at Bovey Castle. Created by one of the country's finest designers, J F Abercromby, the course rivals its sister courses at Gleneagles and Turnberry, and will delight experienced golfers and amateurs alike.

GALA DINNER OPTIONS

Eden Project, St Austell, Cornwall

Up to 210 dinner guests



Bring a little Eden inspiration to your incentive itinerary with a gala dinner at the Eden Project. With its impressive architecture and inspirational story of transformation from disused clay mine to world-famous global garden, it forms a stunning backdrop for a final night's celebration.

A champagne reception allows guests to stroll around the iconic biomes, filled with exotic plant species from across the globe. Afterwards guests can enjoy a celebratory dinner and entertainment in the Gallery, whose large windows and outdoor terrace afford an incredible vista of the biomes and beautiful outdoor gardens, where each season brings its own stunning changes.

A 'Fisherman's Festival' dinner

Minimum 50 dinner guests



The scenic Cornish coastline is steeped in tales of shipwrecks and smugglers and speckled with captivating fishing villages nestled in secret coves.

With their whitewashed cottages crowding the narrow streets and pretty harbours sheltering colourful boats, where bristle-chinned fishermen still haul in their daily catch, they make a memorable setting for a celebratory final dinner.

Imagine long tables set around the harbour, gingham tablecloths, fishing nets and your guests mixing and dining with the locals. With the evening air filled with songs from the local shanty singers, traditional dancing and games played around the harbour, it makes for an unforgettable evening.

Mount Edgumbe House, Cornwall

Up to 100 dinner guests



A special celebration deserves a special setting and few are more special than Mount Edgumbe House and Country Park, home of the Earls of Mount Edgumbe. Nestled in an 865 acre country park filled with Grade I-listed gardens and surrounded by Cornish beaches, it's one of the region's most cherished historic landmarks and oozes a unique English charm that's been developed over hundreds of years. From evening dinners in the great hall with its elegant marbled floor to open air events with wide open views of the coastline as a backdrop, this 16th-century house is yours to experience and savour.

OTHER DINING OPTIONS

A taste of Devon & Cornwall



From traditional Cornish pasties and saffron cake to sinful clotted cream teas, Devon and Cornwall are brimming with great local food.

Fresh fish is top of the menu, and nowhere more so than at Padstow, home to the freshest of local fish and seafood. This bustling Cornish harbour town is a foodie haven, bristling with restaurants majoring in locally produced food, including those of celebrity chefs Rick Stein and Paul Ainsworth.

Across the border in Devon, the up-and-coming coastal city of Plymouth is also fast becoming a foodie hotspot, with six celebrity chefs making it their home, including Gary Rhodes and Mitch Tonks.

Agatha Christie Murder Mystery Dinner



With over 80 books to her name, including many bestsellers, Agatha Christie is one of the world's most famous crime authors.

This murder mystery adventure transports your guests back to 1933 as they celebrate one of her most famous stories, *Murder on the Orient Express*. As they enjoy a sumptuous three-course meal, they will need to keep their eyes and ears peeled, as some of their fellow guests appear to be getting caught up in trouble. Is there romance involved? And come to think of it, are some of the guests here a little odd? The evening's entertainment will slowly unfold, leaving the remaining guests to unravel the mystery.