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We show 10 top buys for National Cupcake Week, plus Tricks of the Trade

THIS WEEK'S PAGE 1 PICTURE

Our front page picture this week, showing a cruise ship off the beautiful Seychelles, is by REINHARD SCHMID/4 CORNERS IMAGES

Wish you were.. HERE? UK seaside chic

The House in the Sea, Newquay



1. The House in the Sea, Newquay

THIS hide-out perched on top of an island is one of the most photographed houses in the UK - and, if you're in the know, you can stay there. It's a wonderful retreat, especially when high tide means the house is cut off, apart from a suspension bridge that links it to the Cornish mainland. With just one bedroom, it's a perfect

getaway for a couple and a terrace (left) allows you to star-gaze, look out towards the Atlantic and generally relax. At low tide a set of steps leads directly to Towan beach.

The deal Doubles from £85pp per night. More information: www.uniquehomestays.com, 01637 881942.

→ Now the schools have gone back, Britain's seaside resorts start to display their off-season charms - including coastal walks without the crowds and peaceful beaches.
→ All these B&Bs and hotels are a long way from the sort of place that passed for holiday accommodation 30 years ago. Chic, cosy and comfortable, the perfect combination at the beginning of autumn.



2. Harbour Master Hotel, Aberaeron, West Wales

YOU can't miss this hotel - it centres around a bright blue building on the harbour front. Stylish with a superb restaurant, it's a great base in this archetypal fishing village.

The deal Doubles from £110 (www.harbour-master.com or www.mrandmrsmith.com).



3. Halftides, Helston, Cornwall

A PRIVATE path lets you stroll from this three-bedroom B&B to a sandy beach, Enid Blyton views towards Mullion Island and a chic retreat to return to afterwards.

The deal Doubles from £90 with breakfast (www.halftides.co.uk, 01326 241935).



4. Zanzibar, Hastings

YOU'LL hear the waves from your room at this B&B in East Sussex. Each room is themed around a different part of the world so you can opt for the urban cool of Manhattan or be whisked to Morocco.

The deal Doubles from £109 (www.zanzibarhotel.co.uk, 01424 460109).

Main pictures GRAHAM CUSTANCE / ALAMY