



THE TIMES **Travel**

The 20 best cottages in Cornwall

Article Slideshow



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Cornwall has always been a popular destination but the BBC's new *Poldark* series, which is set there, is causing more interest than ever. Visit Cornwall says it has seen a 65 per cent spike in hits on its website since the first episode of the 18th-century saga was shown last Sunday. More interest is expected in the coming weeks. If you want to go before the crowds, here are our top picks.

1 Cove Cottage Porthgwarra Cove
Sit on the slipway and spot seals when you stay at Cove Cottage, one of six holiday homes near Porthgwarra, where Ross takes a skinny-dip in *Poldark*. Decked out in a country-house style, the accommodation is on one level, with a bright kitchen and living area with a woodburner, plus a double and twin room. Sip coffee in the beach café (during filming, staff supplied pasties to the crew), and visit Nanjizal beach and the sculpture gardens at Tremenheere. **Details** Three nights is from £200, a week from £515 for four (01736 888515, staubynestatesholidays.co.uk)

2 Kynance Cottage Lizard Peninsula
Tucked away in Kynance Cove this one-bedroom cottage sleeping two adults and two children is perfect for getting away from the modern world. There's no television or mobile phone reception but there is a fully equipped kitchen. You reach the cottage down a rough unsurfaced track from a National Trust car park on cliffs above. It's next to the Kynance Cove Café, which offers crab sandwiches, burgers and Cornish pasties. A small shop by the café sells bodyboards and wet suits. **Details** A week's self-catering is from £395 for two adults and two children (01326 290436, kynancecovecafe.co.uk)

3 Little Polgarron Booby's Bay North Cornwall
It's hard to beat the location of this chic five-bedroom house with direct access to the golden sands of Booby's Bay, and situated next to Trevoe golf club. With interior design by Jill Stein, it's all clean lines with oak, limestone, steel and Cornish slate used to great effect, while local art and sculptures are dotted throughout. After a day on the beach, cook up a storm in the sleek bespoke kitchen while the children chill out in the cinema room with its leather sofa and beanbags. On warm days open the double-fronted windows for dining on the terrace. All of the five en suite bedrooms have large balconies, and two have four-poster beds. **Details** Three nights is from £4,985, a week from £6,650, for ten (07595 466955, simonescapes.com)

4 Pentyak Harlyn Bay
Light floods in through the floor-to-ceiling windows of this chic, six-bedroom family friendly house on the north coast. Children will love the sunken trampoline and tree house in the landscaped garden. On rainy days they can whizz down the wooden stair slide and muck about in the den, while the grown-ups relax in front of the stacked-slate fireplace. The sleek kitchen has everything you need, from two fridge-freezers and a five-ring gas range, to two dishwashers and a Quooker boiling water tap. If you don't fancy cooking, Rick Stein's dog-friendly Cornish Arms is a short walk away. **Details** Three nights is from £2,000, a week from £2,400, for 12-14 (01208 895570, perfectstays.co.uk)

5 Smugglers Cottage Trewellard, near Pendeen
Take the scenic coastal drive over the heather-clad moor from Pendeen to St Ives when you stay at this one-bedroom, single-storey barn. Inside it oozes character with exposed stone walls, a slate floor and beamed ceilings. Strike out along the coast path to Porthcurno beach with the open-air Minack Theatre, or explore the Gevor tin mine, a walk away from where *Poldark* was filmed. Land's End and surfers' favourite Semmen Cove are within an easy drive. **Details** Three nights is from £199, a week from £285, for two (0345 268 0760, cottages4you.co.uk; reference TOP)

6 Old School House St Agnes
This grade II listed house is in the lively north-coast village of St Agnes — famed for its narrow streets and quirky independent shops. Sympathetically renovated, the four-bedroom house has a lovely triple aspect open-plan living area on the first floor with a woodburner, sofas and a bespoke dining table with benches. Four bedrooms include a master suite with a wet room, a double, twin and bunk bedroom. Trevaunance Cove is great for surfing and there are numerous cafés, restaurants and pubs on the doorstep. **Details** Three nights is from £461, a week from £615, for eight (01637 861005, beachretreats.co.uk)

7 Maritine House Falmouth
Watch the boats bobbing about in the marina when you stay at this three-bedroom house in Cornwall's sailing capital. No expense has been spared with the bright and light modern interior, which includes a designer kitchen and open-plan living area, with a fire, and shuttered french doors leading to a terrace overlooking the water. The master suite has its own balcony and spa-style en suite. Two further bedrooms share a New England-style bathroom. Hire a boat, visit 16th-century Pendennis castle or explore the nearby peninsula, where many *Poldark* scenes were filmed. **Details** A week is from £795 for six (oneoffplaces.co.uk)

8 Harbour Moon Mousehole
This two-bedroom fisherman's cottage on Mousehole's sought-after harbour front has been transformed and is now a cosy hideaway for two. The eclectic interior features Cornish "shrimper" lime render, exposed stone walls, a sleek shower room and a well-equipped kitchen with a Nespresso machine. Watch the bobbing boats through a glass floor from your king-size bed or sit in front of the woodburner on the huge, sink-into sofa. Top restaurants such as the The Old Coastguard and 2 Fore Street are within easy reach. **Details** Two nights is from £240, a week from £720, for two (0208 740 3097, beachspoke.com)

9 Lookout Downderry
Floor-to-ceiling glass lets the outside in at this split-level detached house on the south Cornish coast. When the weather's good, pull back the doors and eat alfresco on the deck. When the weather's bad, you can watch the storms rolling in from the stylish living area with its woodburner, white sofa and wood floors. All three en suite bedrooms have sea views. A sand and shingle beach is five minutes' walk away, along with the Blue Plate Restaurant. Historic Plymouth with its gin distillery and aquarium is a 15-minute drive away. **Details** Four nights is from £992, a week from £1,780, for six (01386 701177, ruralretreats.co.uk)

10 Roskenells Mill and Roskenells Granary Newbridge
Stay in the picturesque 17th-century mill or the neighbouring granary, set in five acres of meadow near Penzance. The watermill, working until 1971, retains its simplicity with whitewashed walls and stripped wood floors, but there are also chunky sofas in the open-plan living area, plus granite worktops and a Belfast sink in the kitchen. The three bedrooms (a double, twin and single) are cool and cluttered with oak beds and low-set windows. The two-bedroom (one double, one twin) Granary is cosy with flagstone floors and a woodburner. The owners, who live in the grounds, can recommend the best beaches, such as Portherras Cove near Pendeen lighthouse. **Details** Four nights at the Mill is from £420, a week from £525, for five. Four nights in the Granary is from £380, a week from £495, for four (01736 333376, sawdays.co.uk)

11 The Fisherman's Knot, Cadgwith Cove Lizard Peninsula
Perched above the natural harbour of Cadgwith Cove, this immaculate thatched cottage blends the best of old and new. The inglenook in the wood-panelled sitting room is adorned with fishing nets and there are splashes of colour in the blue velvet sofa and floral curtains. Upstairs the master bedroom has eye-catching tropical wallpaper and lovely sea views, while the beds in the twin are adorned with sea-green velvet headboards and yellow throws. Take the kids to Flambards visit Park, walk along the spectacular coast to Kynance Cove or visit Lizard Point, the most southerly point on mainland Britain. **Details** Three nights from £695, a week from £925, for four (01637 881183, uniquehomestays.com)

12 and 13 Fort Cottage, Gorran Haven St Austell
Hear the waves lapping against the shore from these 17th-century fisherman's cottages. Steps lead to a sandy beach and there's a lovely garden overlooking the water. Inside, the cottages have bright living areas, each with a woodburner, double-height ceilings and a Shaker-style kitchen. In each home, one of the two double bedrooms has french doors leading to a terrace. Visit the sub-tropical Trebah garden and Charlestown, with its shipwreck centre. **Details** Three nights is from £686, a week from £1,429; each cottage sleeps four (01386 701177, ruralretreats.co.uk)

13 Skippers Cottage St Mawes
Buy fresh Cornish pasties from the nearby bakery when you stay at this three-bedroom whitewashed stone cottage on the Roseland Peninsula. Climb steep stairs to three bedrooms, an en suite double, a room with a single bed and raised cabin bed and a light and compact single. The lounge has a leather sofa, beamed ceilings and a woodburner. Chill out on nearby Summers Beach, browse the galleries in St Mawes or take the ferry over to Falmouth for the National Maritime Museum Cornwall and excellent restaurants. **Details** Three nights is from £282, a week from £395, for five (01647 434063, www.helpfulholidays.com)

14 Broomhill Manor near Bude
Ideal for active families, this cluster of 17 cottages and one apartment is set in the grounds of an attractive Georgian manor house. The facilities are excellent, with indoor and outdoor pools, a games room, tennis courts, archery butts and a riding stables. Bude Bay, with its lifeguard-patrolled sandy beach, is a short walk away. Converted from a cob barn, two-bedroom Fulmar is typical of the accommodation, with thick walls and a pine-clad ceiling, decked out in a traditional style. **Details** Three nights is from £275, a week from £445, for four (01288 352940, premiercottages.co.uk)

15 Treverra Cottage Rock
This boutique bolt hole has access to a heated pool, hot tub and tennis court. After a day on the beach, shower off the sand in the wet room next to the garage where you can store your buckets and spades and wet suits. There's a TV/games console room that doubles as a twin bedroom. Upstairs are two doubles and one twin, all en suite. Take the water taxi to Padstow with its Stein eateries, or head to the surfers' beach of Polzeath. **Details** Three nights is from £1,500, a week from £2,000, for eight (07769 691700, ckrock.com)

16 Ropewhann near Fowey
Moor your boat on the slipway of this chic house opposite Fowey. Inside it has gilded mirrors, nautical charts, original art and sea grass rugs complemented by Farrow & Ball's coastal palette. There are three first-floor double rooms, two of which have en suite wet rooms. The Victorian-inspired attic room has two single beds and a cot. Outside is a grassy courtyard with a barbecue and a secret door leading to a rock pool ideal for wild swimming. **Details** Three nights is from £1,530, a week from £2,040, for eight (01872 553491, boutique-retreats.co.uk)

17 The Smugglers Cottage St Ives
Converted from a fisherman's cottage, this snug hideaway is ideal for a romantic break. It's very swish with a chesterfield sofa and cutting-edge fire in the living space complete with a sleek kitchen. Upstairs is a stylish bedroom and bathroom. The cottage comes with its own parking space, a rarity in St Ives. Wander around art galleries including Tate St Ives and the Barbara Hepworth sculpture garden, and tuck into fish and chips overlooking the harbour. Relax on one of the town's sandy beaches or strike out along the South West Coast Path. **Details** Three nights is from £330, a week from £890, for two (01242 220006, thewowhousecompany.co.uk)

18 Olivias Charlestown
Go rock-pooling at the beach near this family-friendly grade II listed cottage in the fishing village of Charlestown, used as the setting for the main town in the current *Poldark*. It's beautifully done out using Farrow & Ball colours with Egyptian cotton linen, antiques, and a woodburner. Ideal for parents with tots in tow, it has everything from baby monitors to changing mats, and even a buggy and food blender. Babysitting can be arranged if you want to eat out. **Details** Three nights is from £435, a week from £995, for four (0203 603160, babyfriendlyboltholes.co.uk)

19 Little Fentafrield Trebarwith Strand
Sea views abound from this beautifully converted living space barn on the north coast. The pièce de résistance is the stylish cliff top with a contemporary woodburner, a Sonosound system and french doors leading to a terrace with views towards Rumps Point. The bespoke kitchen has granite worktops and a Belfast sink. There are two en suite bedrooms, one kingsize, one twin, dotted with antiques. Excellent restaurants such as The Harbour: Port Isaac and the Port William pub are close by. **Details** Three nights is from £714, a week from £951, for four (01872 553491, boutique-retreats.co.uk)

20 Kynance Bay House Lizard Peninsula
Church Cove, Gunwalloe, was where the shipwreck scenes were filmed for *Poldark*. Stay near by at this elegant Victorian house with views towards Kynance Cove, probably the county's most painted beach. Climb the original stairs to four bedrooms, one with a four-poster bed. Downstairs is a large contemporary kitchen and a cosy sitting room with an open fire. Drink in the views from the sun room. **Details** A week is from £996 for eight (01326 555555, classic.co.uk)

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