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## Castles on the sand: Britain's most stylish beach houses



The deceptively named Little Cottage sits at the empty end of Cornwall's Praa Sands CREDIT: NICHOLAS GUTTRIDGE

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## Ready to splash out? Our experts open the doors to 20 brilliant beach houses on the nation's most beautiful beaches

**I**n a world that has stopped, shrunk, shut down, the sea remains irrepressibly free. Its infinite expanse and everchanging drama is the antidote to confinement, a plunge into its breathtaking surf a tonic to reawaken the senses.

As we emerge from lockdown, a great many of us find ourselves drawn to Britain's wild coasts. You could travel the world and not find such soul-stirring beauty. Never has the British beach holiday been so appealing.

So, find a beach house with nothing between you and the sea, your own little bubble to take over with people who make you laugh. Simple is fine, though the best houses are designed to delight, and throw in luxuries and grown-up games – a hot tub or an outdoor kitchen, table tennis or a cinema room to keep everyone happy in all seasons.

Space is the ultimate luxury – space together with location, the more remote the better, with an empty beach just a hop, skip and a jump away, across the dunes or down a path through wild flowers.

Here are 20 brilliant beach houses on some of Britain's most beautiful beaches for those first steps down to the sea.

# The Beach Hut

## Millook, Widemouth Bay, Cornwall

It's almost 30 years since it opened, but this pale-grey clapboard shack on a secret surf beach in North Cornwall is still the ultimate hideaway for two. Accessed via a single-file rollercoaster road from the golden sands of Widemouth Bay, it's wildly romantic, set on a grassy bank above a black pebble beach in a 52-acre Site of Special Scientific Interest. Seabirds circle the cliffs, beachcombers drift past and champion surfers emerge from the left-hand point break. There's a surf shed, a battered boathouse and an upturned boat. Otherwise, it's just you and the elements.



Millook, in North Cornwall, is the ultimate hideaway for two.



The former 1920s tea room was bought in 1992 by Roger Barker and Irene Douglas, who stripped the floors, whitewashed the walls and added fairy lights, a log burner, a DVD player and a wet room. Both worked in film and advertising, and in the early days, starry names such as Kate Winslet (who stayed there) and Tori Amos (who did a shoot there) helped to put it on the map. In recent years, it has been upgraded to include a super king-size bed, a Sonos Five, and luxury shower products by Noble Isle.

Its real appeal, though, lies in its simplicity and its seclusion. There's a magical circular walk right outside, along a clear-running stream, through woods and windswept fields and back along the coast; for a night out, the Farmer's Arms in Woolsery, a 17th-century pub with food by Ian Webber, is a 40-minute drive away. For the most part, though, you'll be happy to hunker down, tuck into your hamper of goodies (scones with jam and Cornish clotted cream) and sit on your veranda, gazing at the waves as they crash on the shore.

*Sleeps two. From £1,350 for a short break ([uniquehomestays.com](http://uniquehomestays.com))*

# The Signal Station

## The Lizard, Cornwall

In the late 19th century, signallers at this maritime communications hub flagged messages to 1,000 ships a month; with its beachy interiors, crenellated roof terrace and dizzying views to sea, it is now the kind of place you'd want to hole up in for weeks. Outside, the South West Coast Path leads to Kynance Cove past the National Trust-owned Lizard Wireless Station.

*Sleeps six. From £1,395 for a short break ([uniquehomestays.com](https://www.uniquehomestays.com))*



The dramatic Signal Station

## Seren Mor

### Newport, Wales

Winner of the 2013 Riba Welsh Architecture Award, this modern cliff-side house is arranged upside down to make the most of the knockout Newport estuary views. There are floor-to-ceiling windows in the beamed open-plan living space and kitchen at the top, deckchairs on the balcony, ideal for morning coffee, and a wildflower garden with kayaks in the shed so guests can get out on the water.

*Sleeps 10. From £1,995 for three nights ([uniquehomestays.com](http://uniquehomestays.com))*



Seren Mor is a modern cliff-side house with Newport estuary views

# Saphir Beach House

## Mawgan Porth, Cornwall

Perched above Mawgan Porth's white sand bay, this chic clapboard house combines a crisp white and subtle sea-inspired blue colour palette with appealing rustic furniture. But outdoors is where it really comes into its own, with a seriously cool open-air kitchen and festoon lights strung up over the dining area. Plus, a few steps down the grassy cliff, there's a hot tub for sunset soaks.

*Sleeps eight. From £1,995 for three nights ([uniquehomestays.com](https://www.uniquehomestays.com))*



Mawgan Porth has a hot tub for sunset soaks