

The most unusual ways to stay beside the seaside in Britain

From a converted lighthouse in Scotland to an old flour mill in Wales, elevate your coastal break with one of these quirky boltholes

Isla Windmill

Anglesey

Offering views of both sea and mountains, and with circular rooms that wind around a spiral staircase, this Welsh windmill feels straight out of the pages of a fairy tale. The former flour mill on the north coast of Anglesey, four miles from Beaumaris, has been restored with a touch of retro flair. Exposed-stone or white-washed rooms have a mix of mid-century furniture and splashes of 1970s colours.

You'll argue over bedrooms – on the second and third floors (bathroom on the ground) – but will be rendered speechless by the views from the top-floor sitting room. The coastal path is at the end of the windmill's track, leading one way towards Puffin Island and the other to a beach.

How to do it: Sleeps four, from £1,750 per week, £1,350 for a short break (01637 881183; uniquehomestays.com).



This Welsh windmill feels straight out of the pages of a fairy tale | CREDIT: Isla Windmill

Found Tower

Woodbridge, Suffolk

It looks solid, impregnable and unwelcoming. Barely any windows break up the thick brick walls of this flat-topped circular tower on the Suffolk coast. But that is exactly what you would want in the 19th century to defend the British shoreline against a potential Napoleonic invasion. After an imaginative conversion, those same features provide a staggeringly modern take on a seaside bolthole.

The rooftop is part terrace, part glass-walled living space with 360-degree views over the coast and Deben Estuary with the town of Woodbridge eight miles upstream. Below is a snug with grand piano and wood burner, below again are three bedrooms with light cunningly filtered through pipe-shaped holes. Hike the coastal path, explore yachting Woodbridge, and watch the night sky from the terrace.

How to do it: Sleeps six, from £2,550 per week, or from £1,995 for a three/four-night break (01637 881183; uniquehomestays.com).



Found Tower may look unwelcoming from the outside (a converted flat-topped circular building) but inside it's as chic as any boutique hotel | CREDIT: Found Tower