

Eight of the best villas that are right on the beach

Whether you fancy Mexico, Sri Lanka or Cornwall, the waves are right on your doorstep at these holiday homes



Alba Beach House, St Ives

1. Alba Beach House, St Ives, Cornwall

Best for a no-flight beach break

Pack a bucket and spade for a stay at this four-bedroom mid-1800s Cornish fisherman's cottage with a balcony overhanging the soft sands of Porthmeor Beach in St Ives; it's hard to find properties right on the beach here, especially ones that are as delightful as this. Once home to the famous nautical painter Alfred Wallace, its mix of fresh whites, patina-heavy leather furniture, window frames fashioned from old ship timber and a treasure trove of fishing antiques have a real sense of place. Other perks include a log-burning stove, a welcome hamper brimming with local produce and beach views so close the waves will be licking the windows at high tide. Pets are welcome too.

Details Seven nights' self-catering for eight from £2,895 ([uniquehomestays.com](https://www.uniquehomestays.com))