

This Picturesque English Coastline Is Where You Should Be Beach-Hopping This Summer

Where to Stay

Leopoldina House



Photo: Courtesy of Unique Homestays

Set on a hillside immediately above the eastern bank of the River Dart (it's a five-minute walk to the water through private grounds), two miles upstream from the sea, Leopoldina sleeps up to 10 people in pared-back, modern interiors, behind a 19th century Picturesque façade. In its first incarnation, the building was a coach house and stables built by John Nash—the architect to King George IV—intended to bunk the grooms and animals serving the Italianate country house, Sandridge Park, next door. There are still metal rings hanging on either side of the extra-high entrance for tethering horses.



Photo: Courtesy of Unique Homestays

Inside, sash windows overlook the lawn, down to the ha-ha and the curving Dart beyond, which is tidal and offers a constantly changing view. The bookshelves are full of crime novels, including a near-complete collection of Agatha Christie; the author kept a holiday home, Greenway, a 15-minute drive away, set on a sharp rise above the same tides. At the very top of the house, in a former dovecote with oxe-eye windows, there's now a yoga studio and a roof deck with a hair-raising view of the river valley.