

John Lewis

FREE

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100% COTTON

SHOPPING INTELLIGENCE

CELEBRATING
**OUR
FAVOURITE
THINGS**

The British summertime – seaside holidays, dressy garden parties, muddy festivals. And our four-legged friends

ISLE OF WIGHT

Traditionally a place of retro charms, the Isle of Wight has been getting stealthily cooler over recent years. If you've ever enjoyed a meal in Cowes' buzzing Coast Bar & Dining Room (thecoastbar.co.uk), you'll be delighted to discover that the owners have opened North House hotel.

In the conservation area at the heart of Cowes old town, a townhouse hotel and neighbouring theatre have been combined to create a boutique bolt hole. The 14 individually designed bedrooms are styled with a mix of contemporary and antique furnishings, with Egyptian cotton sheets on the kingsize beds and monsoon showers in the bathrooms. Some rooms come with freestanding baths and sea views to boot.

The latest addition is a new restaurant. The Oyster Store, with a chic boathouse-style interior and an all-day menu that makes the most of fresh local seafood. *Double rooms from £145 per night; northhousecowes.co.uk*

WHAT TO DO

Summer is festival time, with the Isle of Wight Festival (8-11 June), Festival of the Sea (18 June to 3 July) and Cowes Week (29 July to 5 August) – find out more at visitisleofwight.co.uk. Even without those, there's plenty to do, from fossil-hunting on the beaches to exploring Queen Victoria's Osborne House (english-heritage.org.uk). Head to Number 3 (number3cowes.com) in the old town for casual dining or The Mess Canteen (themesscanteen.com) for family-friendly lunches.



MARK WATTS



CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT:

A luxury eco-pod in Argyll; the sea-view terrace at The Salt House in Cornwall; an elegant bedroom at North House in Cowes

CORNWALL

When you want a holiday home to deliver serious seaside chic, you'd be hard-pushed to beat Cornwall. The Salt House in Mousehole, close to Penzance, is a case in point. Not so much by the sea as practically in it, this Grade II-listed cottage has been decorated in cool Scandi-inspired style.

Everywhere is light and bright, the granite walls and wooden beams painted pristine white, the colour palette a mix of pale greys and creams. In the living room, a basket of logs sits beside a white enamel wood-burner, and the air of serenity continues elsewhere: the two double bedrooms have iron bedsteads and fresh white linens, and sloping ceilings meet glossy white subway tiles in the bathrooms.

The jewel in the crown is the waterfront terrace, where you can relax, clink glasses and listen to the waves washing on the rocks below as the sun sets into the sea. *From £795 for a three-night stay; uniquehomestays.com*

WHAT TO DO

Stroll to Mousehole's harbour beach, where you'll find the 2 Fore Street restaurant (2forestreet.co.uk) and the charming Rock Pool café (rockpoolmousehole.co.uk), or discover hidden coves around the rugged Penwith peninsula. The open-air Minack Theatre (minack.com) is truly magical, St Michael's Mount (stmichaelsmount.co.uk) is close to hand, and arty St Ives is just a half-hour drive away.

WHAT TO PACK

Prepare for a seaside break with bright luggage and versatile pieces



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[johnlewis.com/
holidayshop](http://johnlewis.com/holidayshop)

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT:

Dress, £119, **Whistles**. EOS 1300D digital SLR camera with 18-55mm IS II lens, £409, **Canon** 2-year guarantee included. Added Care available for £25. Soundbox suitcase, £139, **American Tourister**. Face Tan Activator SPF30, £28, **Ultrason**. Sandals, £49, **Kin by John Lewis**