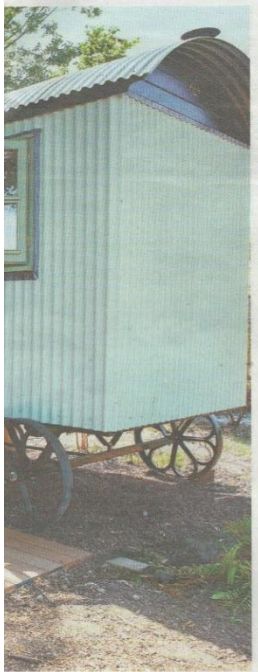
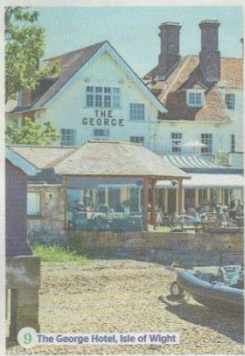


Best places by the sea

Where to stay, where to go, where to eat



26 Albion House, Kent



9 The George Hotel, Isle of Wight

plus there's a restaurant with retro-styled furniture. Sporting facilities include a cliff-top tennis court and two pools, and a sandy beach is only steps away. **Details** B&B doubles are from £120 a night (0844 4822152, polarianhotel.com)

19 Bailiffscourt Hotel & Spa Climping, West Sussex
Built by the Guinness family in the 1920s using reclaimed timber and stone from 13th-century buildings, this lush country house hotel is not exactly beachfront but it sits on 30 acres of grounds that stretch to shingle and the sand dunes of Climping Beach. Rooms range from modern affairs with contemporary design to medieval-themed suites with vaulted ceilings, over-size four-poster beds and his-and-hers roll-top baths. **Details** B&B doubles start from £229 a night (01903 723511, hshotels.co.uk)

20 The Brudenell Aldeburgh, Suffolk
Aldeburgh's beach may be shingle but it stretches for mile upon mile either side of this traditional hotel. Renowned for its fine-dining restaurant with locally caught seafood, rooms are chic affairs with either North Sea or River Aldecountryside views. **Details** B&B doubles are from £150 a night (01728 452071, brudenellhotel.co.uk)

21 Knockinaam Lodge Portpatrick, Wigtownshire
There's Michelin-starred dining at this former hunting lodge set in 30 acres of grounds and with views over to Northern Ireland. The hotel has only ten rooms: all have traditional décor with vintage furniture, and some offer sea vistas. The hotel's grounds lead to a sandy, private beach. **Details** Half-board doubles are from £199 a night (01776 810471, knockinaamlodge.com)

22 The Pierhouse Hotel Port Appin, Argyll
Overlooking a small, sandy beach on Loch Linnhe and the ferry dock for trips to the island of Lismore, this bijou hotel has big ideas. Rooms have been renovated and the restaurant is getting rave reviews for its seafood dining with produce plucked from the loch's waters. Communal areas include a snug lounge with a wood-burner, and there's a suntrap terrace for those warmer days. **Details** B&B doubles are from £90 a night (01631 730302, pierhousehotel.co.uk)

23 The Scarlet Mawgan Porth, Cornwall
The Scarlet Hotel is a magical adults-only escape on Cornwall's north coast with light and airy seaview bedrooms



21 Knockinaam Lodge, Wigtownshire

decorated in neutral tones, great food and an ayurvedic-inspired tented spa. After a day learning to surf off Mawgan Porth beach (kingsurf.co.uk) it's hard to beat soaking in the cliff-top hot tub as the sun sets — or take Jasper, the hotel whippet, for a walk across the sands. **Details** B&B doubles cost from £210 a night (01637 861800, scarlethotel.co.uk)

24 Hell Bay Bryher, Isles of Scilly
If you like wild and wonderful, book a stay at the smartest bolt hole on the least developed of the inhabited Isles of Scilly. Getting here — by small propeller plane or ferry — is half the fun and then you're in the perfect spot to unwind, stroll along white sandy beaches, go bird-watching and Hoover up super-fresh local seafood in the restaurant. You could try the Crab Shack (open from May), which serves monster crab (£40) straight from the boat. The 25 New England-inspired suites have Lloyd Loom furniture and are filled with Cornish art. Book quickly, because it's a popular family choice — there's also a heated pool and games room. **Details** B&B doubles cost from £260 a night (01720 422947, hellbay.co.uk)

25 Seaham Hall Seaham, Co Durham
On the cliffs above Seaham Beach, this Georgian mansion turned boutique retreat is home to one of the best spas in the UK. It had a makeover last year and the 20 stylish suites — seven in the main house and the rest in an airy modern annex — are seriously comfortable, some with their own private gardens. The Michelin-starred head chef Ross Stovold is new too — you'll find top-notch, unfussy local produce in Byron's, the main restaurant, named after the poet who was married here in 1815. **Details** B&B doubles cost from £199 a night, including spa access (0191 516400, seaham-hall.com)

26 Albion House Ramsgate, Kent
A two-minute walk up steps from Ramsgate's pretty harbour, this hip 14-room Regency beauty sits on the East Cliff. Pick Little Victoria's room. With its beautiful high ceilings and elegant, Georgian-inspired doors leading out on to a wraparound balcony, this is where Princess Victoria convalesced in 1835. Or splurge on the drawing room suite with its open-hearth gas fire, super king-size bed and prime

sunset views. The navy-painted dining rooms serve excellent, uncomplicated food (as long as you're not in a hurry) and there's a fabulous (and generous) champagne afternoon tea to be had in the Town Bar for a bargain £22pp from Wednesday to Saturday. **Details** B&B doubles cost from £135 a night (01843 606630, albhionhouseamsgate.co.uk)

27 Sands Margate, Kent
Sands has the perfect Margate location: opposite the Blue Flag beach and a short walk from Turner Contemporary and the old town. Rooms are light and luxe (without going over the top) with deeply comfortable beds and neutral décor. Go for a superior sea view if you want french windows on to a balcony and views across the bay. The restaurant is a class act and a G&I on the rooftop terrace makes a brilliant sundowner. **Details** B&B doubles cost from £120 a night (01843 228228, sandshotelmargate.co.uk)

28 Escape Llandudno, Conwy
Cool and Llandudno aren't necessarily synonymous but Escape is a gloriously glam B&B in an ornate Victorian villa on the slopes of the Great Orme. All nine double rooms are different; Calm and Light is particularly chic thanks to its floating bed while the Boudoir has crystal-encrusted LED wallpaper. Breakfast is generous (although there's a short time slot to order it in, so no lie-ins past 10am at the weekends) and it's half a mile from the beach. No under-tens are allowed. **Details** B&B doubles are from £99 a night (01492 877776, escapeband.co.uk)

29 The Seaview Seaview, Isle of Wight
The Seaview, one of the Isle of Wight's prettiest, sailing-mad villages, is a pebble's throw from the beach and a host of wooden dinghies bobbing on the Solent. Rooms are airy and stylish and one of the suites is the former Lloyds banking hall (once voted the prettiest bank in England) with a master bedroom that was the manager's office and a bunk bedroom in the vault. The back bar is a friendly place and the excellent, unpretentious restaurant (the only one on the island awarded a Michelin Bib Gourmand) specialises in fish and seafood and uses produce from the hotel's farm. **Details** B&B doubles cost from £95 a night (01963 612711, seaviewhotel.co.uk)

30 St Brides Spa Saundersfoot, Pembrokeshire
St Brides is right on the Pembrokeshire coastal path and its 34 rooms are divided into three categories: good, better (both with king-sized beds) and best (with super-kings), as well as two-bedroom apartments. All are decorated with a maritime theme. There are restaurants aplenty; two of them are a short stroll away on the harbour front in Saundersfoot. The best thing about this hotel, though, is the hydro infinity pool, heated to body temperature even on frosty days, where hydrotherapy jets will massage you as you gaze out to sea. **Details** B&B doubles cost from £170 a night (01834 812304, stbridespashotel.com)

By Liz Bird, James Ellis, Julia Brooks



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