



STATION OFFICER'S HOUSE

PRAWLE POINT, SOUTH DEVON

Follow the row of idyllic coastguard cottages to reach this oasis teetering on the most southerly tip of Devon. Technology addicts should see this as a chance to switch off. You won't miss the wifi when there's one of the best views of the coast to be had, miles of National Trust land to roam and sandy beaches to explore. Bird watchers can spy the rare circl bunting species in the area but, if sailing's more your thing, Salcombe can be reached easily by ferry.

Newly decorated, the interior is cool but homely with a nod to the sea in its palette, and there are chunky oak floors and ever-so-cosy wood burners for nipper nights. Bedrooms are light and airy with crisp, white sheets folded back on contemporary four posters. There's lots of room for one family and enough privacy for two to share – handily divided up by the two staircases. Don't forget a bucket and spade, there are lots of nooks and crannies in the rocks below to catch a crab or two.

IN THE KNOW Prawle is an ancient English word for lookout, which fits the area well – the expansive views were ideal for watching the Spanish Armada sail by in 1588.

020 7421 5292; stationofficershouse.co.uk

WATERMEADOW COTTAGE

BLenheim PALACE ESTATE, OXFORDSHIRE

This charming two-bed, 18th-century Cotswold stone hunting lodge – set down an off-track farm lane on the Blenheim Palace Estate, is as cute as a button. The Duke of Marlborough has leased it to 'DJ' Nichols, founder of Unlisted London. Boldly designed with big patterns, statement furniture and crystal chandeliers – it's also bug-snug with underfloor heating and eco-fuelled fireplaces,

a welcome hamper (brimming with Poilane bread and Duchy breakfast essentials) and an honesty 'larder', with everything from Elemental Herbology spa goodies and vacuum-packed chicken stock to Berry Brothers Champagne.

Even your pooch gets paw wipes, and blankets and food. They'll organise everything from drivers and nappy bins to tickets for events. And whisk up superb, seasonal catering, served by a maid in uniform, or good, healthy meals ready on arrival. Afterwards, sleep in utter peace under

Belgian linen sheets and among private family photos of Winston Churchill. There's also a little summerhouse where you can escape to read, or enjoy indulgent spa treatments. Clever.

IN THE KNOW In the 1900s, the tenant poached rabbits from Blenheim, hanging them in the cellar for his wife to skin and cook.

0870 2255 007; watermeadowcottage.co.uk

