

Harper's BAZAAR

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BAZAAR

EDITED BY CATHERINE FAIRWEATHER

ESCAPE

Cornish SUMMER

Get the inside track on England's hippest county as Luella Bartley reveals her favourite places on this stunning coastline. Plus, the perfect places for wild outdoor swimming, from balmy Croatia to bracing Scotland

ROCK AND SOUL
Luella Bartley at
Polzeath Beach, Cornwall

ESCAPE

LUELLA'S shopping secrets continued

The best place to really buy into the junk-shop Cornish lifestyle is **Lostwithiel**, near **Bodmin**. I am loath to give this one away, but the whole town seems to be filled with antique shops, and a couple – namely Mark Royle Antiques and Nana Dobbie – effortlessly sell that particular folksy dream but with a random, unruly Cornish edge. They are on the same street and work well together. On my last trip, I bought a Seventies, black and white 'The Man who Sold the World' Bowie poster and a rural cow scene in oils for just under £300.

Mark Royle Antiques, 28 Fore Street, Lostwithiel (01208 873990; www.antiqueoakandcountryfurniture.co.uk).

Nana Dobbie, 8 Fore Street, Lostwithiel (01208 873063; www.nanadobbie.com).

I find myself getting excited at the prospect of a trip to **Cornwall Farmers**, a co-op with outlets dotted around the county. There (nestled between the animal feed and electric fencing), you will find great deals on equestrian accessories, along with farmers' indispensables, like tweeds and caps. For those who prefer a more early-Nineties, utility silhouette, there are overalls and other functional extras that Miuccia Prada might have enjoyed this season.

Cornwall Farmers (01872 274301; www.cornwallfarmers.co.uk).

For the more traditional fashion shopper, who may have suddenly found herself stranded with an aching purse and no sign of relief, there is one little gem. You must head right down to the bottom of **Penzance** for this treat – a shop that is so passionate about vintage that it has won several national awards, including a place as one of the top five vintage stores outside

London. **Kitts Couture** has an ardent appreciation of all things old, glamorous and slightly musty. The shop has a diligent infatuation with yesteryear and the clothes that dressed it, and even has a fashion show on YouTube that simply must be watched. This is one of those rare, naive, truly eclectic vintage shops you just don't find in cities, and without the metropolitan prices and label hang-ups.

Kitts Couture, 51 Chapel Street, Penzance (01736 364507; www.kittscouture.co.uk).

REST of the BEST: ENGLISH COASTAL ESCAPES



Best SECLUDED RETREAT

Hell Bay, Scilly Isles

Taking a helicopter and boat journey to reach, this remote hideaway on the car-free island of Bryher is the perfect place to relax while looking out over the vast Atlantic expanse. Beautifully decorated rooms boast little patio gardens or balconies over the untamed shore.

From £135 a person a night full board (01720 422947; www.hellbay.co.uk).



Best for RUSTIC CHARM

The Luggar Hotel, Cornwall

With its fabulous harbourside spot in pretty Portloe, it's easy to understand the Luggar's appeal. Surrounded by headlands that form part of the Southwest Coastal Path, the hotel has 22 rooms spread in a higgledy-piggledy fashion across the cliffside – not the most spacious, but certainly full of charm.

From £99 a room a night B&B (01872 501322; www.luggarhotel.co.uk).



Best for QUAYSIDE BUZZ

Alexandra, Dorset

At this timeless haven of traditional English charm, the real magic happens on the Alexandra's lovely green lawn, which has magnificent views over the famous Cobb of Lyme Regis. The town is full of restaurants, and is situated on the Jurassic Coast, famed for its coastal paths and fossil-hunting.

From £125 a room a night B&B (01297 442010; www.hotelalexandra.co.uk).



Best for WATER SPORTS

South Sands, Devon

After just a year in business, this boutique hotel is reaping awards. Situated on a wide stretch of sandy beach, it's the top destination for watersports lovers – whether it's sailing, kayaking, surfing or swimming. Stay in a Beach Suite – you can arrange for the fridge to be pre-filled with local food.

From £135 a room a night B&B (01548 859000; www.southsands.com).



Best for LUXE ESCAPISM

The Gallivant, East Sussex

This is a cool, modern getaway on a blustery stretch of Camber Sands overlooking the Channel. The Gallivant is situated between the chocolate-box idyll of Rye and the eerie, windswept beauty of Dungeness' shingle beach; its USPs are its clean, New England decor and its status as a secret foodie retreat.

From £85 a room a night B&B (01797 225057; www.thegallivanthotel.com). □