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COTHELSTONE

Helen Baron visits a hillside haven in Cornwall's Polzeath



The Village

Polzeath is one of North Cornwall's premier surf spots, a sweeping, cliff-encircled cove with a buzzing village at its heart. The beach is the centre of life here, with a cluster of restaurants and cafes creeping right up to the edge of the sand. People come and go at all hours, enjoying the changing light over the water, exploring the rockpools and stone steps revealed at low tide. The local shops have all you need for a comfortable stay and everything is within a few minutes' walk of the house where we stayed – a walk that was easily accomplished even with a stroller and small kids.

The House

Cotthelstone is a contemporary holiday home that sits on the slopes above the village. The

house has been thoughtfully designed to maximise the spectacular views of the cove, with a huge open-plan living, dining and kitchen space on the first floor along with two terrace-style balconies. Downstairs you'll find four large, comfortable bedrooms (two double with en suite shower rooms, two twin) and a large family bathroom with bath and walk-in shower. The house has a welcome feeling of openness – it's so spacious, airy and light – while the decor tips its hat to maritime themes in a fresh, friendly and pleasingly modern way.

The Area

Polzeath is perfectly situated for a little exploring. Five minutes' drive south is the tiny but beautiful Rock, with beautiful views over the Camel Estuary and a smattering of renowned restaurants. Ten minutes' further down the road you'll find the town of Wadebridge, a warren of narrow lanes full of independent boutiques and our top local tip: the Kellish deli and Rising Ground coffee roastery. The coffee was good enough that we popped there most mornings before journeying to one of the many picture-perfect beaches or fishing villages further along the coast.

The Activities

Cotthelstone's well-maintained garden comes complete with al fresco dining furniture and a barbecue, while on overcast days there's table football and a DVD library inside the house. But if you can tear yourself away, the main draw in Polzeath proper is the surf, which is known for consistent, gentle rolling waves that offer fun for beginners and veterans alike. We grabbed a lesson with George's Surf School, widely regarded as one of the top ten schools in the world.

Our little ones, meanwhile, loved roaming the beach in search of shells and 'treasure' before decamping to one of the many local cafes for a warming hot chocolate. ☺



Cotthelstone is available from £1,010 per week. Julia@cotthelstone.co.uk