

# 10 amazing UK beach stays that are wonderfully remote

From off-the-grid houses to cottages in hidden coves, there's nothing like finding your own stretch of sand, says our writer

By Sally Coffey

7 September 2022 • 11:12am



The romantic Aurora looks out over one of Cornwall's lesser-visited beaches

It's the elemental setting that gives UK beaches a pull like nowhere else. They are often the first places we think of when we need a change of scenery. The essence of their edge-of-it-all location, like a frontier bravely fending off the merciless sea, make them places to be appreciated, where we can go to feel humbled. Refreshed.

We're not talking about the bustling seaside resorts that are packed with eager holidaymakers, which certainly have their place in British summertime. No, for a real beach escape, we want the hard-to-reach places, hidden from view by ancient sand dune systems, where untrampled wildflowers set the hills ablaze with autumn colour, skies go on forever, and it can feel as if it's just you and nature out there.

On a remote, empty beach, you could spend hours mindfully sifting through the sand or picking through the pebbles in search of pretty stones, shells and sea glass – little shards of things that have somehow ended up here, though they may well have started their journey far, far away.

Whether you want a simple beachside lodge, a coastal mansion worthy of a romance novel, or something a little quirkier, you can't beat staying on a beach, where you can wake to see the sun break and drift off to the soothing sounds of the waves lapping the shore.

Beach-side stays are ideal for Britain's climate: on stormy days, you can watch the weather unfold from the shelter of your bolthole, and yet when it clears unexpectedly for a happy hour of sunshine, you'll be right there to make the most of it. And best of all, on these beaches, you'll usually have the whole place to yourself.

## Rhossili Gower, Wales

On hot days, Rhossili Beach attracts its fair share of adventurous beach-goers, and a stay at this, the only building on the Gower's huge bay, will ensure you a peaceful enclave to retreat to.

Sleeping up to seven, the 19th-century house is a great base for a revitalising family beach holiday or an active getaway with friends. Fly a kite on its expansive sands, challenge everyone to a sandcastle competition, catch a break on one of South Wales's best surfing beaches, or join the Wales Coast Path, which runs behind the house. And all this before settling down to enjoy sublime sunset views from the beachfront garden.

**How to do it:** From £2,999 for a week in low season (0344 800 1895; [nationaltrust.org.uk](https://nationaltrust.org.uk))



Rhossili Old Rectory is the only building on the Gower's huge bay | CREDIT: National Trust Images

## Smokehouse Cottage

### Newgale, Pembrokeshire

Like a gem set within an emerald necklace, this white stone house backed by the green hills of St Bride's Bay is a treasure of a place. Once a smokery, this former fisherman's cottage, which sleeps six, has been restored into a characterful period-style haven. Its wrought-iron beds, painted stone walls and oak floorboards may tell of a different time, but luxurious touches such as underfloor heating and an outdoor tub speak very much of the present.

It's the only place to stay along a two-mile stretch of golden sand, so the sense of seclusion is complete.

**How to do it:** From £1,995 per week, or £1,895 for short breaks (01637 881183; [uniquehomestays.com](https://uniquehomestays.com))

## Aurora

### Whitsand Bay, Cornwall

Clinging to the cliffs above one of Cornwall's lesser-known – and therefore lesser-visited – beaches, this romantic cabin for two offers a magnificent front-sea seat for nature's ever-changing spectacle.

Looking out over Freathy Beach, which is accessed by a narrow winding cliff path, and whose golden sands become hidden at high tide, the pared-back interiors of the cabin are the epitome of barefoot luxury.

Whether you are watching with relief beneath a soft blanket by the woodburner as the sea roars angrily below, or you're entranced by the rise or fall of the sun as you soak in the outdoor tub, it's a very special place to be.

**How to do it:** From £1,650 per week, or from £1,250 for a short break (01637 881183; [uniquehomestays.com](https://uniquehomestays.com))





Aurora perches on the edge of a cliff overlooking Whitsand Bay

## Uig Lodge

### Uig, Isle of Lewis

There are remote British beaches, and then there are beaches like Uig, that feel as though you have come to the edge of Europe and somehow found a portal to the Caribbean. Uig Sands is like nowhere else you've ever seen on these shores – the sea swirls hypnotically through the white sand and the whole picture is framed with lush mountain scenery.

Uig Lodge is a traditional sporting estate, primarily available for exclusive use for up to 17 people (in splendid comfort – almost all rooms have mountain or sea views), but which occasionally offers single B&B rooms, making it possibly the best located house in Scotland.

**How to do it:** Book the whole lodge from £4,950 per week, or individual B&B rooms from £80 per room per night (01851 672334; [uiglodge.co.uk](http://uiglodge.co.uk))

## Beach Cottage

### Anderby Creek, Lincolnshire

Just 10 miles from Skegness, on the Lincolnshire Coastal Path, this quaint dog-friendly cottage, set amid the sand dunes of the beach at Anderby Creek, feels oceans away from the buzz of a seaside town.

Sleeping two people, it comes with a beach room with terrace, French doors lead from the double bedroom to yet another terrace, and there's also a woodburner for warming up by at the end of the day.

Though it's not entirely remote – there are other holiday homes nearby – the beach is the domain of dog-walkers and windsurfers and is always quiet, guaranteeing that away-from-it-all feel.

**How to do it:** From £650 per week, or £550 for short breaks (01472 398 270; [thorganbyhall.co.uk](http://thorganbyhall.co.uk))





# Compton Grange

## Compton Bay, Isle of Wight

Set in an Area of Natural Beauty and surrounded by National Trust downland, a short amble down the driveway of this detached stone house brings you to your own two-mile stretch of sandy beach.

It's a heavenly location, with little to do but swim, walk, play and hunt for fossils (there are even dinosaur footprints to be found). Sleeping eight across four rooms, it's a great option for two families. Children will love seeing the geese that wander onto the lawn or the family of stoats in the secret garden, while parents up early will at least be compensated with spectacular views, as the rising sun casts a pink hue on the white cliffs.

**How to do it:** From £1,105 per week (01244 356666; [sykescottages.co.uk](https://sykescottages.co.uk))

## The Boathouse

### Cornwall

The needle in the haystack of Cornwall properties, this unusual dog-friendly property that sleeps six overlooking the Camel Estuary is new to the market, so still has plenty of availability. Set within wild meadows and with access to a private shingle beach (there's a real Swallows and Amazons vibe), it's proof that you don't need sand or acres of space for a beach to feel special. As long as it's yours, that's all that matters.

Think wild swimming, bonfires on the beach, and nights spent gazing up at starry skies. Of course – like many special places – it takes some getting to. You'll need to leave the tarmac behind and take a private track through farmland, or failing that, arrive by boat and moor it outside.

**How to do it:** From £2,035 per week (01208 869090; [latitude50.co.uk](https://latitude50.co.uk))



The Boathouse is so remote it can only be access by boat or by car through a farm



## Oldshoremore Retreats

### Kinlochbervie, Sutherland

In Scotland's far northwest, this sanctuary by Oldshoremore Beach, near Kinlochbervie, opened only last year, and makes the most of the healing effects of the sea with yoga retreats and sound-healing sessions.

Though the glamping pods – which come with bunk beds (including a double and single), a kitchenette, bathroom, and underfloor heating – are relatively basic, the setting is out of this world. With turquoise waters and a strip of dazzling white sands along the edge of a rocky peninsula, Oldshoremore Beach can easily compete as one of Sutherland's most beautiful. Which, considering the competition, is quite a feat.

**How to do it:** Pods (sleeping two) from £75 per night (01971 521036; [oldshoremoreretreats.co.uk](http://oldshoremoreretreats.co.uk))

## Seashore Shepherds Hut

### Aldingham, Cumbria

For something a little more rustic, try this converted shepherd's hut, which is just 30 yards from the sand beside the medieval hamlet of Aldingham, in the grounds of Moat Farm.

Accommodation is compact and cosy, with space for a double bed, dining table for two, a kitchen and shower room, plus some outdoor furniture and a firepit – so you can spill outside, which is really what it's all about.

If you don't fancy cooking, the owners of Moat Farm do hot food to take away, and although it's no longer a working farm, you'll likely still happen upon its two resident goats on patrol in the nearby orchard.

**How to do it:** From £549 per week, £324 for three nights (01244 356666; [sykescottages.co.uk](http://sykescottages.co.uk))



Seashore Shepherds Hut is one of the more unique stays in Cumbria

# Peppercombe Coastguard Cottages

## Bideford, Devon

As pretty as a picture, this one-bed white-and-blue cob cottage feels very Enid Blyton. Accessed down a bumpy track through a wooded valley, you'll find three National Trust cottages here – ideal for big groups who nevertheless want a little privacy. Built in the 18th century and once used by those keeping an eye on illicit smuggling activities, there is period charm throughout, with low-beamed ceilings and ancient oak floors.

From the garden, follow the path down to the beach at Peppercombe, which has a rocky foreshore but some sand at low tide. It's the perfect place to search for pretty stones to smuggle home.

How to do it: From £599 per week (0344 800 1895; [nationaltrust.org.uk](https://nationaltrust.org.uk))

Which of these remote properties would you love to visit? Join the conversation in the comments below



### Dispatches Newsletter

Our foreign correspondents bring you the stories that matter - from Ukraine and around the world.

Sign up

Related Topics

Europe, United Kingdom



The Telegraph values your comments but kindly requests all posts are on topic, constructive and respectful. Please review our [commenting policy](#).

Show comments ▼