

Escape to THE COAST

Forget promenades and piers, this is the cool way to do the British coast, with scenic activities and luxury hideaways

LONGUEVILLE MANOR

St Saviour, Jersey

Location

In the British Isles, you can't go much further south than this idyllic manor house hotel. It's just five minutes by car outside Jersey's capital, St Helier, and the sea and wide, sandy beaches are never more than 20 minutes away in every direction.

Perfect for

Foodie couples who also appreciate a cocktail or two.

What to do

Head to the sanctuary of The Cottage Garden, Longueville Manor's pretty spa, to truly relax and unwind. The staff at this small, but perfectly formed oasis use Manomara, a local brand of fragrant oils. There's also a calm, zen-style garden complete with hot tub and loungers for post-massage relaxation. If you're lucky enough, you'll be able to soak up some Jersey sunshine.

Walk to the famous Elizabeth Castle at low tide

What to eat

The award-winning cuisine on offer in the elegant Oak Room is exquisite for a special dinner, and breakfast at Longueville Manor is a fine-dining event

every day! You'd need to stay for at least a week just to work your way through the drinks menu in the old-school Cocktail Bar, as well. There's also a whole island's worth of restaurants and tearooms to get your fill of Jersey cream – this is not the place to come if you're watching your weight! We particularly loved Longueville's sister restaurant, Sumas, in the pretty village of Gorey, and eating ice cream as we soaked up the views at St Brelade's Bay.

Standout sights

You can explore the other Channel Islands in the hotel's private yacht, available for charter hire. Closer to the manor, and on dry land, we simply enjoyed walking on the gorgeous beaches around the island – it was the perfect way to spend our days.

Why we love it

Longueville Manor is smart, stylish and seriously special – but homely, relaxed and friendly at the same time. Make sure to book one of the newly refurbished suites to really put the icing on the cake.

Go there Nightly rates start from £195, based on two people sharing on a bed and breakfast basis, longuevillemanor.com. Jersey is an hour's flight from London.

OTHER SOUTHERN STAYS

Una St Ives

This idyllic Cornwall gem, complete with a luxury spa, is a 15-minute walk from the stunning Carbis Bay, where you can breathe in the fresh sea air.

The Luggier Hotel, Truro

Once you've lapped up the amazing views of the coast, you can retreat to the hotel's fabulous restaurant for dinner and relaxation.

Priory Bay Hotel, Seaview, Isle of Wight

This estate, with its period buildings, is pretty epic – you can even stay in a yurt overlooking the sandy beach, if you fancy it.

No one is ever far from the water when they visit Jersey

Walk to the famous Elizabeth Castle at low tide

Superb local food is on offer at Longueville Manor



The stunning scenery near the castle is just waiting to be discovered

GLENAPP CASTLE

Ballantrae, Ayrshire

Location

We travelled to Scotland on board the Caledonian Sleeper, departing London in the evening and waking up in Glasgow. After an hour's scenic drive, we arrived at the gorgeous Glenapp Castle. It's set amid the rolling hills of Ayrshire, and the surrounding stunning seascapes provide beautiful backdrops – wonderful for quality time with your spouse.

Perfect for

Couples who are seeking peaceful privacy in luxurious surroundings – with a side of adventure, if desired.

What to do

The castle grounds offer a whole host of activities right on your doorstep, if you can tear yourself away from the incredibly grand Master Suite. Think bike rides around the estate, walks through enchanting

woodland, or even a spot of tennis.

What to eat

We enjoyed the six-course dining experience in Glenapp Castle's restaurant. Dishes ranged from a delicious velouté

to a superb soufflé. The menu is based on local produce, and changes nightly. This was food we'd never have imagined, and we devoured every morsel.

Standout sights

We drove to Galloway Forest Park and set off on a walk that took in mountains, forests and lochs – what more could you want from a Scottish break? If you want to go explore further, a short boat ride across to the small island of Ailsa Craig will reward you with amazing wildlife.

Why we love it

From the moment we arrived at Glenapp Castle, we were treated like royalty. Every little thing had been thought of, from picnics packed when we headed out for the day, to returning from dinner to our suite to find the curtains drawn, fresh flowers on the table, and a hearty fire roaring away.

Go there Garden View rooms from £295 per room per night, incl. breakfast, glenappcastle.com. Tickets on the Caledonian Sleeper start from £35 one-way in a sleeper seat, or £75 in a berth. Check sleeper.scot for details on Lowland and Highland Routes.

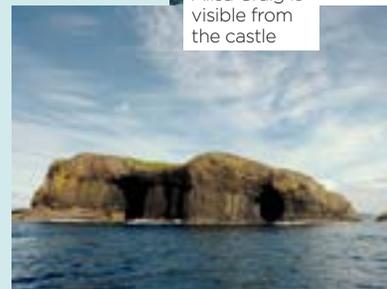


WORDS BY HOLLIE BOND AND MELANIE MACLEOD. ADDITIONAL PHOTOGRAPHS BY GETTY



The dramatic Loch Trool in Galloway Forest Park is a historic location

The imposing Ailsa Craig is visible from the castle



MORE NORTHERN BEAUTIES

Scarista House, Isle of Harris

Just off the coast of mainland Scotland lies the Isle of Harris. Stop here for a cosy break that's oozing with Hebridean charm.

Kinloch Lodge, Isle of Skye

This family-run luxe hotel on a beautiful island is home to a superb restaurant. A home from home with top-quality food!

The Torridon, Wester Ross

The perfect place to see the beauty of the Highlands. The Boat House has its own private road and romantic jetty.