

28 of the UK's most stylish hotels by the beach

These are the boutique hotels that really
shine in the summer — with easy-breezy
spas, superb food and cocktails
overlooking some of the UK's loveliest
beaches

Oh, we do love to be beside the seaside, us Brits. No wonder, given that the UK has a lot of seaside to love — 7,700 miles compared to Italy’s 4,720 miles or Spain’s 3,100 miles.

Not all that long ago Britain’s seaside was awash with old-fashioned hotels and chintzy B&Bs, but there’s been a transformation along the coast over the past two decades or so. Faced with customers used to cracking coastal stays on warmer foreign shores — not to mention a recent surge in UK holidays — the hospitality scene has upped its game. These days, it’s as easy to find a boutique beauty as it is in any big city, only with much better views. Expect infinity pools and sleek spas, Michelin-starred restaurants and rustic seafood shacks, clifftop hot tubs and panoramic patios: the coast is officially cool and, with more than 7,000 miles of it to explore in the UK, we should count ourselves lucky. The best bit? Nowhere in the UK is more than 70 miles from the sea. And they call Australia the Lucky Country.

The only grit in the oyster, of course, is the weather. While it's true that we can never guarantee four hours of sunshine, let alone 24, to really understand the coast, you do need to see it in all weathers — and all seasons. Right now, these properties are perfect if it's beach time and sunbathing that you're after — the ones to have bookmarked when the headlines ring with the H-word: heatwave. Of course, you'll find the absolute cheapest rates off-season, but these pads are best enjoyed with at least a chance of a stroll along the waterfront, brolly-free. Pack your coastal finest, pick your must-haves (sea-breezy spa, cult restaurant by the waves) and find your spot. Here's our pick of the best coastal and beach hotels in the UK.

5. The Pierhouse Hotel, Port Appin, Argyll



£ | **Best for** magnificent scenery

This Argyll beauty on the shore of Loch Linnhe calls itself a hotel. Yet with only 12 rooms, it feels like the home it once was for the master of Port Appin pier outside. In an era of carefully curated style, its unfussy accommodation feels almost refreshing. A comfy bed, views of the sea and Highland mountains, silence — what more do you need? A dinner reservation, actually. The restaurant is excellent: all ingredients come from within a 50-mile radius and it's so hyper-local the hotel has its own lobster creel.

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