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THE GROWN-UP
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Need inspiration for your next day out or staycation? Then browse our top picks of where to explore in the British Isles



PHOTOGRAPH: GARY HOLPIN PHOTOGRAPHY.
PORTRAIT PHOTOGRAPH: ANT DUNCAN



HELENA LANG
HEAD OF CONTENT

'The South West 660 offers staycationers 660 miles of coastline to explore by car in some of our most beautiful counties. Visit southwest660.com to find a great choice of suggested itineraries, with restaurant and accommodation highlights along the way, including ones in stunning Sidmouth, seen here.'





PUP-FRIENDLY PUB

SUFFOLK

LOUISE ATKINSON

Have dog, will travel? This country inn takes pride in its pooch-friendly hospitality

Our arrival at the Packhorse Inn near Newmarket in Suffolk is rather chaotic. We are literally dragged into the busy restaurant area by Willa, our gregarious five-month-old pointer puppy who is so excited to be finally out of the car, she is leaping and lunging at the other guests. All we can do is apologise, muttering 'so sorry, she's only young, it's her first weekend away!' while trying to distract her from a chubby beagle sitting at the bar.

We wouldn't normally dream of taking a puppy away with us, but what can I say? The Chestnut Group of pubs with rooms scattered across Suffolk and Norfolk make a point of welcoming doggy guests, and we are up for the challenge!

I'm here with hubby, Jonathan, to pup-test the swanky new 'barn' rooms at the back of the pub. Ours is delightfully bright and airy, all very Scandi crisp and clean, with the addition of a large comfy dog bed, a dog towel and water bowl for Willa.

In the restaurant, we are thoughtfully shown to a corner table for Willa's first lessons in pub dog etiquette. Our sumptuous East Anglian breakfast (like a full English,

Clockwise from above: the Packhorse Inn's light and airy dining room; Louise with pointer pup Willa; 'perfectly charred' bream

THE DETAILS

Bed and breakfast at The Packhorse Inn starts from £115 per night. The Muddy Paws package is a one-night stay with 'use' of a dog bed, and treats, doggy menu, dinner and breakfast for two from £230. Book at thepackhorseinn.com



but everything is locally sourced) comes with an extra sausage for the dog, served cut into small pieces, which I eke out just long enough for us to finish.

The pub is a short trot from the Newmarket gallops, and if we had more confidence in our dog control we'd have booked a stud visit, but chose to tire out the dog with a big walk.

Back in the restaurant for dinner, we discover the chef, Steve Angier, has a Michelin background and a passion for game.

Jon and I share Steve's spectacular fish board starter, after which, Jon is enraptured by his plate of partridge, perched on gnarly parsnips so that one clenched partridge claw punches the air; and I'm very happy with my perfectly charred fillet

of bream nestling in a mussel chowder and speckled with a tangy bloody Mary gel.

As we wait for dessert (poached pear for me and sticky toffee pudding for Jon), I spot a man looking dreamily over to our table. I ask: 'Would you like a cuddle?' and he's over like a shot - to fuss our uncharacteristically calm puppy, who has miraculously graduated from marauding mutt to a 'two pint pooch' happy to snooze away the evening under our table.



LIVING IT LARGE

CORNWALL

LIZ STANSFIELD



A clifftop staycation is just the ticket for some coastal R&R with views for days - and plenty of room for everyone





Clockwise from left: the impressive Trefreock Mill and gardens; Liz with Christina; one of the several living rooms; postcard-pretty Port Isaac

to worry about nap location of course – the third living area was freely available for nap-based R&R after all...

On the third day, my parents, who live in the area, arrive armed with local pasties from historic Barneccutt's bakery for lunch. There's plenty of space for board games (Dave and Rich), wine drinking (me, Kath and my mum), snoozing (my dad) and cow-watching from the window (excited pal Christina), all to be done at once in the large kitchen-diner-lounge. It feels a bit like Christmas hanging out with everyone here, but without any of the big day pressure (and much comfier beds!).

You can access the north Cornwall coastline and its South West coast path from the house, which offers wonderful walks and views for days; or head down into Port Isaac for the harbour and good grub. *Doc Martin* fans will enjoy the filming locations around the village – and natty gift shops selling the merch, of course.

We spend some time in Port Isaac and another day visiting The Pig at Harlyn for a delicious lunch in the outdoor Lobster Shed, but mostly we just sit and chat and laugh. The sunsets from the kitchen-diner are truly special, and as we're blessed with good weather, we spend time in the gardens with both the sun and smiles on our faces. ■

When my partner, Simon, walks into the sun-kissed back lounge, I tell him: 'You have to be quiet in here, it's the reading room – the talking living room is next door.' Yes, there really is a lounge for every occasion at Trefreock Mill – a large self-catering luxury home perched on the cliffs above Port Isaac in north Cornwall.

The seemingly endless space makes Trefreock the perfect multigenerational staycation in the West Country. I make a

mental note to share the info with friends who are always in need of a parents/young children/grandparents/complicated family logistics holiday. We're here with my sister, Kath, her partner, Dave, and friends Christina and Rich who we don't see nearly enough, and it's a wonderful place to relax, eat and drink.

There's no fighting over bedrooms here. Trefreock has three doubles and a twin, all of which are en suite. The master bedroom's bathroom is epic; I spend a good hour soaking in the large tub, and I freely admit to enjoying several 'great naps' in the king-sized bed. Not that I had



PHOTOGRAPHS: WILDLING, GETTY IMAGES

THE DETAILS

Trefreock Mill sleeps eight in four bedrooms, from £1,750 per week. Dogs welcome (max two, £25 per dog). To book, visit latitude50.co.uk.