



# I LOVE THE SEASIDE

◆  
THE SURF & TRAVEL GUIDE TO GREAT BRITAIN & IRELAND  
◆



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## IN AND AROUND WOOLACOMBE

Like most of the southwest, Woolacombe's an awesome place to surf and explore, hence it's stacked high with holidaymakers in summer. The busy town's nestled among north Devon's wild landscape and is a colourful contrast to the sleepy old villages that surround it. Whatever the season, it's the kind of place where there'll always be somewhere open to shelter from the scorching sun/pounding rain and there's plenty spots to eat, drink and sleep, alongside walking routes galore. If your mood's more inclined to the sleepy village feel, look to the teeny-tiny Morteheo, just a few minutes from the town; there's not a lot more to it than a village shop, a fish and chips stop and a couple of pubs, but there are ample places to spend the night.



Photo: Claire James

### TO DO

It might sound peculiar that one of the top things to do around here is hang out in a parking area, but give it a go and you'll soon see what's up at the **Marine Drive Car Park (19)**. The long stretch of roadside parking borders pretty much the length of the beach, and is the ideal place to spend the day, check the surf, read your book and hang your wetsuit out to dry for the next session.

If Woolacombe's main beach is too exposed for you, pop around the corner to **Barricane Beach (20)**, where you'll find more shelter for sunny snoozing or a picnic, and rockpools for the kids to play in. It's a popular spot, though, so don't expect it to be peaceful on a sunny day.

Hop onto the walk to **Morte Point (21)**, which the locals believe is so wild that 'Morte is the place that heaven made last and the Devil will take first.'



From the point you'll have an incredible view of Lundy Island and there are secluded smugglers' coves along the way, where you'll likely see lazing seals. If your boots are made for long walks, continue along to Bull Point and the lighthouse, there's a circular route that loops back through the countryside.



Find out a bit about the area in the little but lovely **Morteheo Museum (22)**. Run by local volunteers, entry's free

but donations very gratefully received. There's all sorts of information about shipwrecks and local history, and a play area outside for small people. You can also book a tractor ride out to the point from here if you're not feeling hikey.

- a.** To rear of Pay & Display Car Park, off Morteheo Station Road, Morteheo EX34 7DT
- t.** +44 1271 870 028
- w.** [morteheomuseum.org.uk](http://morteheomuseum.org.uk)

Kids and adults alike adore the **Borough Farm Sheepdog and Falconry Displays (23)**, held on Wednesday evenings from May to September. Perch on hay bales and tuck into a sunset BBQ while the sheepdogs show off their skills, then for afters you'll be astounded by the magnificent birds of prey performance. And there's no letting wet weather stop the fun - if it's raining you can watch the displays from the shelter of the barn. Each Tuesday there's an interactive Farmyard Show for the little ones, and on Thursdays there's a 2 hr tour on the clifftops called the 'Shepherding



Experience'. Check their website or call for bookings and more information.

**a.** Borough Farm, Morteohoe EX34 7HE  
**t.** +44 1271 870 056  
**w.** boroughfarm.co.uk

## EAT/DRINK/HANG OUT



**Gobblebox (24)** is a tiny street food takeaway situated down a side street off the main beachfront. Crab dogs and mackerel tacos are on the specials board as well as the much-loved chicken dishes. Veggie and vegan options also. Whatever you choose it's sure to be full of flavour, and the sauce selection is something more to rave about. Open from midday. Closed in winter. ♦£♦

**a.** 3 South Street, Woolacombe EX34 7BB  
**t.** +44 7919 523 523  
**fb.** gobblebox woolacombe



Cute, cosy and plastic-free, **Meraki Coffee Co (25)** serve bright juices, fresh coffee, healthy snacks and home-made cakes; all the right ingredients for a tip-top trendy coffee shop. Open all year. ♦££♦

**a.** 12 South Street, Woolacombe EX34 7BB  
**fb.** Meraki Coffee Co



You'll find **The Porthole Cafe and Kiosk (26)** in the middle of the Marine Drive Car Park. Insanely tasty goodies - drinks, cakes, ice-creams or a wholesome lunch, and the location is second-to-none. They're also plastic-free champions and source as much local food as they can get their hands on. Open all year. ♦£♦

**a.** Marine Drive, Woolacombe EX34 7ZZ  
**t.** +44 7507 906 005  
**fb.** theportholewoolacombe



**Miss Fea's Café (27)**, underneath the Smugglers Rest B&B in Morteohoe, is appealing whatever the weather; the terrace and garden are ideal on sunny summer days and it's the perfect place to drink hot chocolate by the wood-burner if you want to shelter from stormy weather. Serving snacks, sandwiches and light bites, smoothies and juices. Open April to October. ♦££♦

**a.** North Morte Road, Morteohoe EX34 7DR  
**t.** +44 1271 870 891  
**w.** thesmugglersrest.co.uk

You won't find a more classic British pub than **The Ship Aground (28)** in Morteohoe. The sun terrace overlooks the village square and soaks up the sunshine throughout the day, while inside the old bars look exactly as

you'd expect and have a good choice of draught beers and local ales. Serving traditional pub grub for lunch and dinner daily, and a carvery for Sunday lunch. Open all year. ♦££♦

**a.** Village Square, Morteohoe EX34 7DT  
**t.** +44 1271 870 856  
**w.** shipaground.co.uk

## SHOP

The **Morteohoe Village Store (29)** is crammed with everything you could fancy, from local produce and bakery bread to Devon drinks, free-range eggs from happy chickens, and meat from the local butchers. You'll never need to go to the supermarket again. Well, at least not for the duration of your stay here. If it's in summer. Closed in winter.

**a.** Barricane House, Morteohoe EX34 7DR  
**t.** +44 1271 870 106

**Mike Taffinder Woodcrafts (30)** hides down winding roads lined with high hedges, and enough corners and junctions to make you feel like you slid down a rabbit hole. His glorious showroom and workshop are at his house, where you'll be warmly welcomed by Mike, his wife and his pack of friendly dogs. Craftwork for sale includes oak mirrors, candle holders, beautiful chopping boards and towel holders; all will instantly look right at home in your kitchen (or van). And check out his dragonflies, made from solid wood - they balance as if by magic on their noses upon everything from gate posts to fingertips. His passion and dedication to his work come across clearly, and you'll be glad you stopped by. His opening hours aren't fixed so it's worth phoning before you visit.

**a.** Gibbs, North Buckland, Braunton EX33 1HY  
**t.** +44 1271 891 222  
**w.** miketaffinderwoodcrafts.com



Photo: Meraki Coffee Co

## SLEEP

**North Morte Farm Caravan and Camping (31)** may be the campsite with the best view ever. They don't take advance bookings for camping so just turn up and pitch up in one of their fields overlooking the sea. The site's a short walk from the beach, the pub and the village store, and you can drive to Woolacombe in a few minutes for a surf check. There are also static holiday cabins and space for caravans and motorhomes. Open March to October. ♦£♦♦££♦

**a.** North Morte Road, Morteohoe EX34 7EG  
**t.** +44 1271 870 381  
**w.** northmortefarm.co.uk

You'll find **Little Roadway Farm Camping (32)** along the narrow lane that connects Woolacombe and Croyde. They say they welcome "Tents, caravans, camper vans, motor homes, pods, trailer tents and anything quirky," so don't be shy if you're travelling in alternative style. There's also a choice



of bell tents and glamping pods, and a shop and takeaway on site. A family-run, family-friendly site, close to the beaches and with lush countryside walks in all directions. Open all year. ♦£♦♦££♦

**a.** Georgian Road, Woolacombe EX34 7HL  
**t.** +44 1271 870 313  
**w.** littleroadway.co.uk



For a few home comforts stay at **The Smuggler's Rest Bed and Breakfast (33)**, a historic building in the

centre of Morteohoe. A friendly welcome, fresh and modern décor, comfy beds, hot showers en suite and a good breakfast downstairs in Miss Fea's Café. Dog and child friendly. Open April to October. ♦££♦♦£££♦

**a.** North Morte Road, Morteohoe EX34 7DR  
**t.** +44 1271 870 891  
**w.** thesmugglersrest.co.uk

We like **Gordon's Cabin (34)** for its little cottage cosiness, sitting in the countryside with an over the fields and between the hills view of the sea. Just round the corner from the beach at Woolacombe, it sleeps 2, has an enclosed garden and is dog friendly. Having started out as a linnay (farm building) in the 1800s, this little cabin's now a bright and modern space, keeping the traditional high ceilings and beams. Available to rent all year through the National Trust website. ♦££♦

**a.** Morteohoe Station Rd, Morteohoe EX34 7DR  
**w.** nationaltrust.org.uk/holidays/gordons-cabin-devon



all kinds of memorabilia charting the history of the quay, its film history and some legendary shipwrecks. The view over to Lundy Island is phenomenal and you'll be enticed in by the food smells wafting across the quay. Local ales and ingredients when possible, they serve lunch every day during the summer holidays and at weekends out of season. ♦££♦

**a.** Hartland Quay Hotel, Hartland Quay, Hartland EX39 6DU  
**t.** +44 1237 441 218  
**w.** hartlandquayhotel.co.uk

Enjoy a Bideford Bay view of the harbour and Lundy Island from the sunny courtyard at **Cottage Tea Rooms (59)**. They serve lunches and light snacks as well as the obligatory cream teas and have a flower-filled traditional tea shop charm. Open from Easter to October. ♦£♦ ♦££♦

**a.** High Street, Clovelly EX39 5TE  
**fb.** Cottage Tea Rooms Clovelly

## SHOP



Hartland's village centre has a little hive of **art workshops, potteries and galleries (60)** where you can find beautiful works of art and locally made unique crafts. In the summer as part of the Annual Art Trek, local artists open studios to visitors. Out of season, pop to the Parish Hall to check for any pop-up art events.



On the first Sunday of each month between March and December, you

can hop along to the **Hartland Farmers Market & Café (61)** at the Parish Hall to find fresh local produce, everything from seafood to meat and cheese, veggies and bakery goodies.

**a.** The Square, Hartland EX39 6BE



## SLEEP



**Stoke Barton Farm Camping (62)** is located between Hartland village and Hartland Quay. A big site, it accommodates lots of tents and vans, and the lovely local family who run it are a fountain of knowledge on the area. Farm dogs, footpaths to the beach and a little shop on site (selling bacon, sausages, burgers and pasties from the local butcher, alongside your essentials) makes this place feel homey. Open April to October. ♦£♦ ♦££♦

**a.** Stoke Barton Farm, Hartland EX39 6DU  
**t.** +44 1237 441 238  
**w.** westcountry-camping.uk



**Loveland Farm (63)** is a creative, magically peaceful eco-retreat where sustainability comes first, just a 5-minute drive from the centre of Hartland. With a choice of 6 incredible Geodesic domes and 3 'tentipis', all

offering stylish simplicity and comfort, from stargazer ceiling and wood-burning stove to a projector for movie nights. Each pod has its own private shower room, there's an indoor swimming pool (heated with reusable energy) and communal fire pit, BBQ area, top notch food available to order, and even the eco toilet 'thrones' have sea views! Open all year. ♦£££♦



**a.** Hartland EX39 6AT  
**t.** +44 1237 441 894  
**w.** loveland.farm

Slap in the middle of village and seaside, with a short walk to whichever you treasure most highly, you'll find **Coastal Cabins (64)** delightful wooden huts at a stunning lakeside location. Choose from a selection of all en suite cabins, each has a kitchenette and its own decking area and outdoor seating. On site you can use the BBQ cabin to cook up a feast, feel free to fish the day away at the lake (bring your own equipment) or book a soak in their 'Wild Spa' hot tub. Open March to September. ♦££♦ ♦£££♦

**a.** East Long Furlong, Hartland EX39 6AT  
**t.** +44 1237 441 337  
**w.** coastal-cabins.com





Photo: Toby Butler

## SURF

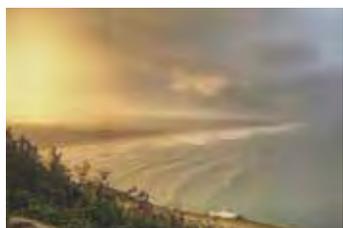
The coastline of north Devon, mainly rocky and dramatic, takes a break for an occasional long sandy break here or there, offering a pretty fine choice of reef, point or beach break and ensuring there's something for everyone.

**Woolacombe (I)** may get packed but with it being an expanse of west-facing beachbreaks you'll probably find a peak to yourself. Backed by dunes and picks up any available SW, W and NW swell, works at all tides. If the wind's from SW or S try Putsborough, at the south end of the bay with good shelter from Baggy Point. ♦ *All levels/sand/ample parking/surf school and surf shop/toilets/restaurant/campsite.* ♦

**Croyde Beach (II)** can get crowded but is well worth having to wait your turn on a good day. Works on all tides but best shape at low, ranges from



fun beginner waves to shallow barrels. Needs small to medium SW, W or NW swell. Offshore with an E. ♦ *All levels/sand/ample paid parking/surf schools and hire/toilets/café and shops/campsites.* ♦



If it's firing too fast at Croyde, head to **Saunton Sands (III)**. Another lovely

long beach with slow walls. Great for beginners, popular with riders of longboards, fish, mid-lengths and single fins. We love the right at the north end of the beach. Works at all tides with a small W, medium SW or NW swell. ♦ *All levels/sand/ample paid parking/surf schools and hire/little shop/café/campsite nearby.* ♦

**Westward Ho! (IV)** is the only town ever to exist with an exclamation mark in its name so that's enough to make it worth a visit, right? Packed in summer and the holidays, easy wave for learners as it usually lacks power. Works throughout the tides, in small to medium W swell. Offshore on an E. ♦ *Sand/beginners/ample paid parking/facilities/surf schools/caravan parks.* ♦



Photo: Toby Butler

## SCHOOL RENTAL REPAIR

**Surfing Croyde Bay (65)** aka The Little Pink Shop is one of the oldest surf shops around here - the first one in Croyde, it's been family run since 1987. They've boards, suits and surf accessories to buy and surf rentals - you can pop in or pre-book your rentals online to maximise your time in the water and save any faff. Open all year.

**a.** 7 Moor Lane, Croyde Bay,  
Croyde EX33 1NP  
**t.** +44 1271 890 453  
**w.** croyde-surf-hire.co.uk

**Surf South West (66)** opened in 96, they're lovely friendly folk and were the first UK school to be awarded a Level 4 by the BSA, so you can trust they know what they're doing. They also do SUP lessons, coasteering, and surf trips to Indo. Open from April to October.

**a.** Croyde Burrows Beach Car Park,  
Moor Lane, Croyde EX33 1NZ  
**t.** +44 1271 890 400  
**w.** surfsouthwest.com



Check out the cool shop and shaping bay of **Gulfstream Surfboards (67)**, who have been in Woolacombe for 26 years. They have a range of classic longboards, mid-lengths and shortboards as well as alternative shapes and second-hand beauties. There's also a range of clothing in store, alongside surf accessories and a ding repair service. Open all year.

**a.** 12 South Street, Woolacombe EX34 7BB  
**t.** +44 1271 870 831  
**w.** gulfstreamsurfboards.co.uk

**The North Devon Surf School (68)** run surf lessons from their base right

by the beach at Westward Ho! and claim that it's Devon's best beach for beginners. You can also rent boards, bodyboards, SUPs and wetsuits from them. Open year round.

**a.** Pebbleridge Road,  
Westward Ho! EX39 1HN  
**t.** +44 1237 474 663  
**w.** northdevonsurfschool.co.uk

**Walking on Waves (69)** is run by former UK and European surf champ Sarah Whiteley. Lessons are available for anyone from 5 years up, and they offer surf and SUP lessons, group or private, as well as a Surf Safari - Land Rover trips to less crowded spots, for groups of 2 to 10 people. Closed in winter but private coaching sessions available out of season.

**a.** Breakers, Saunton EX33 1LG  
**t.** +44 7786 034 403  
**w.** walking-on-waves.com  
**w.** surfsupacademy.co.uk





## SEASIDE LOCAL: ARTIST & ILLUSTRATOR CLARA JONAS

Dreamy Clara Jonas is an artist and surfer with a love of the ocean, coffee, and almond croissants. She likes to spend her days outdoors; be it dog-walking, surfing with friends or swimming in the sea, intertwined with creating gorgeous artwork and lapping.

*“Trying to make an ephemeral feeling that is hard to put into words a visual is what makes me happy.”*

You’re likely to find Clara in the Box and Barber coffee shop in Newquay, at picturesque Schooners on the beachfront in St Agnes, or keeping a low profile in the Lidl bakery section. When escaping the screen she’s often wave sliding; “I’m by no means a super intrepid surfer, and don’t have the head for sussing out cool, crazy spots. On a happy, low key day, when the wind is light and the waves a happy size I’ll probably head to Gwithian or perhaps Watergate. Who knows, it depends on who I am with and how the day is unrolling.” You may have spotted her illustrations in Wavelength magazine, on special edition Origin Coffee products or in collaboration with local swimwear brand, Love and Honor. Clara tells us that all her artwork stems from words. It started with calligraphy and brush lettering and quickly evolved. “The words come from everywhere.” explained Clara, “Conversations, song lyrics, poetry. I’m intrigued and inspired by spiritual philosophy, folklore, and mythology. A lot of my work is founded on cues within these subjects. Trying to make an ephemeral feeling that is hard to put into words a visual is what makes me happy.” Her work infuses with some of her ideas on life, the universe and being human; “I won’t be surprised if my work looks totally different in a year, or even a month. We are always so in flux as beings and I try to be quite intuitive with where I head creatively, as opposed to judging it, or worrying about things being on brand or what others expect.”

“Being so close to the water and nature does position living in a slower, more sustainable way, perhaps as more of a focus. The people and the space that it brings to your life can’t really be filled by much else. Creatively, being able to express some of these feelings and connect with people is what drives me and my work. And of course, surfing itself is an endless source of inspiration, from the history to the modern culture, and particularly women in the sport.” Even though Clara has spent the majority of her time studying, drawing, and surfing in Cornwall, she isn’t ready to settle down just yet. She has a big old list of things to do, dreams to chase. “Cornwall will always be special to me and somewhere I feel comfortable and at ease, but I think I’m overdue some personal growth and need a change of scene to keep that flow going. I’ll have to see how that unfolds...”

If you’re as curious as we are to see how that unfolds, and are interested in her work, musings and what’s next, keep a keen eye on her site and socials:  
 i. [clarajonas](https://www.instagram.com/clarajonas) w. [clarajonas-creative.co.uk](https://www.clarajonas-creative.co.uk)





**Campview Farm (71)** isn't the first farm to open its doors to tourism, and we're not complaining. Why not make people part of farming life, without them having to do the hard work, of course...

The working dairy and agriculture farm offers English language courses to students who stay in the farmhouse, and recently opened their Shepherd's Huts Glamping Site to extend their accommodation offerings to those who enjoy a rural stay with comfort and style. Open April to October. ♦♦♦♦

- a. Off the R267 (old road between Ballyshannon and Bundoran)
- t. +353 87 778 7199
- w. campviewfarm.ie

Campervans can stay over at **Campers Bundoran (72)**, a car park at the Bundoran Retail Park. Don't expect idyllic, but you've shops, restaurants, cafés and beach within walking distance, toilets and paid showers. Open all year. ♦♦♦♦

- a. Bundoran Retail Park, Station Road, Bundoran
- t. +353 86 237 3730



**Rougey Lodge (73)** is a surfy hostel offering dorm-style and private rooms. The communal area's a great hangout

to meet fellow travellers. Next to surf lessons and hire they organise SUP and bike tours and coastering adventures, so there's plenty 'nuff to do for your non-surfing buddy, or on flat days. They're conveniently close to Tullan Strand and the town's main surf spot The Peak. Open all year. ♦♦♦♦♦♦

- a. Main Street East End, Bundoran F94 HA22
- t. +353 871 199 622
- w. rougeylodge.com



Another good budget option in town is the **Turf n Surf (74)**. Either stay in one of the private rooms or a shared room, bring your own surf gear or rent it. You can book lessons, or, if you're looking for something else to do - from kayaking to climbing, cliff jumping to partying - there are options galore. Intermediate and advanced surfers can book surf tours to discover different spots with a guide, like the multiple-day Peak Tour or the Reef Tour. The hostel also offers some pretty good weekend warrior deals for a last minute forecast-looks-wicked call. Open all year. ♦♦♦♦♦♦

- a. 6 Bayview Terrace, Bundoran F94 TK53
- t. +353 71 984 1091
- w. turfnurftours.com

**The Boathouse Lodge (75)** is a great option for those who are here to surf Bundoran's main break. Nothing too lavish, but rather homely and from the lodge you can see whether The Peak's working or not. If you're on a bit of a budget or with close friends, choose one of the dorm-style rooms. If you

like more privacy, opt for the private rooms. All guests can make use of the shared living room, terrace and kitchen - perfect to chat forecasts, brag about waves or share photos and beers. Open all year. ♦♦♦♦♦♦

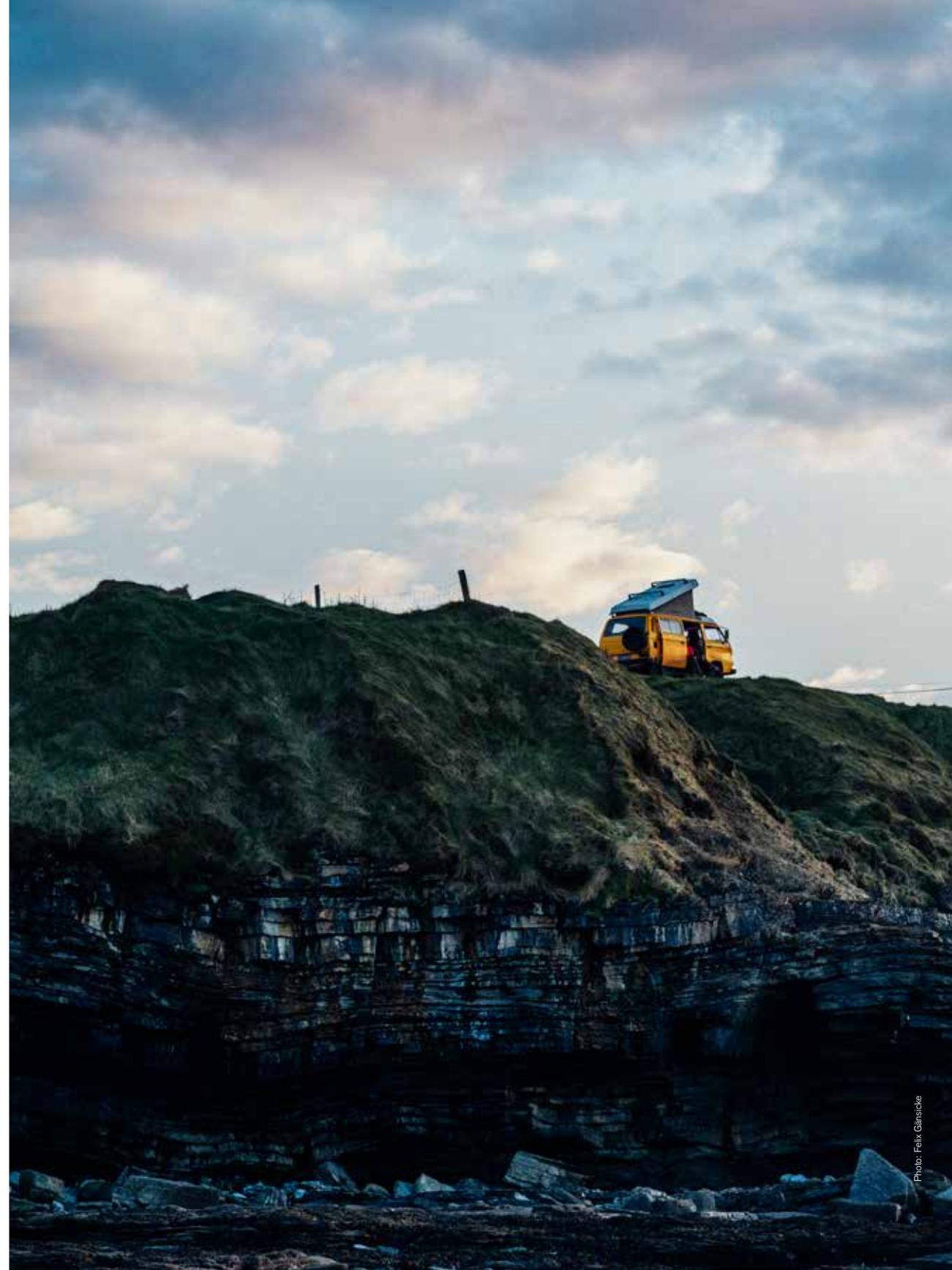
- a. West End, Bundoran F94 HV21
- t. 353 86 397 0601
- w. the-boathouse-lodge.business.site



Sleep in a cosy cottage, a retro caravan, a yurt, or a treehouse.

**Teapot Lane Glamping (76)** has all the aforementioned. All options have a charm of their own, but a treehouse is, you know, a house in a tree... and how extremely cool is that. It comes with a private compost toilet and electricity, and has room for 3 grown-ups. (But why would you want to bring that friend if it can be just you and your love, right?) Don't get all sobby if the treehouse is taken - the yurt, caravan and cottage are far from punishment. They all add a romantic, outdoorsy and slow-down feel to your holiday. The communal wooden sheltered seating area is where you can meet up and stay for hours, sharing stories and snacks with other Teapot glampers. The treehouse and cottage are open all year, yurts between April and October. ♦♦♦♦♦♦

- a. Teapot Lane, Mullanyduff Tawley F91 D363
- t. +353 87 934 0341
- w. glampingireland.ie





# I LOVE THE SEASIDE

## WHY TAKE THIS GUIDE ON YOUR JOURNEY?



Surfing and travelling: I Love the Seaside offers the best of both worlds, and a little more. For this guide we explored the coastline of Britain; from the east of England up to and around Scotland, a hopscotch ticket to the Hebrides, a stretch of Wales, and the shores of Devon and Cornwall. Then we popped across to Ireland - following the seaside from Northern Ireland down the west coast all the way to County Kerry.

Of course, you can check where and when to surf, for all levels, but we aim for much more than that, by giving you a good sense of the backdrop, the scenery and the atmosphere. Any seaside lover can use this guide to find the best places to hang out, to do some funky shopping, or other activities; like horse riding, yoga, hiking, biking, visiting a spa or getting a good massage. We guide you to the nicest seaside accommodations and coolest places to eat or enjoy a sunset beer, all to suit your budget.

## AND THERE'S MORE!

Read our little snippets of info and some short stories about interesting local people.

Get knowledgeable about local foods, and some delicious local recipes.

The I Love the Seaside Surf and Travel guide aims to inform, entertain and give a good read, all in one.

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