

The cool hotel guide

The Beach at Bude, Cornwall

In a nutshell

Sitting above Summerleaze Beach, the Beach at Bude is perfectly positioned for sea lovers, from surfers to those wishing simply to watch the sunset from the terrace with a martini. Inside, the lively bar is at the heart of the hotel, with its retro aviation chairs and mustard-yellow Chesterfield sofas. The recent addition of a brace of two-bedroom suites offers more flexibility for guests, and a new head chef is revamping the food.

What are the rooms like?

Bright and spacious, although lacking character. All 17 main rooms share the same style, with a neutral scheme. Coral cushions provide a subtle splash of colour. Our room (6) had a lovely bay window looking out towards the sea, but there were no curtains, only shutters. The new suites are contemporary and ideal for families (one is self-catering).

Which is the best room?

Room 16, with its sea-view balcony and large bathroom, is popular with honeymooners. At the back of the hotel



Need to know

the suites don't have the views, but are more private and smart.

What's the food like?

Jamie Coleman — a former MasterChef contestant who has worked under Gordon Ramsay and Michael Caines — joined as head chef in January and the food he sends out is superb. My smoked haddock fishcake (£7) was divine and the chicken Kiev (£15) was perfectly cooked and beautifully presented. Little wonder the glass-fronted restaurant and bar is popular with locals. Complimentary

prosecco at breakfast was a nice touch (available at weekends), but fresh juice would also have been welcome.

Who goes there?

Couples and local foodies.

The highs, the lows, the verdict

Eight out of ten

A stellar beachfront location with an atmospheric bar and restaurant serving great food. However, there is no gym or spa, and room decor could be spiced up. **Ellie Ross**

Ellie Ross was a guest of the Beach at Bude (01288 389800, thebeachatbude.co.uk). B&B doubles cost from £125 a night, B&B suites from £295 for four people, £195 for two or £175 for single occupancy. One wheelchair-accessible room; single occupancy from £105; dogs allowed in suites

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THE TIMES

Expert Traveller

Competition



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Take care of your body and achieve the height of wellbeing at the Farm at San Benito, a luxurious health resort in the Philippines. Alongside daily yoga, a break there with Healing Holidays includes fitness and nutritional assessments, plus wide-ranging treatments such as “emotional clearing” and full-body “wraps” meant to enrich the skin. This is just one of the prizes on offer if you vote in *The Times* and *The Sunday Times* Travel Awards, which are among the travel industry's most sought-after gongs. The lucky winner and a guest will each enjoy six nights' full board in a garden villa, taking part in a bespoke wellness and diet programme, as well as flights and transfers. For the chance to win, vote in our travel awards. We want to know the travel companies you trust most and the destinations to which you can't wait to return. The winners will be announced in September.

Luxury holidays to be won

Luxury Los Cabos A seven-night stay at Mexico's Nobu Hotel Los Cabos, with access to great golf courses and fine food (loscabos.nobuhotels.com; tui.com)

Caribbean cool Five nights' B&B, spa treatments and dinners at Grenada's Silversands (silversandsgrenada.com; inspiringtravelcompany.co.uk)

Classy Cambridge Two nights' B&B in a top suite at the historic University Arms, including afternoon tea and a three-course dinner (universityarms.com)

Cyprus for families Seven nights' half-board for two adults and two children at the Almyra (scottdunn.com)

Fun in Florida Four nights in Tampa Bay,



A villa pool at the Farm at San Benito in the Philippines

where rollercoasters, Cuban culture and the Epicurean Hotel await (ba.com; visittampabay.com; epicureanhotel.com)

Two-centre Goa Seven nights' half-board at a pair of Taj resorts amid beaches and culinary hotspots (tajhotels.com; audleytravel.com)

Mexican luxe Five nights' all-inclusive, plus spa treatments, at the adults-only Unico 20°87° beach resort in Riviera Maya (unicohotelrivieramaya.com)

Maltese magnificence Four nights at the Malta Marriott Hotel & Spa, with a beachside location and rooftop pool (airmalta.com; marriott.com)

Arabian opulence Three nights' all-inclusive at the Fairmont Ajman, a beachside resort in the UAE (virginholidays.co.uk; ajman.travel)

Beachside Bali Seven nights' half-board at the Legian Semanak, plus a spa treatment each and infinity-pool access (lhm-hotels.com; bestattravel.com)

Tanzania week An all-inclusive Selous safari and half-board on Zanzibar with Club World flights (asiliaafrica.com; imaginetravel.com)

Andalusia in style Four nights' B&B at the Finca Cortesin boutique hotel, with spa treatments and golf (fincacortesin.com; abercrombiekent.co.uk)

Philippines wellness A six-night, full-board health programme at the Farm at San Benito (healingholidays.com; thefarmatsanbenito.com)

All breaks are for two people including travel (unless stated)

How to enter

Log on to thetimes.co.uk/travelawards and pick your favourite companies and destinations from the drop-down menus. You need to vote in only one award category to be entered automatically into the prize draw. Voting closes on September 4. Times Newspapers rules apply; see the website for full terms and conditions



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