



Seven
unforgettable
day trips in
North West Devon

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Seven unforgettable day trips in North West Devon

This corner of the county is an ancient, weird and wild coastal habitat - overflowing with natural and historical treasures. There's enough here to keep you busy for a lifetime.

This guide condenses years of our most-loved local experiences into a week's worth of wondrous one day excursions. Enjoy!



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The Authors

Hello. We're Ania and Henry, the artists behind the Praktyka eco-retreat tucked up in the hills near Bideford. If you're looking for somewhere unique to hole up while you're here, we've got several options for you - all a little out of the ordinary.

We also run a range of workshops inspired by nature - including jewellery making and printmaking.

www.praktyka.co.uk



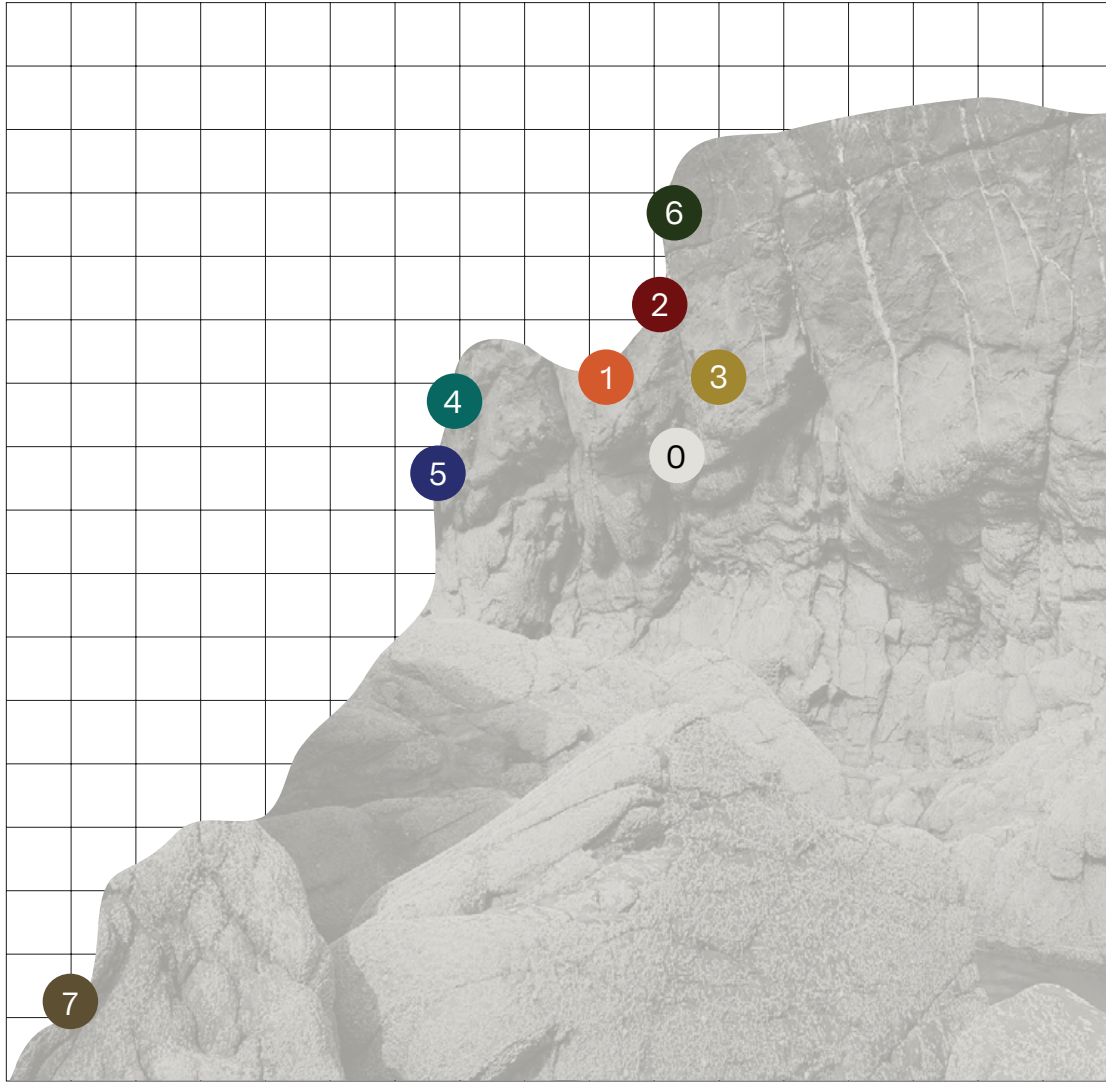
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Map





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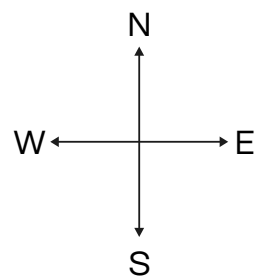
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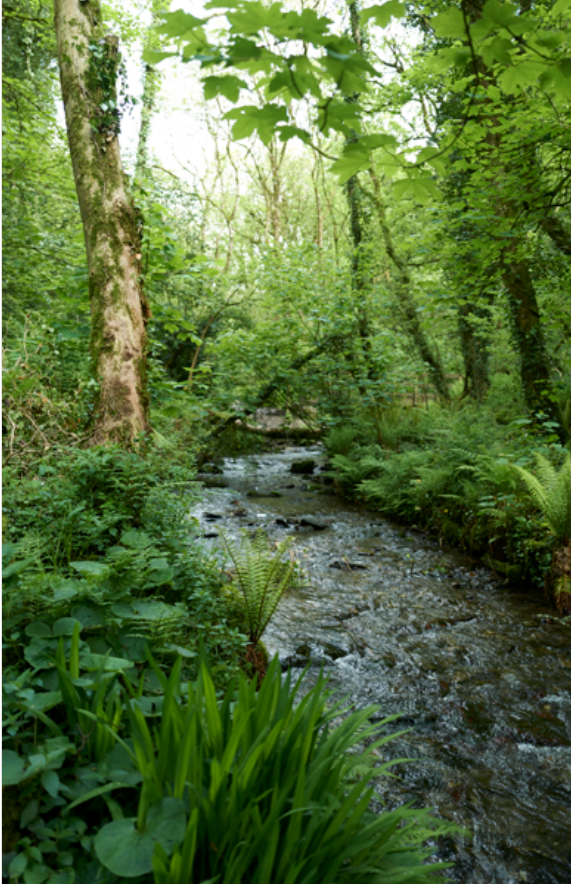
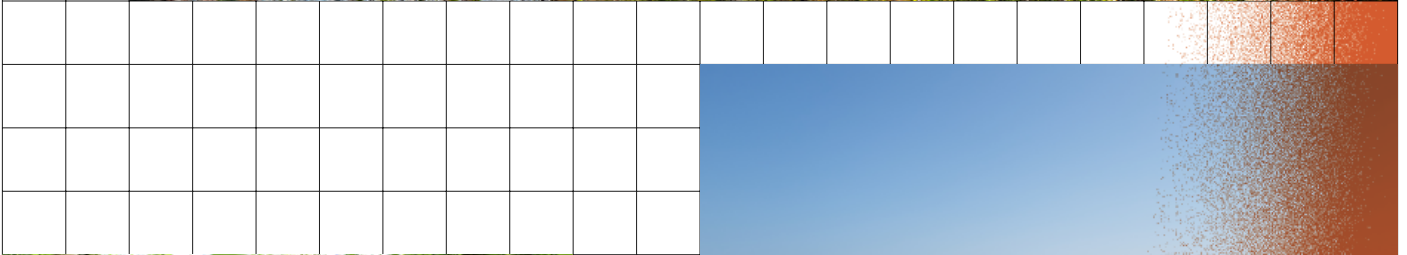
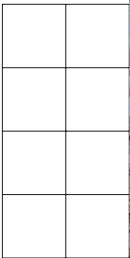
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|--|---|
|  0. Praktyka |  4. Hartland |
|  1. Peppercombe |  5. Welcombe |
|  2. Sandymere |  6. Braunton |
|  3. Bideford |  7. Tintagel |



Peppercombe: Secret beach and rainforest.



DO: See temperate rainforest and beautiful Peppercombe Beach.

EAT: Treat yourself at the award-winning Farmers Arms.

VISIT: Clovelly Village

EXPLORE: For a further trek, follow the coastal path to Buck's Mills and Clovelly.

FIND : games.firewall.brand

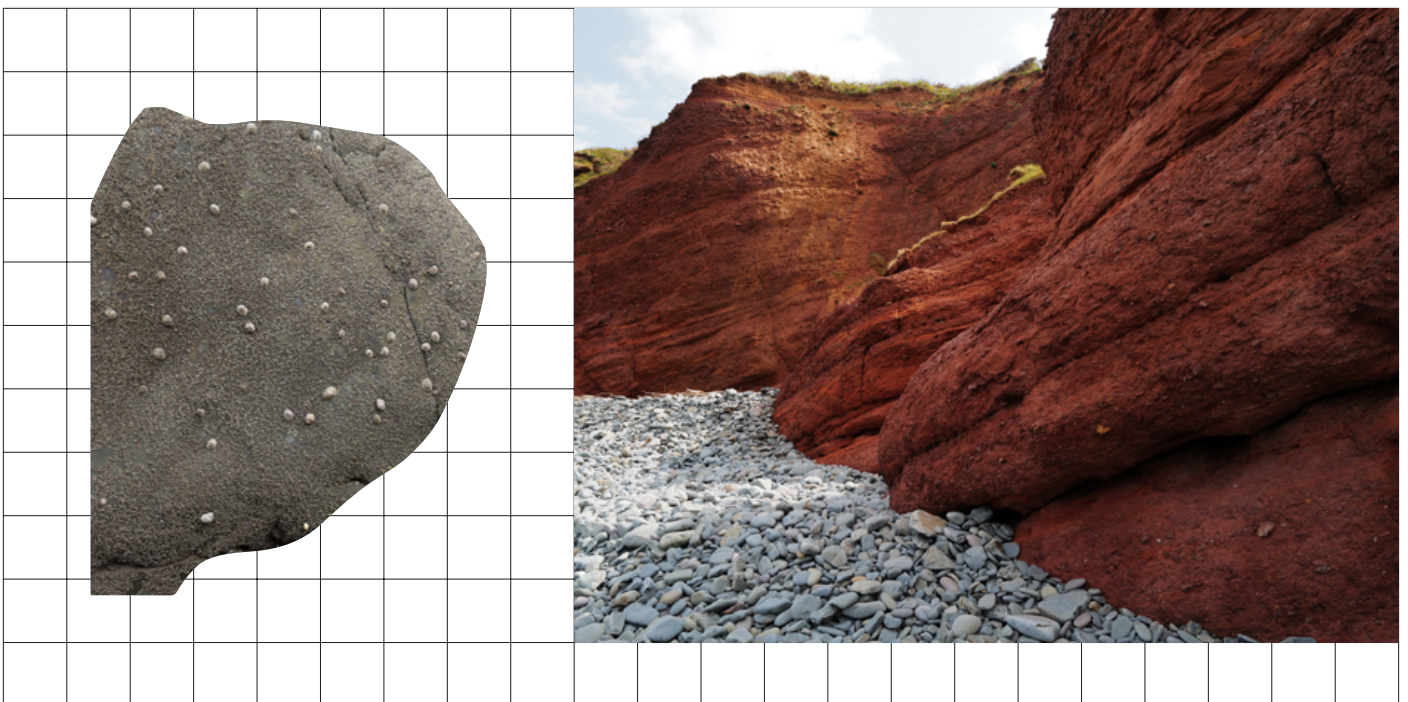
Peppercombe Beach Rainforests & Secret Beach

As you approach Peppercombe beach, you enter a lush valley adorned with giant ferns and ancient woodlands. This hidden gem unveils an incredibly rare temperate rainforest habitat, home to an array of scarce plants, lichens, ferns, mosses, fungi and rare animals.

The path weaves down to the beach, with sand at low tide. Note the glowing

geological red cliffs. To start your journey, park in the layby and the entrance is marked by the unassuming 'Coach and Horses' pub.

A slight detour leads to 'The Farmers Arms,' an award winning pub with gastronomic delights. Explore the steep cobbled paths down to Clovelly, a fishing village frozen in time.



Sandymere: Golden sands

Boasting breathtaking views and good surf, Westward Ho! is a village fully deserving of its exclamation mark.

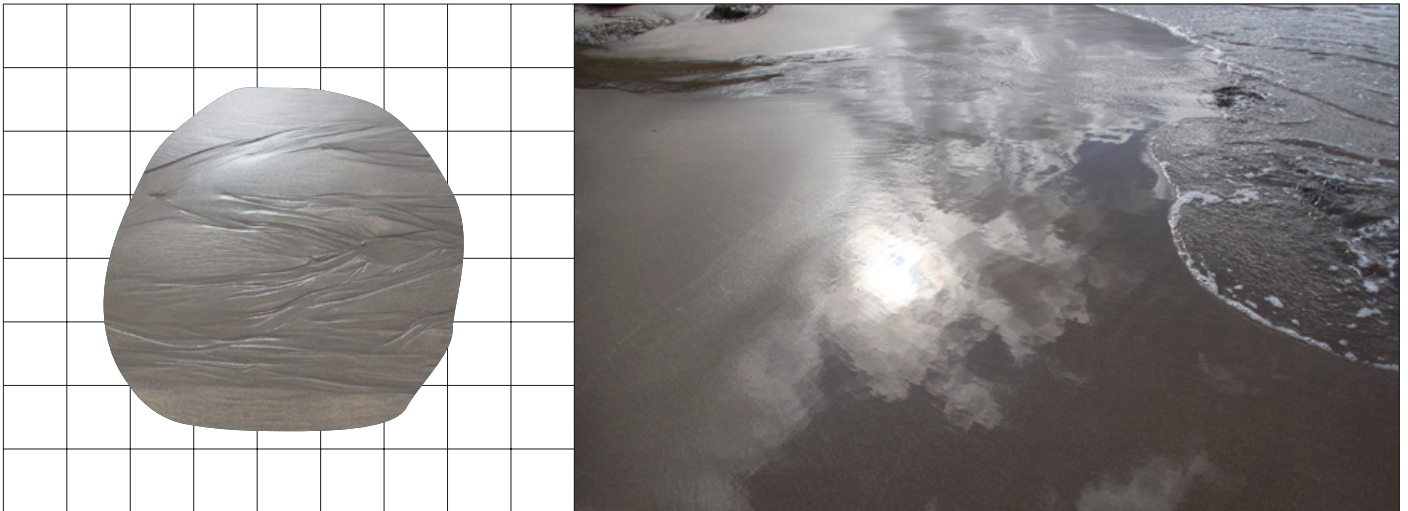
Venture along the expansive, sandy beach and you'll find Sandymere - a beach beloved by sandcastle architects, wave riders and swimmers alike.

The receding tide gives the sea a glassy sheen, reflecting the skies above - but whichever way the waters are moving, it's the perfect beach for lazing, swimming, or surfing. (On that subject, Mark at

Westward Waves runs a surf school from a horsebox and is the teacher we all dream of - just the person to help you conquer the waves.)

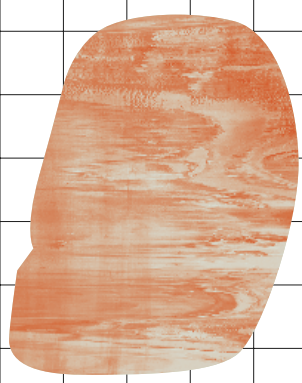
Once you've toweled down, wander Appledore's winding lanes and learn about the rich history of this region. At the Maritime Museum you'll discover the area's ties to everything from vikings to piracy.

One final tip: Don't miss out on a Hockings ice cream - the perfect reward for a day in the sea.





Bideford: Art and culture.



- DO: Check out the Burton Art Gallery.
- EAT: Grab a bite at Cafe Du Parc.
- SHOP: Find something to love at Sunshine & Snow.
- EXPLORE: To take things further, discover a local legend with the Mau Mau graffiti map.
- FIND: [confirms. shipyards. proud.](#)

Bideford: Art and culture.

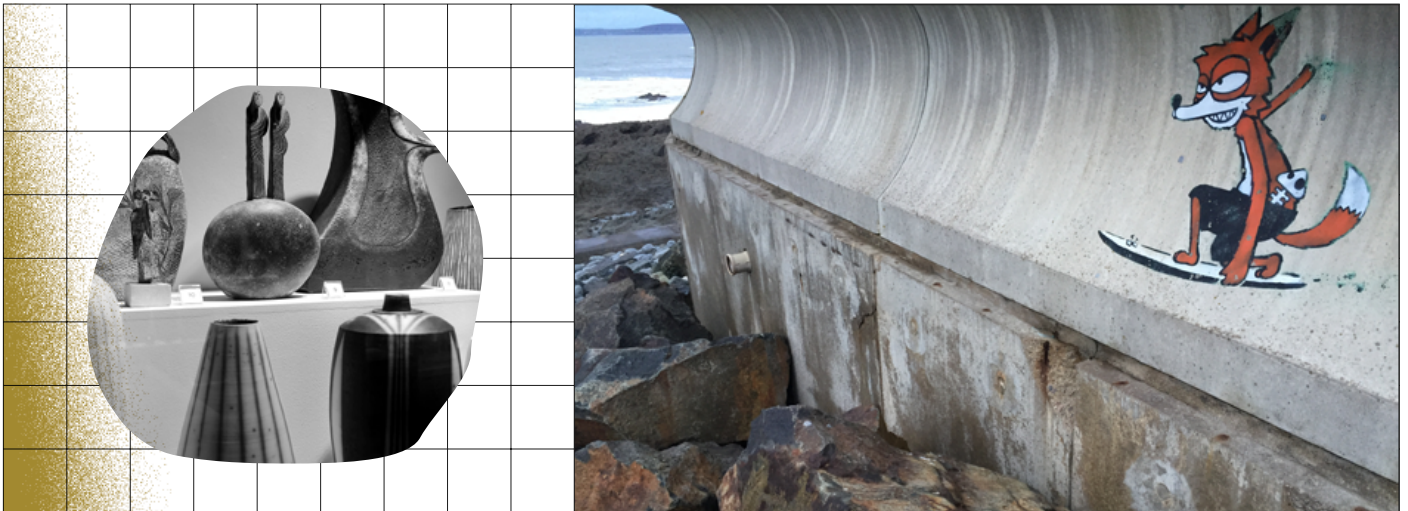
Bideford is a laid back coastal town with a rich maritime history, independent stores and growing creative scene.

The Burton Gallery is an unexpected cultural powerhouse, featuring exhibitions from internationally acclaimed artists such as Patrick Heron and Louise Bourgeois. While you're there, make sure to visit the craft gallery and taste the delights of 'Cafe Du Parc.'

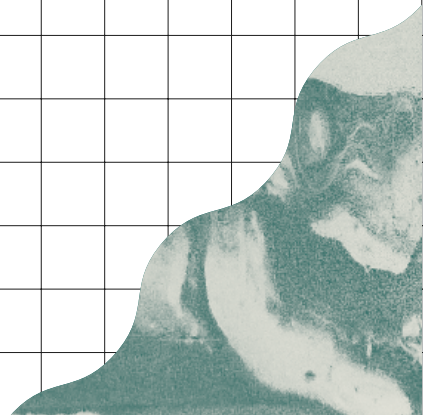
Next, take a leisurely ramble through the back streets to discover indie shops

and hunt for treasures in the second hand stores. Pick up a fresh loaf from the Appledore bakery, then head up the hill to explore the historic Pannier Market packed with makers, stalls and stories.

If you want a further fix of creativity, keep your eye's peeled. Both political and funny, Mau Mau is one of the best graffiti artists around. You can follow the fox with the Mau Mau graffiti map which will guide you to some memorable pieces.



Hartland: Spectacular cliffs.



- DO: Watch - or wade into - the waves at Hartland Quay.
- EAT: Grab a bite and whet your whistle at Wreckers Retreat Pub.
- VISIT: The fantastic local artist, Merlyn Chesterman.
- EXPLORE: Short hike to Speke's Mill Waterfall..
- FIND: differ, lodge, snowmen.

Hartland: Spectacular cliffs.

Perched on the edge of the world, Hartland is spectacular every day of the year - whether things are stormy or serene. Its giant, gnarled cliffs tower over a little cove with a hotel and car park. When the wind is up, you can use this vantage point to watch the massive waves crash onto the rocks. On calmer days you can wade in for a memorable swim at high tide.

Once you're done immersing yourself in the sea (literally or otherwise), you can retire to the 'Wreckers Retreat' for

refreshment - and get lost in stories of sailors, smugglers and shipwrecks.

If you find yourself starting to feel an attachment to the place, rest assured you're not the only one. Merlyn Chesterman is an artist obsessed with capturing the soul of this shoreline. She crafts her prints using woodcuts and you can find her at Harton Manor in Hartland.

If all that's not enough, you could follow the coastal path south to Speke's Mill Waterfall and scramble down to the beach (if you're feeling brave).



Welcombe: Wilder beaches.

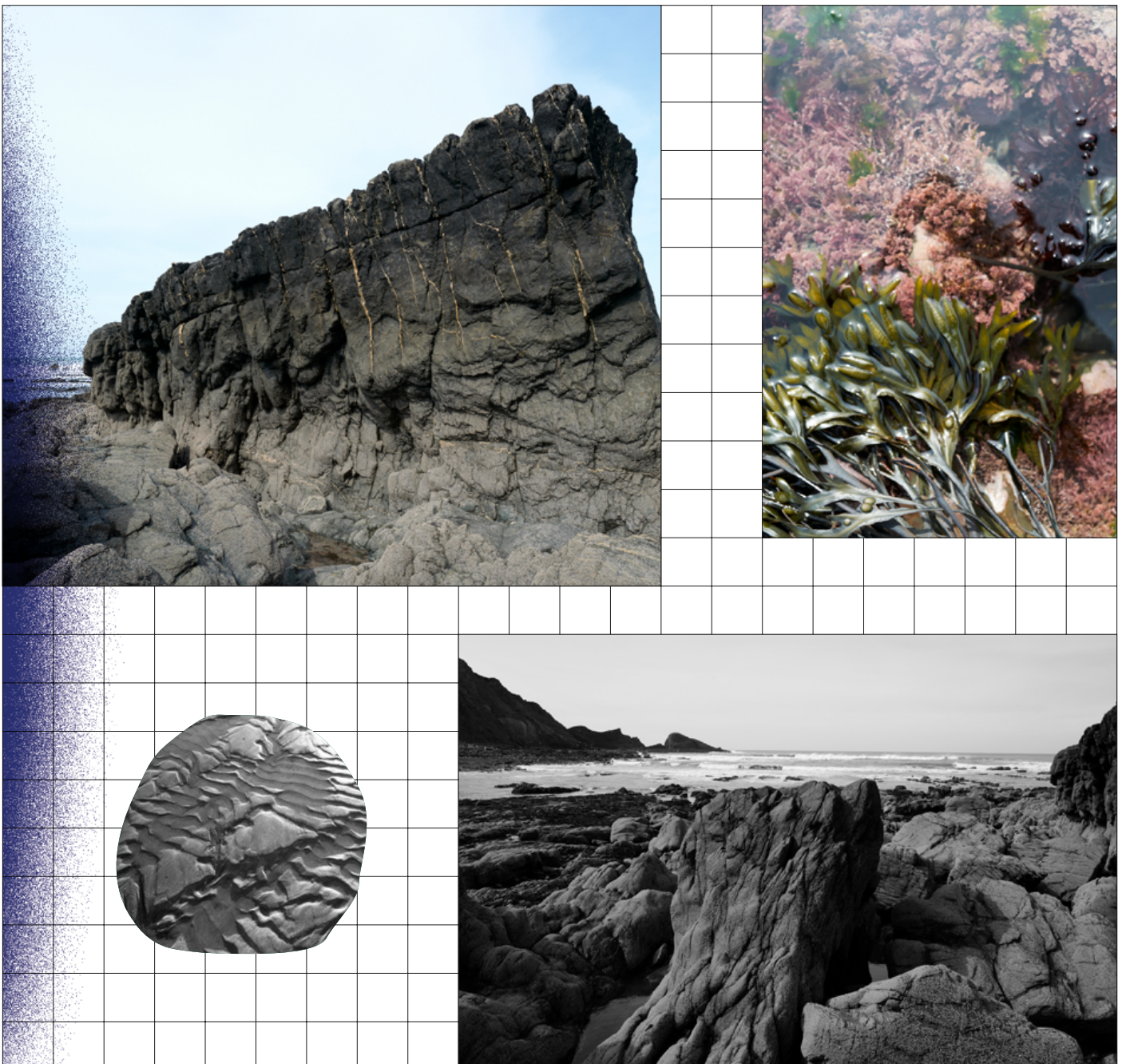
Often, it's by pushing a little further out that you find the greatest rewards. That's certainly the case with Welcombe - a tiny hamlet nestled amongst untamed nature.

We recommend parking at the Old Smithy pub and exploring on foot. There's a spectacular loop walk if you follow the footpath from the pub through Marsland nature reserve to the beach.

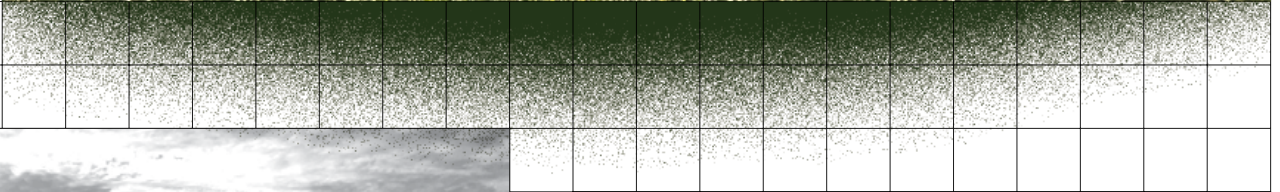
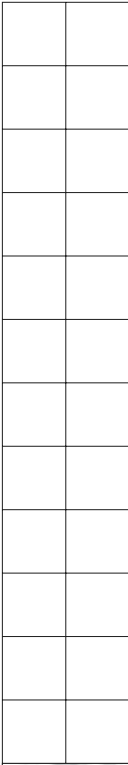
Nature doesn't have a monopoly on beauty here, though. At Pacha Design Store you'll

find expertly crafted pieces that - while modern - feel deeply rooted in this timeless landscape.

If you're up for more and want to experience a slice of local history, hunt down Reverend Hawker's hut. In 1843 he built the clifftop hideaway as a place to smoke opium, write poems and ponder the divine. It's still a good place to do at least two of those things and can be found on the coastal path at Morwenstow.



Braunton: Surf town.



	DO:	Hit Saunton Sands
	EAT:	Stop at Heartbreak Hotel Coffee or Wild Thyme Cafe.
	VISIT:	The British Museum of Surfing
	EXPLORE:	The lesser-known Broadsands Beach
	FIND:	<u>chairs. positions. glory.</u>

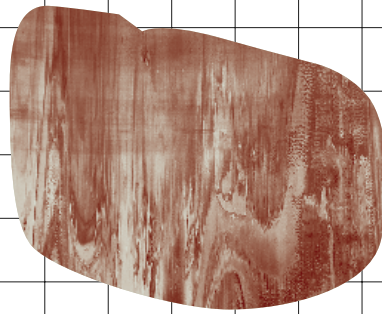
Braunton: Surf town.

Whether you're an experienced surfer, just learning or simply into the culture, North Devon is a real paradise. In fact, it's been formally recognised as a 'World Surfing Reserve'. This status is intended to protect the iconic surf breaks of Croyde, Saunton and Woolacombe for generations to come.

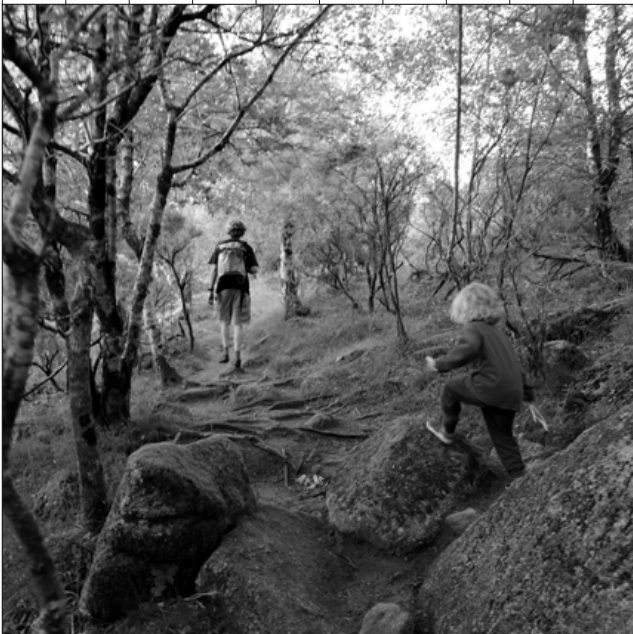
The first of these, Croyde, is a small village with one of the UK's finest surfing breaks - while Saunton and Woolacombe each have around 5km of golden sands to explore.

Braunton itself is the gateway to the North coast and well worth a stop for its shops and cafes. (It also has an excellent BMX pump track if you're more into wheels than waves). It's best to hit the road early in the morning or later in the evening to avoid the traffic.

The most famous beaches in North Devon are Woolacombe and Croyde - and for good reason. But our tip is to search out Broadsands. Head down it's 250 steps and you'll be rewarded with a beach that seems like it's been borrowed on loan from Thailand.



Tintagel: Myth and mystery.



- DO: See Historic Tintagel and North Cornwall.
- EAT: Pick from The Rocket Store at Boscastle, or Electric Bakery in Bude.
- VISIT: Observe the occult at the Museum of Witchcraft
- EXPLORE: The stunning St Nectan's Waterfall.
- FIND: [hippy. throw. sharpness.](#)

Tintagel: Myth and mystery.

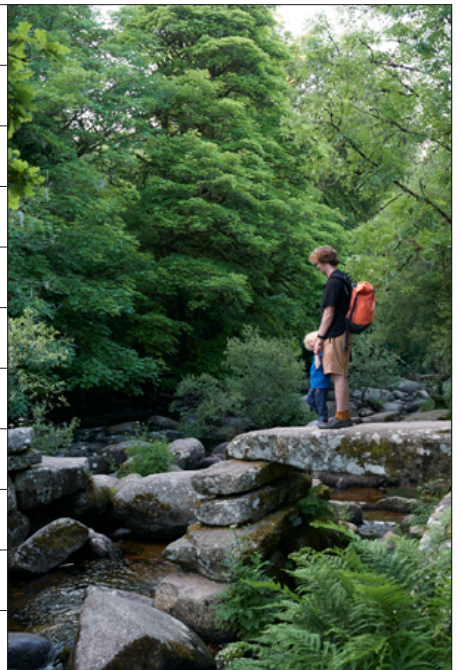
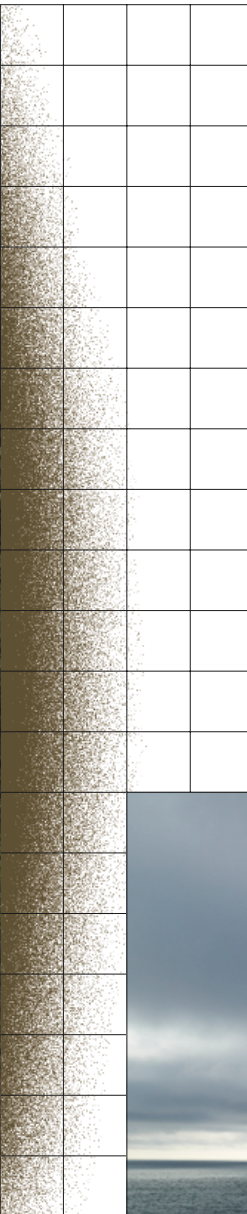
Built half on the mainland and half on a jagged headland projecting into the sea, Tintagel Castle is not just spectacular but (in the most proper sense of the word) legendary. According to tradition, it's the place where King Arthur himself was conceived.

Meanwhile, Boscastle is a stunning natural harbor and home to the Museum of Witchcraft. But even if myth and magic aren't your thing - the coast's verifiable

medieval history is just as fascinating.

If you want to exercise your legs as well as your mind, Bossiney Cove is a dramatic beach at low tide, complete with secret passages to explore. And it doesn't end there...

As a bonus, you can take the beautiful scenic path to St Nectan's Waterfall - a sacred site bound to mean something to any visitor.





website:
instagram

www.praktyka.co.uk
[praktyka_project](https://www.instagram.com/praktyka_project)