

# VOGUE

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**The top trends to change into now**

The great British escape  
**Stay-at-home chic**

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**Drew Barrymore**

From rock-chick to red-carpet style

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at the new autumn style

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Simon Schama's passion for ice cream





BEACON HOUSE, WHITSTABLE



The increase in eco-awareness has meant more people are holidaying on the British coast. But this doesn't have to mean settling for a B&B in Blackpool. If you're looking for a beach location this summer, there's a wealth of stylish self-catering options.

The charms of West Wittering beach, a beautiful stretch of sand on the south coast near Chichester, West Sussex, have long attracted visitors, including the Branson family and Keith Richards. During the Thirties, a handful of disused railway carriages were relocated to the seafront and sold off as novel beach huts. Five years ago, The Dodo ([Theodo.co.uk](http://Theodo.co.uk)) beach house was built around two of these carriages. Available to rent for up to 12 people, it retains many of the original details, such as interior doors with sliding windows, while also boasting a contemporary style. Inside, iron bedsteads covered in pretty patchworks, checks and stripes offer classic British seaside style. Outside, there's a terrace with views of the Solent and the Isle of Wight, while a roll-top bath in the garden brings a whole new meaning to skinny-dipping. In summer it's worth walking round the headland to neighbouring East Head, a stunning National Trust beach that remains uncrowded because of its secluded position.

Just 60 miles from London, the fishing town of Whitstable in Kent has had a fair amount of press in recent years; but while it may attract London's arty set (including Charles Saatchi and Tracey Emin), it has lost

## Shore leave

From quaint beach houses to luxurious lodges, Vanessa Barneby has the lowdown on the chic way to stay beside the seaside

none of its old-world charm. Renowned for its oyster trade, the town's main industry is still fishing, and the working harbour, daily market and candy-coloured shopfronts all add to its enchanting rough-around-the-edges appeal.

Built in 1875, Beacon House ([Whitstableseasideshoots.co.uk](http://Whitstableseasideshoots.co.uk)) is a pretty, New England-style holiday let. Flanked by brightly coloured beach huts, the house stands above the promenade of Tankerton Beach with views out to sea. Expect rustic simplicity – the duck-egg blue and white exterior is slightly weathered, but the classic Smallbone kitchen has all you need, and the beautifully restored Arts & Crafts sitting room, with its open fire, is cosy. The north-facing decked veranda, running the entire width of the house, is the perfect spot from which to enjoy the Turner-esque sunsets the area is famous for. Be sure to visit Wheelers, Whitstable's oldest – and best – oyster bar.

Those looking for something a bit more >



THE DODO, WEST WITTERING

