

Diary of a beach babe, aged 1½

View from my balcony

Young Cerys Caffery stays at Clifton Court, one of north Devon's most desirable destinations

Day 1

Arrived at our holiday home. Wow! This place is even cooler than Justin's House off the telly! The open plan apartment overlooks Morte Bay and its brilliant beach. Mummy and Daddy bagged the best bedroom – again! – the one with the sea view. Loads of space to run around in. But it's so toddler friendly even I can't make much mischief :-)



Putsborough

Day 2

Walked down the little lane to the beach. Three miles of golden sands stretching all the way to Woolacombe. I was let off the leash big time and with no roads, broken glass or dog poo to worry about, it was nice to see Mummy and Daddy able to relax. Daddy didn't like it when I destroyed his sandcastles – and there's me thinking I was the cry baby!

Day 3

The wind blew up today and lots of surfer dudes descended on my beach to go splashy splashy. Tried to buy a board from the beach shop but found my limited vocabulary wasn't up to the job. Instead, cried until Daddy bought me an ice cream from the beach shop. Looked for fishies and crabs in the rock pools then went for a paddle and fell flat on my face. Lucky the apartment is so close Mummy could quickly change me out of my wet clothes.

Day 4

Went to Croyde, which is just five minutes away in the beep beep. Had a pushchair ride to a headland called Baggy Point where some grown-ups were climbing a sheer rock face. Looked fun – think I might try it myself tomorrow. Played on the big beach. Mummy and Daddy said they had the best cream teas ever in the gardens of a National Trust cafe. I wouldn't know because the meanies wouldn't share.

Day 5

Spent the day at Ilfracombe. The Victorian tunnels there are dark and long (much longer than my Hello Kitty one) but I wasn't scared. They led to pebbly beaches, a tidal swimming pool and a lovely restaurant but the best thing was the soft play area. Sleepy time was later than usual because Mummy and Daddy took me on the balcony to watch the pretty colours as the sun sank into the sea.

Day 6

Went to Woolacombe. A cove called Barricane Beach was great for adding to my growing collection of exotic shells. They come from the Caribbean, apparently, carried by something called the Gulf Stream (Daddy's soooo boring!). After tea we went for a swim in the pool at the apartment. Could have splashed around for hours because it's open until 11 at night but Mummy said it was bedtime. She's so predictable.

Day 7

Tried to make friends with the sheep in the field below the balcony but my loud 'baas' seemed to upset them – and the people next door! Went to Saunton Sands, around the corner from Croyde. The beach huts looked nice and were only £12 but Daddy was too tight. Spotted the big buzzing bees from the nearby RAF search and rescue base. Had great fun running down the sand dunes (which Daddy says are part of a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve. Yawn!)



Saunton Sands

Day 8

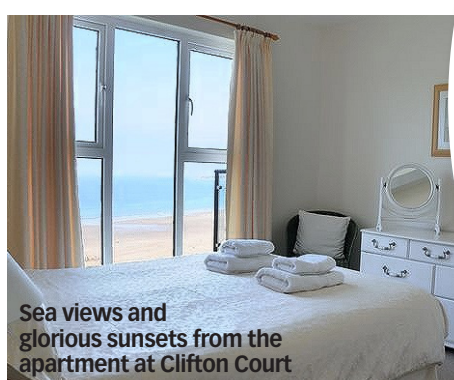
Packed my beach ball for the journey home. After a short while we stopped at the pretty Castle Hill gardens, near South Molton, which was lots of fun. There was a 'tea party tree', a castle perfect for peep-po and, bizarrely, statues of CBeebies' Raa Raa the Noisy Lion. Just loved my first beach holiday. Can't wait for the next one.

Travel Facts

Cerys and family stayed at Clifton Court (Flat 11) as guests of Marsden Cottage Holidays.

Approached by country lanes, the former hotel overlooks the glorious beach at Putsborough, which is two miles from Croyde and three miles from Woolacombe. Both villages have a variety of shops, pubs and restaurants. Marsdens has 11 apartments at Clifton Court. They have all been awarded either three or four stars by VisitEngland and they can sleep between two and nine people in up to four bedrooms.

All of the apartments have designated parking and views over Woolacombe Sands and guests have use of an indoor heated swimming pool. Prices start from £344 for a seven-night break. Marsdens also has a wide range of properties in Croyde, Woolacombe, Ilfracombe and Saunton. Visit www.marsdens.co.uk, email enquiries@marsdens.co.uk or call 01271 813777.



Sea views and glorious sunsets from the apartment at Clifton Court

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