

Waitrose Magazine

Jan Issue 2019





SURFING in Newquay, Cornwall

"Totally awesome!" was 17-year-old Hamish's review of our four-night stay at the Pentire Penthouse in Newquay on Cornwall's north coast. With unintegrated reviews of the

sweeping sands of Fistral Beach (*left*), this modern, circular apartment (*below*) sleeps eight and comes complete with hot tub, surfer-chic interiors and all mod cons: the perfect base for our family of four plus two teenage friends.

Those who can resist the siren call of the sea could happily settle in for nothing more than a lazy few days of relaxation. But with the beach on our doorstep, activity called. We took a ten-minute stroll to discover a row of surf shops, bars and restaurants, plus Fistral Beach Surf School.

All first-timers, we donned our wetsuits with some apprehension. The expert instructors quickly reassured any doubters, however, and after going through the basics and safety procedures, we spent an exhilarating (and exhausting) two hours in the sea. Everyone, I decided, should take a surfing lesson at least once in their life.

If there's one thing that'll make you hungry, it is surfing. Thankfully, a mere two-minute walk away is Rick Stein's chippy-cum-Asian takeaway where we enjoyed locally caught fish and chips (from £9.45; rickstein.com/eat-with-us/fistral). From here it was hard to miss the large, imposing and oddly familiar Headland Hotel on the hill above the beach – which, on questioning the friendly staff, turned out to be the location for the filming of Roald Dahl's *The Witches*. I made a mental note to drop in for a cream tea or spa treatment next time the teenagers headed to the sea.

After a lazy afternoon in the hot tub (with plenty of time for the essential Instagram shots), we headed to the Sea Spray café on the beach for an evening of relaxed vibes, burgers, nachos and more of the local catch. Then it was back to our cosy bolthole before another day's ocean adventure.

Pentire Penthouse costs £1,700 for four nights midweek in high season for up to eight people sharing; tregullandandco.co.uk/pentire. A two-hour group surfing lesson costs £35 per person (including equipment); fistralbeachsurfschool.co.uk »



FIELD PHOTOGRAPH GETTY IMAGES

WORDS KERRY WAKE

