

TRAVEL SECTION

COAST IS CLEAR FOR THE FAMILY ESCAPE

The British Coastline offers huge variety, from wild sandy expanses to rugged headlands, and picturesque bays. Here LIZ BIRD, co-author of Britain's Best Seaside Escapes, suggests some top family locations:

LLANBEDROG, NORTH WALES

This glorious wide bay, edged with powder-soft sand on the wild and unspoilt Llyn Peninsula, is lined with picturesque multicoloured beach huts. It's safe for swimming, with a gently sloping sandy beach overlooked by an excellent café, The Galley, that's perfect for a family brunch or lunch.

Explore the peninsula by train on the Porthmadog-based Welsh Highland Heritage Railway, which offers scenic rides from March to October. Or visit the Llechwedd Slate Caverns, a Victorian slate mine where the temperature stays at a steady 12C whatever the weather. The fairy-tale Italianate village of Portmeirion with its sandy beaches and sub-tropical woodland gardens is also within an easy drive.

WHERE TO STAY: *Wernfawr Manor Farm (01758 740156/ www.wernfawr.co.uk), a family-friendly B&B with self-catering cottages, offers seven nights in a three-bedroom cottage (sleeps five) from £455. Visit Wales: 0870 830 0306/ www.visitwales.co.uk*

● *Britain's Best Seaside Escapes by Liz Bird and Annabelle Thorpe (New Holland, £14.99). Published on Monday.*