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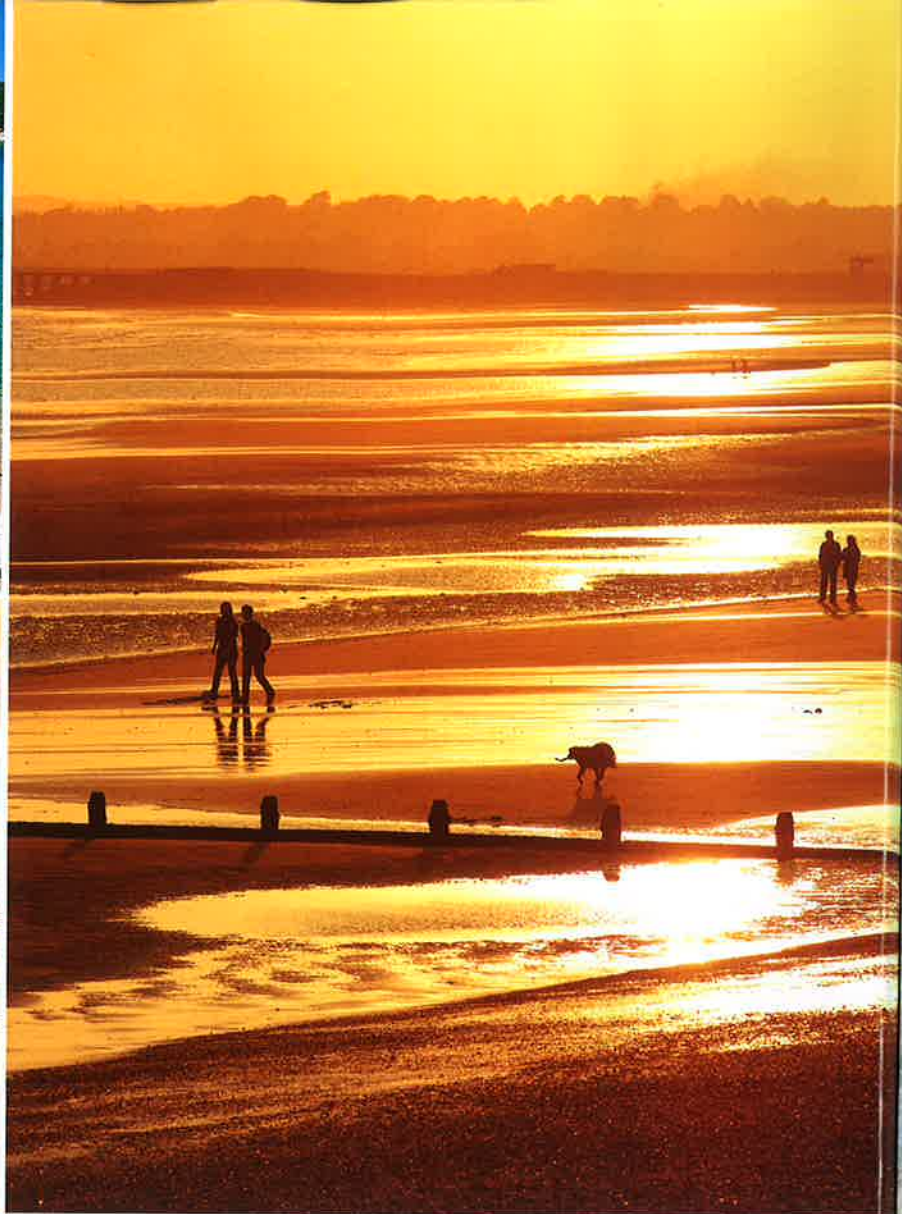


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THE WORLD'S 50 BEST BEACHES

...and how to do them *right*. Be it a locals-only cove or a superstar shore, we reveal the globe's most gorgeous — and how to make the most of your spot on the sand



beach tip 6
Coloured hair? Soak highlights with steeped chamomile teabags to bring the shine back, post-beach. Or, post-pool, a tomato-ketchup rinse through shampooed hair neutralises the chlorine (and nasty green tinge)

chic-shack rainforest lodges with pools and breeze-cooled rooms. JLA (020 8600 1881, journeylatinamerica.co.uk) has 15-day wildlife holidays in Costa Rica from £4,276pp, with flights and most meals.



Camber Sands East Sussex

Enter a land devoid

of designer affectations, twee boutiques... Everything, really, except for a convenience store bedecked with berry-coloured buckets and spades. What do children need, anyway, except a packed lunch and a place to crouch for a cheeky widdle? (Far west of the car park, behind the dunes, does nicely!) Traffic gets messy on weekends, but even then **there's sand enough for everyone, when the tide retreats so far you lose sight of it.** It's no dogs until October, but kestrels fly freely. Chase them along the flat shore, peacefully paddle or, if you've the inclination (and you're wearing a wet suit), kitesurf out eastward. Then follow the tide in for races down the crumbly dunes.

The Gallivant (01797 225057, the.gallivant.co.uk) is a motel conversion with a driftwood-decorated bistro five minutes' drive from the beach; doubles from £95, B&B.



Camps Bay Cape Town, South Africa

A sunny cove cradled by the mountainous Twelve Apostles, **Camps Bay is a spiritual experience,** and yet it delivers all the irresistible bacchanalian temptations you'd expect of the richest cove on the fanciest cape in South Africa. Dodge the droves of late-December pilgrims and come in (still-hot) February, heading off early morning to avoid heavy traffic. Hire a deck chair and brotly, or nab a lounger at the Sandy B Beach Club (daily membership from £5.70) and await the cinematic sunset from your spot above the scrum. Scott Dunn (020 8682 5070, scottdunn.com) has a seven-night 'Cream of the Cape' tour, including three nights at Sea Five in Camps Bay, from £3,326pp, B&B, including flights.



Tulum Yucatán, Mexico

Tulum is bare-bones

beautiful — glassy sea, floury sand, the odd thatched hut amid the feathery flap of palms. It's a few hours' drive from hulking Cancún, and couldn't be further from that notorious resort's neon chaos. Cash has more mileage than credit, so pesos at the ready. The beach goes on for days, but who needs to explore when a mango Margarita at Bar Adelita (where hammocks serve as bar stools) promises far more thrills? Audley (01993 838000, audleytravel.com) has an 11-day 'Yucatán Uncovered' tour, with four nights in Tulum, from £2,130pp, B&B, including flights.



Blackpool Sands Devon

With its turquoise waters and **broad croissant-shape of creamy sand backed by pine trees, this little cove brings a touch of the Med to South Devon.** Family-friendly, it's got lifeguards (in summer), a protected swimming area and a freshwater