

BECAUSE LIFE IS BETTER BY THE SEA

coast

DECEMBER 2013 £3.99

**GIFT
GUIDE**
OUR ULTIMATE
WISH LIST

We're dreaming of a...
**COASTAL
CHRISTMAS**

RELAXING BREAKS BY THE SEA

IT'S THE SEASON FOR:

- * *Boxing Day walks*
- * *Luxury hampers*
- * *Festive fashion*

**FAIRS &
FESTIVALS**
*for all
the family*

SEASONAL STYLE
Vintage-inspired decorations



HOMES • TRAVEL • FOOD • PROPERTY • SHOPPING • FASHION

A Coastal CHRISTMAS

Windswept beach walks, mulled wine, *a roaring fire* and *lunch with all the trimmings* – these festive hotel breaks by the sea promise a Christmas to remember

WORDS Alex Fisher and Jessica Johnson

SLIEVE DONARD RESORT & SPA



COUNTY DOWN, NORTHERN IRELAND

CHRISTMAS CHEER The grandeur of this old Victorian railway hotel provides the perfect

backdrop for the season's merriment – from afternoon tea with mulled wine to choir recitals, family treasure hunts and live music. If it all gets too much, slope off to the spa and soak up views of the Mourne Mountains from the vitality pool.

WHERE'S THE NEAREST BEACH? Fall out of the hotel and straight on to the beach.

WHEN? From 24 to 27 December. Festive afternoon tea is served every afternoon throughout December.

WHAT DOES IT COST? Prices start from £490pp sharing for three nights.

HOW DO I BOOK? Call (0)28 4372 1066 or visit hastingshotels.com/slieve-donard-resort-and-spa.

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© VISIT NORTH NORFOLK

THE VICTORIA



NORTH NORFOLK

CHRISTMAS CHEER

Well-behaved dogs are welcome in some of the inn's sumptuous bedrooms, which are

furnished with treasures gleaned from the attic and basement of nearby Holkham Hall. On Christmas Day sample local seafood, meats and cheeses before boardgames, or take a walk around the historical grounds.

Throughout December Holkham Hall lights up with theatre performances, carol services and candlelit tours.

WHERE'S THE NEAREST BEACH?

Layer up for a windswept walk on Holkham Beach, just a couple of minutes' walk away.

WHEN? From 24 to 27 December.

WHAT DOES IT COST? £525pp.

Children under 12 years sharing an adult's room are £255.

HOW DO I BOOK? Call 01328 711008 or visit holkham.co.uk.

THE SCARLET CORNWALL



CHRISTMAS CHEER

This child-free hotel offers an alternative to the usual

Santa-orientated celebrations. The festivities include an invigorating sea swim (wetsuits provided) on Christmas morning, followed by steaming hot chocolate on the beach.

After lunch guests can enjoy live music, old movies and a buffet.

WHERE'S THE NEAREST BEACH? The hotel overlooks beautiful Mawgan Porth Beach.

WHEN? From 23 December.

WHAT DOES IT COST? £810pp for a four-night inclusive break.

HOW DO I BOOK? Call 01637 861800 or visit scarlethotel.co.uk.



THE GALLIVANT HOTEL



EAST SUSSEX

CHRISTMAS CHEER This cool motel conversion offers a seriously fun escape for food lovers. After a prescribed 'gallivant' on the local sands, warm up with freshly baked mince pies, mulled

wine and carols. Fine wines and bubbly accompany Christmas dinner in the nautical Beach Bistro, using the best local ingredients sourced within 30 miles; there's Gallivant fish soup, whole roast local sole and a portion of 'Harry's Mum's Trifle' on the Christmas menu.

WHERE'S THE NEAREST BEACH? The golden dunes of Camber Sands are on your doorstep.

WHEN? From 24 to 26 December.

WHAT DOES IT COST? A two-night break in a small room with food, fizz, a surprise stocking and kiss from Santa costs £590 for two people.

HOW DO I BOOK? Call 01797 225057 or visit thegallivanthotel.com.



ST GEORGE'S HOTEL



NORTH WALES

CHRISTMAS CHEER

Enjoy a seasonal sourced supper on Christmas Eve as you listen to a local choir at this four-star

hotel. On Christmas Day, after a bracing walk around the Great Orme, receive a gift from Father Christmas in person. On Boxing Day see the Llandudno Lions take their traditional Sea Dip. Join the brave swimmers for mulled wine back at the hotel.

WHERE'S THE NEAREST BEACH?

The hotel overlooks Llandudno Bay.

WHEN? From Welsh tea on 24 December finishing with breakfast on 27 December.

WHAT DOES IT COST? A three-night Christmas package costs £420pp.

HOW DO I BOOK? Call 0808 168 6030, or visit stgeorgeswales.co.uk.



DALHOUSIE CASTLE



SCOTLAND

CHRISTMAS

CHEER For a truly historic experience, celebrate Christmas in a 13th-century

castle, where you can try falconry, archery and eat in the Dungeon Restaurant. There is the added bonus of a 'special visitor from Lapland' on Christmas morning and you can sleep in a historically themed four-poster bed.

WHERE'S THE NEAREST BEACH? Standing on the banks of the River

Esk, the fort is 15 minutes away from the coast.

WHEN? From 2.30pm on Tuesday 24 December through to breakfast on Boxing Day.

WHAT DOES IT COST?

A two-night break starts from £515pp, based on two people sharing a room. Falconry and archery sessions are £20 each.

HOW DO I BOOK? Call 01875 820153 or visit dalhousiecastle.co.uk.