

The cool hotel guide  
Gara Rock, Devon

**In a nutshell**  
Poised above the South West Coast Path on a clifftop just east of Salcombe, Gara Rock is a relaxed coastal retreat with luxurious rooms and suites, fabulous food and spectacular views of the south Devon shoreline. There is an earthy colour scheme of greens, oranges and browns, and sheepskin throws slung over tastefully mismatched armchairs. Facilities include a new spa (with indoor and outdoor pools) and a cinema room.

**What are the rooms like?**  
Five loft rooms and suites are complete, with a further six junior suites to be finished by winter. The Penthouse (from £449 for six) and Secret Suite, with private hot tub for two (from £249), will be finished early next year. There are also some self-catering apartments and cottages. Even the smallest rooms (the loft rooms, from £150) have ample space and wide balconies with sea views.

**Which is the best room?**  
The two loft suites (rooms 1 and 5) are extra-spacious and have open-plan living



areas with sofas and contemporary fires, roll-top baths and balconies (from £175). Loft suite 5 has the best view.

**What's the food like?**  
The restaurant, with its floor-to-ceiling windows overlooking the sea, is at the heart of Gara Rock. Lewis Glanvill, the young head chef, uses simple, fresh ingredients, such as fish from Brixham, Porthilly oysters and chard from the hotel's vegetable garden. Tasty "snacks" include anchovies and rosemary oil, while my main of cod flaked on the fork

beautifully (mains from £13.50). The caramel fondant was gooey in the middle and paired with a scoop of Granny Smith ice cream.

**Who goes there?**  
Families, romantic couples and walkers.

**The highs, the lows, the verdict**  
**Eight and a half out of ten**  
The hotel is not quite finished, so there are still some teething problems, but this is still a luxurious escape by the sea.  
**Ellie Ross**

Need to know

Ellie Ross was a guest of Gara Rock (03333 700555, gararock.com). B&B doubles cost from £150; some wheelchair-accessible rooms; no single-occupancy discount; dog-friendly

EXCLUSIVE OFFER  
**The ultimate festive day**

Belmond Le Manoir aux Quat'Saisons, Cotswolds  
**ONE DAY COSTS FROM**  
**£185pp**

**Price includes**

- Three-course gourmet lunch with accompanying wines
- Tea or coffee on arrival
- Expert-led morning festive workshop in the Raymond Blanc Cookery School:

★ Thursday, November 1 will include a floral decorations workshop  
★ Tuesday, November 6 will include a cocktails and canapés workshop

Call 01844 808506  
thetimes.co.uk/festivelemanoir  
Terms and conditions apply

THE TIMES  
**Expert Traveller**

MercuryHolidays

OFFER CODE: MMXF42

Award-Winning All-Inclusive  
**4★ TROPICAL ESCAPES**

**QATAR AIRWAYS**

**4★ GOA**

**A week All Inclusive fr. £649\***

4★ Pride Sun Village Resort				
Situating among tropical trees & close to the popular Baga Beach, this hotel offers a peaceful location with a great selection of restaurants and facilities.				
■ <b>FREE</b> beach shuttle service				
All-Inclusive (3 <sup>rd</sup> week on B&B if FREE)	1 wk	2 wks	3 <sup>rd</sup> wk	
Jan/Feb	fr. £769	£1049	<b>FREE</b>	
Mar	fr. £749	£999	<b>FREE</b>	
Apr	fr. £699	£949	<b>FREE</b>	
May	fr. <b>£649</b>	£929	<b>FREE</b>	

**4★ SRI LANKA**

**A week All Inclusive fr. £699\***

4★ Pandanus Beach Resort & Spa				
Situating on a secluded beach at Yalagama overlooking the crystal clear Indian Ocean, this 4-star resort offers guests superb facilities.				
■ No single supplement in twin rooms#				
All-Inclusive	1 wk	10 nts	2 wks	
Jan/Feb	fr. £939	£1099	£1285	
Mar	fr. £869	£999	£1149	
Apr	fr. £769	£849	£949	
May	fr. <b>£699</b>	£735	£839	

**4★ MALDIVES**

**A week All Inclusive fr. £1,199\***

4★ Adaaran Club Rannalhi				
This idyllic four star resort is set on an island amongst 12 acres of palm trees and enjoys pristine beaches, excellent scuba diving opportunities and a relaxed environment.				
■ <b>FREE</b> speedboat transfers included				
All-Inclusive	1 wk	10 nts	2 wks	
Jan/Feb	fr. £1495	£1829	£2295	
Mar	fr. £1469	£1799	£2199	
Apr	fr. £1399	£1529	£1799	
May	fr. <b>£1199</b>	£1349	£1599	

**INCLUDED IN THE PRICE:**

- **All-Inclusive includes:** All meals daily, plus snacks, tea/coffee, selected local alcoholic & soft drinks^
- Air-conditioned, en suite accommodation
- Return transfers & representative service
- Return flights from Heathrow. Flights available from Gatwick, Manchester, Birmingham, Cardiff and Edinburgh at a supplement when flying with **Qatar Airways**

Why not break up your journey when flying with **Qatar Airways** with a 2 night stopover in Doha on Bed & Breakfast, including transfers, from just **£129** per person.†