

Stylish apartment - beautiful scenery

IT's great when you eventually arrive at your holiday destination...and throw open the windows to embrace the sunshine...as you look out onto a clear blue sea and a beautiful white sandy beach.

And after a four-hour journey, we were more than happy to take in the views, and soak up the welcome warmth, but we hadn't just stepped off a plane – it was Cornwall that was offering us such clement temperatures, even before the official start of Spring!

Although we have visited many places in the West Country before, this was actually our first visit to St Ives, and our home for the week, was a superbly appointed modern apartment (Morveren) overlooking the bay.

The relatively newly-built prestigious block nestles in well, with the surrounding buildings and the spacious interior was fabulously kitted-out, with top spec appliances and gadgets for those fa-

By Sheila Grandfield

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vouring self-catering. As well as enjoying the panoramic views of the bay, the apartment is a short stroll from the main centre of St Ives, which is a typical picturesque English resort with a wealth of quirky shops, restaurants, and home to the work of many talented local artists, and its very own Tate Gallery.

Keen to take in the glorious, if unexpected weather conditions, our first morning saw us striding off eastwards, along the coast path towards Carbis Bay, shedding coats and jumpers along the way. The route takes in some superb scenery, though some of the pathways were slightly hazardous at times, but our fellow (older) walkers seemed to be managing ok, so we gamely plodded on.

Past Carbis Bay and on to Lelant, there was the promise of a welcome pub lunch awaiting us, and after the five or six miles, we thought, it was well-deserved.

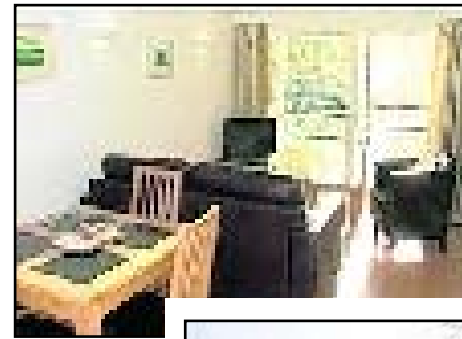


■ The coastal train line.

After a doorstep sandwich and a refreshing cider, we plumped for the coastal railway to take us back into St Ives – a thoroughly engaging trip all round.

With the emphasis on relaxation, my partner was keen to try his hand at a spot of fishing, and after consulting with a local as to the best spot/bait/tactics, he was happy to while away several hours in pursuit of our supper.

Meanwhile, I was content to relax with my novel, sharing



■ The interior of Morveren.

the beach with the odd frisby thrower or dog walker (dogs are not allowed on the beach after May1), and dipping in and out of the shops in the tangle of cobbled streets.

A freak wave ended the angling activities resulting in a pair of sodden trainers, but I'm delighted to say that our fish supper was superb, and can highly recommend the take-away along the front!

After reading an article in a magazine beforehand, our mission on another day was to seek out Loe Pool – a National Trust estate – around seven miles from St Ives.

You won't see it advertised in publicity brochures, but the site has a wealth of wildlife and bird-life on the lake next to The Penrose Estate, and we spent a lei-



■ Sheila takes a break on the coastal path.

surely few hours strolling around, hoping for a glimpse of the Cornish Chough, a red billed/legged crow that has recently returned to Cornwall, after years of absence.

Alas, our bird-spotting was as successful as our fishing, but we had another enjoyable day all the same.

There are a wealth of activities in and around St Ives suitable for all age groups and if you're looking for self-catering with some style then Morveren is ideally situated. It boasts a living/ kitchen area, two double bedrooms and two bathrooms and of course the ground floor balcony overlooking the sea.

For details of booking go to www.morveren.com