

# Condé Nast Traveller



## A rural haven in North Devon

**DEVON** Red Barn is a new built-for-comfort cottage on North Devon's picturesque coast. With its eco credentials and friendly owners, it looks ideal for those wishing to escape the hustle and bustle of city life.

The self-catering cottage on Venn Farm was converted from a 100-year old grain store to an environmentally friendly abode by Karen and Conrad Allen who moved from London three years ago, and have been living at the farm ever since. The decor was intended for guests wanting a peaceful retreat in a home-like environment with the upstairs reconstruction dependent on the emphasis of the original oak beams, which date from the 1890s.

"The interiors are pretty eclectic," says Allen. "We wanted it to be simple but designed ensuring that it would appeal to everyone."

The country cottage is surrounded by landscaped grounds and will be welcoming its first wildflower meadow, planted in conjunction with the Devon Wildlife Trust, this spring. It has two bedrooms, a small kitchen filled with essential cookware, a garden and an outdoor terrace.

Allen said: "We were keen that the barn fitted in with our eco credentials and therefore repointed the barn with lime mortar, invested in lots of insulation, and used reclaimed materials wherever possible - the floor upstairs was an old gym floor from a school. The underfloor heating and hot water are powered from a ground source heat pump, which also serves the house. And we also installed a woodburner."

Guests can enjoy home-made meals from local produce during their stay, and tuck into a greeting hamper filled with local sausages, bacon, and organic eggs from free range hens.

Just four hours from London, Red Barn makes a scenic weekend break. Local outdoor activities include surfing, fishing, shooting, archery, cycling, and hiking with day trips to the Lost Gardens of Heligan, Boscastle, Tintagel Castle, or the first U.K. Aquarium, The National Marine Aquarium, for a rainy day.