

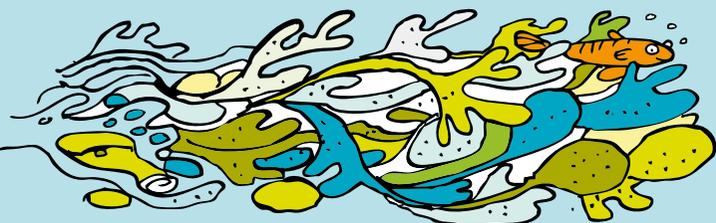


# Be a beach bum



National  
Trust

There's more to the beach than just sitting in the sun or playing with buckets and spades. There are rockpools full of weird creatures, a strandline of treasures left by the tide, and beach sculptures and driftwood dens to be made. Endless family fun in the sun...



## Rockpool ramble

North Devon's rugged coastline is perfect for rockpooling. Look for spiny urchins, scuttling crabs, squidgy anemones and darting fish. See who can find the weirdest creature, the quickest mover, the most brilliant colours. Get the kids to put their finds in a bucket of sea water to observe them, but only for a while, then return them to their homes.

### So what's stopping you?

[Download your Rockpool ramble chart](#)

then pick up your nets, then head for the beach...

**Best beaches for rockpooling:** Barricane Beach, Combesgate Beach, Grunta Beach, Rockham Bay, Lee Bay. **Find out more:** by visiting Ilfracombe Aquarium on the Pier, Ilfracombe.

[www.ilfracombeaquarium.co.uk](http://www.ilfracombeaquarium.co.uk)



Photo credit: NTPL John Millar

## Strandline scavenger

The strandline (the high tide line) is a trail of treasure along the beach. Follow the winding line to find tangled seaweeds, smooth driftwood, exotic shells, shiny green sea-glass and the bones of marine creatures. Lift some weeds to see what strandline scavengers scurry out. Who can find the strangest-shaped driftwood? Get the youngsters to gather sea jewels and shells to make a necklace – or find interesting pebbles and make patterns in the sand.

**Best beaches for strandline scavenging:** Rockham Beach, Woolacombe Beach.

## Fun with the beach rangers

In the summer holidays look out for the National Trust beach rangers on Woolacombe Beach. Find the big flags and see what activities you can join in with – like beach games, art attacks, rockpool safaris and sandcastle competitions. For more information, please call the beach rangers on 01271 870 555 or 07512 218 241.



Photo credit: National Trust / Jemma Lowin



Photo credit: NTPL Ian Shaw

## Beach sculptures

Forget sandcastles – find a sandy beach and challenge your children to make sand sculptures or imaginative art. Try marine mammals or monsters, boats or beach buggies, flowers or fairies. Compose sand paintings by sprinkling dry sand over wet. Get them to lie down and make sand angels with their arms. Or etch silhouettes of yourselves then make them into a beach cartoon strip. Remember to hurry before your masterpiece is snapped up by the sea...  
**Best sandy beaches:** Woolacombe, Croyde and Saunton.

## Start a shell collection

Make long lasting seaside memories by mounting a shell display at home. Line them up like jewels along a garden path, make a memory beach by the pond, or design shell art in your bathroom. For inspiration, visit Miss Rosalie Chichester's shell collection at [Arlington Court](#). Miss Chichester was a great collector and was particularly fascinated by shells. She gathered many of the rare and unusual specimens on display here during her travels around the world.

**Best beaches for shells:** Barricane Beach and Rockham Beach.



## Driftwood dens

Imagine your family has been shipwrecked by the raging seas. Can you work together to make yourself a den to shelter in until you're rescued? Use driftwood and dry seaweed, or anything else that's been washed up on the beach. Younger children can make dens for their favourite doll or teddy.  
**Caution:** check for sharp objects before children start building their den.  
**Best beaches for driftwood:** Rockham Beach and Woolacombe Beach.

