

THE SUNDAY TIMES

travel

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The Greek isles

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...And how to get the best room in the hotel
(without paying for it!)

OUT BOOZE-CRUIISING
CHANNEL FERRIES

IN SEEING DEVON
BY KAYAK

WHY? Friendly seals, secret vineyards and the swish of paddle on water – it sure beats a seat on a diesel-belching ferry, sandwiched between boozy minibreakers.

THE WEEKEND: Six kilometres from Totnes, the village of **Stoke Gabriel** stretches sleepily along the River Dart. Head for the quay at 9am on Saturday, to hire a kayak from Tom at Totnes Kayaks (07799 403788, www.totneskayaks.co.uk;

£10 per hour). He'll give you stop-off suggestions and even wave you farewell. Turn right onto the river and again at the three cottages by the second bend, keeping watch for the local seal who will playfully nudge your craft along. Push on upstream to **Sharphams Vineyard** (01803 732203; www.sharpham.com; tours from £2.95pp) for a meander through the vines and a cheese and wine tasting. You'll spot it as you paddle round the third kink in the river; continue past the first jetty and disembark at the next one – enter by the wooden gate at the foot of a path lined with wild garlic. Back in your kayak, head right towards an early dinner at **The Maltsters Arms** (01803

752350, www.tuckenhay.com; mains from £12) in Tuckenhay. On Sunday, swap river for sea at **Babbacombe Bay**, by red sandstone cliffs north of Torquay. Guests of **The Cary Arms** (details below) have free use of kayaks. Follow the cliffs to secluded caves at **Anstey's Cove** – and watch for the dolphins that swing by in summer.

STAY HERE: The Cary Arms has a jaunty red, white and blue colour scheme, and sticks of rock on the pillow at turnout. Doubles from £155, B&B (01803 327110, www.caryarms.co.uk).

GET ME THERE: First Great Western (08457 000125, www.firstgreatwestern.co.uk) has trains to Totnes.



OUT DUSTY GLASS-CASED
MUSEUM EXHIBITS

IN NOSING ROUND ROMAN
HOMES IN SUSSEX

WHY? Kids with school projects? These Roman villas should bring history alive...

THE WEEKEND: Start with a look around the humongous home of bigwig Tiberius Claudius Cogidubnus. Though he's long gone from **Fishbourne Roman Palace** (www.sussexpast.co.uk; £7.90), his interior-design legacy remains in the exquisite mosaics. Picnic? Drive 20 minutes' south and you'll find lovely **West Wittering beach** – perfect for lunch. Next, head to **Chichester** to hit the water on **Wingate 111**, an old lifeboat that had a starring role in the

Falklands War (www.chichesterharbourwaters-tours.co.uk; £7.50), before cream tea in **St Martin's Tearooms** (3 St Martin's St; cakes from £3.50). On Sunday, start with more Roman remains, plus Georgian farm buildings, at **Bignor Roman Villa** (www.bignorromanvilla.co.uk; £6), before driving 25 minutes' north to lunch in Lurgashall. On the village green, **Noah's Ark** (01428 707346, www.noahsarkinn.co.uk; mains from £9.95) serves up divine roasts. **STAY HERE:** A poshed-up pub overlooking the tidal flats of Pagham Harbour, the **Crab and Lobster** is known for its stellar seafood and cosily-chic rooms. Doubles from £140, B&B (01243 641233, www.crab-lobster.co.uk). **GET ME THERE:** South West Trains (0845 600 0650, www.southwesttrains.co.uk) has trains to Chichester. >