

Four of the best Cornish B&Bs, by Francesca Syz

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Mazey Cottage, Gunwalloe

Another gem on the Lizard, pretty Mazey Cottage sits within the Penrose Estate and is surrounded by National Trust land. With only one room in the main house (plus an additional room available for members of the same group if required) and a suite with a wood-burning stove in a converted barn in the garden, it very much feels like staying in the warm, inviting, elegant home of friends. While the house is lovely, the main event is the three-acre garden, which is part of the National Gardens Scheme and open to the public every Thursday afternoon in spring and summer (£4 entrance fee, homemade teas available in the garden).

You'll find a walled cottage garden with more than 120 types of rose, a valley garden with the Carminowe River running through it, and a natural oak woodland through which a path weaves. It's also very close to Porthleven, which has a touch of the Padstow about it, with some great restaurants (try Kota, the Square and Amelies at the Smokehouse) and its own food festival each April.

The details - Doubles from £90 (01326-565868; www.mazeycottage.co.uk).

