



and there are two further bedrooms, one with a stylish en suite.

Details A week for eight is from £1,666 (0844 7044987, bluechipholidays.co.uk)

14 Peter's House Robin Hood's Bay, Yorkshire

This pretty 17th-century, Grade II listed former fisherman's cottage is in the seaside village of Robin Hood's Bay, famed for its cobbled streets, tea rooms and a beach ideal for rock pooling and fossil hunting. Ship's timbers have been used for some of the beamed ceilings in the cottage, which has panelled walls adorned with seascapes, wood floors and an open fire in the sitting room. There are three bedrooms, one with bunkbeds. The beach is two minutes' walk away through the terraced cottages' communal gardens.

Details A week for six is from £442 (01947 600700, yorkshireholidaycottages.co.uk)

15 Nothe Cottage Mersea Island, Essex

Watch the oyster boats coming and going from this bijou fisherman's cottage in Mersea on the picturesque Strood Channel. Steep stairs lead up from the lounge and compact kitchen to a cosy bedroom with a comfy bed. When the tide is high you can swim directly from the front of the cottage. There's a lovely walk along the river past the old oyster pits to the causeway. Don't miss the seared scallops and grilled tiger prawns at The Company Shed, though you can't book — just take your own bread and drinks and join the queue; it's worth it.

Details A week for three is from £430 (holidaylettings.co.uk ref: 255943)

16 The Old Town Hall Dunwich, Suffolk

This quaint Grade II listed building in the heart of Dunwich's conservation area

has stunning views across the marsh and sea to the sands at Southwold, ten miles away. The unspoilt village has its own beach too, although it's mainly shingle. Inside, there's a cosy beamed sitting room and a large tiled kitchen diner, as well as four bedrooms (two doubles, two twins).

Details From £680 a week for eight (01502 722717, suffolk-secrets.co.uk)

17 Fidelis Herne Bay, Kent

This striking eco house with three bedrooms sits just behind the painted beach huts on Herne Bay's seafront. The light-filled open-plan living space has vaulted ceilings, oak floors and glorious sea views from the balcony, as well as a sleek kitchen with a breakfast bar. There's direct access to the beach from the enclosed garden. If you tire of messing about on the sand, the cathedral city of Canterbury, Whitstable's seafood restaurants and the Turner Contemporary gallery in Margate are all within easy reach.

Details A week for six is from £650 (01580 720770, freedomholidayhomes.co.uk)

18 Kynance Cove Lizard Peninsula, Cornwall

Once the day trippers have gone you'll have this spectacular beach all to yourself when you stay at this tiny cottage on the Lizard Peninsula. A double bed and bunk bed are in the only bedroom but it's all beautifully done out with the original floorboards, wood panelling and a lovely woodburner. If you don't fancy cooking, tuck into local Cornish pasties or a clotted cream tea at the neighbouring eco-friendly café with its solar panels and adjoining grass-roofed toilets. When the tide is out, stroll on vast stretches of golden sand and explore the caves and rock

