



“A stone’s throw from the unspoilt and picturesque coastline of South Devon”

**Start Bay** is part of the Field Studies Council, an environmental education charity dedicated to helping people of all ages to experience the environment at first hand; to discover, explore and be inspired by the natural world. It is a separate self-contained property situated at the top of the village, surrounded by beautiful countryside.

The beach is about a mile from the centre with a steep gradient down. Coaches cannot access the village or Slapton Sands through the village. From the Start Bay Centre, you can access the ancient woodland (only accessible to people who stay on site). The property sleeps 41 guests in eight bedrooms, with a large, secluded and enclosed garden including a low ropes course, pond and barbecue area.

The building and village also feature in Michael Morpugo’s book *Adolphus Tips*. It was once used as a school which closed in the 70’s. The Field Studies Council bought the property from Devon County Council in 2011 and it hosts the majority of our primary school residentials, self-catering and venue hire.

Start Bay is a stone’s throw from the unspoilt and picturesque coastline of South Devon. It is located on the Start Bay coast and is surrounded by the 210-hectare Slapton Ley National Nature Reserve that includes the 4km long Slapton Sands beach and the largest freshwater lake in the Southwest.

All types of bookings are welcome including singles, couples, groups of adults, families and extended family groups on a self-catering basis. However, please note that we do not accept stag or hen parties.

#### Hire the whole centre

- Exclusive use
- Suitable for activity clubs, medium sized gatherings or faith groups
- Self-catering
- Stay for 2 to 14 nights
- Catered stays not available
- Bedlinen included but please bring your own towels

[View our virtual tour of the centre](#)

|                                       |   |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| Buildings                             | 1   |
| No. of floors                         | 2   |
| Bed capacity                          | 41 across 8 bedrooms  |
| No bedrooms                           | 1 x 3-bed, 3 x 4-bed, 3 x 6-bed & 1 x 8-bed - mainly bunks. The property has individual communal showers and toilets as well as three en-suite bathrooms. The bedrooms are situated at either side of the dining room and common room on both floors. |
| Double Beds                           | 0   |
| No en-suites/dedicated bathrooms      | 3   |
| Accessible bedrooms/wheelchair access | Limited disabled facilities. There is ramp access to the property and two en-suite rooms that are good for easy access. Accessible washroom and toilet. Downstairs accommodation.   |
| Accessible space                      | The grounds around the property are accessible.   |
| Linen                                 | Please note this is hostel style accommodation and whilst we supply linen we do not provide a bed making service. Please strip your beds upon departure.  |
| Towels                                | Towels are not provided.  |
| Dining capacity in one sitting        | Long style tables for everyone to sit round, with seating for 41 so everyone can share a meal together.   |
| Kitchen                               | The kitchen is fully equipped with everything needed for a self-catering stay including a six ring gas hob and double oven. Microwave, fridges and freezer, dishwasher, kettles, toasters, large pans and all utensils and crockery.                  |
| Lounge/sitting rooms                  | Large cosy sitting room area adjacent to dining room with interactive whiteboard. Sofa and chairs to seat everyone. Games and books available.  |
| Class/workrooms                       | No  |
| Drying room                           | No  |
| Laundry facilities                    | No  |
| Music/noise                           | Please keep noise to a minimum between 11pm and 7am.  |

|                                       |  |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| Parking                               | Space for 15 cars  |
| Bike storage                          | No   |
| Wi-Fi                                 | There is Wi-Fi connection throughout the centre. Mobile signal varies depending on network.  |
| Open fire inside                      | No   |
| Pets                                  | Dogs are allowed and are charged at £20 per dog per stay.  |
| Smoking/vaping                        | Smoking/vaping is only permitted in the designated smoking areas outside.  |
| Grounds                               | The centre is located within beautiful, landscaped grounds with seating areas, large, enclosed garden and wildlife areas. The centre adjoins the 210-hectare National Nature Reserve that includes the 4km long Slapton Sands beach and the largest freshwater lake in the Southwest. There is an outdoor firepit, low ropes course and large secluded garden for outdoor games. There is also an area for camping and a safe, fenced in pond area.  |
| Commercial filming                    | Permitted  |
| Space for marquee                     | No   |
| BBQ/fire pit                          | There is a BBQ and campfire area in the grounds. Firewood isn't supplied so please bring your own.   |
| Nearest pharmacies/surgeries/hospital | Pharmacy-Kingsbridge and Dartmouth 8 miles. Chillington surgery, 4 miles. Derriford hospital, (Plymouth) A&E, 30 miles (56 mins).  |
| Local area                            | Slapton Village is a short walk away which provides a range of facilities including a community village shop selling fresh produce and two pubs (the Queens Arms and Tower Inn). For walkers and cyclists both the Southwest Coast Path and NCN 28 run close by. Cafes and additional pubs are situated at Torcross with spectacular views out to sea, a short drive (5 minutes). Dartmouth and Kingsbridge are 8 miles away and can be accessed by bus or car. Totnes is 35 minutes by car and Salcombe is 30 minutes by car. Exeter and Plymouth are an hours' drive. The nearest supermarkets/banks can be found in Kingsbridge and Dartmouth 8 miles away. |





Dining room



Dining room



Sitting room



Bedroom



## Directions

**By car** - The property is situated about two hours from Bristol, 1 hour from Exeter, 30 minutes from Plymouth if coming by car. 20 miles (30km) from A38. Take the A384 to Totnes. Turn right onto A381 to Harbertonford/Kingsbridge. Turn left onto A3122 to Dartmouth. Continue past Dartmouth Golf club on left, then turn right at signs for Slapton. Continue for 5 miles along coast, then turn right for Slapton village. The Field Studies Centre is located on the right, approximately 1 km from the main road.

**By train** -The nearest train station is Totnes (13 miles). Totnes Station is on the Southwest Main Line and is under 3 hours direct from Birmingham New Street and London Paddington. You could then use a taxi service, which takes around 30-40 minutes, to reach the Start Bay Centre.

**By bus** - The no. 3 bus Service from Plymouth or Dartmouth to Slapton via Kingsbridge is operated by Stagecoach. The bus stops on Slapton Line and at the village bus stop outside the main Field Studies Centre a few minutes' walk away.

**On foot/bicycle** - For the more energetic, the Nature Reserve is on the route of a national trail, the Southwest Coastal Path and near Route 28 of the Sustrans National Cycle Network.

## Staff

Some of our centres may have staff living on-site. Whilst their presence will not interfere with your stay, we would ask you to be considerate and respect their privacy.

## Drug and alcohol policy

We would ask guests to familiarise themselves with and adhere to the behaviour and drug/alcohol policies contained within our [customer information document](#).

Some centres may have specific licencing agreements in place in respect of the consumption of alcohol - please enquire with the centre directly for more information.

## Entertainment

All of our centres hold a licence to play music, media & radio. If you intend to bring/hire in your own music/entertainment, please enquire with the centre directly for more information as a temporary events licence may be required.



[View a video of the local area](#)

[www.field-studies-council.org/locations/startbay/](http://www.field-studies-council.org/locations/startbay/)

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Please contact us  
and our friendly  
team will be happy  
to help plan your  
stay.