



HEAVEN 'N' CORNWALL... from left, trying pedal power at Beverley Park and, below, £10 snap at famous Land's End signpost

Roam sweet home

LOW RES PICS



THE one great advantage of holidaying with my wife is you're never going to be slumming it.

Not for her the sodden fields of Glastonbury or backpacking across a dusty Nepalese valley.

Nope, with Mrs H you're never more than 6ft from a shower and power socket — even if it means taking the power socket with you.

Thus we found ourselves enjoying the delights of sunny Devon and Cornwall in a swish top-of-the-line motorhome from Chief Rentals in Paignton.

It was the perfect setting-off point from which to explore this beautiful corner of England, from Torquay down to Land's End.

Up until now, the closest we'd come to a motorhome was binge-watching Jesse and Walter's escapades on TV's best ever show, *Breaking Bad*.

Cubby holes

Now we were up close and personal, getting a very informative lowdown on £39,000-worth of kit — the Swift Escape 696 — from Lloyd and his helpful team at Chief Rentals, conveniently located right next to the station.

These mobile home-from-homes offer all you could need for a touring holiday, and even our demanding teens, James and Sophie, were suitably impressed.

Within minutes they were laying claim to the top bunks and trying out all the nifty cubby holes and gadgets, from the roomy fridge and cosy heating down to the compact LCD TV. Chief Rentals can even throw in Xbox and PS3 consoles.

Almost as impressive was the array of glowing LEDs on the hi-tech control panel, highlighting power and water levels and even confirming that you are plugged in and charging away for the night.

Fully briefed and, ahem, not the slightest bit nervous at unleashing this four-wheeled wonder on an unsuspecting public, we hit the road and headed for our first stop — the five-star Beverley Park in Paignton. The team here provided the warmest of welcomes and we were

soon settled in among the palm trees with a lovely view over the bay.

Hooking up the water and power at the pitchside spots could not be easier and we used our new base to make the most of the bars, pool and quality entertainment on site and explore the area.

If you find yourself down this way, set aside an afternoon to enjoy the delights of Paignton Zoo.

It's beautifully presented and maintained, complete with a fun miniature train ride around the large central lake.

All too soon we were back on the road, destined for Wadebridge in north Cornwall via the invitingly wide A30.

Parking up at tranquil Little Bodieve holiday park, we took the chance to try out our rented mountain bikes — available as an extra from Chief Rentals — on the famous riverside Camel Trail for pedestrians and cyclists.

The focal point of our ten-mile round trip on two wheels was Padstow, home to TV chef Rick Stein's famous fish restaurant — just the tonic to replenish those calories after all that exercise.

Day four saw us back on the road and heading to the delightful sand dunes of Perran Sands Holiday Park, just a short drive from Perranporth.

This was a modern Haven holiday park offering a fun-packed pool and flume, great family attractions and bars and restaurants galore — and close enough to the charming nearby seaside town to give visitors lots of options.

Next up on our tour was Land's End and the

Lizard Peninsula — two of Cornwall's most famous landmarks and must-sees for any visitor.

At Land's End, the views over the Atlantic are awe-inspiring — though almost as jaw-dropping was the £10 fee to have your photo taken with the famous sign. It must be the most lucrative ten square feet of land outside Mayfair.

But, hey, we couldn't go all this way and not get the picture, so like everyone else we left suitably poorer.

A world away from the commercialism was our next stop — two nights at Little Trethvas campsite near Helston.

Run by the wonderfully welcoming Mike and Liz as a family business, this was a return to old-school holidaying.

Be sure to grab breakfast or dinner in their newly opened cafe, stocked with locally sourced food and kitted out with a wood-fired pizza oven.

Ginger beer

From here, we headed out on our bikes into Enid Blyton territory, complete with country lanes, smugglers' coves and pirate caves straight out of an adventure story. All that was missing was Timmy the dog and lashings of ginger beer.

The British mainland's most southerly spot, Lizard Point, boasts great views and just up the road is stunning Kynance Cove — recently voted one of the world's best beaches — and Cadgwith Cove, another beautiful little bay with working fishing smacks and a wonderful olde worlde pub to match.

Our last stop was the River Dart Country Park, near Ashburton in Devon, which was jam-packed with activities for the kids — including a well-crafted High Ropes tree walk for those with a head for heights.

Our great four-wheeled getaway proved to be a massive hit and offered the best of all worlds.

Whether you're dodging downpours at Glastonbury or bouncing from beach to beach, a Swift motorhome has everything you could want on four wheels — and then some.

GARY HIXON

GO: DEVON AND CORNWALL

GETTING ABOUT: Motorhome hire rises from £480 a week to £850 high season. See chiefrentals.com, swiftgroup.co.uk/motorhomes. **WHERE TO STAY:** Touring pitches average £20 a night in high season. See beverley-holidays.co.uk, littlebodieve.co.uk, campsiteslizard.co.uk, perransands.org.uk and riverdart.co.uk. **INFO:** visitcornwall.com visitdevon.co.uk.