

# Eating Out Locally

## Gara Rock Restaurant

An expansive curved window gives diners at Gara Rock restaurant a panoramic view of the sea and coastline. Gara Bay, below it, nestles between cliffs and rocky outcrops, where a family of seals lazed in the autumn sun on the day we visited. Gara Bay is a favoured stretch of the South West coastal path and is where significant Bronze-age relics - swords and daggers, have been found. 17<sup>th</sup> century shipwrecks, from North Africa, have been discovered along the shore.

The restaurant's alfresco site, overlooks more of the coast as well as the spread of agricultural farmland that extends to the horizon inland. These scenic features contribute to make the drive to this lone hotel and leisure resort, very worthwhile.

It is 14 miles (40 minutes) from Thurlestone, via Kingsbridge and Frogmore, but, to make an outing of the trip, park in Salcombe and cross to East Portlemouth on the foot ferry. Ferries run on the hour and half hour (costing £1.60 each way) and take 10 minutes. At East Portlemouth, a driver from Gara Rock will pick you up and cover the couple of miles of Devon lanes to Gara Rock in a Land Rover. This free 'taxi service' from the Ferry Dock, is booked with a phone call, in advance.

The warm welcome sets a tone for service that is characteristic of the restaurant. Attentive staff are agreeable, accommodating, cheerful and relaxed.

Being seated at a window table indoors you see the wide sweep of southern coastal scenery, but the generous light from the arc of windows means that the brightness continues further inside where the décor is inobtrusive and the ambiance remains easy.

For our visit in October, the Gara Rock lunch menu offered:

Tasty **Starters**, that included local fish like Dartmouth sardines, and Devon crab.

Some Lunch-time **Mains** were: Beef Burger; Pork Belly, Fish & Chips, Mussels, and a vegan option. All are served with seasonal vegetables, many from local sources. Among the sides are yummy chips with herby cheese topping which, on their own, are a substantial informal choice for coastal walkers wanting a break from their ramble.

For something **Sweet**, there's an excellent Baked custard with berry fruits; an Apple Tart-Tatin; Salcombe Ice cream; and a Cheese Platter.

Gara Rock coffee is very good.

A day (or stay) here might especially appeal for its get-away-from-the-buzz-of-life quality. It is a destination on a Devon lane that ends at the sea. The lane goes nowhere else.

While it is a popular refreshment stop for walkers on the coastal path, you may want to try their Spa and Leisure facilities, with dining options... like their 'Spa, Dip and Dine' special offer.

Contact them for information: 01548845946 [reservations@gararock.com](mailto:reservations@gararock.com)