

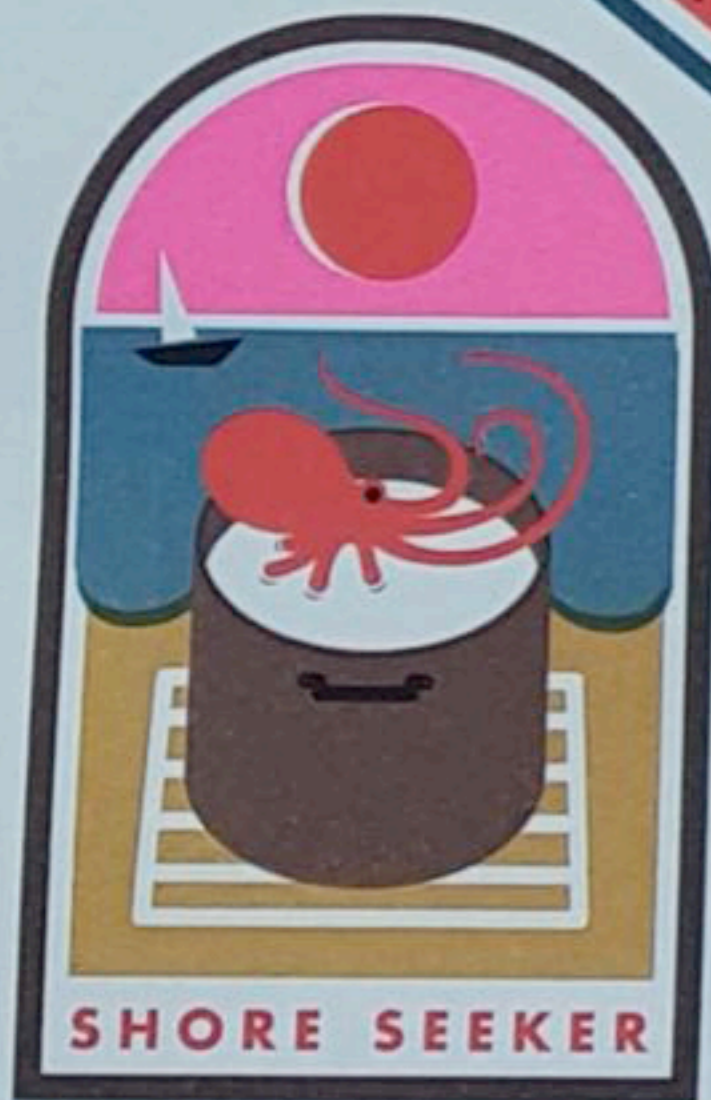
# CIRCUS

The Bath Edition

An independent journal for creative thinkers  
Volume five — Summer 2019 — FREE



STAR  
GAZER



SHORE  
SEEKER



PATHFINDER

Adventures in the west + Festival madness + Jurassic 5's Soup  
+ Gaz Coombes + Our design top 20 + Eddie's Street Cuts  
+ Your essential guide to seasonal events



STAR  
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PAW  
PATROL

## 1 Go back to nature

**Where?** Cynefin Retreats, near Hay-on-Wye  
**Best for:** Sustainable luxe seekers

The Welsh word *cynefin* has no precise English translation; it means something along the lines of a natural environment in which you feel a sense of belonging. Opened in March 2019, Cynefin Retreats, a cluster of four timber-clad pods tucked into the Wye Valley, aims to make you feel just that. Cosy on the inside – with king-size beds and woodburners – the real joy is what's beyond. Floor-to-ceiling windows lead to huge terraces (with hot tubs), which offer unbroken views of rippling hills and starry skies. If the view entices, no problem – a woodland path from the pods leads straight out into the Brecon Beacons.

**Pack:** A telescope – the Brecon Beacons is one of the country's best spots for stargazing  
**Info:** Luxe pods (sleep two) start from £150 per night [cynefinretreats.com](http://cynefinretreats.com)

## 2 Walk with bears

**Where?** Wild Place Project, Bristol  
**Best for:** Amateur Attenboroughs

Some 2,000 years ago, native woodland cloaked swathes of Britain and many large animals roamed within. Today, such woods cover only two per cent of the country and species such as bears and wolves are long gone. But it seems they're making a comeback. This summer, the Wild Place Project is opening Bear Wood, a chunk of forest where European brown bears, lynx, wolves and wolverine can roam as if it's the first millennium AD. Follow a raised walkway through the woods to see the creatures in their near-as-possible natural habitat. Look out for owls, woodpeckers and wild garlic.

**Pack:** £75 – the cost of sponsoring a plank on the walkway to do your bit to support Bristol's bears  
**Info:** Tickets £9.95 adult, £8.50 child [wildplace.org.uk](http://wildplace.org.uk)



BOARD  
BUDDY

## 3 Stand-up paddle in the city

**Where?** Original Wild, Bath  
**Best for:** Waterbabies, sightseers

Not only does Bath have super thermal springs, it also has Original Wild. The outdoor adventure company launched in 2018 and reveals a more unusual side to the UNESCO-listed city. From the company's new base at Riverside, try paddleboarding along the River Avon. Easy to master (hardly anyone falls off), you'll soon be gliding along the waterway, passing under bridges, looking out for the peregrine falcon nesting in the spire of St John's Church and waving to bemused tourists, before pulling up at the splendid curve of Pulteney Weir. Original Wild offers raft-building, canoeing, kayaking, climbing and abseiling, too.

**Pack:** Swimwear, watershoes or old trainers and a bunch of good friends  
**Info:** Stand-up paddle sessions cost from £18pp. [originalwild.com](http://originalwild.com)



PATHFINDER

## 4 Take a moor safari

**Where?** Exmoor National Park  
**Best for:** Nature-lovers, history fans, foodies

Exmoor has a bit of everything, from history to abundant wildlife, woodland, coast, river valleys, literary heritage and good food. To better showcase this bounty, a selection of experiences aimed at inspiring in-depth exploration was launched this spring, as part of the English National Park Experience Collection. Catch your own lunch with a mackerel fisherman on the Seafront Dining Adventure, learn to capture the landscapes with your camera on the Moods of Exmoor trip, go animal-spotting by 4WD on the Exmoor Wildlife Safari or follow the region's great writers on the Literary Footsteps walk.

**Pack:** Sturdy boots, camera kit, binoculars and a hearty appetite  
**Info:** One-day experiences from £55pp to £500pp [nationalparkexperiences.co.uk](http://nationalparkexperiences.co.uk)