

# Incredible Ocean pools around the world



Do as the Victorians did and “take the waters” at Tunnels Beaches, Devon.— Shutterstock

By Emily Matchar, Lonely Planet Writer

**S**ometimes we crave the sensation of plunging into the ocean, waves breaking over our heads, the deeps beneath our feet. But other times we want a more “contained” seaside swim – the same elemental experience, but with the luxury of being able to touch the bottom (and maybe even grab a hot shower after). This is where ocean pools come in. Whether natural rock grottoes or man-made from concrete and tile, these oceanside pools give you the best of both worlds: safe, serene waters with boundless sea-and-sky views. If you’re looking for an alternative seaside experience, or maybe a stepping stone to transition from traditional swimming pools to the ‘big blue’, these aquatic oases could be right for you.



## Grotto della Poesia, Salento, Italy

**M**eaning “cave of poetry,” this 100ft-wide natural sinkhole is certainly worthy of verse. Leap from the limestone cliffs into the cool cyan water, and then swim under the archway into the Adriatic Sea. Arrive early in summer to avoid the crowds; the rest of the year it’ll be just you and the seabirds (and a few cold-resistant Russian tourists). There are several archaeological sites nearby, including Grotto della Poesia Piccola (“little cave of poetry”), its walls covered in ancient inscriptions. You’ll find the grotto on the east side of the Salento Peninsula (aka “the boot”).