

DIRECTIONS TO THE BEST LOCAL BEACHES

Hayle, Lelant, Carbis Bay, St.Ives, Praa Sands & Marazion sands are the closest and nicest beaches.

There is a seasonal dog ban on many of the beaches in Cornwall from Easter day - 1st October from 8am-7pm. I have listed some that allow dogs & others that have the seasonal ban.

HAYLE BEACH

Hayle has 3 miles of beach which extend from the Harbour to the Godrevy lighthouse. At mid to low tide you can walk from one end to the other. At high tide certain areas are cut off.

WALKING

From the apartment turn right & walk past the Royal Standard. At the Indian restaurant cross the road and walk over the iron bridge. Continue along past the harbour office, keep to the left hand side following the rough road keeping the water on your left. At the end of the road take the left lane and this marks the start of the beach. This area is dangerous for swimming and therefore prohibited.. There are warning signs there as this is where the sea meets the estuary and the current is very strong here even at low tide. Never attempt to cross over to the beach on the other side as people have drowned trying. Boats often struggle here because of the dangerous currents. For swimming continue approximately a 15 minute walk up the beach when you get to Cove café and the lifeguard hut.

You can either walk on the sand or take the coastal path which you will find if you stay on the rough lane instead of the beach. At the top you will see a car park meter, and behind it a path further along. Dotted along it are several chalets.

The path takes you through the start of the chalet site and continues by some bungalows on the cliff just before the Bluff pub.

If you fancy a drink or food outside on a nice day and take in the stunning view over Lelant down to Carbis Bay & St.Ives but it shuts down after the October half term until Easter. You can also sit inside if the weather is not so kind but no pets allowed inside.

Follow the path all the way along, up and down the dunes or drop down on to the beach. It will probably take about 2 hours to get to the end by the lighthouse. There are cafés at St.Ives Bay Holiday Park which is about half an hour from the Bluff. Gwithian has a cute place at the top of the car park called Sunset Cafe that has great views and serves great snacks and drinks. It is small and friendly and has a licence if you want a cold beer! It opens for early evening meals at the weekends when they serve a few specials ranging from fish to vegetarian meals. They open at weekends during the winter but do shut randomly.

If you continue along the beach or path you will come to Godrevy where there is another café/restaurant which serves excellent snacks & drinks. Again during the summer months they stay

open till about 9pm at the weekends when they do various themed food nights such as French & Asian. You would need to book ahead to guarantee a table.

Back in the village there is a traditional pub called the Red River which serves excellent pub food, lunches and evening meals.

DRIVING TO HAYLE BEACH

Sandy Acres- 1.5 miles away (dog friendly all year around)

Turn right and drive back through Hayle until you reach the mini roundabout at Lidl and take a left up the hill. Follow this to the top and you will see a small sign shaped like an arrow with 'beach' written on it. This is called Sandy Acres and it is where a lot of locals go as you can have dogs on it all year around. You turn left at the sign and follow the lane. It is very rough with some big sleeping policemen. Take it very slow and follow it to the gate where there is a parking meter. It is about £2 a day and you can pay for an hour or two also. They have a wheel clamping man checking randomly so make sure you buy a ticket! Follow the lane to the end where you come to a car park.

Gwithian beach- 2 miles away (no dogs 8am & 7pm between Easter & 1st Oct)

Continue past Sandy Acres continuing along the road passing St.Ives Holiday Park, past bungalows, Atlantic Caravan Park and the next left turning look for the sign to Gwithian beach. Follow tarmac road down to the end to the car park. Approximately £4 a day or you can pay by the hour. Its free from mid September. This is also where you park for Sunset Cafe.

Godrevy- 3 miles away (no dogs between 8am & 7pm Easter & 1st Oct)

Continue past the Gwithian beach turning driving through the cute village of Gwithian. Here is where you find the Red River pub and also the large thatch cottage in front of the campsite on the left serves excellent cream teas during the summer. Follow the road out of the village over the little bridge and take the next left after the Sandsifter again signposted Godrevy. Follow road up, the first car park is where the café is and where the surfers tend to go. This is a National Trust car park so take your card with you if you have one. You can get to the beach here but a small, nicer, cove like beach is found if you continue up the road to the end where there are 2 big car parks near the lighthouse.

There are toilets situated up there and a large grass area for children to run around if you don't stay on the beach. A great place to barbecue and watch the sunset. There is easy access to the beach here. If you walk around the peninsula towards the lighthouse or walk up a pathway through the field and gate you will see lots of seals at the end of the cliffs. They are there mainly from Easter until October, but I'm pretty sure they hang around all year. However you have more chance of seeing them in the summer months when they lounge around on the rocks and a piece of sand that can only be accessed by boat.

Lelant/Porth kidney Beach-2 miles away (dog friendly all year around)

Turn left out of the Royal Standard car park. At the roundabout go straight ahead and follow road along the causeway turning off to the right just after the derelict garage. If you miss this get to the round about and take the 3rd exit sign posted St.Ives past the Wyevale Garden Center. Straight ahead and at the mini roundabout go straight across. Do not take the holiday route signposted to the left. Drive through the village of Lelant until you get to the Badger pub on the right which is on a very sharp left bend. Stop at this corner and indicate right and take the road straight ahead, not the one going down by the pub. Follow road over sleeping policemen until you get to the church.

If it is high tide the only way to the beach is to park up near the church and walk down the path next to it. This takes you through part of the golf course and on to the coastal path and to the beach. At the end of the path by 2 houses take the left hand path to get to the beach. If you go straight down you will only be able to access a small part of the beach as its gets shut off at high tide. This is fine to have a picnic or walk the dog but you cannot swim here as it's the same dangerous piece of water as previously mentioned but on the other side. This part of the beach is lovely to sit and chill out on at high tide.

Another way to the same beach

Just before the church you will see an island of grass on the left. Turn down here and follow bumpy road. It takes you through the golf links. Watch out for golfers teeing off! Just wait until they wave you on or they have finished their shot. Follow road down past the quay on the right to the end. Park up somewhere there. No parking meters. Walk down path onto beach. Again do not swim along the estuary walk around the corner of the beach till you see the lifeguard hut. The beach is large and generally quiet. You can do a beautiful coastal path walk to Carbis Bay & St.Ives from here.

Carbis Bay Beach- 3 miles (no dogs between 8am & 7pm Easter & !st Oct)

Drive through the village of Lelant as before but this time going around the sharp left hand bend following the road along past the new flats & fish & chip shop on the right. Just further along you come to a cross roads, here you need to take the turning on the right signposted to Carbis Bay beach & train station. Follow road all the way to the bottom of the car park. The beach has easy access and also has a snack bar in the summer. A nice place for lunch is the Carbis Bay Hotel which has great food and superb views.

St.Ives Beach- 5 miles (no dogs between 8am & 7pm Easter & !st Oct)

Continue along road not turning down to Carbis Bay beach and follow it in all the way past Tregenna castle. The road forks at the Porthminster Hotel, take the lower road heading into town. At the bus terminal (the Malacoff) take the ridiculously sharp right hand bend almost back on yourself into the car park there. This gets very busy in the summer. A good option is to Park & Ride on the train or catch the bus. Also parking is very expensive. At the fork you can take the higher road which takes you to the 1000 space car park. Here you can get on the hoppa buses into town or walk. All the beaches, Porthminster by the train station, Porthmeor by the Tate, Pothgwidden near the island car park and the town beach by the Sloop pub are easily accessed from town.

Praa Sands beach on the South Coast approx 10 miles (no dogs 8am & 7pm Easter to 1st Oct)

From royal Standard car par turn left. At the mini round about take the left exit towards Helston. Keep the White Hart Hotel on the left. Follow the road up hill around the bend at the top over the bypass and past John Fowlers Holiday Park. Follow this road all the way to the end approximately 7 miles till the junction at the Vauxall Garage. Here turn right towards Penzance. Follow this road along until you see the signs for Praa Sands about 3 miles. Drive through the village until you get to the beach car park next to the Sandbar food & drink venue. A great place for something to eat & drink and with stunning beach views. This beach has easy access and has a café and take away on the beach. It is also a good place for surfing when there are waves on the South Coast. The tide does not go out so far on this coast and it has a lifeguard during the main season.

It is a large long beach ideal for water sports. This coast misses out on sunset which is always on the North coast.

Marizion Beach on South Coast near Penzance approx 6 miles (no dogs 8am to 7pm Easter to 1st Oct)

In close proximity to Marazion are several beaches where dogs are welcomed. Marazion's beach itself does have a dog ban in effect from Chapel Rock to the Long Rock level crossing.

- 1.Longrock Beach
- 2.Boat Cove
- 3.Nanjizel
- 4.Eastern Green
- 5.Marazion (Red River to Station House)
- 6.Prussia Cove
- 7.Pentreath
- 8.Porthallow & Loe Beach