

Chapel Porth Access Statement

Chapel Porth, St Agnes, Cornwall, TR5 0NS

T: 01872 552412 (For the local ranger office)

E: chapelport@nationaltrust.org.uk

W: www.nationaltrust.org.uk/visit/cornwall/chapel-porth

Welcome

- Chapel Porth is a vast low-tide beach accessed from the small National Trust car park at the bottom of a steep-sided valley. At high tide the beach all but disappears but the surf and high cliffs still make this cove well worth a visit. Once part of a busy industrial landscape it is now peaceful and rich with wildlife. The iconic buildings perched on the cliffs around Chapel Porth are a reminder of St Agnes' tin and copper mining past.
- The car park is staffed seven days a week in high season and on some weekends.
- There is no mobile phone reception.



Directions

- Please note there are major road improvements underway (due to complete March 2024), there may be delays and temporary diversions in place along the A30. From the A30 at Chiverton Cross roundabout, take the B3277 for St Agnes. At the roundabout at the entrance to the village turn left and follow the brown tourist signs to Chapel Porth. The no through road leading to the beach has a National Trust sign for Chapel Porth.
- The road down to the beach car park is narrow and steep with a couple of passing places.
- This beach is very popular and in high season the car park can fill up early in the day.



Road to Chapel Porth off Beacon Drive



Narrow one-way road to beach

Parking

- The car park is level and laid with compacted gravel
- The edges of the car park are marked with large boulders
- Although the car park is re-surfaced every winter, storms and high seas can cause damage, uneven surfaces and flooding at short notice
- There are two designated spaces for disabled users towards the rear of the car park next to the toilets
- Blue badge holders park free of charge
- National Trust members park free of charge. Please scan your membership card at the Pay & Display machine
- For other users, tariffs apply all year round from dawn to dusk 7 days a week
- You will need coins for the Pay and Display machine or use the PaybyPhone app
- There is a PaybyPhone sign on the Pay & Display machine showing you how to park cash free via the PaybyPhone app. Advisable to download the app before visiting



Information kiosk staffed
in high season
and some weekends





Beach safety signage



Disabled parking spaces at rear of car park next to toilets

Information

- At the entrance to the car park is an information kiosk which is staffed in high season and at some weekends. Uniformed National Trust staff will direct traffic, provide information and sell memberships. At the front of the kiosk is a seasonal beach lifeguard station
- There is an information board near the café with a map
- There is a beach safety information sign at the entrance to the beach
- A seasonal dog ban operates on the beach, but dogs are welcome in the car park and on the surrounding cliffs. Leads are advisable due to traffic movements in the car park and steep drops from the cliffs
- There is a dog bin in the car park

Accessible toilet

- There is an accessible toilet towards the rear of the car park on the left
- It is opened with a RADAR key
- The door is 110 cm wide
- Access to the toilet is level
- The toilet measures approximately 150 x 205 cm
- It is a right-hand transfer toilet with handrails positioned 70cm from floor level
- The lavatory itself is 49 cm high
- The distance from the lavatory to the wall on the right is 25cm
- The distance from the lavatory to the wall on the right is 78 cm
- There is 12cm gap between the lavatory and the wash hand basin
- There is some natural light through a skylight

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- There is a bulkhead light on the ceiling
- There is a paper towel dispenser but no hand drier
- There is a sanitary bin
- At times of storms and high seas, water can get in and make the floor wet



Places to eat and drink

- At the back of the car park is a café serving light meals, ice creams and cakes. The café is not managed by the National Trust
- The café is open all day from Easter to the end of October half term and on Friday, Saturday and Sunday at other times of year.
- There is no indoor seating but there is a sheltered area with benches on two sides. The benches are 50 cm from floor level.
- In front of the café are some picnic tables with attached bench seating
- Behind the café there is a further bench attached to the wall at 50 cm above floor level



Designated walking trail / footpaths / viewpoints

- There are no designated wheelchair friendly trails from the car park as the footpaths up the valley and up the cliffs are rough and steep in places
- The South West Coast Path leads east from this cove up past the iconic mine buildings at Wheal Coates along St Agnes Head and on to the beach at St Agnes with its cafes, snack bars and a pub. St Agnes village itself is a further mile inland. There are many individual trails along this coastal stretch; all involve steep up and down stretches and some run alongside steep drops.
- Going west from this cove the Coast Path leads to Porthtowan.
- From the back of the car park, a path leads across a wooden bridge and inland up the valley alongside a stream. This path is stony and sloping in places.



Bridge at back of car park



Path up the valley

Beach

- The only access to the beach is over cobbles, large rocks and pebbles.
- At low tide there is a huge stretch of sand dotted with rock formations and pools, but at high tide the beach all but disappears.
- Beach lifeguards are on patrol from 10:00am to 6:00pm in the season.



Beach access point



Front of car park

Date: January 2024