

Porth Access Statement

Porth, near Portscatho, Truro Cornwall TR2 5EX
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<https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/porth>



Towan Beach at Porth

Welcome

- People love the long stretch of beach at Towan and marvel at how it changes with the seasons and storms. Creekside and coastal footpaths make for great wildlife spotting
- There is evidence that Porth has been a farming settlement for at least 700 years. The current nineteenth century buildings are now converted into holiday cottages and the former Ranger office and workshop has been transformed into an inviting café
- Once a very quiet corner of Cornwall, the area can now get very busy on hot summer days and we ask drivers to park with care and respect our neighbours
- Mobile phone reception varies – you may get a stronger signal nearer the sea
- This is a dog friendly beach, although dogs must be kept on a lead during the Summer.

Directions

- From the A390 St Austell to Truro road, take the A3078 to St Mawes. At Trewithian, take the left turn signposted Gerrans/Portscatho. Continue through the villages onto Porth. These are narrow country roads which are single track in places, so be prepared to pull in or reverse to let other vehicles through
- Alternatively, if you are starting from Truro, you could take the iconic King Harry car ferry across the River Fal to the Roseland Peninsula. The ferry is about one kilometre past the entrance to the National Trust's Trelissick House and Gardens. On leaving the ferry,

take the road past the village of Philleigh or drive via St Just in Roseland to Trewithian on the A3708 and then on through Gerrans to Porth.

Public transport

- There is a (passenger only) water taxi from St Mawes to Place Quay which is about 4 kilometres from Porth
- No public transport services run as far as Porth although the no. 50 bus from Truro to St Mawes stops at Gerrans Church, 2 miles away.

Parking

- There are two National Trust car parks at Porth; the first is on the roadside opposite the café, and there is a second field car park at the bottom of the lane which runs past the holiday cottages
- The surface of the roadside car park is compacted gravel. It is level but there is a slight slope up from the road to access the car park
- The level surface of the field car park is partly grass and partly compacted gravel.
- From the field car park, there is a gentle uphill slope of 100 metres to reach the café site and the footpath to the beach
- There are pay and display machines in both car parks. National Trust members park free
- 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
- There is an information board in both car parks



Left: Roadside car park

Above: Field car park past the holiday cottages



Right: Information board in car parks

Left: PayByPhone sign on parking machines



Toilets

- There is an accessible disabled toilet next to the Thirstea café opposite the roadside car park
- The toilets are currently only open when the café is open. In Winter 2022, this is Friday to Monday 11 am to 4 pm. From Easter, the café will be open 7 days a week 11 am to 5 pm. See link to café for further info [Porth Farm / Towan Beach \(thethirsteacompany.co.uk\)](http://thethirsteacompany.co.uk)
- Access is on tarmacked surface adjacent to the café's outdoor seating area
- The door is 90 cm wide
- The toilet is 48 cm high and is right hand transfer
- There is a 72 cm high handrail on the right of the toilet
- There is a space of 102 cm from the toilet to the door
- There is a 19cm gap on the right hand side of the toilet and a 73 cm gap on the left
- There is a washbasin with a lever tap
- There is a hand drier
- There is a sanitary bin
- There is skylight and an electric bulkhead light



*Left: Entrance to Thirstea Café site at Porth. The café and outside seating area is around to the left. Straight ahead is the entrance to the toilets.
Right: The disabled toilet is in the centre.*



Places to eat and drink

- The café (new in 2020) is just across the road from the first car park. Access is mainly level on a tarmacked area. There are no steps
- There is indoor seating plus an outside seating area with a canopy in the courtyard with picnic tables and a bench seat on the side.
- The café is managed by a concession. Opening hours vary through the year. Details on their website www.thethirsteacompany.co.uk.



*Courtyard seating and café interior
with cosy woodburner*

The Café entrance is on the right of the picture below and through the archway is the footpath down to the beach a short distance (about 50 metres) away. Access onto the sandy beach is via a concrete ramp. There are no lifeguards



Designated walking trail / footpaths / viewpoints

- There is a pleasant 3-kilometre circular footpath running along the creek, up through the woods and back down past Penhaligon's holiday cottage into Porth. The path starts just beyond the second field car park
- The creekside section is level but the path up through the woods and down past Penhaligon's has steep stretches
- The surface is compacted gravel
- There are lovely views down to Froe Creek after 1 kilometre
- The open spaces around the path are full of wildflowers and wildlife
- There are no dog bins here so please take any waste away with you



Left: Start of the walk – the right fork goes along the creek the path straight ahead is the path to Penhaligon's Holiday Cottage

Right: The path snakes along beside the creek

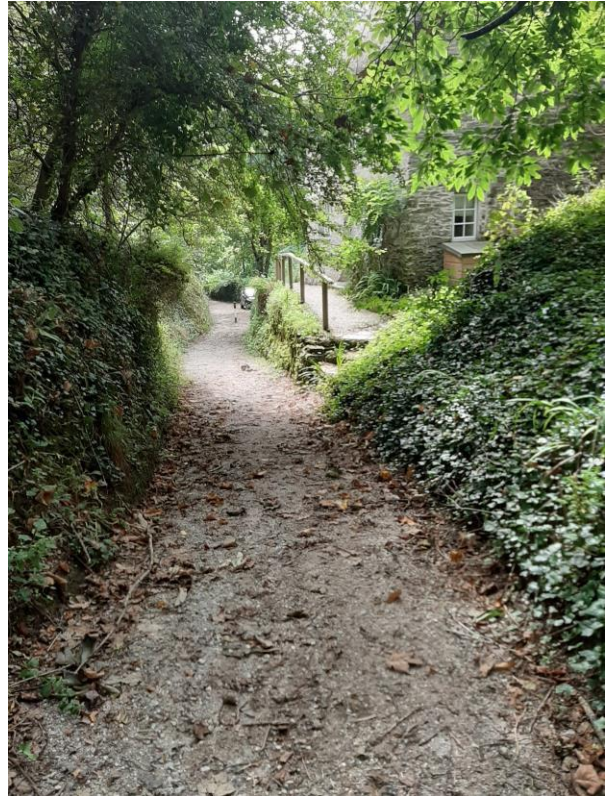


Left: The view looking back down to Froe Creek



Left: the path gets steeper as it goes up through the woods

Below: The path passes Penhaligon's holiday cottage as it slopes back down to finish at the car park



Updated July 2023