



# BREAKWATER BEACH

## and Compass Cove (Bude)

A relatively small and undistinguished westerly facing beach on the seaward side of Bude Breakwater; just beyond on the southerly side of the beach is Compass Point and Compass Cove which has a fairly difficult access down the high cliff which backs the beach. Both beaches are distinguished by the unusual geological formations of sandstones and shales formed 300 million years ago.



Breakwater Beach at low tide with Summerleaze Beach beyond

  **EX23 8LQ** - It is best to park in the main car park (capacity 200 cars+) off Bencoolen Road (signposted to Widemouth from the A3073) next to the Canal in the centre of Bude. Alternatively, there is limited roadside parking on Breakwater Road which is the other side of the canal from the above car park. To get to Breakwater Beach involves a walk of about 750m from the car park along the length of Breakwater Road and then the Coast Path which leads to the Breakwater. Access to the beach is very straightforward. To get to Compass Cove involves continuing along the Coast path past Storm Tower (200m) and then after a further 200m at the southerly end of the Cove is a very narrow and steep path which winds down to the beach and should only be tempted if confident of such an arduous and difficult descent.



Compass Cove looking south



Compass Cove at low water



Bude Breakwater



'Whale's Back' Rock



Very little of Breakwater Beach exists at high water and it is mostly stone and shingle. However, as the tide goes out there are patches of sand punctuated by lines of rock with more yellow sand at low water as it joins up with [Summerleaze Beach](#) around Barrel Rock at the end of the Breakwater. Compass Cove has grey sand and shingle above and below high water mark which gives way to the rocky fingers known as the 'Bude Formation'. Both beaches are fairly exposed and separated by Compass Point, a visually memorable line of flat vertical rocks.



There is safety equipment on the Breakwater but nothing at Compass Cove. Swimming is not recommended at either beach at low water due to strong currents and submerged rocks. It is possible to swim occasionally on a rising high tide when conditions are favourable which does not happen often because of the persistent Atlantic swell and surf. On occasions experienced surfers can be found at both beaches but it is only recommended for those who know the local conditions. Neither beaches are good for snorkelling but the rock pools are a feature. It is good fishing off the Breakwater for bass, mackerel and mullet.



Dogs are permitted on both beaches. The nearest toilets are in the Car Park and shops, cafes, pubs and restaurants in the town centre (under 400m from the car park).



Location - Part of OS Explorer Map 111



Water quality in recent years has been variable. The metal support for the Barrel on Barrel rock at the end of the Breakwater was once the propeller shaft of the SS Belem, wrecked nearby.