

# PORT GAVERNE

A narrow shingle and sandy inlet that faces north and still has the remnants of its fishing past. It is situated very close to [Port Isaac](#) which is less than 500m to the west. It was once an important small port exporting slate from nearby Delabole Quarry and importing coal from Wales. The remains of the pilchard industry are still present with the old pilchard cellars above the beach. ‘Gaverne’ is thought to mean ‘Rocky Haven’.



The narrow inlet at low water



**PL29 3SQ** - Take the B3314 from Wadebridge and after 11kms the B3267 to Port Isaac which is a further 2.5kms; turn right and after 120m the main car park (capacity 120 cars) for Port Gaverne is on the left (although it is actually in Port Isaac). It is then a 400m walk down the hill to the beach. There are a few parking spaces above the beach but all roadside parking is restricted. Access on to the beach is down slipways making it eminently accessible for the less mobile.



There is a small band of shingle above high water mark. However when the tide goes out the inlet is mostly sandy with flat rocky areas. A stream crosses the beach. Despite the inlet being exposed to the Atlantic swell it is relatively sheltered from all but



Sand and shingle at low water



Boats above the beach



Slipways above the beach



The mouth of the inlet

northerly winds.



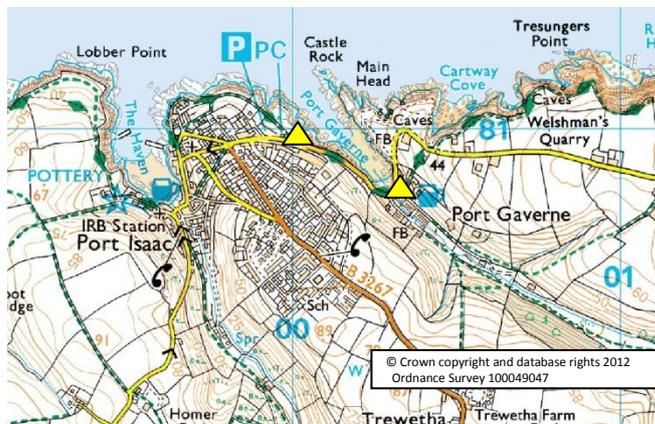
There is safety equipment above the beach. Swimming is not advisable at low water because of strong currents but on a rising high tide can be fine when conditions are favourable. It is not a recognised surfing beach although there is usually enough of a swell for bodyboarding. It is popular for sea kayaking and a base for coastering.



It is not really a snorkelling beach although in calm conditions at high tide it can be good fun around the inlet. There are numerous rock pools at low water. Fishing off the rocks (at Main Head or ‘The Main’) for Mackerel, Pollock, Whiting and Gurnard is popular.



There are no restrictions on dogs. There are toilets above the beach (including those for the disabled). There are also toilets next to the car park up the hill (in Port Isaac). There is a cafe and pub at Port Gaverne and a range of shops, restaurants and other facilities at [Port Isaac](#). The slipways can be used on payment of launching fees: details of charges are on a sign by the slipway.



Location – Part of OS Explorer Map 106



The sea water quality is good but the stream can be variable. It is a popular beach because it is the only one along a fairly long stretch of North Cornwall coast that is so easily accessible.