

TINTAGEL HAVEN and Westside Cove

A small sand, shingle and stony beach that is better known for a spectacular cave, known as Merlin's Cave which gives the only access to the small and stony Westside Cove the other side of the headland. Tintagel Haven (sometimes known as Merlin's Cove) faces north but is very sheltered by Tintagel Head on one side and Barras Nose on the other. The remains of Tintagel Castle above the Cove is managed by English Heritage, and is a popular attraction for tourists because of the Arthurian Legend; it was originally a Celtic fortress then Roman settlement and then a 13th Century castle.



Tintagel Haven at low water

  **PL34 0HE** - Tintagel is signposted from the A39 at Camelford along the B3266 and then the B3263. It is necessary to park in one of a number of car parks in the centre of Tintagel and go along Fore Street and opposite the Museum walk down Castle Road, a distance of 500m. In the holiday season, English Heritage operates a regular vehicular shuttle up and down Castle Road. Just beyond the Visitor Centre at the end of the road there is access to the beach either to the left along a raised walkway and then steps down to the beach, or, to the right across the stream along a path and scramble down across



Views of the easterly side of the main beach



The westerly side of the Cove



The entrance to Merlin's Cave

rocks to the beach.



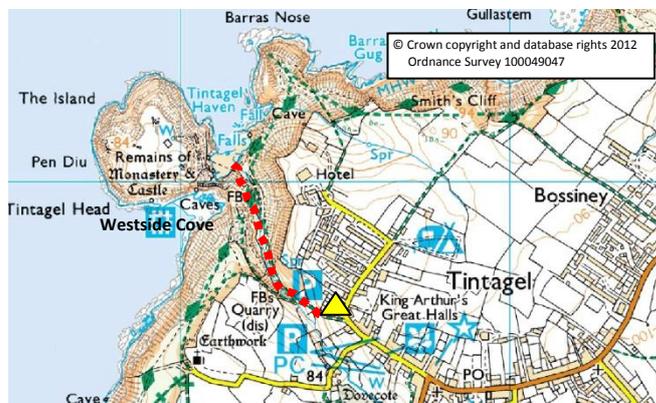
There is no beach at high water but at low water it becomes a fine sheltered cove with some areas of sand. It is rather overlooked by the large numbers of visitors to the Castle but the caves give it real interest. Walking through Merlin's Cave to Westside Cove is possible but needs to be undertaken at low tide and with considerable care (and a torch!). The waterfalls that cascade on to the beach can be very dramatic when the stream is in spate. Westside Cove is fairly exposed and rocky.



There is safety equipment above the main beach. When conditions are favourable swimming is possible on a rising tide within the cove as it can be relatively sheltered from any swell. It is not a surfing beach. When calm, snorkelling around the Cove can be interesting. There are rock pools at low water and a number of good spots to fish off the rocks. Swimming off Westside Cove is dangerous because of rocks and currents.



There are no restrictions on dogs. There are toilets, a cafe and Visitor Centre above the beach and a full range of facilities including pubs and restaurants in Tintagel itself (550m)



Location – Part of OS Explorer Map 111



Water quality is good but the stream can be variable. The beaches are owned and managed by the National Trust.