

# GODREVEY COVE

This stretch of beach at low water forms the northern end of the longest beach in Cornwall (5.5km) sweeping round St.Ives Bay to the [Hayle Estuary](#). For most people the beach starts at the Red River and continues to the headland. Facing due west it has views of St.Ives and the Penwith Moors beyond.



*The Cove with the iconic Godrevy Island and Lighthouse beyond*



**TR27 5ED** - The access road to the National Trust car parks is 1km north of [Gwithian](#) on the B3301 coast road from [Hayle](#) to [Portreath](#) by the bridge over the Red River. The main car parking area (capacity over 100 cars) is open all year, on the edge of the sand dunes, and, within a short walk to the beach along a fenced board-walk path. There is a small parking area (about 15 cars) further along the access road, and in summer, a field overlooking the bay is open for parking. At both these areas there are a number of access points down the low cliffs to the beach, with the easiest at the northern end of the



*One of the small access paths*



*Steps down to the beach*



*The sandy beach above high water mark*

Cove with steps to the beach.



At high water there is only a small area of fine golden sand but at low water the beach stretches for over 700m, interspersed with rocky outcrops, to the Red River where it joins the beach of [Gwithian](#). In winter, much of the sand can often be replaced by areas of shingle. The beach can be quite exposed both from any wind from a westerly direction and also the Atlantic swell. Immediately north of the sandy Cove there is an accessible rocky foreshore with patches of shingle which is worth exploring but care needs to be taken not to be caught by an incoming tide



There is rescue/safety equipment and RNLI lifeguards are on duty at the Red River end of the beach from mid May until the end of September.



*High tide in winter*



It is dangerous for swimming because of the notorious currents around the headland although access to the water can be undertaken in the patrolled designated area when permitted and lifeguards are on duty.



Godrevy is a well renowned surfing beach because it can produce big waves when there is a good swell and they can be bigger and more consistent than further along the Bay. There is a surf school located next to the Bar and Restaurant on the Gwithian side of the Red River which operates all year



Low water with views across the Bay to St.Ives

and other surf schools regularly use Godrevy and the beach at Gwithian.



Snorkelling is not advised. Occasionally in very calm conditions in summer snorkelling by those who are experienced can be undertaken around the rocks on the northern side of the beach and the rocks just offshore (known as 'The Cleaders') although there might be seals for company as they are often around the headland and the rocks off the Cove.



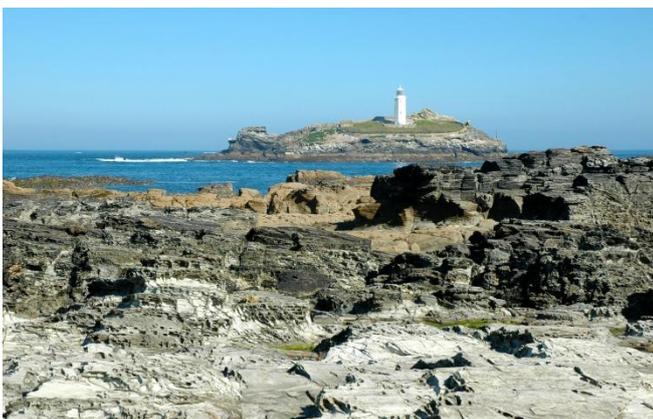
Rock pools abound in the rocky ledges from the beach northwards and are hugely interesting and are regarded by many as amongst the best along this stretch of coastline. Fishing off the rocks is practiced but can be dangerous and is not advised although beach fishing, especially for Bass, is popular.



Dogs are not permitted from the beginning of May to the end September between 8.00 to 19.00hrs.



The toilets are located above the field where there is seasonal parking which is over 500m from the main parking area; they are closed outside of the



Rocky areas north of the Cove

summer season.



There is a cafe that is open all year next to the main parking area. A bar and restaurant is nearby and can be reached from the main car park by crossing the bridge over the Red River, a distance of about 400m. There is a pub in Gwithian village 1.2kms from the main parking area.



Location – Part of OS Explorer Map 102



Views of the rocky areas and wonderful pools



Water quality is generally good but can be affected by the water coming down the Red River, especially after periods of heavy rain. It is a popular family beach with much to offer.

The Beach is owned and managed by the National Trust. On the western side of the Red River there is a reclaimed sand extraction area which is now managed by Cornwall Council as a Local Nature Reserve and is important for migratory birds. On the other side of the Nature Reserve is the site of one of the oldest Cornish Churches, St.Gothian's Chapel, which has been buried three times under the shifting sand dunes. The Cove also has notable geological features.