

PORTSCATHO

or Tatams & Porth Beaches

The small sheltered harbour at low water turns into two easterly facing beaches that are very sheltered from the prevailing westerlies. Portscatho, an attractive village (which in Cornish means ‘harbour of boats’) used to have a thriving pilchard fishing industry and is still the base for a number of inshore boats. The two beaches are known locally as Tatams and Porth and are joined at low water: both are good for sailing kayaking and similar watersports (but not Jet Skis). There are fine views across Gerrans Bay.



Tatams Beach at low tide

  **TR2 5HT** - From the A3078 to **St. Mawes**, at Trewithian follow the road signposted to Portscatho and Gerrans. There is a limited amount of on-street parking in the village close to the harbour but in summer it is time limited. The main car park (capacity about 85 cars) at the entrance to the village involves walk (about 500m) down through the village to Tatams Beach and a bit further to Porth Beach. This car park also serves nearby **Porthcurnick** Beach. Alternatively a small car park at Gerrans (capacity 30 cars) – **TR2 5EQ** - is about 600m and involves a walk down Gerrans Hill to the village Square. Access to the beaches is either down the slipway from River Street or alternatively another slipway from The Luggar.

 The main area of sand (Tatams Beach) is immediately below the River Street slipway and is fairly flat and is not really useable 1.5 hours either side of high water. Similarly, there is a small area of sand within the harbour wall, (Porth Beach) but in summer

it contains many craft. In between, there is a large area of fairly flat rocks. On the northern side of Tatams Beach it gives way to flat rock platforms which lead to **Porthcurnick**.



There is safety equipment at the harbour. It is safe to swim when conditions prevail. It is not a surfing beach. Care needs to be taken using inflatables when the wind is offshore. It is good for snorkelling on a high tide around Bass Rock (towards Porthcurnick) and around the harbour to Pencabe. The rock platforms between the two beaches provide numerous pools of interest as do the rocky areas along the foreshore northwards. It is also good for fishing off the rocks around Pencabe.



Tatams Beach



Porth Beach and Harbour



Dogs are permitted in autumn and winter but not from Easter Day until October. Toilets are located at the bottom of River Street above Tatams Beach and are open all year. There is a full range of village shops, cafes, restaurants and pub in the village mostly in the vicinity of The Square. The launching of small craft from the slipways but are subject to fees and regulations; a permit needs to be obtained from the harbourmaster. of high water. Similarly, there is a small area of sand



Location – Part of OS Explorer Map 105



The water quality is excellent, especially for a small harbour. The beaches are fairly clean as they are washed daily by the tide. Tatams is apparently named after a local resident. If a sheltered beach next to all the village type facilities is required, and, one that is sheltered and good for boating, Tatams Beach has much to offer: but not at high water if you want to sit on the sand.