

# ST.MAWES

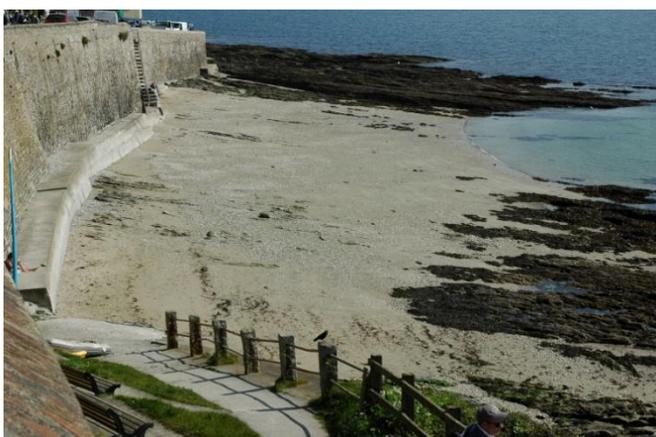
## Summers, Harbour, & Tavern Beaches and Castle Cove

This small town and delightful harbour is situated at the mouth of the Percuil River where it meets the Fal Estuary on the eastern side of Carrick Roads. It is more



Summers Beach with St.Mawes Harbour beyond

well known as a centre for boating and sailing activities and its Castle than its fine beaches. Summers Beach (often referred to as Freshwater Beach) is the largest and faces west out to Carrick Roads with wonderful views towards Falmouth Harbour. Tavern Beach is situated between the Harbour and the Castle and is popular because it is south facing, very sheltered and close to the town centre. The beach around the harbour 'pool' is the most accessible whilst Castle Cove is around Castle Point and faces directly on to Carrick Roads. It is possible to walk northwards along the foreshore at low water to a number of small sandy/shingle unnamed coves/beaches and as far as [Newton Beaches](#), [Tregear Beach](#) and the [St.Just Pool Beaches](#). There are also



Tavern Beach



Views of the shingle and sand Harbour Beach

some small shingle beaches east of Summers Beach past Polvarth Point facing out across the Percuil River. There is a regular pedestrian ferry from Falmouth to St.Mawes that runs all year and is a good way to visit the Harbour, Castle and beaches from points west of Truro as it saves a long drive. There is also a ferry service in summer across the Percuil River to Place and is a good way to access [Cellars Beach](#), [Lowlands Beach](#), and, with a short walk around Amsterdam Point along the Coast Path, [Great Molunan Beach](#). The Castle which was built in the 16<sup>th</sup> Century as part of the defences of the Fal Estuary dominates the entrance to the Percuil River, is a popular attraction and managed by English Heritage.



**TR2 5DJ** – From Truro and St.Austell on the A390 turn off on to the A3078 at Probus; this involves an 18km drive through the Roseland Peninsula. Alternatively from Truro take the A39 to Falmouth and turn off at Playing Place for the King Harry Ferry which is a memorable way to get to the Roseland and St.Mawes. The main large car park (capacity 250+cars)



Summers Beach and Tavern Beach on an ebbing tide

is situated off The Square just above the Harbour. There is a limited amount of parking (50 cars) on the Harbour Quay itself. These car parks are best for Summers and Tavern Beaches although there are two parking areas by the Castle (capacity about 200 cars in total) which are best for Castle Cove and also Tavern Beach. Outside the holiday season there is a certain amount of roadside parking along Tredenham Road and Marine Parade.



From the main car park it is a short walk of 240m along Tredenham Road to the steps down to Summers Beach and a further 100m to the slipway which gives suitable access for pushchairs and wheelchairs. There is a slipway down to the Harbour



Slipway at Summers Beach

Ramp at Tavern Beach

Beach and also access from The Square immediately opposite the car park entrance. Tavern Beach involves a walk along Marine Parade 220m beyond Harbour Quay although there are steps down to the rocky foreshore in between The Quay and Tavern Beach. It is 400m from the Castle car park to a good ramp access to the westerly end of Tavern Beach which is suitable for pushchairs and wheelchairs. At the bottom of the lower two Castle car parks is a short public footpath down to Castle Cove. To get to the foreshore and small beaches east of Summers continue along Tredenham Road past the slipway and around the corner on the right is a footpath down to the foreshore.



All the beaches are a mixture of sand, shingle and flat rock outcrops. Summers Beach and Castle Cove can often have a narrow strip of beach above high water but the others are covered at high tide. Summers and Tavern Beaches both have rocky areas at either end of the sandy/shingle areas. Castle Cove is the most exposed beach, especially from the west; all the beaches are hardly affected by any swell and the waters can often seem idyllically calm. None of the beaches get crowded although occasionally Tavern can appear so nearing high tide.



Castle Cove with the path down to the beach on the right



There is rescue equipment above all the beaches except Castle Cove. All the beaches are good for swimming at all stages of the tide although it is advisable to swim at Castle Cove on a rising tide because of currents in the Estuary. None of the beaches are suitable for surfing. Snorkelling around Castle Point can be interesting and is recommended; there are numerous rock pools at all the beaches.



Dogs are restricted at Summers and Tavern Beaches from Easter Day until the end of September. There are toilets in the main car park. There are a number of shops, cafes pubs and restaurants around the Harbour.



The views west from Summers Beach



The Harbour slipway is too steep to launch craft off trailers and it is not advisable to use the Summers Beach slipway except for kayaks.



Location – Part of OS Explorer Map 105



The water quality is not tested locally but is believed to be fairly good for an estuary. All the beaches are reasonably clean. They are better beaches than they may seem at first sight and offer great views of waterborne activities.