

POLPERRO

This picturesque small fishing harbour is a magnet for tourists because of its narrow streets, enchanting former fisherman's cottages which are all packed into a steeply sided valley. It is often described as the prettiest village in Cornwall. Whilst the harbour, boat trips and the quaint collection of shops, cafes, pubs and restaurants are the elements that most people remember, it does have a small beach outside of the harbour which at low tide is usually very crowded in summer. In Cornish Polperro is known as 'Porthpyra'.



The Harbour and beach from Peak Rock



PL13 2RJ - From Looe it is 8kms along the A387 to the main car park (very large - capacity over 500 cars) which is at Crumplehorn some 750m up the valley from the Harbour. If approaching from the west it is also necessary to use this car park. There are roads into Polperro from Lansallos and Talland Bay down very narrow roads that lead into the village but it is not advisable to use them as there is virtually no parking in the village at all for visitors. It is a gentle walk down 'The Coombe' to the centre of the village but in summer there is a 'horse bus', electric trolley and minibus that can be taken if required. The beach can be reached by walking along Quay Road on the south side of the Harbour where there are steps down to the beach next to the pier. There is a rocky foreshore with a natural bathing pool along the Coast



Sand and shingle beach



Small cave



Bathing Pool in the rocks



Beach next to the pier

Path the other side of Peak Rock which is easily accessible down a path and steps.



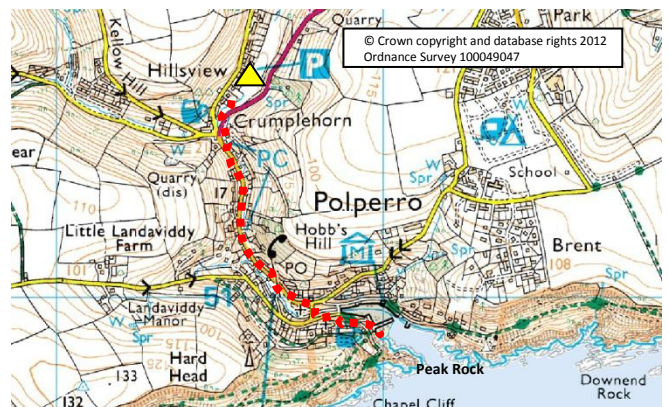
There is no beach at high water but as the tide recedes an area of grey sand mixed with shingle appears. It is not a large beach and unusually is on the side of the narrow inlet facing east. It is very sheltered from all directions and can be very crowded in summer; it can be affected by amounts of seaweed from time to time. There is a man-made pool at the end of the beach in addition to the natural pool.



There are safety/rescue points on the pier beside the beach. Swimming is best on a rising high tide from the beach and also round the point off the rocks. It is not a surfing beach; snorkelling is very good along the foreshore from Peak Rock to two rocky coves called Tea Cove and Swallow Cove. There are numerous rock pools in the rocky foreshore by the bathing pool.



Dogs are allowed on the beach. There are toilets on the northern side of the Harbour along The Warren (300m from the beach) and some up The Coombe (400m). There are numerous cafes, shops, restaurants and pubs close to the Harbour as well as boat trips for much of the year.



Location Part of OS Explorer Map 107



Water quality is very variable due to the proximity of the Harbour. The beach might not be special but the fishing tradition most certainly is.