

TALLAND SAND

Rotterdam Beach & Stinker Cove

Although only a short distance from both Polperro and Looe, Talland Bay is delightfully secluded. It has two main beaches, Talland Sand and Rotterdam Beach that are easily accessible plus the delightfully named Stinker Cove all of which is unusual along this stretch of coastline dominated by high cliffs. As a result it is popular in summer, especially with families.



Talland Sand at low water



PL13 2RY - There are two access roads from the A387 (the main road between Looe and Polperro) both of which are narrow with steep hills and sharp bends but end up very close to the beaches and car parking. The main parking area is next to Talland Beach and the Beach Shop and Cafe but is relatively small (capacity 60 cars) but is extended into the field beyond at peak times: it is closed from October until Easter (turning around is difficult). There is a small area that is used for parking (about 12 cars) above Rotterdam Beach and roadside parking between the



Rock pools on Rotterdam Beach with 'Stinkers' Beach beyond

two beaches for about 10/15 cars which is not affected by Parking restrictions.



There is easy access to both main beaches. Talland Beach has either steps or a slipway from the car park and is therefore suitable for some with disabilities. A narrow path from the roadside parking area down to the main beach is also widely used. There is a short sloping path down to Rotterdam Beach directly from the informal parking area. There is a permissive pedestrian access from Tren creek and also two tracks with permissive footpaths from Polperro.



People using Talland Bay concentrate on the two main beaches. Talland Beach is a mixture of greyish sand, shingle and rock but there is dry sand at high water and also sand at low water. Rotterdam Beach is mainly shingle and rock platforms. There are also less accessible beaches; a good beach locally known as 'Stinkers' can be found clambering over the rocks from Rotterdam in an easterly direction but be careful of the tides as it is cut off from half tide. Similarly, on the western side of the main beach there are some sandy easterly facing small coves, the nearest called Donkey Beach which can be accessed from the Coast Path or more easily across the rocks from Talland Sand. The low cliffs backing the main beaches are subject to erosion and cliff falls.



There is safety/rescue equipment but no lifeguards.



Access to Rotterdam Beach



The slipway to Talland Sand



It is a great place for swimming as it is sheltered and generally safe in summer under normal conditions although it is better on a rising high tide:

there are currents further out in the Bay. Many locals prefer swimming off Rotterdam Beach. Swimming off Stinker's Cove is also good.



It is not a surfing beach but if there is a swell it is possible to body board on the main beach away from the rocks.



The sheltered nature of the Bay makes it ideal for snorkelling. The Bay offers some very interesting underwater scenery and is well known for its prawns. There are numerous rock pools at low water with easy access to those between the two main beaches.



Talland Beach looking towards Downend Point



Dogs are permitted all year but on leads. The public toilets are located on the access road about 25m from the main beach and car park. There are no disabled facilities.



The well known beach cafe at the main beach also sells a range of beach related goods and is open 7 days a week from Easter to October. There is a cafe/restaurant above Rotterdam Beach that has its own car parking for patrons. It is possible to launch boats from the slipway on the main beach with the permission of the cafe owners. Smaller craft can use the sloping access on Rotterdam Beach. There are a large range of facilities at nearby Polperro and Looe.



Rotterdam Beach



Stinker Cove



Talland Sand



The beaches are not cleaned although there is no evidence of a particular problem other than the usual water borne litter. The water quality at nearby Looe has been variable in recent years but local knowledge would indicate water quality in the Bay is good.



Location – Part of OS Explorer Map 107



Talland Bay is an interesting place with lots of stories of Smuggling in the eighteenth century much of it linked with nearby Polperro. In 1979 a former fishing boat was caught in the Bay by the police and Customs and Excise bringing to an end one of the biggest drug smuggling gangs of the time. In 1922 a French fishing boat, the 'Marguerite' went aground in the Bay and there followed a heroic rescue which is well documented locally. The boiler of the Marguerite is visible at low tide lodged in the rocks. Polperro Heritage Museum contains many interesting details about smuggling and the history of Talland. Unusually, Talland is noted as a popular venue for 'Spear-fishing' competitions. It is also known as 'Port Talan' in Cornish.