

DURGAN

Polgwidden Cove, Robin's Cove & Grebe Beach

Four beaches on northern side of the Helford Estuary all of which are in secluded settings. Durgan Beach is backed by a picturesque hamlet owned by the National Trust at the bottom of an exotic wooded valley and the gardens of Glendurgan which is open to the public. Grebe Beach which is 200m to the east of



Durgan Beach looking west at low tide

Durgan has wonderful views out to the mouth of the Estuary. Polgwidden Cove which is 500m to the west of Durgan is a private beach and at the bottom of the wonderful Trebah Gardens which is open to the public; it is often referred to as Trebah Beach and is most easily reached through the Gardens (involving a charge). Robin's Cove is between Polgwidden Cove and Durgan Beach and is fairly small and secluded but only accessible along the foreshore. The beaches are well used by the boating fraternity in the Estuary.



TR11 5JR - From the Hillhead Roundabout on the A39 between Falmouth and Penryn follow the signs to Mawnan Smith (5.5kms). Go through the village and turn left just before reaching the National Trust property of Glendurgan. After 400m on the right is a car park (capacity 150+ cars including overflow facilities). This serves Durgan Beach, Grebe Beach and



Durgan Beach



Grebe Beach



Polgwidden Cove looking out to the mouth of the Estuary

both Robin's Cove and Polgwidden Beach if access is along the foreshore when tides permit is the favoured option. If access to Polgwidden is required through Trebah Gardens then continue from Mawnan Smith – **TR11 5JZ** - past the Durgan turn off and the entrance is well signed and on the left.



It is a 480m walk down the road from the car park to Durgan Beach where there is a slipway access which is suitable for pushchairs and wheelchairs. To get to Grebe Beach walk down the road from the car park and at the first sharp right hand bend there is a footpath on the left and a 150m walk down an easy access on to the beach. To get to Polgwidden Cove from Durgan Beach means a 500m scramble across the mostly rocky foreshore (with patches of shingle) although it is not too difficult; Robin's Cove is just before reaching Polgwidden. To get to Polgwidden



Views of Robin's Cove



Cove from the Trebah car park involves a walk down through the exotic gardens (500m) which is well worth it; it is not accessible from the Coast Path.



Durgan Beach is a mixture of sand and patches of shingle and small stones; there is little or no beach at high water but when the tide goes out a fine south facing beach is exposed with wonderful views out across the estuary. Grebe Beach has a more south easterly aspect with views across the estuary to [Ponsence Cove](#). It is much larger being over 200m long; there is little or no beach at high water. It slopes gently down to low water mark and is a mixture of



Access path to Grebe Beach

Slipway access at Durgan

sand and shingle. There is no beach at Robin’s Cove at high water but patches of sand, shingle and stone at low water. Polgwidden Cove has a more easterly aspect with memorable views out to the mouth of the Estuary. It slopes more steeply than the other beaches and has more sand at low water. It is also unusual in that it still has the remains of concrete standings which were created during the Second World War as part of the ‘D’ Day Landings. All the beaches are very sheltered, especially Durgan.



There is no safety equipment at any of the beaches.



All the beaches are relatively safe for swimming providing care is taken with the tidal currents in the Estuary; it is recommended that swimming is undertaken on a rising tide. None of the beaches have conditions suitable for surfing.



Snorkelling between the beaches is recommended, particularly at high water when there is much of interest. Similarly at low water there are



Grebe Beach at half tide from the access point on to the Beach

numerous rock pools to explore.



All the beaches are dog friendly. There are toilets at Durgan just above the beach but nothing at Grebe. If access to Polgwidden is through Trebah Gardens then the toilet facilities can be used.



There is a cafe next to the beach at Polgwidden but no facilities at the other beaches, the nearest being at Mawnan Smith or Helford Passage a short distance up the Estuary.



The slipway at Durgan can be used to launch dinghies and similar small craft although negotiating vehicular access in summer can be difficult and cars and trailers have to use the car park.

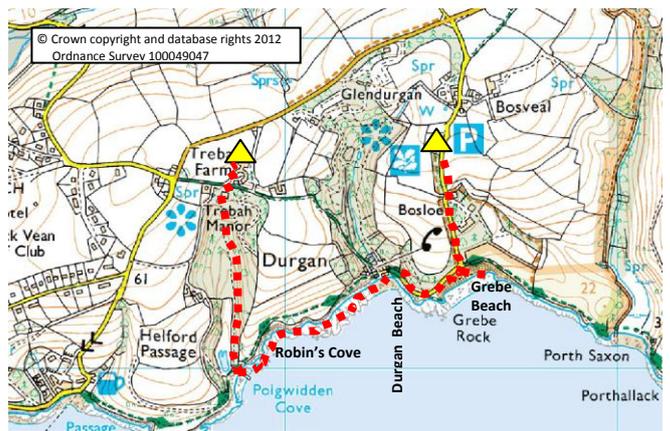


Views of Polgwidden Cove



Durgan Beach

Grebe Beach



Location – Part of OS Explorer Map 103



The water quality is good. The beaches are relatively clean. Durgan and Grebe beaches are secluded and the lack of swell makes them ideal for children. The views and the boating activities make them very special with short walks along the Coast Path to Porth Saxon and Helford Passage.