

PERRANUTHNOE

or Perran Sands

Very accessible with fine views across Mounts Bay it offers a wide expanse of sand at low water. The beach is backed by soft friable low cliffs (known as Trebarvah Cliffs) that are subject to constant erosion. There is a further beach situated across the rocks on the southern side of the main beach but it is mostly stony and rocky foreshore. [Trevean Cove](#) is 600m south of Perran Sands along the Coast Path. Immediately north of Maen du Point is [Temis](#), [Trevelyan](#), [Trenow](#) and [Venton Coves](#) before reaching [Marazion](#).



View at low water with Cudden Point in the distance



TR20 9NE - Perranuthnoe is signposted from the A394 Penzance - Helston Road. The car parking area is situated close to the beach (about 150m) and is fairly small (capacity 60 cars) but an adjacent field is opened for parking in summer. There is limited roadside parking on the hill through the village.



The short stretch of road from the car park leads to steps and a slipway directly on to the beach which makes access for those less mobile fairly straightforward. There is access to the further stony beach off the Coast Path approximately 500m from the car park.



The southern end of the beach



Sand below the slipway



The slipway



Steps down to the beach



At High Water there is usually little or no sand and only well worn stones which can be difficult to walk over for any length of time. In summer, as the tide recedes, a wonderful sandy beach is exposed which is over 350m in length. At certain times of the year (according to weather conditions) a sand bar can be formed across the beach leaving a shallow pool at low water. In winter the extent of the sand can be much reduced. There are rocky ledges at either end of the beach which are popular as is the slipway area at high tide. The beach to the south is mostly stony but small areas of sand can be found at low water – the rocks adjoining the main beach can provide shelter in windy conditions. The eroded cliffs tend to provide a somewhat undistinguished backdrop.



Views of the Beach



There are no lifeguard facilities despite its popularity indicating that it is a relatively safe beach for water use under most conditions. Rip currents sometimes occur after storms in winter. There is safety equipment at the top of the slipway. In summer, conditions are often very suitable for swimming although this is usually the case when there is less of a swell and winds are light and not on-shore. When there are off-shore winds the use of inflatables is not recommended especially by young children. When there is a good swell coming in from the Atlantic it can provide excellent conditions for surfing, body-boarding and kayak surfing, especially when the tide is low. In summer there can be periods when conditions are less favourable. It is a popular beach

with younger and less experienced surfers as the waves are often more suitable than nearby Praa Sands and the more well known surfing beaches on the north coast. It is a good beach for kayak surfing.



Snorkelling around the rocks and reefs off the northern end of the beach can be of considerable interest. Around the headland and towards Temis and Trevelyan Coves there are some fine reefs that are well worth exploring. In calm conditions snorkelling to [Trevean Cove](#) is recommended.



The rocky foreshore to the south of the main sandy beach



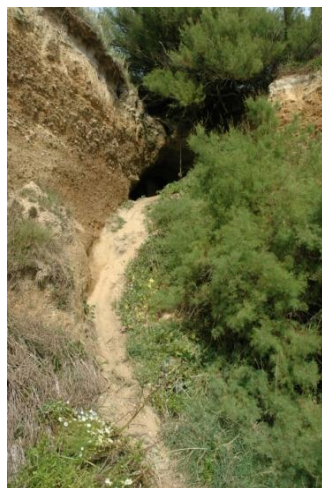
At low water the rocks at either end of the beach provide a limited number of pools which can be of interest. Fishing for bass is popular from the beach in late summer and autumn. Rock fishing off Maendu-Point can be worth while.



Dogs are permitted from November to April but are not permitted between 8.00hrs and 19.00hrs in summer. There are no restrictions on the stony beach to the south. Toilets are located in the car parking area and are open all year. There are no disabled facilities.



Mining adits above the beach



Water flowing out of the adit



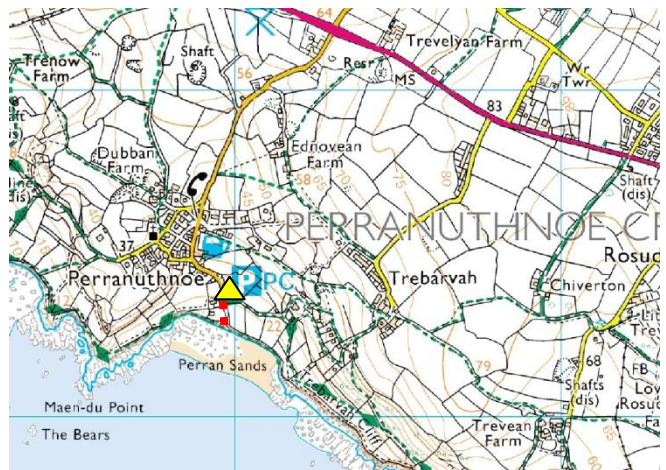
In winter looking towards Cudden Point



There is a beach cafe and shop immediately above the beach with outside seating on a grassy area. It is open nearly all the year and sells basic beach equipment. Up the road from the beach and car park there is a converted farmyard area with further refreshment facilities and shops. There is a well known pub 500m from the beach in the village. The nearest shops are at Marazion (2km) or the village of Goldsithney (1.5 km).



The slipway has vehicular access and is suitable for small craft, sailing dinghies, kayaks etc.



Location – Part of OS Explorer Map 102



The erosion problems have resulted in large boulders now protecting the slipway as part of sea defence works. Whilst these have proved quite successful, the unprotected Trevarbah cliffs have been receding significantly after winter storms. Evidence of past mining near to the beach is clear from the 2 adits which appear in the cliffs; water usually flows from one of them providing a stream across the beach and of much interest to children. The water quality of the stream is good and the sea generally excellent.