

PORTHCHAPEL

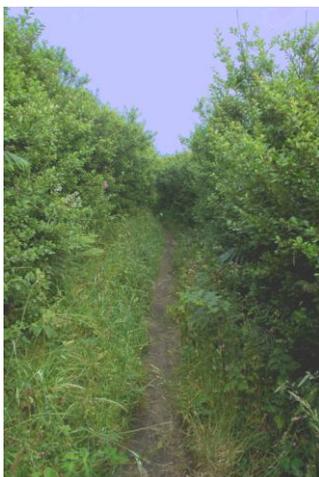
This is a gloriously sandy beach set in between the breathtaking granite cliffs of Pedn-men-an-Mere and Carn Barges. Although only 650m from the hustle and bustle of the famous Minack Theatre it is a quiet and peaceful beach with more than a touch of West Cornwall magic.



The beach nestled between granite promontories



TR19 6JS – The car park and footpath to the beach are a further 450m from the postcode location. On the A30 4kms west of Penzance take the B3283 to St.Buryan and follow the signs to [Porthcurno](#) and the Minack Theatre. Pass through Porthcurno and go up the hill past the entrance to the Minack and 500m further on is a car park field (capacity 200+ cars) just above the delightful St.Levan Church. Opposite the entrance to the car park is an access road and footpath to the beach (450m) past St.Levan's Well. At the end it is a scramble down the granite to the beach which is not suitable for the less mobile.



Access path



Access down to the Beach



Looking towards The Vessacks



The Beach above high water



It is not a large beach but nevertheless is over 180m long at low water. Even at spring tides there is a substantial area of fairly coarse shell based sand above high water. The beach slopes quite markedly from high water mark. It faces south and can be very sheltered.



There is safety equipment above the beach. Care needs to be taken when swimming which is safest on a rising high tide. There can be some surf which can be good for bodyboarding. In favourable conditions snorkelling is good around the headlands on either side but it is not a rock pooling beach.



There are restrictions on dogs below the high tide line from the beginning of May until the end of September (8.00hrs to 19.00hrs). The nearest toilets are in the car park at [Porthcurno](#) (800m from Porthchapel car park). There is a beach cafe at Porthcurno (700m) and a village shop (1km).



Location – Part of OS Explorer Map 102



Sea water quality is very good although the stream is unknown. Porthchapel is named after the remains of an early Christian site, the remains of which are above the beach and the stream. The ancient well was restored in 2003. [Porthgwarra](#) is only a 1km wonderful walk along the Coast Path. It is also only just over 1km to [Porthcurno](#) past the Minack Theatre along the Coast Path – and well worth it.