

PORT ISAAC

A picturesque fishing village and harbour, nestling at the end of a valley, which has a fairly large sandy beach (when the tide is out) within the harbour walls. Because it is an active working harbour, (with some of the upper parts of the beach used for vehicle parking when tides permit), it has less credentials as a beach despite the large numbers of visitors that flock to Port Isaac. There is much evidence of a thriving fishing industry although before modern transport it was an important port in North Cornwall importing timber and coal and exporting wheat and slate. The harbour has medieval origins and means Porthusek in Cornish.



View of the harbour at low water from Roscarrack Hill



PL29 3SG - From the A39 at Wadebridge, take the B3314 and then the B3267; Port Isaac is well signed from both. Alternatively, from the A39 north of Camelford take the B3314 through Delabole and then the B3267. Once in Port Isaac turn right and continue along New Road and the car park (capacity 100+ cars) is on the left with great views along the coast. It is 400m walk along New Road and down Back Hill to the harbour area. Until recently there was parking on the sand in the harbour; there is additional parking at the entrance to the village on Trewetha Lane. There are slipways that give an easy access to the beach and harbour area.



The harbour walls



Sandy beach below the slipways



Views from Fore Street above the Harbour



Walkway to the Harbour wall



Slipway to the beach



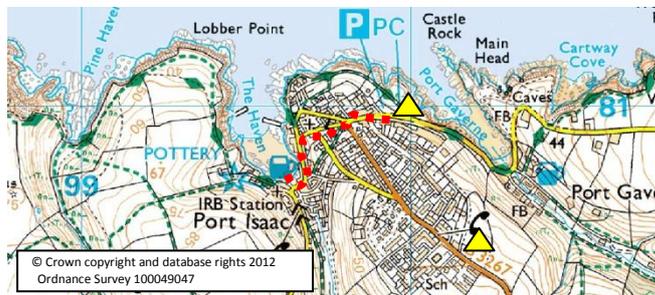
The sandy beach is mostly covered at high water but recedes as far as the harbour walls at low tide. When there is little vehicle activity on the beach, the south easterly corner is pleasant, very sheltered, and is often a popular spot. To some, watching the activities associated with fishing, both on the beach and slipways are of much interest.



There is safety equipment above the beach. Swimming can be undertaken in the harbour quite safely but it is not to everyone's taste. It is not advisable to venture out of the harbour because of strong currents. Obviously there is no surf. People do snorkel within and also outside the harbour when conditions prevail. There are a number of rock pools within the harbour area.



Dogs are permitted. There are toilets on the westerly side of the harbour at the bottom of Roscarrack Hill. Cafes, restaurants, shops and pubs are immediately adjacent to the harbour.



Location – Part of OS Explorer Map 106



Contact with the Harbour Commissioners is necessary to launch craft from the slipways. Water quality can be very variable as it is a working harbour. It is not a classic Cornish beach but the hustle and bustle make it most interesting.