

Walking



Lelant Saltings

What better way to explore this beautiful area of West Cornwall than on foot? The St Ives Bay Line gives good access to walking routes such as the South West Coast Path which follows the line from Lelant's St Uny Church to Carbis Bay then on to St Ives. Walk the entire section or travel by train between stations walking back along the Coast Path to your starting point.

The 12 mile St Michael's Way is accessible from Lelant or Carbis Bay. This fine coastal and cross-country route leads to Marazion and St Michael's Mount, start with a train ride to Lelant and end with a bus connection from Marazion.

For a detailed map of the area pick up Ordnance Survey Explorer Map 102, Lands End.

Walk 1



St Uny Church Yard

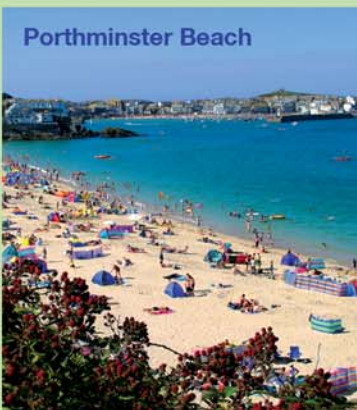
LELANT TO CARBIS BAY

DISTANCE: 2 1/4 miles / 3.6 kms TIME: 1hr 15min

From Lelant station turn right along The Saltings road and continue when it merges to Green Lane. Pass a junction with a lane from the right, keep ahead until you meet a T-Junction, here turn right to reach St Uny Church. Follow the walled path to the left of the church, continue along a sandy path across the golf course. Follow the Coast Path signs down right.

Continue through the dunes above Porth Kidney Beach, then climb steadily to the headland of Carrack Gladden. Here, just past a railway crossing, the path branches right, signposted 'Coast Path' and 'To Beach'. The higher, main path follows the railway to Carbis Bay, the lower right-hand path runs along the edge of low cliffs to reach the approach road to Carbis Bay Beach.

Walk 2



Porthminster Beach

CARBIS BAY TO PORTHMINSTER BEACH

DISTANCE: 1 1/4 miles / 2 kms TIME: 40 min

From the station car park, go down the road towards the beach. Pass below Carbis Bay Hotel then follow a surfaced path steeply left, then right to reach a rail footbridge. Cross the bridge, then continue along the main footpath to reach a wider lane coming in from the left. The lane becomes surfaced. Continue past houses to a junction, the right branch is signed 'Pedestrians Only'.

Option 1

The higher, left hand route, leads past the preserved 'Old Baulking House' an historic building once used by local fishermen to look out for pilchard shoals in the bay below. From here a man called the 'Huer' used hand held signalling devices to direct the men in the boats as they set out the huge seine net.

At the cross-roads just beyond the Baulking House keep ahead, signposted 'Coast Path', passing wayside seats. Cross a railway bridge, where the lane bends sharply right, keep straight ahead down a narrow path and steps to reach the Porthminster Café and beach. Go along behind the beach huts, then keep ahead for St Ives past the Pedn Olva Hotel, or go up steps to reach the railway station.

Option 2

The lower, right-hand route, from the junction leads downhill and then bends left. Where it levels off by the railway, cross a stile on the right to a track which leads beneath the railway and out to Porthminster Point, a peaceful scenic headland. The main route continues along a surfaced road past houses. Follow the lane left and uphill to the last house and a 'No Parking' sign. Bear off right along a narrow path beneath trees. At the T-Junction with a lane turn right to cross the railway bridge. Where the lane bends sharply right, keep straight ahead down a narrow path and steps to reach the Porthminster Café and beach.



Penzance Promenade



Penzance



St Ives Harbour

St Ives

The Island

Beaches

Porthmeor Beach



Carbis Bay

A splendid family beach with summer lifeguards and great facilities. No dogs Easter to October.

Porthminster Blue Flag Beach

A 1/2 mile stretch of sheltered, safe sandy beach. Summer lifeguards, toilets, shops and café. No dogs Easter to October.

St Ives Harbour

Town centre harbour beach suitable for swimming but no lifeguards. No dogs Easter to October.

Porthgidden

Near to The Island. Small, secluded suntrap for swimming and surfing. Toilets and shops but no lifeguard. No dogs Easter to October.

Porthmeor Blue Flag Beach

St Ives' main surfing beach overlooked by the Tate. Summer lifeguards, surf school, toilets and shops nearby. No dogs Easter to October.

Carbis Bay to St Ives

From Carbis Bay the line crosses the Carbis Valley by a four-arched viaduct, runs along the tree-shaded cliffs and across Porthminster Point, from where a spectacular view of St Ives unfolds, before reaching its terminus above the magnificent Porthminster Beach in St Ives.



Travel by train and save £1 on admission

March to October
Open daily
10:00 - 17:20

November to February
Open Tuesday to Sunday
10:00 - 16:30

Free entry for 18s and under and 60s and over

With family workshops, the finest modern and contemporary art, and the most spectacular coastal setting - there's something for everyone to enjoy at Tate St Ives.

Porthmeor Beach, St Ives
Cornwall TR26 1TQ
01736 794226
www.tate.org.uk/stives



PARK & RIDE

Lelant Saltings

St Erth to Lelant Saltings

From St Erth the branch line curves away to the north, crosses beneath the main A30 road and then follows the western edge of the Hayle Estuary to reach Lelant Saltings Park and Ride halt.

Lelant Saltings to Lelant

Beyond Lelant Saltings the line runs along an embankment. From here there are superb views across the Hayle Estuary to the town of Hayle, noted for its industrial heritage and golden beaches.

Lelant to Carbis Bay

From Lelant the line runs past the mouth of the Hayle Estuary, turning north above the open sea and vast tidal beach of Porth Kidney Sands then running through a deep cutting across the headland of Carrack Gladden whose Cornish name translates as 'the rocks on the brink'.



The St Ives Bay Line

Lelant

Hayle

St Erth

St Ives Bay Line

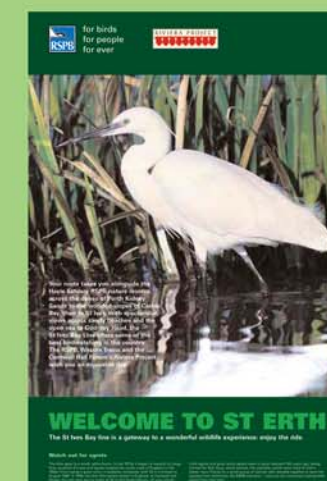
Cornish Mainline

Bird Watching and The St Ives Bay Line

Welcome to The St Ives Bay Line, arguably the prettiest in the South West....and BRILLIANT FOR BIRDS!

The RSPB, together with the Cornwall Rail Forum's Riviera Project have introduced a range of station improvements to help make your journey more enjoyable. Your route here takes you alongside the Hayle Estuary RSPB Nature Reserve, then across the dunes of Porth Kidney Sands and on through the wooded slopes of Carbis Bay before arriving at the town of St Ives. With spectacular views across the sandy beaches and the open sea to Godrevy Head, the journey around St Ives Bay offers some of the best birdwatching in the country. Each station has its own interpretation board with information about the birds to look out for in the local area.

Birdwatching



....So put your books away and enjoy the ride!

For further information on RSPB activities in the area Tel: 01736 711682



St Michael's Mount

A Trip on the Line....

Penzance to St Erth

The railway line runs east from Penzance alongside the sandy shores of Mount's Bay where St Michael's Mount dominates the scene. The line then crosses the Marazion Marsh Nature Reserve, once an open estuary and now an important reed bed noted for its hundreds of species of birds, insects and plants, before turning inland to pass through peaceful farming country and on to St Erth station.

Useful Websites:

- www.carfreedaysout.com
- www.railaletrail.com
- www.visit-westcornwall.com
- www.firstgreatwestern.co.uk
- www.nationalrail.co.uk
- www.cornwalltouristboard.co.uk

St Michael's Mount



Devon & Cornwall RAIL PARTNERSHIP

Supported by First Great Western

The St Ives Bay Line

This guide gives an introduction to the places and activities that can be accessed from the St Ives Bay Line, arguably the branch line with the most stunning views in the whole of England. It is one of The Great Scenic Railways of Devon & Cornwall.

Running between the main line station of St Erth, with connections to Penzance and Plymouth, and the picturesque harbourside town of St Ives, the line takes in some dramatic views as it sweeps along the coast. Summer Park and Ride facilities are available at Lelant Saltings.

History

The St Ives Bay Line has been described as one of the most spectacular railway journeys in the Country, revealing breathtaking views as the track hugs the edge of the cliff in a superb feat of Victorian engineering.

The line first opened to passengers on 1st June 1877, and was the last railway in Britain to be built to Brunel's 'Broad Gauge'. The opening of the branch line helped to stimulate the early tourist trade, developing St Ives into a popular holiday resort. By the 1950's the famous 'Cornish Riviera Express' ran directly to St Ives on Summer Saturdays and, on occasion, was a staggering 12 carriages long!

For its first 50 years the line carried a mix of freight and passenger business, but from 1920 onwards freight started to give way to increased leisure usage. By the 1960s freight-carrying ended and the branch was listed in the Beeching Report for closure, but was reprieved by Barbara Castle, the then Transport Minister.

However the branch didn't escape rationalisation with Carbis Bay and Lelant stations being downgraded to halts and the station complex at St Ives being demolished to make way for a car park, a reflection of the move towards road transport. Ironically the ensuing traffic congestion led Penwith District Council to establish a Park and Ride scheme at Lelant Saltings in 1978.

Today the St Ives Bay Line is still the best way to arrive in town, beating traffic congestion and sharing with passengers the kind of views that keep visitors and locals alike dreaming of St Ives Bay.



Your guide to discovering the beauty of St Ives Bay by rail
The St Ives Bay Line

Rail Information Times:

Local timetables are available from staffed stations and Tourist Information Centres. For details of all train times and fares contact National Rail Enquiries on 08457 48 49 50, textphone 0845 60 50 600, www.nationalrail.co.uk or www.firstgreatwestern.co.uk

Tickets:

The St Ives Bay Line Ranger: The St Ives Bay Line Ranger gives you the freedom to travel the branch line between St Erth and St Ives as much as you like, all day long. No need to worry about getting a particular train, this is your passport to exploring the unparalleled beauty of St Ives Bay. There are adult, child and family fares, plus 50% off for Devon and Cornwall Railcard holders. There is a 'one stop hop' fare too.

Cornish Ranger: For even more flexibility, the Cornish Ranger gives you the freedom to roam all the rail lines in the county for a day - including Plymouth and the Tamar Valley. It's valid after the morning peak weekdays, any time at weekends and Bank Holidays.

Cheap Day Return: For travelling further afield, to or from Penzance, Hayle or stations further east, there are Standard Day Singles and Returns (valid at any time), and Cheap Day Returns (valid off peak). Children (5-15 yrs) half price, under 5s free. One third off for Railcard holders.

GroupSave: GroupSave allows groups of three or four individuals to travel for the price of two adult Cheap Day Returns and take up to four accompanying children for £1 each Return.

Cornwall Passport to Freedom: This ticket offers you 3 days unlimited travel (out of seven) on all Train Operators services in Cornwall and unlimited travel on most bus services in Cornwall operated by First, Hopleys Coaches, Sunset Travel, Truronian and Western Greyhound. (Only available from staffed stations within Cornwall).

Devon and Cornwall Rover: The Freedom of Devon and Cornwall Rover ticket gives you 3 in any 7 or 8 in any 15 day period unlimited travel in the two counties. Valid after the morning peak weekdays and any time weekends or Bank Holidays.

RideCornwall: RideCornwall gives the holder one day's unlimited travel on all rail and most bus services within Cornwall and between Cornwall and Plymouth (plus the Tamar Valley Line), after 09:00 Monday to Friday and at any time on Saturdays, Sundays and Bank Holidays.

RideCornwall is valid on the following operators' services: First Great Western, Virgin Trains, First Devon & Cornwall, Western Greyhound and Truronian.

Bikes on Trains: Two cycles can be carried on all services, space permitting, on a first-come first-served basis. Cycle reservations can be made on most mainline services, there is no charge for this. Folding cycles can be carried as hand luggage without any restriction. There are also cycle parking facilities at most main stations.

Bus Links: For details of all public transport links, including local bus services contact Traveline on 0870 608 2 608 or visit ww.traveline.org.uk

Tourist Information: St Ives - The Guildhall, Street-an-Pol, Tel 01736 796297
Penzance - Station Approach, Tel 01736 362207



St Ives

Today, as for centuries before, life in the picturesque town of St Ives centres on the harbour where fishing boats still moor alongside granite piers. The maze of narrow cobbled streets, lined by fishermen's cottages and steep sloping passageways, that radiate from the harbour bear testament to the town's long fishing history.

When the railway reached St Ives in 1877 the town became a magnet for early tourists and distinguished artists. As fishing declined during the early 20th Century, tourism, and the town's growing international reputation as an art 'colony', transformed the old fishing port into one of Europe's most distinctive holiday resorts, within which the enduring character of a much older St Ives still survives.

Today St Ives is still home to a thriving art community reflected in the 1993 opening of the Tate St Ives and the wealth of art studios, shops and galleries that line the narrow streets. Also part of the Tate Gallery is the Barbara Hepworth Museum, a lasting memorial to the great sculptress who lived and worked in St Ives at her Trewyn Studio.

Take a leisurely walk along the coastpath and return by branch line train. Enjoy the view across to Godrevy Lighthouse. Take a short boat trip to watch seals basking on the rocks, relax on Porthminster beach, or enjoy the waves at Porthmeor, St Ives' surfing beach. St Ives has something that will appeal to everyone, young or old.

Carbis Bay



Carbis Bay extends south from St Ives and lies on the most sheltered part of St Ives Bay. The Bay takes its name from the Carbis Valley, home to the famous providence mines where hundreds of men, women and children worked mining copper and tin.

From Carbis Bay station the road runs downhill to a wide, sheltered beach with soft golden sand. Carbis Bay beach is one of the finest in Cornwall and has excellent facilities, ideal for families (summer lifeguards, shop café, hot food take-away and toilets).

Lelant



Lelant Halt is one of the most picturesque features of the branch line. The attractive village lies on the edge of the sheltered Hayle Estuary. Its splendid Norman church of St Uny and St Anta stands within a grassy enclave above the golden expanse of the tidal Porth Kidney Sands (summer lifeguards) and next to the West Cornwall Golf Club.

Follow Station Hill for about 200 yards up to Lelant Village where there is a shop, post office and attractive pub, The Badger Inn.



Lelant Saltings

Lelant Saltings is the 'Park & Ride' station for St Ives - the easy way to beat the traffic jams and parking queues in St Ives. There's plenty of space to park and it's clearly signed from the main A30. Best of all you get to travel on the St Ives Bay Line and see the spectacular coastal scenery - you won't get this if you arrive by car! There are trains every half hour for most of the day, so if you want to arrive in St Ives in style, use Saltings Park & Ride and take the train.



St Erth

The village of St Erth lies about ¾ mile from the station and can be reached by following Treloweth Lane under the railway bridge then turning left at the T-Junction down Tredrea Lane to reach St Erth Bridge and the handsome St Erth Church.

The village square and popular Star Inn are situated uphill from the bridge and a pleasant walk leads along the west side of the river.

Penzance



The ancient market town of Penzance is set in beautiful Mounts Bay, a body of water dominated by the grandeur of St Michael's Mount.

The town is within easy reach of the station and has a wealth of busy shopping streets to explore. The main thoroughfare is Market Jew Street, a busy shopping street that connects with the harbour area through the Wharveside Shopping Centre.

Other places to explore are the pedestrianised Causewayhead and the delightful Chapel Street, an ancient thoroughfare that winds down to the seafront between handsome traditional buildings, specialist shops, pubs and restaurants.

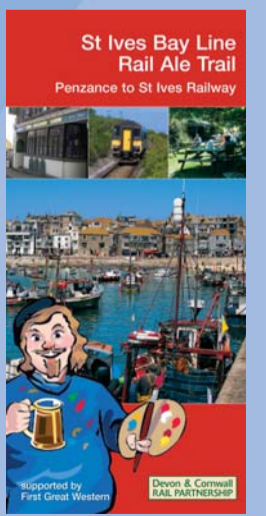
Beyond the harbour is the open air Jubilee Bathing Pool designed in a nostalgic art-deco style. From the Jubilee Pool, Penzance's famous promenade, the longest in Cornwall, runs along the Mount's Bay shoreline.

The St Ives Bay Line Rail Ale Trail

This new leaflet lets you explore a range of distinctive pubs, serving real ales and ideally situated within walking distance of the St Ives Bay Line.

Present the leaflet, with your train ticket, to staff at participating pubs who will stamp it with a unique St Ives Bay Line Rail Ale stamp. You can then send for exclusive souvenirs based on how many stamps you have collected. This quality collection includes t-shirts, listing all the names of participating pubs, stickers and enamel badges.

These free leaflets are available at participating pubs, staffed railway stations, information centres, by calling 01752 233094 or may be downloaded from www.railaletrail.com



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