

Information on St Ives.

Below is some facts and items you can use to look up and find out more information on for your fact file.



Discover St Ives

Winner of a showcase of national awards, including best family holiday destination by Coast magazine and one of the 10 best European beach destinations compiled by TripAdvisor, St Ives is a wonderful resort where the beaches are golden, the vegetation is lush and the light piercingly bright!

It's no wonder then that the town has been attracting artists for decades, who come to capture the area's undeniable natural beauty. It started with J M W Turner and the marine artist Henry Moore who first came to St Ives in the mid-1800s and since then the town has become a magnet for some of the world's greatest painters, sculptors and ceramists.

Reasons to visit St Ives

- It is one of Cornwall's top destinations.
- It has numerous galleries and exhibitions
- It attracts famous artists all year round
- It has our fabulous beaches with the UK's mildest climate: Porthmeor, Porthgwidden, Harbour beach, Porthminster
- There is fantastic surf at Porthminster beach and a surf school
- There are plenty of pavement cafes, ancient pubs and top-notch eateries with mouth-watering menus
- It has a working harbour
- The beauty of this holiday is that you can dump the car and walk everywhere.

Things to do in St Ives

- Arrive in breath-taking style by taking the twenty-minute train ride on the popular branch line from St Erth to St Ives and be the first to spot the colourful fishing boats coming into harbour as the branch line snakes around the golden bays to the town
- Kick off your shoes and stroll along the white sand at Portminster Beach where, out in the bay, you'll see the dreamy view of Godrevy Lighthouse, inspiration for Virginia Woolf's famous novel 'To the Lighthouse'
- Visit the Barbara Hepworth Museum and Sculpture Garden in St Ives where sculptures by one of the country's leading 20th century artists are exhibited in tranquil gardens. Wander along pathways through trees and shrubs and discover some of her most celebrated works in bronze and limestone
- At the top of the town can be found the Bernard Leach Pottery, established in 1920 and now a working museum
- Behind the 14th century Sloop Inn on the Wharf and the Harbour beach there is a maze of narrow cobbled streets and fisherman's cottages. This is the heart of old St Ives, known to the locals as 'Downlong'
- Spend an hour or so delving into the life and times of bygone St Ives at the local museum. The large space is packed with memorabilia and artefacts that reflect St Ives's long and varied history including fishing, boatbuilding, art and agriculture
- There are only four Tate galleries in the world and one of them is Tate St Ives. Opened in 1993 in recognition of the international importance of art in Cornwall and St. Ives in particular, the impressive gallery holds hundreds of works produced by the St. Ives School from the late 1800's through to the 21st century. In late 2017 it reopened with a much larger floor space including extra gallery space
- Since the 1930s visitors have been taking the boat trip from the harbour out sea to watch the local colony of seals frolicking in the sea and sunbathe on the rocks. Located 3½ miles (6km) to the West of St Ives, the aptly named Seal Island is home to more than 40 seals who inquisitively like to say 'hello'
- Enjoy a family day at the beach building sand castles, playing in the rock pools or if you're feeling adventurous grab a surfing lesson from the local surf school
- Visit Porthmeor, Porthgwidden, Porthminster and the Harbour beach.

- Visit St Ives Town: it has quirky independent shops, cafes, restaurants and galleries on its cobbled streets, in addition to all the above.

Places/things to eat:

Fish and chips - no proper British seaside holiday is complete without fish and chips. *Harbour Fish & Chips* is a wonderful place in St Ives where you can get takeaways, including fragrant haddock, chips and minted peas.

Cornish Pasties - Cornwall is famous for its pasties. Can you find out what they are made from and where you can buy them in St Ives?

The St Ives Bakery. Known for making "the best bread you'll ever eat". Just follow the smell of freshly baked loaves in the old town, and join the queue.

The Porthminster Café - this is bang on the beach! You can reach it via the coastal path, so perfect for a stroll before you eat. They serve seafood and burgers and pasta for the children - all with a terrific view of the beach!

I should Coco - homemade chocolate shop with chocolate-making workshop.

Exploring the area:

It's perfectly possible to relax in St Ives for a week but if you want to explore, you can take a day trip to the pretty seaside town of Padstow, about an hour's drive away. From Padstow, you could hire bikes near the Camel Trail. This is paradise: 18 miles of largely traffic-free trail along a disused railway line. It is 11 miles to cycle from Padstow to Wadebridge and back through stunning scenery.

Cornwall is famous for its beaches and there are loads nearby St Ives - one of the closest and best for kids is Carbis Bay.

There's also plenty to do if the weather isn't so great, including The Eden Project and Cornish Seal Sanctuary, both about an hour's drive from St Ives.