

eastcliffe port isaac cornwall



Port isaac - a quick guide

Directions

Once you get to the village, just make your way down to the harbour (keep going down hill!). On the way, you have to go past the gate to Eastcliffe which looks like this.....



The gate leads to the drive (ample parking) and the back door of the cottage. Open the gates and drive in.

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shops

The Co-op

At the top of the village, the main food store with a good selection of most things. Open til 10pm

Kernow Deli

Deli at the top of the village, selling all sorts.

Secrets

On the way down to the village selling paintings, clocks and all sorts!

The Boathouse Stores and Post Office

Clothes, cards, gifts, newspapers

Martin Demspey, artist

Gallery half way down to the village. Does what it says on the tin

Charmed

Part of the Lewellyn Bowen empire selling all sorts of gifts

Hooper and Shaw

Gifts and stuff. Opposite Secrets

Wavehunters

Surf stuff. Base of Wavehunters UK Ltd - surf lessons at Polzeath beach

Pride of Place

Down by the harbour. Sweets, fudge and ice cream

Dennis Knight fish merchant

Full range of fish in the fish cellars

Just Shellfish

Does what it says on the tin. In the fish cellars.

Fearless

Gifts and funky stuff. Opposite Wavehunters down the bottom.

Nicki B's deli and bakery

Pasties, pastries, coffee and related stuff. Opposite Pebbles and Fearless

eating

The Slipway

Next to the harbour, a hotel, restaurant and bar. Posh restaurant inside and bar type food served outside under cover. Great on a sunny afternoon. Plenty of fish.

The Mote

On the Plat at the top of the beach. Restaurant, cafe and bar.

Blue Tomato Cafe

At the top of the village next to the main carpark. Fantastic views out across the bay, this restaurant and bar serves excellent contemporary food.

Port Gaverne Hotel

At the top of the beach at Port Gaverne, long established hotel bar and restaurant. A little more traditional.

The Harbour

At the top of the Plat, small friendly restaurant with emphasis on seafood.

The Watershed

Almost next to the Blue Tomato Cafe (see above), more modestly priced food in a relaxed atmosphere.

Pebbles

Cafe winebar at the bottom of the village serving cakes, pastries hot and cold drinks and top ice cream.

Cupcakes

In Middle Street serving breakfast lunch and cakes.

The Takeaway

Fish and chips etc 50 yards from the front door (turn right).

The Old School

Opposite Eastcliffe.

Pubs

Food is available at all the pubs. See the drinking page.

drinking

The Golden Lion

Port Isaac's proper pub run by Mike Edkins and his team. Overlooking the harbour with a large balcony, the Lion serves St Austell ales and a full range of beer and food. The oldest and the best.

The Crow's Nest

At the top of the village opposite the main carpark with fantastic views over the bay. Open all day, a free house serving food as well.

Restaurants with bars

You can also get a drink with or without a meal at most of the restaurants including The Edge, The Mote, The Slipway and The Port Gaverne Hotel.

Things to do

1 minute from harbour and beach and great walks along cliffs



Less than one minute from good pub (balcony overlooking harbour and good food)



Other pubs and various good restaurants all within walking distance



30 minutes to Eden Project



20 minutes Padstein (sorry that should be Padstow!)



10 minutes surfing at Polzeath, Newquay 30 mins



Fishing/pleasure trips from harbour



Easy reach several outstanding National Trust Properties

NT

Local supermarket or takeaway if you can't be bothered.



Look out for Doc Martin!

Things to do - kids

Port Isaac is a great place for kids, young and not so young. Here are a few things to do.

- Try **climbing the rocks** down on the beach - be careful

- How about **rockpooling** at Port Isaac or Port Gaverne? If you lift up the rocks on the beach, especially quite close to the sea (tide going out is best) you can find shrimps and crabs- watch those claws!

- **Crabbing**- crab lines are available at the Pisky Gift shop. Having said that, all you really need is a decent length of string and a bit of fish - try asking at Dennis Knight Fish Merchant in the Cellars by the beach for some fish cuttings. If you put the lines in the sea from the steps to the breakwater (the right hand one looking from the beach), crabs are very easy to catch. For the most success, you need a bucket to keep them in and a net to catch them when you pull the lines up. Great fun for kids and Dads. Warning the breakwater steps can be **very slippery** - be careful. Chuck the crabs back when you've finished.

- **Swimming** - you can swim at both Port Isaac and Port Gaverne although the latter is probably better

- **Skimming stones** - can you do it? Find flat stones (at the top of the beach is best) - hold flat between your thumb and forefinger. Throw keeping flat and spinning the stone with a flick of your wrist. See who can do the most bounces - 12 is our record!

- **Ice cream** - get your parents to buy you an ice cream from one of the shops and eat it. No better way to spend your time

- **Lifeboat** - have a look at the lifeboat in its house at the top of the beach. Try putting a coin in the spinning money box. This is not a plug for the RNLI - we think the collecting box is cool and kids love it (1ps are best!!)

- **Playground** - there's a good play ground at the top of the village as you head to Trewetha - just past the school on the left

- **Fishing or sightseeing trips** - there are a couple of boats running trips. See the posters on display around the village.

- **Try our quiz** (copy attached)

Around Port Isaac

The Olde House at Chapel Amble - swimming pool, playground and soft play (sign posted from main Camelford to Wadebridge road (A39))

Wadebridge Leisure Centre - swimming and lots of other activities (turn right at mini roundabout at top of Wadebridge when approaching from A39 end)

Walking on the beach - try Rock, Polzeath or Daymer Bay

Surfing - there are several surf schools and hire places on and near the beach at Polzeath

Sailing and water skiing - there are sailing and ski schools at Rock - follow the road to the car park and you'll see them on the right.

Cornwall Coast Adventures – Port Quin – kayaking and coasteering. See signs around the village.

Walks

A. A short tour of the village

1. Go down the front steps. Turn right.
2. Straight ahead of you is the entrance to the playground of the old school – closed in 1978 for fear of the “playground slipping into the sea”. Later sold as a hotel and the playground is now a carpark.....
3. On the right is the Post Office (for now). This is where the lifeboat was originally kept.
4. The low wall opposite Eastcliffe is called “Little Hill”. Over the years, locals (especially fishermen) have gathered here to check on the state of the tide and make sure their boats are safe.
4. Walk down the street.
5. The second low wall on the right is called “The Pentice” and has been used for much the same purposes as “Little Hill”
6. As the road bends right, go straight on leaving the bakery on your left and Pebbles café on your right. This is Temple Bar. The narrow section at the end is called Squeeze Belly Alley by local kids for obvious reasons. It was reputed to be the narrowest street in the world, but alas the Guinness Book of Records no longer agrees!
7. At the end turn right and walk down Dolphin Street. Dolphin House on the left hand side of the street used to be a pub. The last house on the left features in “Doc Martin” as the chemist shop.
8. Where Dolphin Street joins Middle Street, turn left.
9. Follow the road until you reach the end. Down the lane to the right are the remains of the Wesleyan “Chapel in the Valley” – now part of a house/garden. The house called “The Pump” just before that also featured in Doc Martin.
10. Take the small lane in the top left hand corner of what looks like the end of Middle Street. Follow this. Above you on the right hand side is where the village allotments used to be.
11. This lane joins Rose Hill. At the junction you will see Chicago House. It is thought that this, along with the house with the balcony on Roscarrock Hill over looking the harbour (Northcliffe), was built by a resident who had spent some time in the United States – note the clapperboard style.
- 12 Option 1, turn left and follow the lane back to Fore Street, turn right and you will arrive back at Eastcliffe.
13. Option 2, turn left and after a few yards turn right into Margaret’s Lane. About 20 yards up this steep lane you will see the “Birdcage”, an unusual, tall thin house owned by the National Trust.
14. Option 1, at the top turn left and follow the road down hill with St Peter’s Church in front of you. You will end up at the gate to the drive of Eastcliffe.

15. Option 2, take the steps just to the right of the top of Margaret's Lane. Follow this to its junction with New Road. The last house on the right "The Old Dairy" is exactly that and for many years sold milk butter and cream.

16 Turn left and follow the road around to the right, passing between the two garages and leaving the Waterfront and Edge restaurants on your left. Once you have passed the car park, turn left for the cliff path. If you want to go further, carry on down the road to Port Gaverne and back before joining the cliff path.

17. Follow the cliff path. If the weather is clear, you will have a good view of Port Isaac Bay. The headland to the right (East) is Tintagel Head and to left (West) is Varley Head (say Vairly). The hill above Port Isaac on the Western side is called Lobber.

18. To the left hand side of the path just before the steps down, you can see the coastguard look out station. Port Isaac had its own full time coastguard until about 20 years ago. Now the entire coast from the Bristol Channel on the north side to Plymouth on the south (and many miles out to sea) is looked after from Falmouth Coastguard Station, including the co-ordination of Port Isaac Lifeboat.

19. When the coast path joins the road, head down hill and you will come back to the front of Eastcliffe

B. Port Gaverne

1. From the front of Eastcliffe, turn right go up the road, (you should pass the fish and chip shop) when you see the sign to Dennis Knight Fish Merchant, don't follow the road, go straight on. This will take you onto the cliff path.
2. If the weather is clear, you will have a good view of Port Isaac Bay. The headland to the right (East) is Tintagel Head and to left (West) is Varley Head (say Vairly). The hill above Port Isaac on the Western side is called Lobber. If you follow the path you will get to the car park at the top of the village. When you come out of the car park, turn left and carry on down the road, this will get you to Port Gaverne
3. Once you get there, the beach is great for playing and the pub good for a refreshing drink.
4. If you want to keep going, take the steps running up the side of the cliff on the right hand side of the beach (take care) and have a walk along "the Main". The rock off the end of the headland is called "Castle Rock". The path runs on from there for as far as you want to walk. Alternatively, head back in land parallel to the way you have just come and this will bring you back to the road on the hill just below the Headland Hotel. If the tide is in, you can get to the Main via this route.
5. Retrace your steps to the car park at the beginning of Port Isaac. Instead of following the coast path, follow the road. At the sharp left hand bend, go straight across (take care) and follow Back Hill downwards. This will lead you to the gate to

Eastcliffe. On the way, you will pass St Peter's church on the right and opposite on the left, the old water pump which used to serve the village.

C Port Quin

1. At the front of Eastcliffe, turn left. Walk down to the harbour.
2. Take Roscarrock Hill, on the left hand side of the Fish Cellars. Follow this up the hill. At the top, take the cliff path on the right.
3. Follow the coast path and it will take you along the edge of the cliff (take care) to Port Quin.
4. You can retrace your steps to come back, or follow the old path which runs inland. Take the road running up the left hand side of the beach (as you stand with your back to the sea). About 300 yards up the hill on the left there is a stile. Take this and follow the path. When you see the large Roscarrock Farm house on the left, you need to turn sharp left along the edge of the field. You will join the main path in due course.

Notes

enjoy your stay!!

