



South Cornwall

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Best Places to Eat

- Oliver's (p165)
- The Wheelhouse (p164)
- Ferryboat Inn (p167)
- Hidden Hut (p176)
- Outlaw's Fish Kitchen (p190)

Best Places to Stay

- Highcliffe House (p164)
- Hotel Tresanton (p177)
- Roundhouse Barns (p177)
- Luggar Hotel (p174)
- Westcroft (p191)

Why Go?

It might lack the craggy granite cliffs and sea-blown grandeur of the north coast, but Cornwall's southern side has ample charms of its own: gentle creeks, green meadows, quaint harbours and world-renowned gardens such as Trebah, Trelissick, Heligan and Glendurgan, as well as the futuristic biomes of the Eden Project. It feels more pastoral than the craggy beauty of Penwith or the wild emptiness of Bodmin Moor: this is a place for quiet adventures, whether that's touring the back lanes and beaches of the Roseland, mooching around Mevagissey Harbour or kayaking on the Fal and Fowey Rivers.

The remote Rame Peninsula is particularly worth exploring. It's a fairly long drive from anywhere, so most visitors never make the effort, which means its lovely countryside and country houses are relatively quiet. It's also an easy trip from Plymouth thanks to the Torpoint ferry, which chugs across the beautiful Tamar Estuary.

When to Go

- **May** The Fowey Festival brings book readings, poetry events and live music to the streets of town.
- **Jul** Spectacular gigs light up the biomes during the Eden Sessions, which have become one of the county's top annual music events.
- **Sep** The Cornwall Food & Drink Festival, one of the county's largest food fairs, takes place on Lemon Quay. Top producers tout their wares, from pie-makers to microbreweries.
- **Oct** Falmouth celebrates its tradition of mollusc-rearing at the annual Oyster Festival. Mountains of oysters and mussels are devoured over the week-long event, and there are lots of chefs' demonstrations.
- **Dec** Wicker lanterns parade round Truro's streets during the City of Lights procession in the run-up to Christmas.

FALMOUTH, TRURO & THE ROSELAND

In contrast to the crags and breakers of the Atlantic coast, the area around Falmouth and the Roseland Peninsula presents a gentler side to the county. Sheltered from the brunt of the biting Atlantic winds, the coastline benefits from a balmy subtropical climate that allows exotic plants and trees to flourish along its valleys; it's no wonder that many of Cornwall's finest garden and country estates are found here. In previous centuries it was an important maritime area, and the old ports of Falmouth, St Mawes and Mevagissey are all worthy of investigation.

Falmouth

POP 20,775

If you're looking for Cornwall's coolest town, then the consensus seems to centre on Falmouth right now. Since the multi-

million pound development of Falmouth University on the outskirts of nearby Penryn over the last decade, this ancient maritime harbour has become one of the county's most creative and quirky towns. From espresso bars to boutique beer taverns, vintage shops to cutting-edge design agencies, Falmouth seems to be where it's at these days.

It's all a far cry from the days when Falmouth earned its keep from the sea. Strategically situated at the end of the River Fal, overlooking the entrance to the Carrick Roads estuary, the port of Falmouth has been an important maritime hub for more than 500 years. The town sits at the edge of the world's third-deepest natural harbour, and flourished as a trading port after the river at Truro silted up. Falmouth's heyday was during the era of the Packet Service, which carried mail, bullion and supplies between Britain and its overseas colonies between 1689 and 1850.



South Cornwall Highlights

- 1** Marvelling at the biomes of the **Eden Project** (p182)
- 2** Wandering round the valley gardens of **Trebah** (p167) and **Glendurgan** (p167)
- 3** Piloting a kayak along the **Fowey River** (p185)
- 4** Seeking out an empty beach on the **Roseland Peninsula** (p161)
- 5** Exploring otherworldly pools and peaks around the **Cornish Alps** (p181)
- 6** Catching a peaceful evening cruise along the **Fal River** (p170)
- 7** Soaking up Falmouth's maritime history at the **National Maritime Museum** (p163)
- 8** Going crabbing on **Mevagissey Harbour** (p181)
- 9** Discovering some of south Cornwall's secret gardens (p168)