



# West Cornwall & the Isles of Scilly

## Includes →

West Cornwall . . . . .	210
St Ives . . . . .	210
Penwith Peninsula . . . . .	214
Penzance . . . . .	218
Mousehole . . . . .	222
Lizard Point . . . . .	228
The Helford . . . . .	229
Isles of Scilly . . . . .	230
St Mary's . . . . .	231

## Best Places to Eat

- Shore (p219)
- Tolcarne Inn (p222)
- Gurnard's Head (p218)
- Ben's Cornish Kitchen (p223)
- Kota (p227)
- Porthminster Beach Café (p212)

## Best Views

- Gwithian and Godrevy (p213)
- Porthcurno (p216)
- Lizard Point (p229)
- Hell's Mouth (p213)
- Kynance Cove (p228)
- Land's End (p215)

## Why Go?

While most visitors head for the tourist honey pots of the north coast, the wild west of Cornwall receives fewer visitors outside the major draws of St Ives and Land's End. But the real beauty of this corner lies off the beaten track: it's a land where stone monuments rise up from the hilltops, ancient moorland butts up against gorse-topped cliffs, and forgotten mine stacks stand out in relief against the skyline.

With its sparkling seaside setting and artistic connections, the attractions of St Ives are very well known, and the town can feel uncomfortably crowded between July and September; visit in early spring or autumn and you'll find things quieter. Similarly, the main beaches around Gwithian, Sennen and the Lizard can be very busy, but many more remote coves can be reached via the coast path. And for a real escape, the lesser-visited islands of Scilly feel like a whole different world.

## When to Go

- **Apr** Porthleven celebrates Cornwall's food culture with a big festival, when top chefs and suppliers set up stalls by the harbour.
- **May** St Mary's on the Isles of Scilly hosts the World Pilot Gig Championships over a weekend in early May. Accommodation is almost impossible to find, so you'll need to book at least six months ahead
- **Jun** Penzance stages its big summer street celebration during the Golowan Festival in June: try to visit on Maze Day if you can, when the whole town turns out to party.
- **Dec** Christmas lights cover the harbour around Mousehole, and Penzance's pagan Montol Festival provides a slightly more alternative view of the festive season.



ATLANTIC OCEAN



0 10 km  
0 5 miles

English Channel



## West Cornwall & The Isles of Scilly Highlights

- 1 St Ives** (p210) Celebrating Cornwall's artistic heritage at Tate St Ives.
- 2 Kynance Cove** (p228) Wild swimming, walking the cliffs and scanning for choughs.
- 3 Porthcurno** (p216) Catching a cliff-top play with a breathtaking Atlantic backdrop.
- 4 Isles of Scilly** (p230) Swimming with wild seals on this island archipelago.
- 5 St Michael's Mount** (p223) Admiring the cobbled causeway to an island abbey.
- 6 Mousehole** (p222) Wandering the cobbled alleys of this pretty fishing village.
- 7 Penzance** (p218) Admiring fine Georgian architecture in Chapel St, then taking a dip in Jubilee Pool.
- 8 Botallack** (p216) Clambering down the cliffs to one of Cornwall's most photogenic mines.
- 9 Penwith Moors** (p214) Wandering round stone circles and Iron Age villages on this wild, windy heath.