

PORTHKIDNEY SANDS

South West

Distance: 2 miles

Porthkidney Sands is a dog-friendly beach, so if you fancy running in the spray, worrying some washed-up seaweed and leaving with a gloriously sandy coat, take your owner on this wonderful walk. Be still my wagging tail.

Not only does the surrounding area promise boundless fun for you, your owner can enjoy the sight of beautiful wildflowers and migratory birds along the way. What's more, aside from often-chilly sea winds, it's a comfortable walk to take, without too many steep ups and downs.



Let's Begin



Begin at Carbis Bay Beach, joining the South West Coast Path on your left (which is just above the beach). Head to the top of the hill before taking the steps down to the footpath.



This will take you around the beautiful area known as Carrack Gladden, where cliffs of metamorphosed Devonian slates rise up to 60 metres high. On top, a number of nationally scarce species of plant grow, while heather, bracken and ling create a colourful sight to distract your owner as you check out that interesting-looking mud over there.



Above the headland here the 50-foot granite pyramid of Knill's Steeple looks down from Worvas Hill, a feature that ships use as a landmark. It was actually built for a much more morbid reason: John Knill was mayor of St Ives in 1767 and had it built as mausoleum for himself with slightly tail-tingly odd phrases such as 'Resurgam' - meaning 'I shall rise again' - inscribed on it.



The coast path you are on will near the railway line that runs above Porthkidney Sands - stay on it and let it take you on a picturesque wander through the dunes.

If you and your owner are tempted to pad across to the inviting-looking stretch of sand at Porthkidney, you can get there from Carbis Bay at low tide, but make sure your owner knows that the tide comes in incredibly quickly. Due to strong currents, you can't swim here.



There's still plenty to occupy you when the tide's in, however, including spotting all the different types of wildflower that grow here, such as mountain St. John's Wort and those Hebridean orchids that my owner thinks are just beautiful.



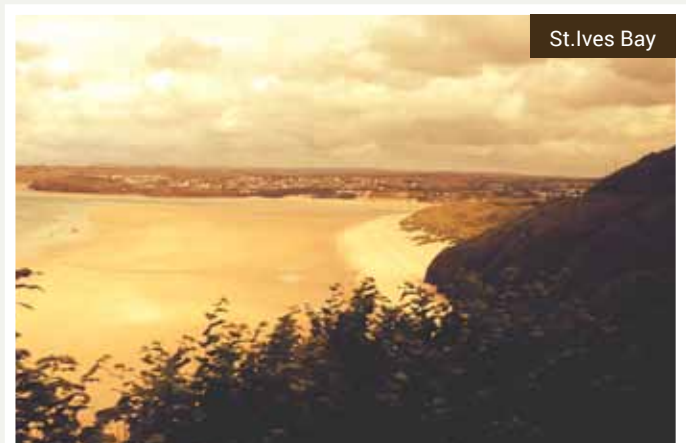
As you near the end of the dunes, take the footbridge across the railway and let the path lead you up through the golf course and on to St Uny Church.



A little piece of advice here: don't bother chasing the golf balls as you go through the course. Not only are they uncomfortable in the mouth, there's always a lot of shouting and, frankly, it's just not worth it.



Now, your owner may want to gaze out over the water to Godrevy Lighthouse while they're here. I understand that this will really test your resolve, but stay on the marked path and let those silly balls get on with it. Trust me.





Go through the churchyard, taking a left at the gate and letting the road take you down to the railway. You'll pass the old station house before turning into the station.



Note to owners: Whilst every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of these walks, they are for planning purposes only. Sykes cottages can't be held responsible for changes to routes as a result of construction projects, weather, or any other events which may cause conditions to differ from walk directions. We recommend getting a copy of the relevant Ordnance Survey Landranger map to assist in route planning and navigation.

