

## **Camping Weekend 2018 – Valley Caravan Park, Polzeath, PL27 6SS**

Polzeath is a small village situated on the North coast of Cornwall, home to a fantastic beach and one of the world's most renowned surfing destinations. The beach is a magnificent stretch of golden sand between Pentire Head to the north and Highcliff to the west. It was a favourite haunt of the late Poet Laureate, Sir John Betjeman, and is celebrated in some of his verse. The campsite is the centre of the village, opposite the beach. The access road is between the art gallery and the Fusion shop.

Polzeath is a haven for surfers and beach lovers alike. There are lifeguards on the beach during the daytime in the summer season. Although generally a safe beach, there can be large surf with rips and care should be taken at all times. There is a sand and shingle beach, situated at the mouth of a river and backed by interesting cliffs.

There is a Spar shop that has everything you need, you can get cashback for a small fee..

There are several cafés and restaurants, TJ's Surf Café has been booked for Saturday evening at 7pm.

The local post office is in the Sandbar which is opposite the beach, you can get free cash withdrawals until 12.00 on Saturday morning. There is only one pub in Polzeath, The Oystercatcher, they serve food till late. Live bands perform at the Oystercatcher on Saturday evenings from 21.00, we will meet there after we have eaten.

There is a Rookery near the campsite, so if you are light sleeper I suggest that you invest in some earplugs for the morning.

### **Itinerary**

**Friday** - Pitch your tent or park your campervan, there are some reserved pitches for us, I will be there to direct you. My caravan is No. 7 which is on the right before the bridge you, can contact me on **07505 102877**. Once you have pitched explore Polzeath. Meet later in the Oystercatcher, if you fancy a drink or something to eat.

**Saturday** - Meet at 10.00 when we will walk the coastal path to Daymer Bay where St Enodoc Church stands' enigmatically, among the sand dunes. It is overshadowed by Brea Hill and is surrounded by the fairways of St Enodoc Golf Course. Why this charming chapel is here is a mystery. That it is an ancient place of worship is without doubt, some of the architecture can be traced back to the 12th century. From the sixteenth century to the middle of the nineteenth century, the church was virtually buried by the dunes and was known locally as "Sinking Nedd" or "Sinkininy Church". To maintain the tithes required by the church, it had to host services at least once a year, so the vicar and parishioners descended into the sanctuary through a hole in the roof. By 1864 it was unearthed and the dunes were stabilised. Also in the churchyard is the grave of the former poet laureate John Betjeman. Interred there also are the ashes of Fleur Lombard, the first female firefighter to die on duty in peacetime Britain, it's worth a detour to see the church either on the way or on the way back.

If the tide is low enough we can walk along the beach to Rock, where we get the ferry to Padstow (£4.00 return). Those that want a shorter walk can explore Padstow, try and spot the businesses that Rick Stein doesn't own. There are plenty of places to eat and drink, our favourite pubs are the Golden Lion and the Shipwrights. Then return to Polzeath the way we came (7 miles in total).

Those that want to do a longer walk continue through Padstow on to Trevone. There is a pub and a beach café where you can have lunch. Return to Polzeath the way we came (Total distance 13 miles).

**Sunday** - Free time to go bodyboarding or explore the Polzeath area.