**The best bits of St Ives in a day**

With its mild climate, beautiful beaches of soft white sands and a famous Mediterranean light that has attracted artists for centuries, St Ives is rightly one of Cornwall’s gems.

The town more than lives up to expectations and the journey to St Ives on the train is where the whole experience begins.

It is only a 12-minute ride from St Erth to St Ives but the views from the train window are fabulous.

Sit on the right-hand side of the train if you can and you will be rewarded with panoramas of beautiful turquoise waters and sandy beaches.

There are lots of options on a day trip to St Ives but for one that incorporates some good food and a beautiful beach the best option is to head straight to Porthminster Beach.

It’s just a short walk across the station car park and down the steps to get to the beach.

Porthminster Beach is a beautiful crescent shaped beach that has views out Godrevy Lighthouse and with its safe waters it is a family favourite.

The Porthminster Beach café is located right on the beach and is famed for its local seafood, garden grown produce and foraged sea herbs.

The views from the café are stunning as you would imagine, and it would be easy to while away a couple of hours in here then head back to the beach.

If you want to include a bit of culture into your day then you could always head to Tate St Ives as well.

This renowned art gallery is located just above the beautiful Porthmeor Beach and is housed in a stunning modern building.

The gallery showcases the best British artists of the twentieth century including famous St Ives names such as Barbara Hepworth.

The Barbara Hepworth museum is affiliated to the Tate and there is a combined ticket that allows you to visit both. Visitors arriving by train receive £1 off the ticket price.

If the weather is too nice to be inside, then why not simply have a stroll from Porthminster beach to the harbour. It’s just a few minutes’ walk along historic narrow streets.

St Ives was once one of the foremost pilchard landing ports in Cornwall and although tourism is the main industry in the town now, the harbour is still at the heart of the town and has a small fishing fleet.

There are plenty of places to spend some more money and if you still have room maybe an ice-cream.

Watch out for seagulls if you decide to eat one out in the open as they will try and steal food.

Moomaid of Zennor serves particularly good ice-cream and has a seagull proof area in which to enjoy it.

If you are thinking about something stronger by now, then do what the locals do and head to the Sloop Inn, right by the harbour front.

The Sloop is reputed to be one of the oldest pubs in England, believed to date from around 1312.

It is full of character and at the end of a busy day, there is nothing better than sitting here with a glass of something cold and watching the world go by.

Trains run late into the evening on the St Ives Bay line but give yourself plenty of time to wander back to the station before heading back on the train to St Erth.