

# ANCHORAGES

There are moorings, but there's still plenty of room to anchor off St Mawes

# St Mawes, Cornwall



St Mawes is the antidote to Falmouth – a quiet place to anchor and a very Cornish village to explore. Kit Pascoe recommends it

While Falmouth's town anchorage is generally a bit of a squash between marinas, just a mile to the east lies the blissful peace of St Mawes. Though a long way by road, the distance between Falmouth town and this tiny village is short enough to be crossed by dinghy (in good weather) or ferry. It's a very attractive anchorage.

Although there is supposedly a £5 anchoring charge, whether it's actually collected or not seems to be an undecided matter. The helpful harbourmaster is currently in no rush to collect any fees, so as to attract yachts shocked by Falmouth's high anchoring charges. The anchorage off St Mawes is spacious, well maintained and the harbourmaster's RIB can frequently be spotted out and about. There are also visitors' buoys available to the east of Castle Point.

Getting into St Mawes is absolutely straightforward, regardless of which direction you're coming from. Once you're in the entrance of the Fal, having minded St Anthony's Head, Pendennis Point and

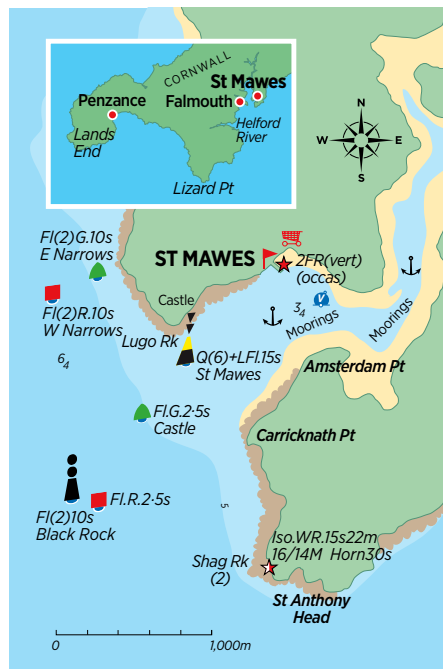


PHOTO: ALEX FRANCIS. CHART: MAXINE HEATH

the cardinal mark on Black Rock, the only thing you have to watch out for is the shallow patch in St Mawes' entrance. It's marked with a south cardinal buoy that should be left to port. Anchoring is usually easy in front of the village, but there are a couple of things to take note of: the seabed has various patches of thick weed that will stop your anchor holding, and you must be watchful of the depth around the edges and further upriver. Although you can anchor up the Percuil river past the glut of moorings, there are very shallow patches with weed and I've seen a boat drag here despite the shelter.

*'St Mawes is quiet and very Cornish'*

St Mawes YC is exceptionally friendly and has good showers for £1 a go, as well as a good bar and an excellent selection of books to keep you entertained over a pint. If you come to see the working boat championship in early July, you'll get to meet all the locals too – possibly the merriest bunch of sailors in the world. There are several cafes and restaurants to keep you filled with good food as well as a small branch of the Co-op on the front and a tiny but delicious bakery on the dockside opposite the harbourmaster's booth. Secure your dinghy to one of the two sets of steps inside the harbour walls, minding any ferries coming in or out. Dinghies shouldn't be secured to pontoons, although you may see some that have been. There's a free water tap just along from the yacht club, towards the Co-op, that you can use to fill cans, but beware of its extravagant ability to drench you while you're using it.

St Mawes is quiet and very Cornish with tourists mainly coming over on the Falmouth-St Mawes ferry. The anchorage is well protected, unless the wind is westerly, in which case you could always hop over to Falmouth for shelter, or the Helford, which is close and stunning.

From St Mawes you are in an ideal position to explore further up the Fal, mackerel fish your way to the Helford, head round the Lizard to Mullion Cove or go east to Plymouth and beyond. ▲