

8 Breathtaking Cornwall Scenic Drives

Your free take-it-with-you guide from getcarhire.com



THE 8 BEST CORNWALL SCENIC DRIVES

From the Atlantic Highway to Land's End



BEST PRICES TOP BRANDS NO HIDDEN FEES FREE CANCELLATION

Cornwall rewards those who take to its lanes with wild Atlantic cliffs, turquoise coves, granite moorland and harbour villages. These eight drives showcase the very best of Britain's most south-westerly county.

1 THE ATLANTIC HIGHWAY (A39)
Bude – Boscastle – Tintagel – Padstow – Newquay – St Ives
• ~70 MILES
• Easy to moderate
• Famous north coast route with big skies, surf beaches & headlands
• Detours to Boscastle, Tintagel & foodie Padstow

2 ST IVES TO LAND'S END (B3306)
St Ives – Zennor – Botallack – Land's End
• ~19 MILES
• Hard, single-track lanes
• Wild Penwith Peninsula scenery
• Zennor mermaid carving & Botallack engine houses

3 LAND'S END, PORTHCUENO & MINACK
Land's End – Sennen Cove – Porthcurno – Lamorna – Mousehole (B3315)
• ~15 MILES
• Moderate, narrow
• Land's End, Sennen Cove, Porthcurno & the Minack Theatre
• Pretty Lamorna & Mousehole

4 THE LIZARD PENINSULA
Helston – Kynance Cove – Lizard Point – Cadgwith – Coverack
• ~20 MILES
• Moderate, narrow lanes
• Kynance Cove, Lizard Point & fishing villages
• Most southerly point of mainland Britain



BRISTOL AIRPORT GATEWAY TO CORNWALL
Around 2 HOURS via the M5
Bristol Airport is the nearest major gateway to Cornwall.
Car hire from ~£10/day booked ahead.
A smaller car is best for Cornwall's narrow lanes.

5 THE ROSELAND & ST MAWES
Turo – King Harry Ferry – St Just in Roseland – St Mawes
• ~25 MILES
• Easy to moderate
• Sheltered lanes, subtropical gardens & wooded creeks
• King Harry Ferry across the beautiful Fal Estuary

6 BODMIN MOOR
Jamaica Inn – Brown Willy – Rough Tor – ancient stone circles
• ~20 MILES
• Moderate, exposed
• Cornwall's highest point at Brown Willy
• Wild ponies, sheep & ancient stone circles

7 ST MICHAEL'S MOUNT & MOUNT'S BAY
Marazion – St Michael's Mount – Penzance – Newlyn
• ~12 MILES
• Easy
• Iconic tidal island & sweeping bay views
• Check tide times to walk across the causeway

8 THE CAMEL ESTUARY & PADSTOW
Wadebridge – Padstow – Rock – Constantine Bay
• ~15 MILES
• Easy
• Beautiful Camel Estuary & foodie Padstow
• Rock, Constantine Bay & the Camel Trail

BEFORE YOU DRIVE

- No motorways in Cornwall
- Narrow, high-banked lanes – use passing places properly
- Never assume you can see around the next bend
- Watch for walkers, cyclists, ponies and sheep
- Fuel is sparse in the far west, Lizard & Bodmin Moor
- Arrive early for parking in St Ives, Padstow & Land's End

CORNWALL AT A GLANCE

- No motorways
- ~2 HOURS end to end
- Fill up in larger towns
- Changeable weather & microclimates
- Endless photo opportunities

QUICK FACTS

- ✓ UK drives on the left
- ✓ Long, narrow country packed with coastal & moorland roads
- ✓ Wild Atlantic coast, turquoise coves & granite landscapes
- ✓ Take your time – the journey is the destination!

EXPERT TIP
A smaller car makes all the difference on Cornwall's narrow lanes and in busy summer car parks.

CORNWALL – WILD COASTS, TIMELESS VILLAGES, UNFORGETTABLE DRIVES *Your adventure starts here.* [GETCARHIRE.COM](https://getcarhire.com)

The 8 best Cornwall scenic drives, all within reach of car hire at Bristol Airport, your gateway to the South West.

The 8 Drives at a Glance

Scenic drive	Distance	Difficulty	Highlight
1. The Atlantic Highway (A39)	~70 miles	Easy-Mod	Nat Geo top drive, Tintagel, Padstow
2. St Ives to Land's End (B3306)	~19 miles	Hard	Wild Penwith, Zennor, Botallack
3. Land's End, Porthcurno & Minack	~15 miles	Moderate	Minack Theatre, Mousehole
4. The Lizard Peninsula	~20 miles	Moderate	Kynance Cove, most southerly point
5. The Roseland & St Mawes	~25 miles	Easy-Mod	King Harry Ferry, sheltered creeks
6. Bodmin Moor	~20 miles	Moderate	Jamaica Inn, wild ponies, stone circles
7. St Michael's Mount & Mount's Bay	~12 miles	Easy	Tidal island castle, Marazion
8. The Camel Estuary & Padstow	~15 miles	Easy	Foodie Padstow, Camel Trail

Before You Drive: Safety Essentials

IMPORTANT: Cornwall has no motorways and many narrow, high-banked single-track lanes. Use passing places, never assume you can see around the next bend, and watch for wild ponies and sheep on Bodmin Moor.

- The UK drives on the left. A smaller car is far easier on Cornwall's narrow lanes.
- It can take around two hours to drive from one end of the county to the other; plan by region.
- Weather is changeable with microclimates, so be ready for fog, rain and sun in one drive.
- Fuel is sparse in the far west, the Lizard and Bodmin Moor, so fill up in the larger towns.
- Parking in St Ives, Padstow and Land's End is limited and busy in summer, so arrive early.

Getting There: Car Hire at Bristol Airport

With no motorways and limited public transport, a hire car is essential. The nearest major airport is Bristol, around two hours away up the M5, with Exeter a little closer to the eastern edge of the county. Bristol Airport has all the main suppliers and car hire from around £10 a day booked ahead.

Compare car hire deals and read the full guide to all eight drives at getcarhire.com.