

Explore the Woodlands at Tregenna



The beautiful woodlands of Tregenna

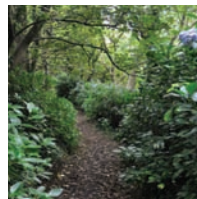
Tregenna Castle in St Ives has many unique features, not least its position at the top of the town with beautiful views across the sea to the horizon - which makes for a lovely place to visit. It is nestled in a magnificent 72 acre estate, with a beautiful woodland walk and nature trail encompassing the borders of its grounds, encouraging exploration and adventure for both guests and local residents!

Juxtaposed to its beautifully manicured lawns and sculptured hedges, Tregenna's woodlands are wild, with a wealth of nooks and crannies home to a wide variety of wildlife, flora and fauna. Peaceful and sheltered, animals are abundant with sightings of woodpeckers, owls, pheasants, rabbits, foxes, squirrels and badgers. This is encouraged by the 40 bird boxes the estate team has installed, many carefully placed at children's eye level by the RSPB, which host new and returning families each spring.

The walk was originally created in the 1920s and has been painstakingly brought back to life by the dedicated grounds team, which includes the clearing of its ravine - this work was showcased in the BBC's Inside Out TV programme.

The woodland walk has a range of different tree species accompanied by the scent of Mediterranean plants and the bright colours of rhododendrons and azaleas which are in abundance. Each season brings different blooms to see and smell, from tiny snowdrops to enormous cactuses in the subtropical gardens.

As the woodlands skirt the perimeter of the estate, they create a circular walk that can be accessed from various points throughout the grounds. If walkers choose to stay on the trail, the entire walk will take about an hour, with the odd pause here and there to take photos or enjoy the breathtaking views of St Ives bay that appear between the trees. There is a large wood carving to be found and there are also plenty of benches and seating areas set within hidey holes that tempt visitors for a quick rest stop.



At many of the access (or exit) points of the trail there are points of interest, which include the walled sub tropical garden. This features a clipped serpentine box hedge enclosing the "hot border" and a lavender surround to the pond and a pedestal fountain at its centre creates the delicate sound of falling water.

There are well positioned benches on the lawns in front of the castle, where picnics and panoramic views of the coastline can be enjoyed. There is also a children's play area complete with a castle for the little ones to climb inside and enjoy.

Walkers can of course visit the Brasserie for a light bite, or perhaps a Sunday carvery, or even just a hot chocolate (or something stronger!) to warm up.

One feature not to be missed is the Water Garden complete with a waterfall, cascading down to the well where it disappears and makes its way to the stunning Porthminster Beach. This is also the way to go from the Castle to St Ives town and makes for a beautiful walk. With Tregenna's new shuttle bus in place running twice daily to and from the town, it's tempting to ride the bus up, enjoy a spot of lunch and then a stroll around the woodlands and back down into town.

Sensible walking shoes are advised as there are some gentle inclines and rough terrain, although the walk is not challenging and can be enjoyed by all ages and abilities. Tregenna's grounds and facilities are open to the general public and free to access all year round, with ample parking. If you would like to find out more, just visit www.tregenna-castle.co.uk