

did you know ? . . .

The Eden Project welcomes more than 1.2 million visitors every year

let's get physical

Get back to the county's roots, leave the traffic behind and hit the trail . . .

Whether you walk, cycle or horse ride there are a whole host of off the beaten track routes around St Austell to explore. First opened in March 2005, the clay trails connect with bus stops, railway stations and the National Cycle Network and vary in length of between three and five miles. You can discover Bugle, Wheal Martyn, Par and the Eden Project as you explore mid Cornwall. Take in old mining villages, woods, lakes, old river estuaries and heathland offering many scenic views and the chance to observe wildlife. Be among the first

to discover these tranquil pathways and enjoy the beauty and sense of peace they offer.

You can take any of the trails at your own pace, and because they are surfaced they are accessible all year round. In addition you can enjoy the Pentewan trail, the old railway route down which clay was transported to the quay at Pentewan. There are also dozens of stunning coastal walks surrounding St Austell to check out.

For free maps, guides and more information about the routes see www.claytrails.co.uk



further afield

Why not make more than a day of it - there's so much to see and do around St Austell. Here are a few ideas to whet your appetite...

Caerhays Castle

If you've got time once you've taken in everything St Austell has to offer, why not venture out to Caerhays Castle located in a sheltered valley overlooking Porthluney Cove. Owned by the Williams family, the surrounding parkland and woodland provides beautiful scenery for all visitors to enjoy. The secluded beach, which is also privately owned, can be discovered all year round. The gardens and Castle are open during limited periods, so it's best to check before you visit. More information can be found at www.caerhays.co.uk



Charlestown

Home to the Charlestown Shipwreck and Heritage Centre, the harbour also has its own beach and boasts outstanding cliff top and coastal scenery. This will, undoubtedly, be the reason that Charlestown has been a favourite setting for many TV programmes and big budget films.

You'll be sure to spot the odd historic sailing ship moored up, alongside the Heritage Centre built over the old china clay dryer. It profiles the fascinating history spanning 200 years of fishing, wrecking, mining and migration to North America. More information can be found at www.shipwreckcharlestown.com



Photograph courtesy of VisitCornwall

Eden Project

One of the biggest tourist attractions in the whole of the UK, you simply cannot afford to miss the wonder of the Eden Project. Nestled into the side of a former china clay pit, just three miles from St Austell, Eden is made up of its famous biomes containing plant species from all over the world. The crater is the size of 30 football pitches and is set in an amazing location making for a fun and family friendly day out. More information at www.edenproject.com



Photograph courtesy of Eden Project

Golf courses

If you're tempted to tee off in St Austell, there are plenty of great golf courses to enjoy. Test out your skills at either St Austell (18 Holes), Carlyon Bay (18 Holes) or Porthpean (18 Holes)



The Lost Gardens of Heligan

Discover the world famous, award winning Lost Gardens of Heligan, a short drive from St Austell. Seat of the Tremayne family for over 400 years, Heligan fell into disrepair after the First World War. Now lovingly resurrected from their forgotten and neglected state, they provide nearly 200 acres of stunning Victorian gardens, woodlands, lakes, farmland, a sub-tropical Jungle Valley Garden and the Wildlife Project. Open to all and visited by thousands every year. Find out more at www.heligan.com



Photograph courtesy of The Lost Gardens of Heligan

Pine Lodge Gardens

Now open all year round, Pine Lodge Gardens is a sight to behold for green fingered fans packed with over 5,500 species of plants. The 30 acre estate provides parkland, woodland, wildflower meadows, a lake, nursery and tearooms. The gardens are just East of St Austell, off the A390, between Holmbush and Tregrehan. Look for the Brown Tourist Signs 100 yards before the entrance lane on the A390. More information can be found at www.pine-lodge.co.uk

Restormel Castle, Lostwithiel

Just down the road from St Austell stands the great 13th century shell-keep of Restormel Castle in Lostwithiel. The Castle can be seen from far away and makes for fantastic views and an excellent picnic spot. It retains the principal rooms which are in good condition and is kept by English Heritage. The Castle finally saw action during the Civil War in 1644. See www.english-heritage.org.uk for opening times.



Photograph courtesy of English Heritage

Mevagissey

Nestling in a small valley, the quaint village and fishing port of Mevagissey is just on the outskirts of St Austell. Why not take a pleasure boat ride, maybe try your hand at mackerel fishing or simply meander through the narrow, picturesque streets whilst sampling the local fish and chips or Cornish ice cream.



Photograph courtesy of Paul Watts/VisitCornwall

Wheal Martyn

Venture out into the wilds of the China Clay works just behind St Austell and discover how the history of the town has been shaped (quite literally) by the China Clay industry. The Wheal Martyn Heritage Centre offers a fascinating insight and fantastic day out for all the family. www.wheal-martyn.com has more information.