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## Falmouth, Cornwall – Best Places to Live in the UK 2019

A buzzing beach babe that's close as Britain gets to the California/Barcelona city-by-the-sea lifestyle



Best Places to Live: the coast is Falmouth's star attraction  
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The Sunday Times, April 14 2019, 12:00am

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## “One big Cornish party”

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This is as close as Britain gets to the California/Barcelona city-by-the-sea lifestyle. Admittedly, the competition is as mild as the English sun, and Falmouth is technically only a town, but it's a lot more fun than many cities with larger populations and more airs and graces. The students at the Penryn campus (from Falmouth and Exeter universities) keep it lively all year round, filling youthfully minded bars and cafes such as Beerwolf (craft ale and books) and Jam (vinyl, coffee and biscuits). But Falmouth isn't just for fly-by-night undergrads and holidaymakers. There's still work at the shipyards and plenty of creativity on show in the many galleries and studios, often populated by former students who just can't bear to leave. You can get a taste of it all in the shop or at an exhibition at the Poly, which is also home to a cinema, a theatre and a pottery. The high street continues the arty theme, but with the welcome addition of M&S and Trago Mills, the West Country's favourite discount department store. In fact, there's plenty here for everyone: upsizers, downsizers, second-homers and even first-time buyers.



DEFINITIVE GUIDE

### Best Places to Live 2019

From culture to countryside, we've found the ideal locations to make a happy home

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Naturally, the biggest attraction is the coast. We think Gyllyngvase is the best town beach in the country (holler if you think you know better), with yoga classes, safe swimming, paddleboarding and occasional surfable waves, as well as a panoramic cafe/bar restaurant and well-kept changing rooms and showers. If you tire of Gylly, head to one of Falmouth's three other beaches; there's serious sailing on the surrounding creeks, and estuaries and sparkling views in every direction. Joggers and cyclists have a huge choice of scenic routes, the best of which take in Pendennis Point, where you'll certainly see seals and seabirds, and may catch a glimpse of a passing dolphin or basking shark.



Time for refreshments: there's something for everyone here, from fish and chips at Harbour Lights (which has upped its game rapidly since a Rick Stein chippie set up camp nearby) to smart seafood with a view at Hooked on the Rocks or the Cove, and ever-changing experimental gastro fare at the Kitchen. Our favourite spots are the revamped Star & Garter, where the Sunday roast (rump of beef £18) should always start with a bloody mary, and Dolly's, a Georgian "tearoom and gin palace" that serves its cocktails in vintage teapots.

**Get connected** From any of Falmouth's three stations, it's less than 30 minutes to Truro, for mainline services to Exeter (from 2 hours 11 minutes), Bristol (from 3 hours 21 minutes) and London Paddington (from 4 hours 20 minutes). Newquay airport is an hour away by car.

**Broadband** Full-fibre coverage is extensive, with superfast and ultrafast options.

**Insider view** "Falmouth has a fabulous mix of locals, students and tourists who all seem to muddle along, creating a lovely buzz," says Dolly Makin, the owner of Dolly's. "Every day you see someone doing something new and possibly bonkers - a favourite quote is 'only in Falmouth'. But on a summer evening, my favourite thing to do is walk the dogs around the Roseland Peninsula and to the beaches at Durgan for a glorious swim (the dogs, not me)."

**Education** Ofsted rates several local primaries as good; St Mary's RC is outstanding. At secondary level, Falmouth School and Penryn College are both deemed good. Falmouth University is ranked 84th in the Sunday Times Good University Guide.

**Air quality** No reported concerns.

**Caveat emptor** Public transport to anywhere other than Truro is slow at best.

**Best address** As close to the water as you dare: the Georgian townhouses on Tehidy Terrace can fetch over £800,000.

**Why we love it** One big Cornish party.

**Best Places to Live 2019**

Find out if your neighbourhood made the cut at [thesundaytimes.co.uk/bestplacelive](https://www.thesundaytimes.co.uk/bestplacelive)

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**£230,153**  
Starter



**£312,203**  
Mid-market



**£478,483**  
Top-end

**Buying**

Renting

Source: Habito and TwentyCi

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