

A POSTCARD FROM - Port Isaac, Cornwall



Yesterday I arrived home after a week in Cornwall's beautiful Port Isaac. I've enjoyed lots of holidays in the UK over the years, but after 20 months since my last escape, this one felt extra special. This morning I've scoured Rightmove for my dream little house with a sea view, managed to get a brush through my salty windswept hair and enjoyed the last of my 'talian' coffee (roasted in a barn in Cornwall), and am now ready to tell you everything about my trip.

Usually before a holiday I'd be cramming my belongings in to a suitcase and heading away by train, but for the first time in ages I went away with a friend who drives. It was amazing! No deliberating over a jumper versus a sketchbook or decanting moisturiser in to tiny bottles, it all came with me. And whilst I'd usually be out locally in the day and cooking for myself in the evening, this time we went on little day trips and had some fantastic dinners out too.

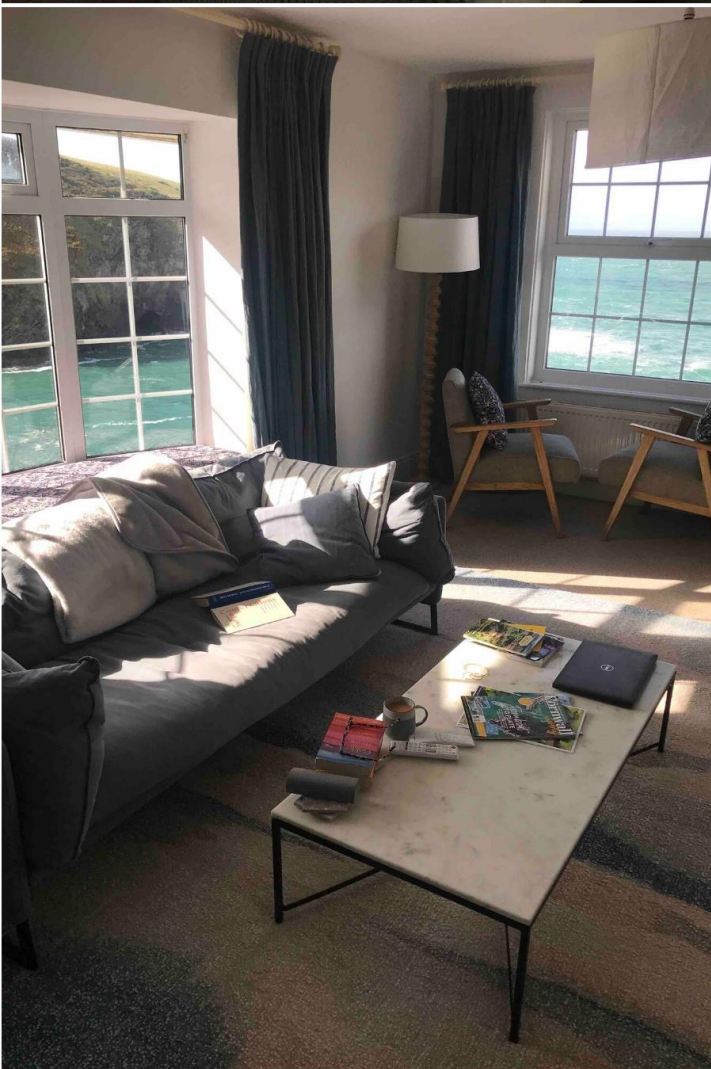
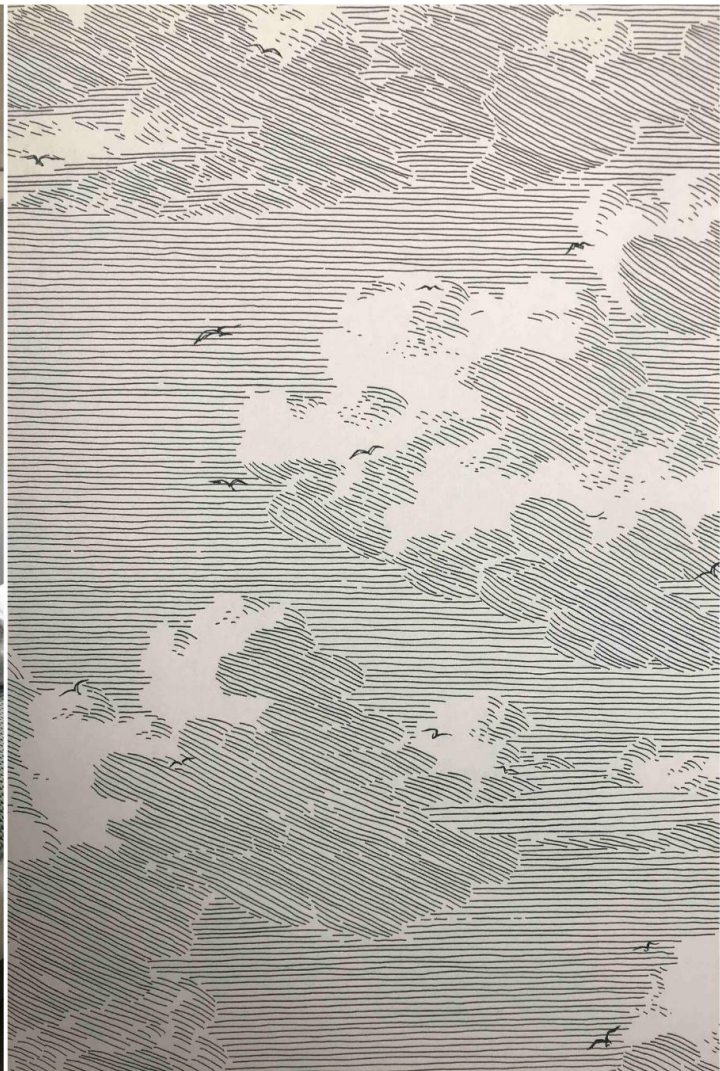
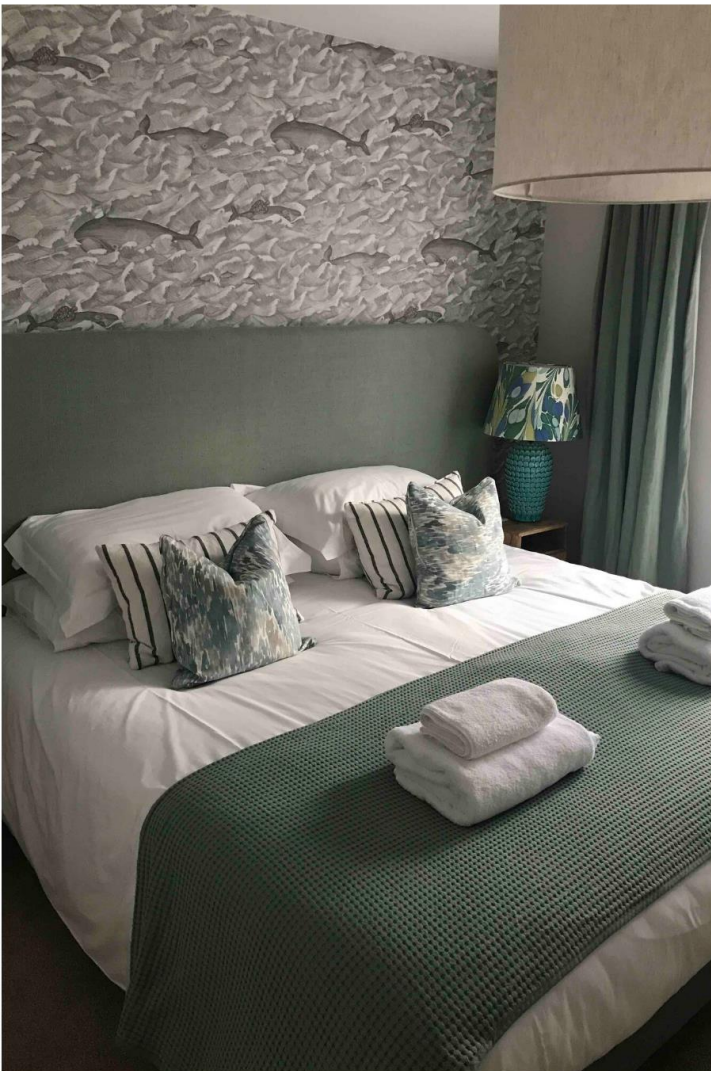
As usual I'd like to be transparent - I received a discount on the accommodation in exchange for including the property in this illustrated blog. But there's no agreement on what I need to cover, so when I say it was excellent I really truly mean it. Everything else I paid for in full, and anywhere we went that I didn't totally love I have left off this blog (not because anywhere was terrible, but I was a vegetarian in a fishing village so feel I can't do some places justice :).

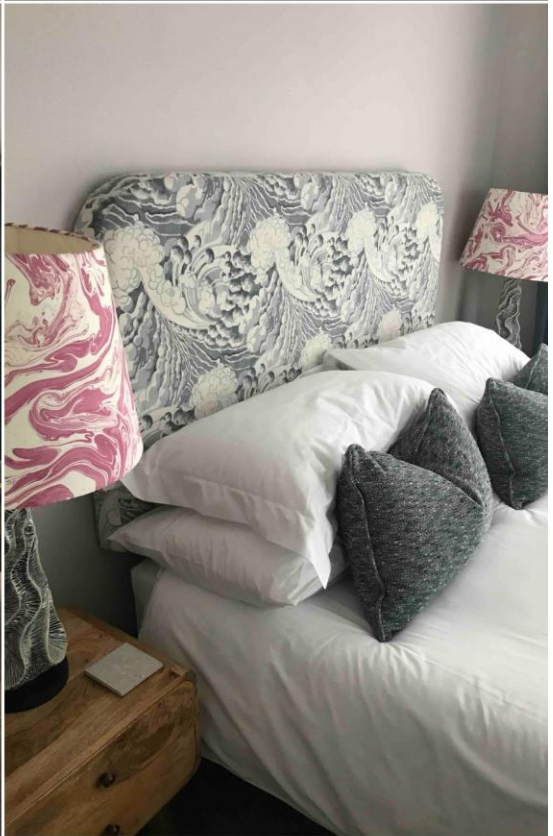
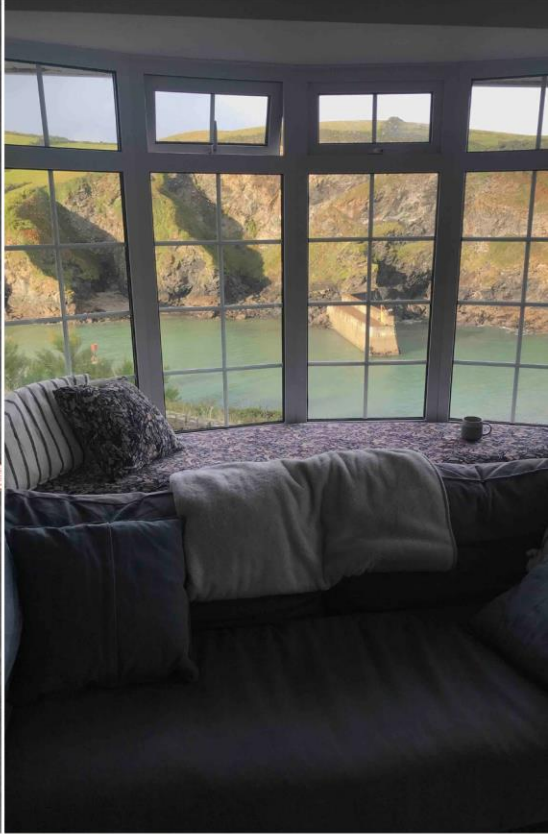
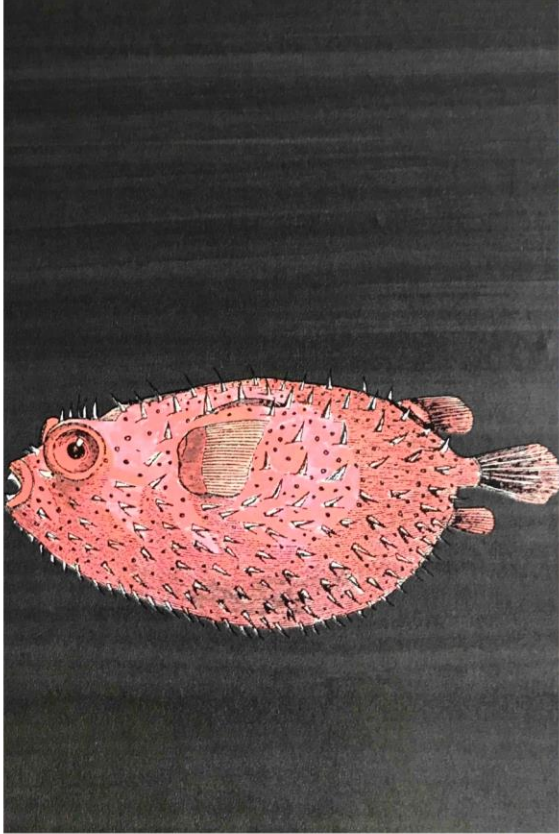


Port Isaac is known for its winding lanes and cute fisherman's cottages, but we opted to stay in [The Port Hole](#), a more modern house on the headland with incredible views.

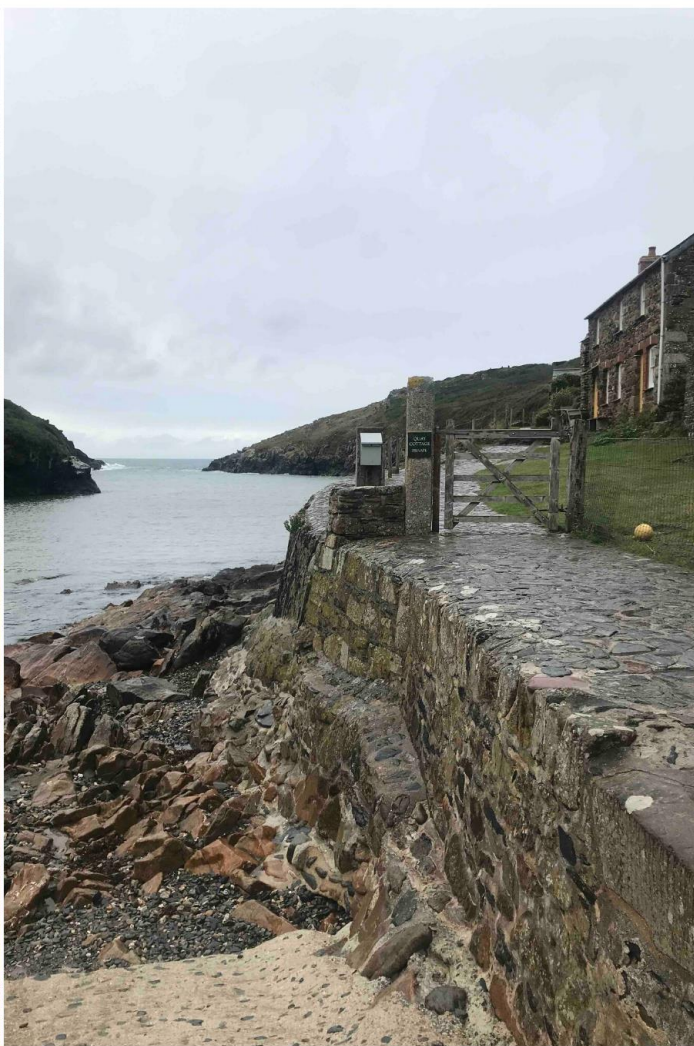
The 3 bedroom property has just been renovated and I totally loved it. I spent the first hour waxing lyrical about the owner's taste in wallpaper (and now I also want to design wallpaper), I then marvelled about the specific colour of the curtains (a perfect deep blue-grey-green) and almost shed a tear when I had to leave my beloved pink bedside lamps. The beds were super comfortable and I slept better than I had in months, the kitchen was really well equipped and there were lots of options of where to sit. In the morning I'd be in the window seat with a cup of tea and then as the sun set we'd sit outside on our bench for a G&T. The house was always warm when we needed it to be and the water pressure was really good, little things that really help that feeling of luxury.

The bedrooms are all downstairs and are pretty compact, but the upstairs is open plan and so a great space in which to hang out and take in the ever changing views.





Neither of us are intrepid explorers, but we decided to walk part of the coast path from Port Isaac to Port Quin. It really was so stunning despite the many steps up, the many steps down, the many steps up again and the remaining steps down etc. What kept us going other than the future of port bums was the promise of a cup of tea at Port Quin, but we soon discovered that this wasn't to be, finding only a drinking water tap. Top tip, take a flask.

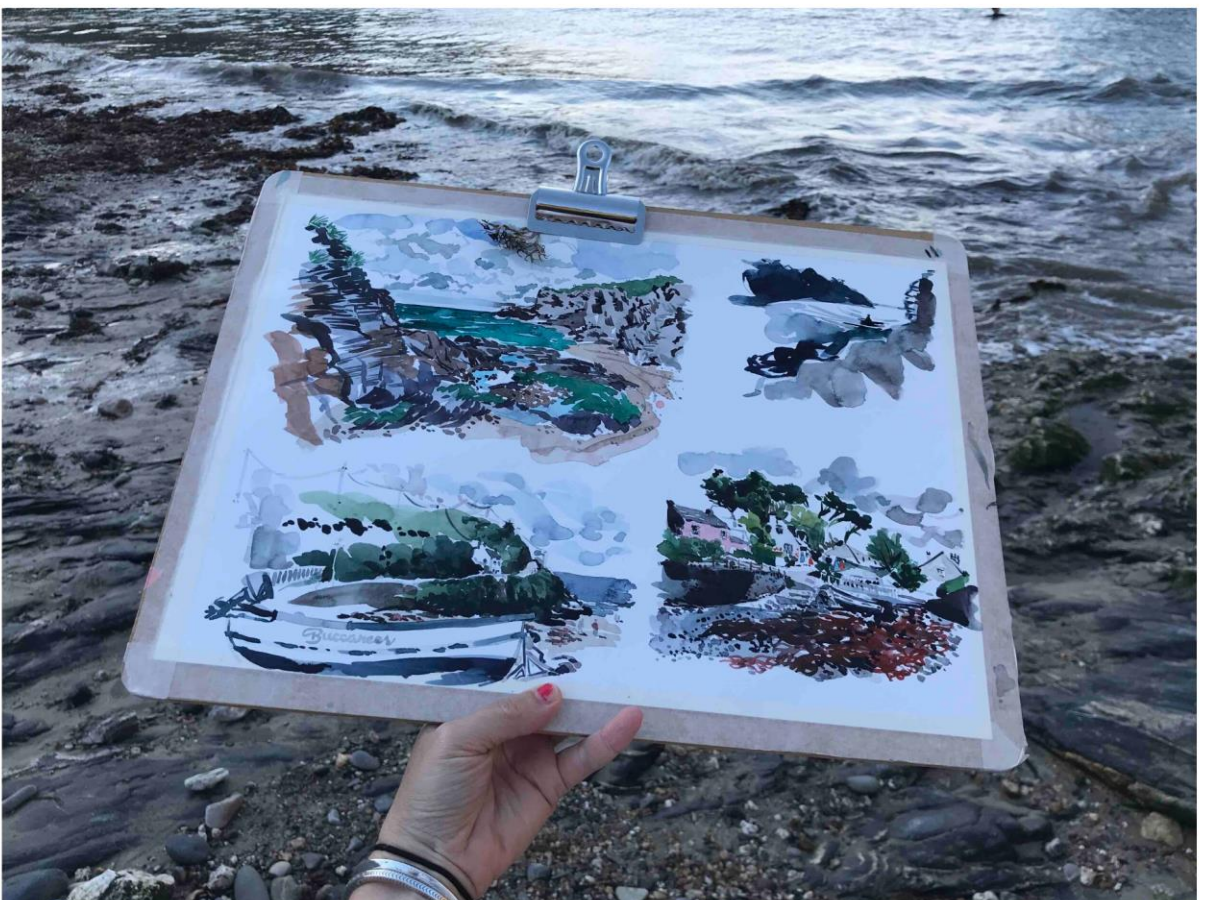


We decided on the cross country route back and encountered a field of very large inquisitive cows who came skipping towards us. They watched bemused as I clambered up a wall covered in brambles, surrounded me for a better look, listened in as we called the farmer for advice, then keep an eye on us as we finally skulked out of the field unharmed, despite one of them trying to lick me to death. You can take the girl out of the city hey....

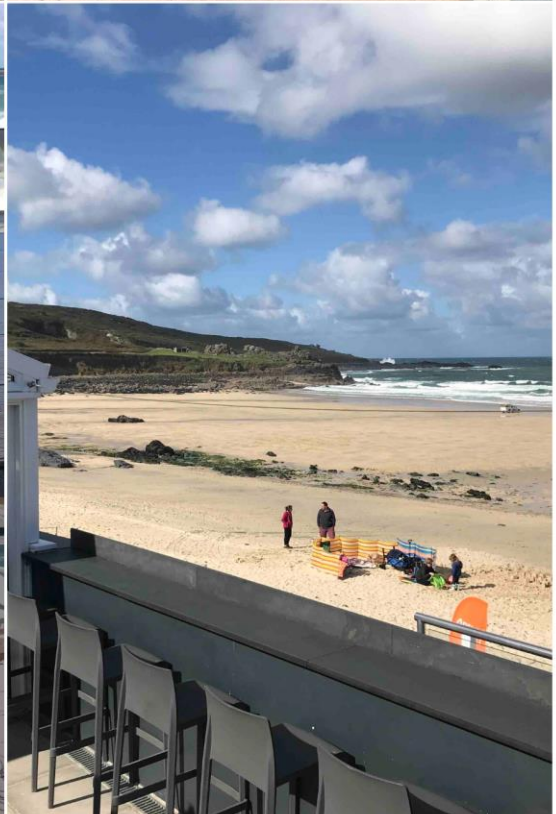
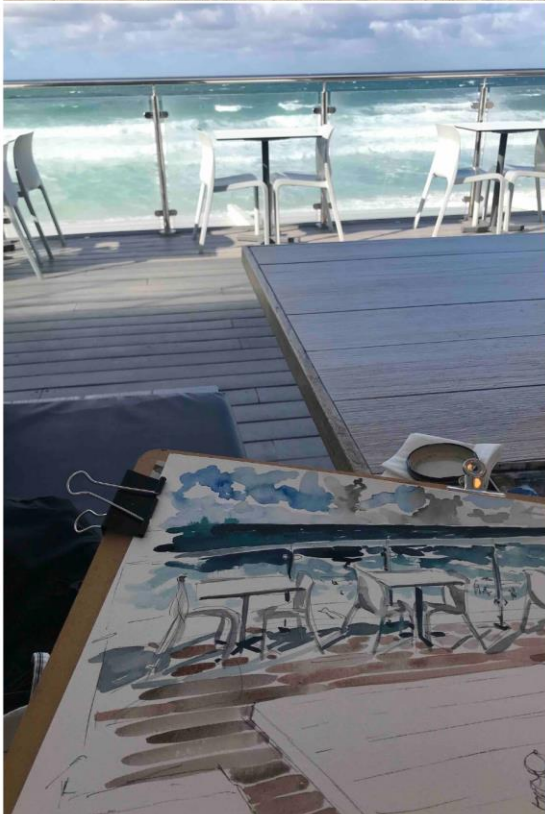
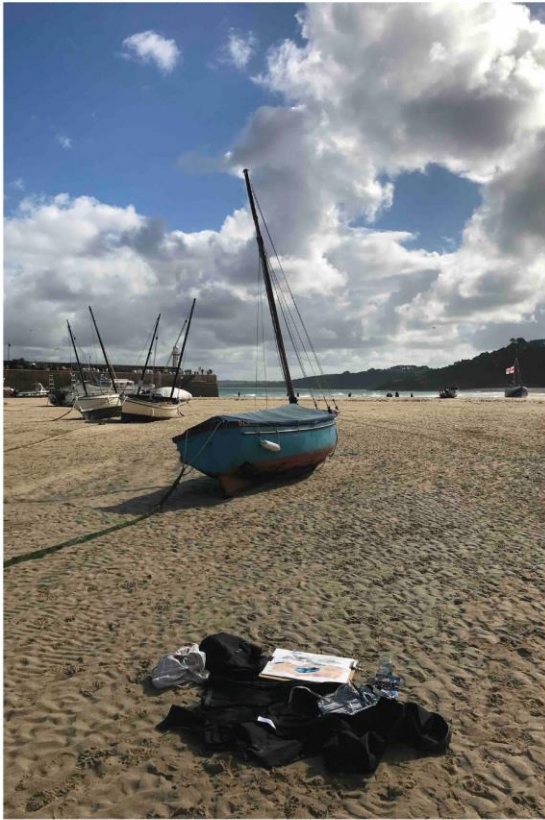
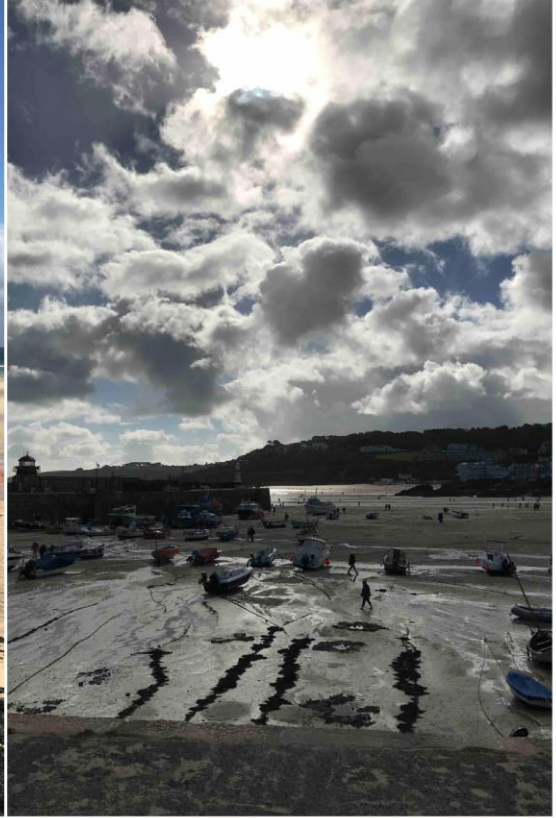


We had a much more leisurely but just as beautiful walk in the other direction, from Port Isaac to Port Gaverne and further along in the direction of Tintagel. You could do this in trainers I think where as the other route needed walking boots.

Port Gaverne is my favourite place from the entire trip. It's a charming little pebble beach that you can swim in, it gets a lovely bit of evening sun, and The Port Gaverne Restaurant & Hotel is excellent. We had a delicious lunch here after a morning spent painting little scenes from the area. It was super chilled and I look forward to heading back there again one day.



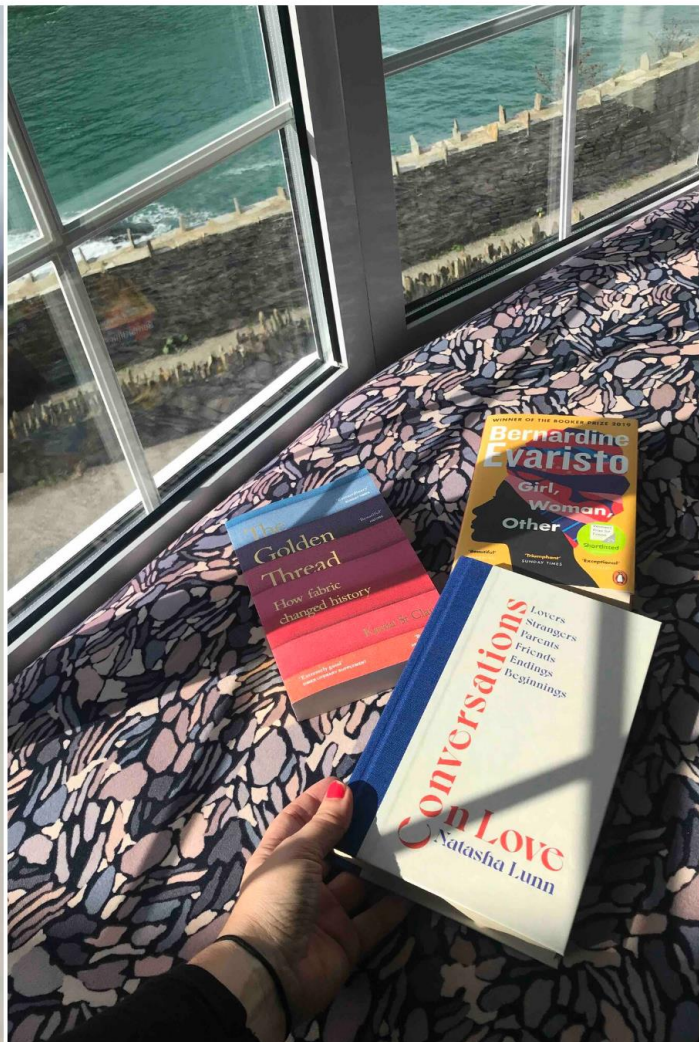
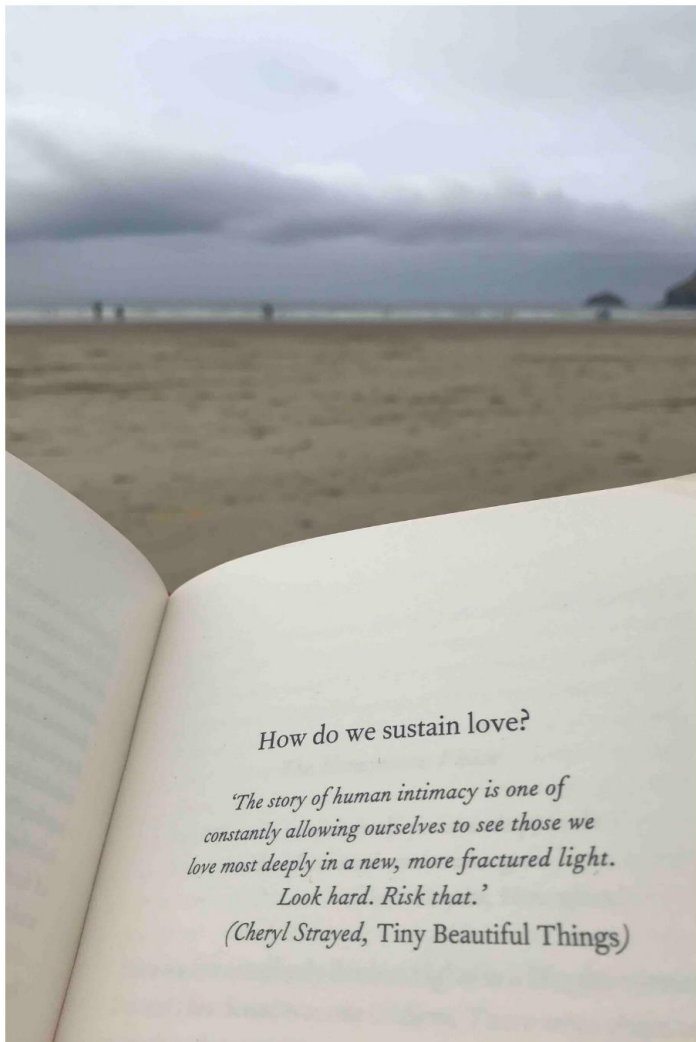
My friend hadn't been to St Ives before, so we did the park and ride from St Erth. (much easier than dealing with the crazy traffic in and out of the area and only £4 each on the train). Whilst they went to The Barbara Hepworth and Tate galleries, I did what I love the most and painted. I saw rain, sunshine, clouds and a rainbow within my hour at the harbour and then experienced crazy wind and waves whilst sitting at The Harbour Cafe. I really love this place and have been before - do brave the elements and sit in the heated pods outside if you go, it's absolutely worth it. The food is great and I find that the service is always friendly and quick. Plus they never seem to mind when I'm sitting painting, which isn't always the case at cafes (totally understandable).



We also made it to [The Lost Gardens of Heligan](#) which was just under an hours drive from Port Isaac. It says on the website that you really need a couple of days to see everything, but we were fine with just an afternoon walking through the gardens, over the rope bridge in the jungle and then sitting for an ice cream at the end. That said it is October, and so I think the gardens would be more fantastic in Spring so you might need a whole day.



On another day we fancied a day at the beach, so took our warmest clothes and headed to Polzeath. The parking wasn't too expensive and there were public toilets and a great little coffee shop - I'd been here before and it was lovely to return. I may have been wearing everything I owned but it was still a very cosy day of reading "Conversations on Love" by Natasha Lunn. I've not finished it yet but am enjoying it so much and can really recommend it.



I feel very lucky to have spent time again in such beautiful part of the world and really grateful to have had a gorgeous house to explore it all from. Port Isaac I miss you already!

To book your own break away from it all then head to [Latitude 50 Holidays](#), and if you have any questions about my holiday or my art then please leave a comment below. Prints of some of my artworks are available in my [online shop](#).

