

Access and Facilities

Lizard Green bus stop has a regular public service to Helston and Redruth.

Donation parking is available on Lizard Green, and there is a National Trust carpark (free for N.T. members) opposite the Lighthouse, near the Southerly Point. Toilets and cafes available at Lizard Green, and near the Point.

The suggested walk is 3 miles in length. There are many options for returning to Lizard, so the route can easily be shortened or lengthened to suit. Much of the way is along the South West Coast Path. Please beware unfenced cliff edges.

Lizard Lighthouse Heritage Centre – open 5 days a week in the summer months, for tours and the opportunity to climb up the tower. See www.trinityhouse.co.uk/lighthouse-visitor-centres/lizard-lighthouse-visitor-centre

Lizard Wireless Station – small National Trust museum, open five afternoons a week Easter to October. See www.nationaltrust.org.uk



Lizard Green c1920

Lizard BEACONS

Lizard BEACONS



THE LIZARD'S HERITAGE A SELF GUIDED TOUR RACHEL HOLDER



Lizard Lighthouse

Photo Credits: National Trust images

Written by Rachel Holder for Mayes Creative as part of their Lizard Beacons project. Celebrating the amazing communications heritage of the Lizard Peninsula.

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Isles of Scilly
Travel



The Monkey Pole



Here is a 3 mile journey around the treacherous cliffs of the British mainland's most Southerly Point. Lace up your boots and step out for tales of shipwrecks, daring rescues, and innovation, as you follow in the footsteps of communication pioneers.

Lizard Green

The green space at the heart of The Lizard has thronged with visitors since Victorian times. Alas it is no longer possible to rent a donkey, or horse and trap, for your jaunts, so you must proceed on foot.

Caerthillian Cove

A peaceful spot, Caerthillian has a sad tale to tell. In 1941, several sailors drowned in touching distance of land after the small lifeboat they were on capsized. Richard Ayres who struggled towards shore through turbulent seas, was the sole survivor of 85 crew of the steamship Gairsoppa. She, with a cargo of silver, tea and iron from India, had been sunk by a German U boat, 300 miles off Ireland 2 weeks before. Her wreck was discovered in 2011, and 60 tons of silver have been salvaged, with an astonishing value of £137 million.

The Monkey Pole

This wooden pole represented a boat mast, and gave the local Coastguard something to aim at, when practising firing rocket lifesaving apparatus. Once a line was attached, a breeches buoy rescue harness could be employed. Helston man Henry Trengrouse invented the apparatus, after witnessing the wreck of the Anson at Loe Bar in 1807.

Lizard Head

This dramatic headland gives fine views up the wild west coast to Kynance Cove and beyond. It's said that in 1588, the Spanish Armada was sighted from this coast, and the first of a chain of beacons was lit to pass the news to Sir Francis Drake, and the English fleet in Plymouth.

Pistil and the Royal Anne

Local lore has it that 200 unfortunate souls are buried in this little valley, victims of the wrecking of the galley Royal Anne in 1721. However, despite Geophys surveys and a recent small dig, archaeologists have failed to find any evidence of burial pits.

The Most Southerly Point

A huddle of cafes, shops and fishermen's huts mark the Most Southerly Point of the British Mainland. Just below, at Polpeor Cove, is the former Lizard Lifeboat Station which operated for a century until it was relocated to Church Cove in 1961.

The Suevic

The Suevic, a White Star Liner inbound from Australia, ploughed straight into rocks off Lizard Point one foggy night in 1907. Lifeboats from Lizard, Porthleven, Coverack and Cadgwith assisted in bringing all 524 passengers and crew off safely, the largest rescue in RNLI history. Her salvagers made the dramatic decision to use dynamite to free the ship of her bows which were stuck fast.

Lizard Lighthouse

Tennyson called this lighthouse the 'southern eyes of England'. The present building dates to 1752, and would have had two coal fired lights, kept bright by bellowkeepers, chivvied into action by a watchkeeper blowing a horn. The first Lizard Lighthouse, was built privately by John Killigrew in 1619, but the levy he charged on passing shipping proved unpopular, and he complained that the locals were not keen to be deprived of the benefits of shipwreck, although Killigrew himself was accused of piracy!

The Undersea Bell Cable

As strange as it seems, there was once a bell on the sea bed, 2 miles off Lizard Point. Installed in 1910 it complimented the lighthouse foghorn. The idea was that ships, equipped with microphones below the waterline, would be able to use the sound of the bell to gauge their position in fog. The electrical cable linking the bell to the lighthouse came ashore at Housel Bay, and the brickwork can still be seen on the cliff.

Lizard Wireless Station

The unassuming black wooden huts, sat atop the cliff at Housel Bay, have an extraordinary history. Here, in January 1901, Italian inventor Marconi performed his 'first little miracle'. By receiving a wireless message from the Isle of Wight, a record breaking distance, he proved beyond all doubt that radio would work over the horizon. Only 11 months later, Marconi spanned the Atlantic with a transmission from his larger station at Poldhu. Lizard Wireless Station's small museum is open in summer months.

Lloyds Signal Station

This distinctive castellated building dates to 1872 and was a semaphore station. Messages were relayed to passing ships by running flags up a pole on the roof. At night, lights were used. At least one ship foundered, coming in too close to the cliffs.

Nuclear Bunker


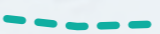
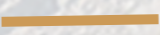
This was one of 1500 Royal Observer Corps bunkers constructed nationwide during the Cold War. Manned by volunteers who would log passing aircraft, the posts were designed to be self-sufficient for several weeks in the case of a nuclear attack. This bunker was operational 1961-1991.

Lizard BEACONS

The Lizard's Heritage A Self Guided Tour

This map is intended as a guide only, please refer to 'OS Explorer 103 - Map of The Lizard' for more detail.

KEY:

-  Walking tour: 3 miles
-  Paths, including coast path
-  Minor roads

1 Lizard Green
SW 703 126 49.969 -5.203

2 Caerthillian Cove
SW 694 124 49.968 -5.216

3 The Monkey Pole
W 694 119 49.963 -5.215

4 Lizard Head
SW 694 117 49.961 -5.215

5 Pistil and the Royal Anne
SW 698 116 49.960 -5.209

6 The Most Southerly Point
SW 700 115 49.959 -5.207

7 The Suevic
Suevic struck Maenheere Reef, 1/2 mile off The Point.

8 Lizard Lighthouse
SW 703 115 49.960 -5.203

10 Lizard Wireless Station
SSW 707 119 49.963 -5.192

9 The Undersea Bell Cable
SW 703 115 49.963 -5.197

12 Nuclear Bunker
SW 712 120 49.965 -5.191

11 Lloyds Signal Station
SW 715 119 49.964 -5.187

