

The anonymity of manonabeach means that viewers aren't troubled or distracted by the presence of a personality or celebrity interviewer. It's almost as if the beach-goer is talking directly to the viewer.

SO what answers have I had to the question 'What does the beach mean to you...?' There have been 469 different responses, in over 650 interviews.

Every answer has been meticulously recorded. Overall, the top five responses are: 1, Childhood; 2, Beauty; 3, Dog walking; 4, Family; 5, Livelihood.

It's clear from the viewing figures that people prefer the unspoilt, undeveloped beaches and there's clearly a link through the generations that's important to people.

The most popular beaches on the site are not necessarily those that you might expect or that are best known and the subject of the heaviest marketing by tourism agencies.

With due deference to the non-Cornish regions, which have only featured since October 2012 (or even more recently), here are the top ten most viewed beaches at manonabeach.com:

1, Rinsey Cove, Cornwall; 2, Holywell Bay, Cornwall; 3, Polly Joke, Cornwall; 4, Kynance Cove, Cornwall; 5, Cley-Next-The-Sea, Norfolk; 6, Aldeburgh, Suffolk; 7, Porthilly Cove, Cornwall; 8, Crantock, Cornwall; 9, Southwold, Suffolk; 10, Porthallow, Cornwall.

There are regional characteristics that distinguish beaches and may inform the attraction in each place. Long granite headlands feature in Cornwall and west Wales, with the sea often viewed close up from the side, whereas big skies and bird life, including migratory, have a resonant impact in Norfolk and Suffolk.

Man's relationship with nature is starkly visible through the string of lighthouses along the north-east coast of Scotland, while picturesque golf links, inshore fishing communities, surfers and wild swimmers highlight the wide diversity of beach use.

Pembrokeshire has been characterised as 'Cornwall with-



*'Cornwall without the crowds'. Whitesands Bay out of season.*

out the crowds'. There are striking similarities between Pembrokeshire and north Cornwall, the two sharing granite headlands and flat, sandy beaches, backed by rolling countryside.

Conversely, the wide expanse of the beach at Pembrey in Carmarthenshire can evoke Holkham or Wells-Next-the-Sea in north Norfolk and the Gower Peninsula displays an affluent, confident air to the visitor, featuring fine hotels and restaurants in an idyllic natural setting. The beach at Rhossili regularly features in 'top beaches' lists.

In south Pembrokeshire, the walk between Broad Haven South and Barafundle Bay, two exquisite beaches in their own right, is never forgotten by anyone who's enjoyed it – a wildlife haven, with choughs and ponies grazing on the cliff tops.

The beach is a wonderful place for us all to enjoy. Its ever changing nature, whether on a daily or tidal basis or through the seasons, guarantees an element of anticipation and excitement in any beach visit.

You just don't know what and who you'll meet when you go to the beach, meaning that there'll always be a different answer to the manonabeach question 'What does the beach mean to you...?'



*Everyone loves Barafundle Bay...*