

Cornish Myths and Legends

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Saint Prian is the patron saint of Cornwall and of Tin miners. Originally living in Ireland, he is said to have been exiled due to jealousy over his ability to heal. He was chained to a millstone and thrown out into the open ocean, but when he entered the sea, the waters around him calmed down, and he gently floated to Cornwall on the fifth of March, which would become his feast day. Legend suggests that his first disciples, upon landing in Cornwall, were not human but loyal creatures, including a

badger, a fox, and a bear. As word of his miracles spread, people from all over England came to hear him preach and seek spiritual guidance. The design of the Cornish flag is also attributed to St. Piran. According to legend, Saint Piran saw white molten tin rising from black ore after he lit a fire, leading him to adopt the black-and-white colors for his banner, which was later adopted by the people of Cornwall as a symbol of the region.



Giants in Cornish folklore are common occurrences. The most feared giant is Cormoran, who lived with his wife, Cormelian, in the Cornish countryside. Cormoran was known for stealing sheep and wreaking havoc upon the farmers in the land, and he was the first giant to be slain by Jack the giant slayer. It's rumoured that you can find his stone heart buried deep in the countryside somewhere.

The beast of Bodmin is said to take the form of a cat that prowls around Bodmin Moor, preying on livestock and unsuspecting hikers. In 1978, there were so many sightings of this large cat that the Ministry of Agriculture investigated the creature; however, they found no evidence for or against the shadowy figure. Some say it was an exotic pet let out into the

wild, and others say that it is the descendant of an extinct species, but one thing is for sure: Bodmin Moor is a very dangerous place.



Probably the most prevalent legend in Cornwall is that of King Arthur. We are all familiar with it: a chosen king said to be destined to unite all of England, the iconic sword in the stone, and his mysterious disappearance. But for the Cornish, it is closer to the heart. He is said to have been born in Tintasel, at the home of Glais, the earl of Cornwall. Below Tintasel castle is Merlin's cave. Merlin was a Wizard and King Arthur's close advisor. Merlin is said to haunt the cave, waiting for the day to come when he and King Arthur will return to England, spending his days frightening off visitors who venture too deeply into his cave. Dozmary Pool, located at Bodmin Moor, is said to be the place where Arthur received his sword Excalibur from the Lady of the Lake. It's also said this is where the sword rests until the King comes back to claim it. Many legends say that King Arthur has been reincarnated as a Cornish Chough, with the bird's bright red beak and legs symbolizing the blood from his final battle. Through this legend, the Chough has become an iconic symbol of Cornwall and is featured on its coat of arms. King Arthur is very loved and respected in Cornish legends, and many people say he will return soon, when England needs him most.

