

Visitor Information

Facilities and access for visitors with disabilities

Introduction

Every effort has been made to ensure maximum accessibility for all visitors to The Historic Dockyard Chatham – the world's most complete dockyard of the age of sail.

The Historic Dockyard is however an 80 acre (32 hectare) site with over 100 historic buildings and structures and 3 historic warships, and this alone provides some limitations and challenges to access.

On Arrival

Disabled Parking

We have disabled parking in our main car park within easy reach of the admission point

Visitor Entrance & Shop

Ground floor with level access

Admission

Helpers/Carers receive free admission to the dockyard

Free pre-visit for organisers of groups or educational visits

Wheelchairs

A limited number of wheelchairs are available for loan at the admissions point; please book in advance to avoid disappointment

Hearing Impaired

Guidebooks are available for loan on request

Getting around the site

The distance between the main entrance and the furthestmost gallery is approximately 800 metres. The route between the galleries and ships has a fairly even surface with the ground sloping down from east to west. There are however some steep slopes to the landward

side of the site, particularly between the Ropery, The Royal Dockyard Church and Main Gate.

A minibus is available on request, but may be difficult to access for some people. Please ask for details on arrival.

Visitor Facilities

Toilets

There are disabled toilets located throughout the site at the following locations:

- Wooden Walls
- Museum Square
- Thunderbolt Pier
- Outdoor Play Area
- Museum Of The Royal Dockyard

Food & Drink

Wheelwrights Restaurant

Ground floor level access

Jolly Jacks and indoor play area

Ground floor level access (please check on arrival for opening times)

Access to Galleries and Historic Ships

Details are given below for the galleries, ships and other buildings that are normally open to visitors

Core Galleries

Wooden Walls

Ground floor with level access (some slight inclines). Lifts are available to and from the upper gallery. Please note lift size is 2'8" by 3'10" (81cm by 117cm)

Interpretation within the gallery is largely through an audio presentation. The text of the audio story is available on request.

Museum of the Royal Dockyard

Ground floor level access. A lift is available to enable visitors to view the Dockyard Library by appointment only.

Ropery

Ground floor level access. A lift is available to the upper gallery and there is a ramped exit from the ropewalk. Please note lift size is 3'7" by 4'9" (110cm by 147cm).

The BIG Store (No 3 Covered Slip)

Ground floor level access. A lift is available to the upper floor. Please note lift size is 3'6" by 4'5" (109cm by 135cm)

Lifeboat! (No 4 Covered Slip)

The self guided visitor route around the gallery is via a gently inclined walkway

Historic Warships (*)

HMS Gannet (1878)

Access to Main Deck and Commander's Cabin is via a ramped gangway with access for visitors in wheelchairs. Lower deck, poop and forecastle decks are accessed via steep ladders.

Interpretation is by hand held audio tour, induction loops and text versions are available upon request at the ship.

HMS Cavalier (1944)

Access to the ship is via a steep gangway (with steps leading up to it). The visitor route onboard involves a number of steep ladders and small compartments with narrow passageways.

Interpretation is by hand held audio tour, induction loops and text versions are available upon request at the ship.

A separate gangway is located to the port side of the ship to enable wheelchair access to the main deck (and aft education spaces). Please speak to staff to arrange access to the ship using this method.

HM Submarine Ocelot (1962)

Access to the submarine is via a gangway (with steps leading up to it) followed by a steep ladder. Due to the nature of the vessel it features confined areas and small hatchways to climb through between compartments.

Interpretation is by guided tour.

(*) Historic Warships Virtual Tours

Few modifications have been made to the historic warships to preserve their internal appearance and character. For visitors who are unable to go onboard there is an alternative virtual tour both of HMS Cavalier and HMSm Ocelot available on shore in the adjacent "Doodlebug" exhibition.

Other Galleries and Attractions

Doodlebug

Level access to gallery and Historic Warships Virtual Tours

RNXS Museum

Ground floor level access

Police Museum

Ground floor level access

Commissioner's Garden

Level access to shingle pathways with slight gradients

Royal Dockyard Church

Three steps at entrance with portable ramps for access by wheelchair users.

**If you would like any further information please telephone us on
01634 823800 or e-mail us at info@chdt.org.uk**