

This access statement does not contain personal opinions as to our suitability for those with access needs, but aims to accurately describe the facilities and services that we offer all our guests/visitors.

ACCESS STATEMENT FOR THE TANK MUSEUM

Introduction

Our exhibitions tell the story of armoured warfare from World War One to the present day. As you explore the Museum's six large halls you will come face to face with vehicles that have seen action in all the major wars of the 20th Century and hear first-hand accounts from those who fought in them.

This unique collection of over 300 vehicles is regarded as the best in the world and includes the world's first ever tank - Little Willie, the feared German Tiger tank and the modern Challenger 2.

The Tank Museum is based on 3 floors with lift and ramp access to all floors, you should allow about 3 hours to see all the museum, there a number of wheelchairs available to borrow from the main reception. Wardens are also on hand throughout the museum if you should require any assistance.

You can also enjoy you restaurant and café as well as our extensive Museum shop all which are fully accessible. We look forward to welcoming you. If you have any queries or require any assistance please phone 01929 405096 or email vsm@tankmuseum.org.

Pre-Arrival

- The Tank Museum is situated in South Dorset, and is clearly signposted from Dorchester, Blandford, Poole, Bere Regis and Wool. If you are using a Sat Nav our postcode is BH20 6JG.
- The nearest railway station is Wool, which is 2 miles away (a 30-40 minute walk). Taxis are available at the station. If you require an accessible taxi you can book this in advance with Garrison Cars T: 01929 463395.

Car Parking and Arrival

- The Museum has many accessible parking spaces 44 meters away from the Museum we also have a drop off point with a dropped curb.
- All Parking at the museum is free.
- The onsite car park surface is tarmac with a paved path leading to the main entrance.
- The entry door to the museum is automatic and 4 meters wide.

Main Entrance, Reception and Ticketing Area

- The main entrance and ticket area is situated on the ground floor with step free, level access, throughout.
- The floor surface is flat concrete.
- The area is evenly and well lit with overhead lighting from fluorescent and spot lights, and natural light from the windows.
- There is a full accessible WC situated in reception.

Attraction (displays, exhibits, rides etc.)

- The main means of interpretation we use are, Guided tours, graphic panels, artefact labels, subtitles videos, audio points and interactive exhibits.
- All of our graphic panels meet recommended guidelines on font size and colour and include captioned imagery and some illustrative content.



- The Museum galleries are well and evenly lit and in all new exhibitions, spotlights are used on a tracking system. One exception is the Trench where dimmed lighting and uneven flooring is used to create an authentic atmosphere.
- Older galleries are fitted with fluorescent strip lights.
- In 2009 a full Exhibition and Intellectual Access review of the new 'Tank Story' gallery took place led by David Bonnet Associates. Their report and its recommendations form the standard by which The Tank Museum measures the accessibility of any new exhibitions. All reasonable effort is made to remove barriers to orientation, written information, seating, lighting, acoustics and sound enhancement.
- This, in conjunction with the testing of interpretive media, navigation of the galleries by Access panel members and the museum's legislative obligation to meet requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act, ensure the majority of problems are anticipated and resolved in advance.

Public Toilets

- The museum has 5 fully accessible toilets situated in the main building and the vehicle conservation building.
- These toilets are unisex and you do not need a special key to open them.
- They have a light easy door and are 1 meter wide.
- There are 4 vertical and 2 horizontal rails.
- A flashing light when the fire alarm sounds.
- An emergency alarm pull cord.
- The toilets are well lit with florescent lighting.
- The flooring is level concrete.
- There are lever taps on the sinks.

Catering

- The restaurant is located on the first floor accessed by 2 lifts and a large ramp, the Café is situated on the ground and completely accessible with no step or narrow spaces.
- Outside the main building is an ice-cream kiosk with an average height level counter.
- The entrance doors to the restaurant and café are 900mm/35.5ins wide.
- The layout of the restaurant/Café is well spaced rows and provides ample room for wheelchairs, with a clear height from the floor of 609mm/24ins on all of our tables, we have dining chairs outside bistro style furniture and comfortable individual tub chairs.
- The Restaurant and café have solid level concrete flooring.
- Lighting in all areas is natural daylight with overhead lighting used.
- The Restaurant and café and are both self and assisted service and our staff are more than happy to help on request.
- All menus are on large signage boards on the wall behind the counter our staff are fully trained in helping customers with the menus, dietary request and allogeneic information.
- All crockery comes with a tank museum logo on it which helps them stand out.
- The nearest WC is located 5 meters from the entrance to the restaurant and is well sign posted.

Shop

- There is a shop with a range of souvenirs and books etc. which can be accessed directly from the main entrance/ ticketing area and when exiting the museum.
- There is a large set of automatic door leading into the shop.
- The shop is level through out.
- There is room in the shop for a large wheelchair to manoeuvre and turn.
- There is background music and a DVD playing.
- Staff can offer assistance if required.

Grounds and Gardens

- Outdoor arena.
- Children's play area.
- Grassed area in front of the museum.
- The arena is sloped at about 30 degrees there's a separated fully accessible viewing area accessible through the restaurant and lift or externally via wide shallow gradient path.
- The pathways are 1.5 meters.
- Level smooth concrete.
- In case of a fire a member of staff will on hand you assist your exit from the arena.

