

Hello

ACCESSIBILITY GUIDE 2022



SEA★LIFE

Useful Information

- ★ This is a visual guide to help you familiarise yourself with Blackpool SEA LIFE before your visit. It uses a mixture of photos and text to take you through the attraction and to show you some of the main areas and facilities to help you plan your visit.
- ★ If you have any questions or require further assistance, please contact us on 01253 621258 or if you prefer, you can message us on Facebook.

As you explore this presentation, you will see our sensory rating system.

It looks like this!

Sounds	1
Touch	1
Smells	1
Sights	1

Sounds

- 1 - There aren't many loud or distracting noises in this area
- 2 - Medium: There might be a few noises, such as music or sound effects here
- 3 - High: This area can be quite noisy, but you can borrow ear defenders

Touch

- 1 - Low: There is nothing to touch in this area
- 2 - Medium: There are a couple of sensory touch points
- 3 - High: There are loads of different surfaces and textures to explore here

Smells

- 1 - Low: There aren't usually any strong smells in this area
- 2 - Medium: There are a few smells used in this area, but nothing significant
- 3 - High: There might be strong smells in this area

Sights

- 1 - Low: There are hardly any visual effects in this area
- 2 - Medium: There are a few visual effects in this area, but no major triggers
- 3 - High: There is an increased level of visual stimuli in this area, such as bright lighting

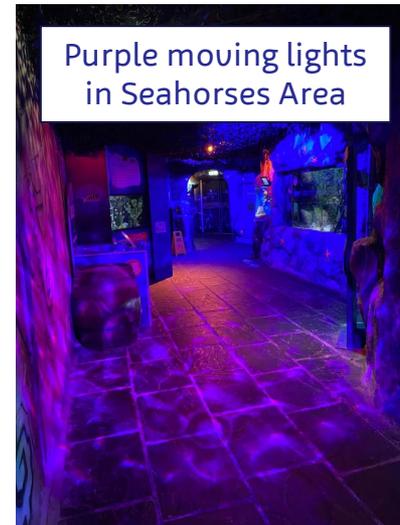
Throughout the entire site - Visual

Whilst some areas are lighter than others, there are some lighting states that are prominent around the whole centre.

As you can see by the pictures below, we use a lot of blue lighting around the centre, to give that 'underwater' feel! This means it can feel a little dark when first entering.

We also use moving lights around the centre. They create an 'underwater ripple' on the floor. The colours do not change, however you can find different colour variations of these lights around the site.

These lights do not move fast, but be cautious if you have any light sensitivities.



Throughout the entire site - Audio

Throughout the centre, we have our Entertainments team giving talks about our wonderful animals. These happen in specific places throughout the day. A member of the team will always be in the Rockpool Area and the Shark Window Area. On busier days, you might also find them in the Quayside Area, Stingray Adventure and the Rainforest Area.

As the centre can get quite busy, the team wear microphones so that all the guests can hear them in the vicinity. This means that sometimes they can be quite loud, so be weary of this.

The team will always be in SEALIFE uniform, and are more than happy to ask any questions you might have.



Alfie delivering a talk at our Rockpool Area



We also have our interactive touch points around the centre. If you press the button, you will hear a fact relating to the animals that are nearby.

These touch points get pressed a lot, so sometimes the speech repeats itself. Bear this in mind if you have audio sensitivities.

If you do require the use of sound-proof headphones, please make yourself known to the admissions team who have several sets.

Pre-Arrival

Train/Taxi:

The nearest train station to the centre is Blackpool North located on Talbot Road, approximately 0.8 miles away. Taxis are readily available from the train station and all should have accessible vehicles. On the occasion that there aren't any taxis available, Premier Taxis have a large fleet of accessible vehicles and can be contacted on 01253 401000.

Bus:

Buses operate frequently from the train station but don't run directly to the Sea Life Centre. If you are travelling from a nearby location, the 68 stagecoach bus runs from Preston to Blackpool town centre which is just 400m from the Sea Life. There are also bus stops roughly 50m either side of the centre if travelling from other nearby locations. All Blackpool Transport buses are accessible for wheelchair users; however, mobility scooters require a permit to be obtained prior to travel. There are audio/visual announcements on these buses.

Trams:

Trams operate from Starr Gate all the way through to Fleetwood along Blackpool Promenade. Operating roughly every 10 – 15 minutes, there is a tram stop almost directly opposite the Sea Life Centre. All trams (Excluding Heritage Trams) have level boarding and step-free interiors, with designated pushchair/wheelchair areas to ensure accessibility for all. All except the Heritage trams have both visual & audible announcers to inform passengers of the next stops.

Car Parking

Unfortunately, we don't have onsite parking due to the location of the centre. The street at the rear of the centre (Bonny Street) can, however, be used as parking for blue badge holders, and there are 2 council operated car parks located less than 100m away from the main entrance. Both car parks have street lamp lighting in the car park areas as well as on the adjacent streets.

The streets surrounding the centre are all fairly even, with tactile paving at drop curbs along the promenade with colours to highlight the dropped area as well. The pavement on approach to the main entrance is on a very slight incline and a coloured paved area indicates the entrance section to the centre. There is a loading area outside the main entrance for coaches or taxis however there isn't a dropped curb. The nearest dropped curb is roughly 20m from the centre.

Length of time	Vehicle type	Tariff	
Up to 2 hours	Cars	£3.50	
Up to 3 hours	Cars	£5	
Up to 4 hours	Cars	£6	
Up to 6 hours	Cars	£8.50	
Up to 8 hours	Cars	£11	
Up to 12 hours	Cars	£14	
Up to 18 hours	Cars	£16	
Up to 24 hours	Cars	£19	
Up to 48 hours	Cars	£22	
Up to 72 hours	Cars	£26	
Up to 96 hours	Cars	£29	
Up to 168 hours	Cars	£40	

Details

- Blue badge holders must display a clock beside their badge showing their arrival time to qualify for a 3 hour free concession
- 573 car spaces
- 4 x 22kw electric charge bays
- 34 Blue badge spaces
- Free motorcycle bay
- Height restriction of 1.9 m (6'3")

More details can be found about Car Parking in Blackpool on the Blackpool Council Website.

Local Area

Being situated just 250m from the town centre the surrounding areas are usually quite busy, particularly during school holiday periods. There is a traffic light point roughly 30m from the centre allowing you to safely cross from the promenade and access the centre, along with dropped pavements either side of the centre with tactile paving roughly 100m apart.

There are 16 radar accessible toilets operated by Blackpool Council. A map detailing the location of each can be found here: [Blackpool Council | Public toilets in Blackpool](#)

Blackpool wheelchair & scooter hire can offer both equipment hire and repair and can be contacted on 01253 408453 or <http://www.blackpoolwheelchair.co.uk/>

SEA LIFE

Blackpool

SEA LIFE BLACKPOOL SITE MAP

One of these will be given to you upon arrival. Please find the additional star labels to note where seating, toilets and talks are available.



★ Seating Benches

★ Mic'd Talks

★ Landing Toilets

★ Main Toilets

14. Conservation Café:
Opening Feb 2023

15. Stage Area:
Opening Feb 2023

- Shark Experience
- Demonstrations and Talks
Check daily times
- Interactive Touch Points

Admissions Area

- ★ Before you enter the attraction, you will see our LED screen outside the main doors, showing glimpses of our displays and some of the animals inside!
- ★ If you are visiting during our busier times of the year, there might be queue barriers outside the main doors (shown on the left hand side). If you are a wheelchair user, you can enter on the right hand side to avoid the barriers.
- ★ When entering the building, there will be a members of staff behind a desk with 2 TV's above them displaying prices and information.
- ★ This area can get quite busy, but the team will greet you when you get to the front of the line.



Carers go free!
Proof of carer eligibility is required, see website for more details.

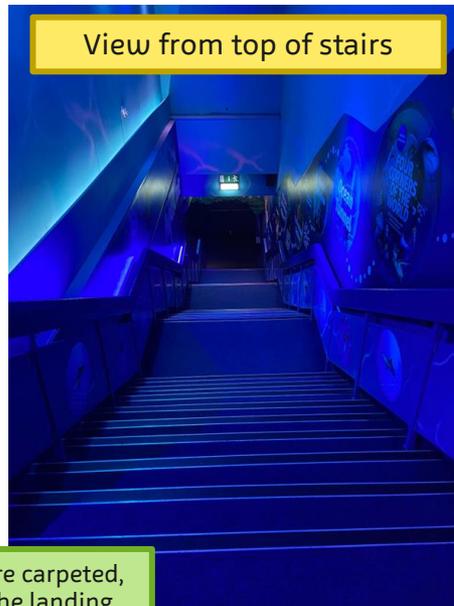
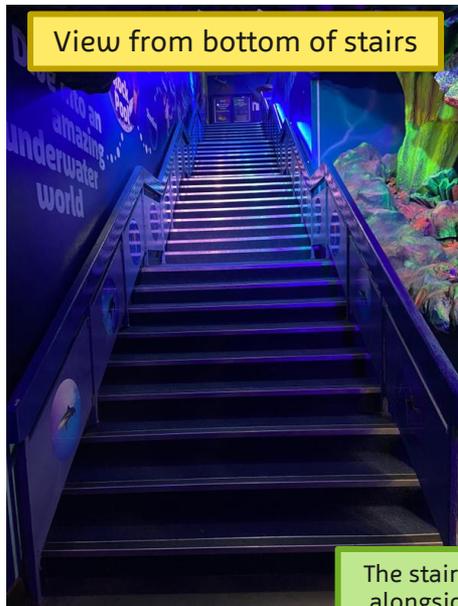
The flooring is vinyl, therefore smooth and easy to walk upon.

Sounds	2
Touch	1
Smells	1
Sights	2

Nearest Toilets:
Landing Toilets

Stairs/Lift Area

- ★ There are two different ways to get into the main attraction: a flight of stairs or a passenger lift.
- ★ If you choose to take the stairs, there are 4 flights consisting of 9 steps each with 36 steps in total. There is low lighting on these stairs with some ambient music.
- ★ If you choose to use the lift, it is on the right hand side of the admission desk, with arrows to guide your way. It is accessible for a wheelchair and is 1.2m wide. The lift is also accessible for our visually impaired guests, as there is braille on the buttons. Unfortunately, this is the only lift in the building, so in busy periods, sometimes there is a bit of a wait to use it.



The stairs are carpeted, alongside the landing.



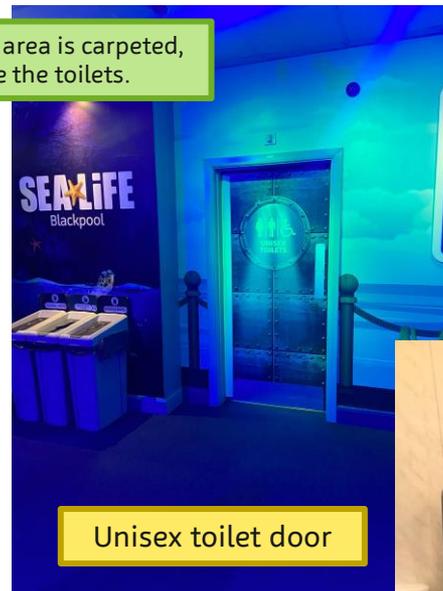
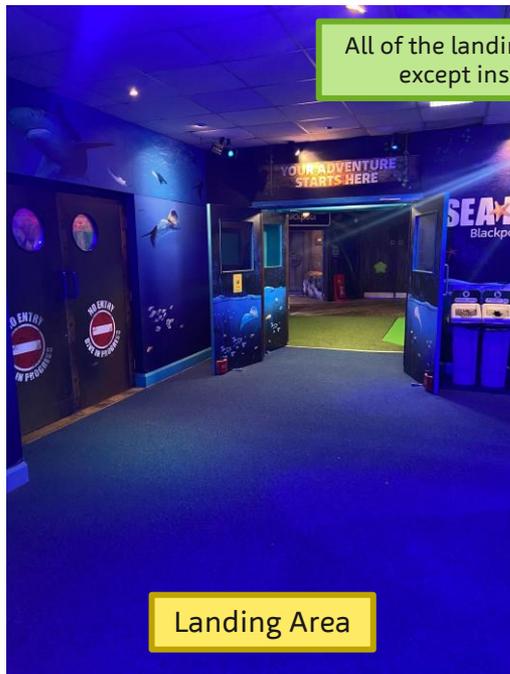
There is vinyl flooring up to the lift, and in the lift itself.

Sounds	2
Touch	1
Smells	1
Sights	2

Nearest Toilets:
Landing Toilets

Landing Area

- ★ When you exit the lift or reach the top of the stairs, you arrive on the landing. Here you will find unisex toilet facilities with a baby change area and an accessible toilet.
- ★ There is also an area to leave your pram if you so wish.
- ★ This area is fully accessible.



Sounds	2
Touch	1
Smells	1
Sights	1

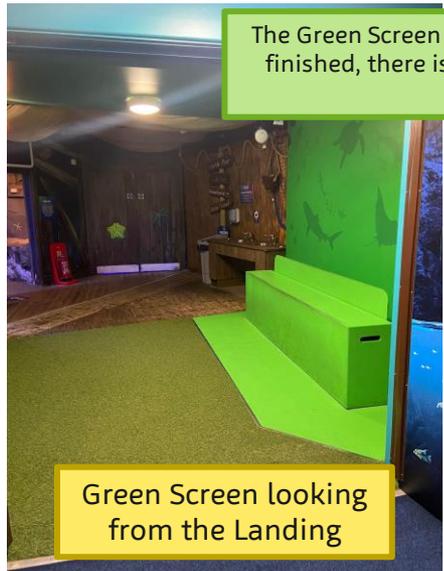
Nearest Toilets:
Landing Toilets

Photo Area

- ★ The first area you will encounter is a photo green screen area. This is optional, if you do not want your photo taken, you can bypass this area. Usually, there is a member of staff taking your photos, however in quiet periods, you can take your own using the machine.
- ★ If you want your pictures taken, you will be asked to sit on the green bench. You will be asked to look at the camera and smile. There will then be a flash of light as the photo is taken. For the second photo, you might be asked to put your arms in the air and look 'scared'. The green screen will change the background and there might be some animals in your photo!
- ★ This area is fully wheelchair accessible.



The Green Screen area is carpeted. After the area is finished, there is wooden flooring leading to the Rockpool.



Green Screen looking from the Landing



Green Screen looking from the Rockpool Area.

Sounds	2
Touch	1
Smells	1
Sights	2

Nearest Toilets:
Landing Toilets

Rockpool Area

- ★ Here at the Rockpool area, you are able to interact and even touch some of the animals! You can touch crabs, starfishes, sea anemones and mermaid's purses. The member of staff at the rockpool will show you how to touch these safely. Touching the creatures is optional, you don't have to if you don't want!
- ★ In this area, it can get quite loud as the member of staff is wearing a microphone and is delivering talks about the animals. There are also 2 TV's in this area, both showing more information about the creatures you are touching. There are signs in the water, with information and some showing you in which pools you can touch.
- ★ The Rockpool is 0.8m high, however the animals can be lifted out of the pool and brought to the guests if they so wish. To touch the animals, it is required for the guests to wash their hands in the sinks provided. Both sinks are low enough for wheelchairs.
- ★ This area is wheelchair accessible.

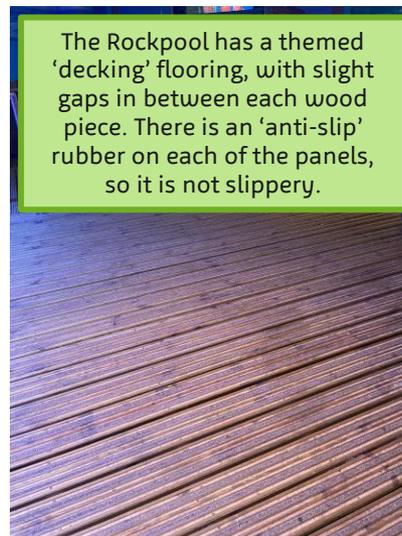
Sounds	2
Touch	3
Smells	1
Sights	2

Nearest Toilets:
Landing Toilets



View from Entrance to Rockpool

The Rockpool has a themed 'decking' flooring, with slight gaps in between each wood piece. There is an 'anti-slip' rubber on each of the panels, so it is not slippery.



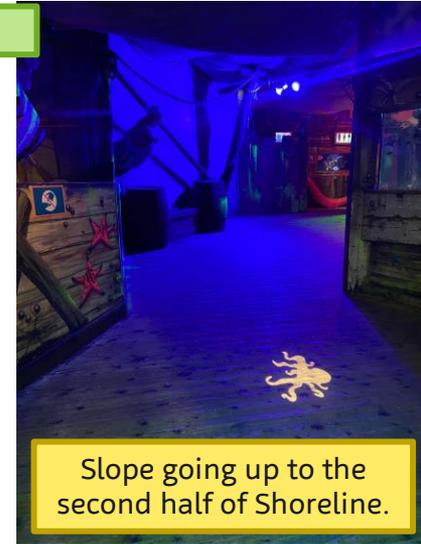
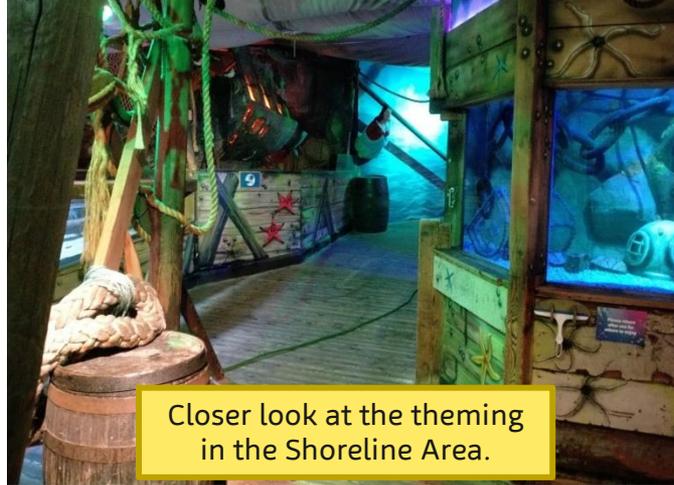
Closer look at the water/animals

Shoreline Area

- ★ There is quite low lighting around this area and you will be able to hear music and the wave pool.
- ★ This area is quite spacious in quieter periods, with a slope going upwards to the next area in the attraction.
- ★ There are interactive elements, such as a button which makes bubbles appear in the tank and a giant magnifying glass which provides a fun photo opportunity.
- ★ This area is fully wheelchair accessible.



The flooring all throughout Shoreline is smooth and wooden.



Sounds	2
Touch	2
Smells	1
Sights	2

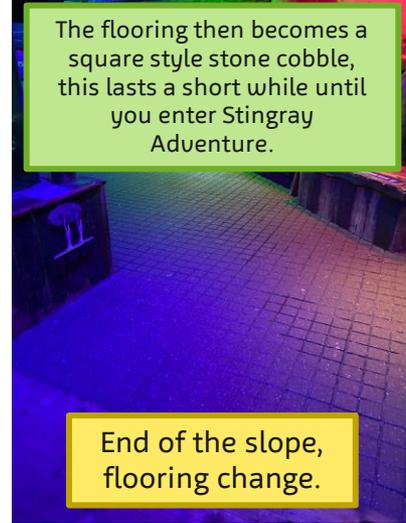
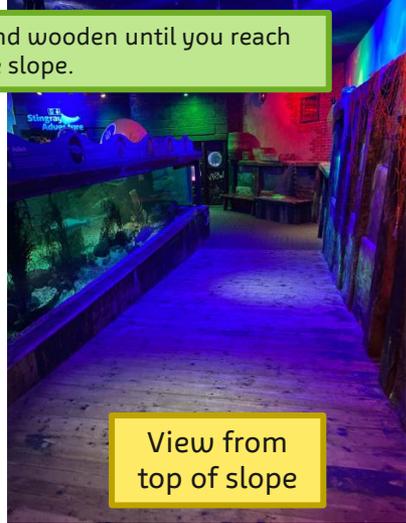
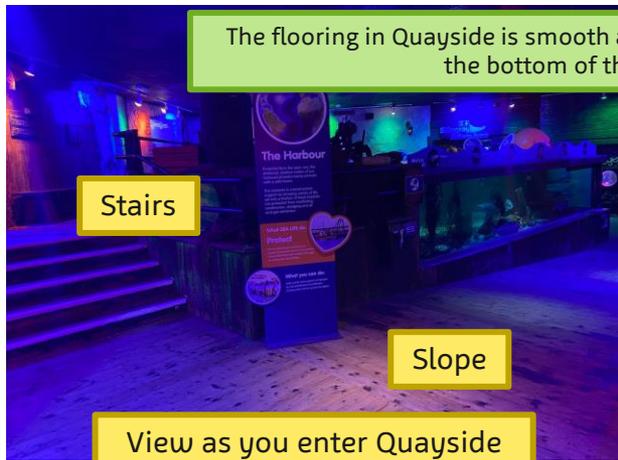
Nearest Toilets:
Landing Toilets

Quayside Area

- ★ In this area there is a large tank in the middle of the space. Guests can either go up 5 steps to have a birds-eye view of the tank, or there is a downwards slope on a cobbled surface allowing the guests to see the fish up close.
- ★ There is some atmospheric lighting in this area, and there are sounds of pirates chanting/gossiping behind a door. There are also benches in this area, both at the top and bottom of the tank.
- ★ If guests choose to go up the 5 steps to see a birds-eye view, they can either choose the same 5 steps to get down, or there are a further 9 steps to return and visit the next area of the attraction.
- ★ In this area, you can also find our ‘bubble wall’ where guests can have a ‘fish eyed view’ and get a better view of the fish and also our 5ft green moray eel, Matilda!

Sounds	2
Touch	1
Smells	1
Sights	2

Nearest Toilets:
Landing Toilets



Stingray Adventure Area

- ★ This area is where you will find our smaller sharks and our stingrays. Guests can also get up close with our animals by crawling underneath and having a look in our Sea Cave.
- ★ There is also a running waterfall, this can get quite noisy at times. Sometimes we have a member of the entertainments team delivering a talk about the creatures over a microphone which can also be quite noisy. There are several benches in this area.
- ★ This area is accessible for all, however we do have a 'shark viewing window' which you have to access via 9 stairs. This is not necessary for your experience, there is another viewing area for these animals that is fully accessible!



View from the entrance of Stingray Adventure

The flooring is concrete, which has some discolouration due to the theming of the area. The steps up to the viewing window are wooden decking.

First use of the moving lights happens in Stingray Adventure, as seen below.

These are the doors that you would use if you needed the toilet in this area.



Stairs up to the viewing window.

Sounds 3

Touch 1

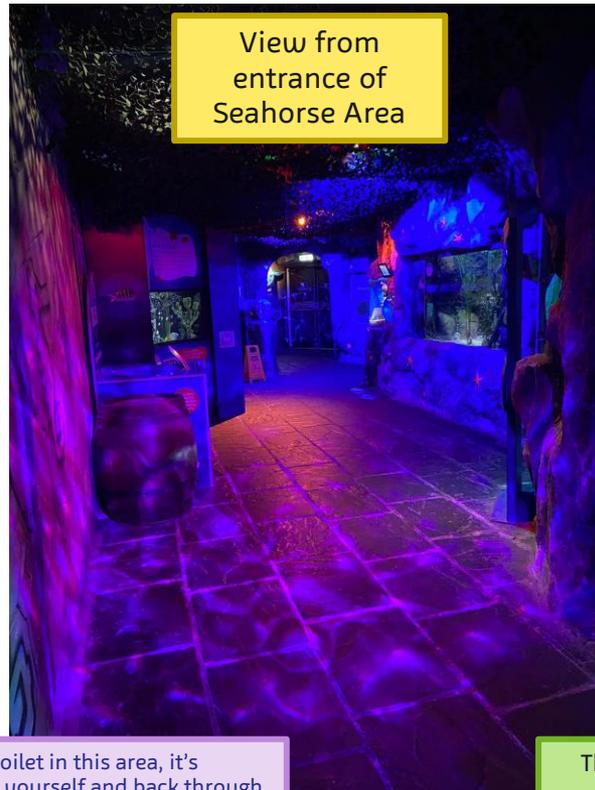
Smells 1

Sights 2

Nearest Toilets:
Main Toilets

Seahorses Area

- ★ This area is where you can find our Seahorses, Clownfish and Blue tangs!
- ★ This area is fairly low lit, with green netting across the ceiling. This is also where you can find another moving 'underwater' light, but this time it's purple.



Sounds	2
Touch	1
Smells	1
Sights	2

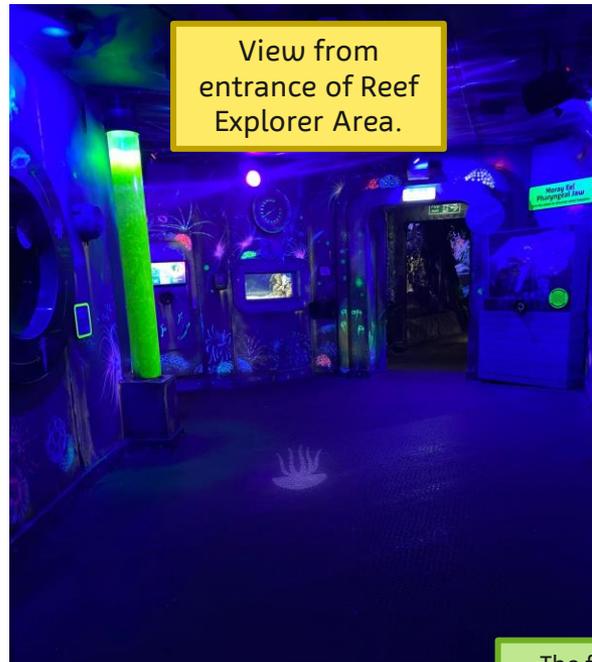
Nearest Toilets:
Main Toilets

If you need to use the toilet in this area, it's recommended to go 'back' on yourself and back through the Stingray Adventure area to the main toilets.

The flooring in this area is stone paving.

Reef Explorer Area

- ★ This area is fitted with low lit UV lights. There are bright designs around the area and can seem like they are glowing under the UV lights.
- ★ There are several interactive elements in this area, guests are able to change the colour of the jellyfish display and they are able to spin a crank to find out about how an eel jaw moves.
- ★ One of the tanks has a step leading up to it, but apart from that, the area is accessible to all.



Sounds	2
Touch	2
Smells	1
Sights	2

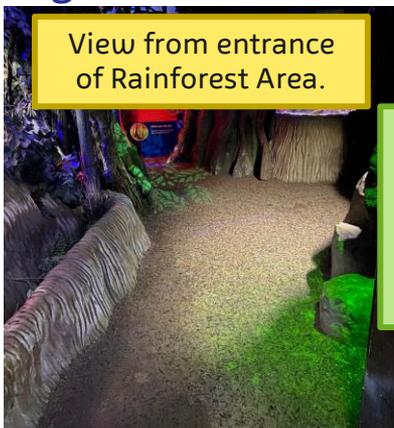
Rainforest Area

- ★ This area is where we simulate the feeling of being in a rainforest. There are lots of fake trees and fake leaves in the area.
- ★ The lighting in this area is dimly lit, and as you enter the area, there is a 'rain curtain' which can be quite loud. There is also the scent of a forest in this area, to make it fully immersive.
- ★ This area is fully accessible for all. There is an uneven bridge in this area, which wheelchairs are able to get across. The narrowest point in this area is 1.03m wide.
- ★ This area is also home to our ranger table, where there are a variety of creepy crawlies for you to look at. There is sometimes a member of the entertainments team delivering a talk using a microphone, so can be quite loud.
- ★ This is also where a waxwork of David Attenborough lives, this area is well lit with a spotlight shining on the waxwork.

Sounds	2
Touch	2
Smells	2
Sights	2

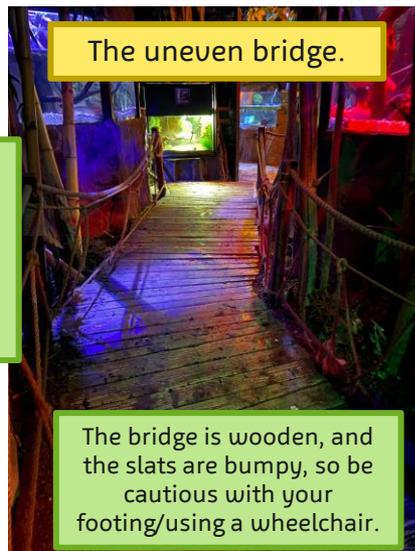
Nearest Toilets:
Main Toilets

Again, if you need the toilet, it is recommended to go 'back' on yourself and visit the main toilets through the doors in Stingray Adventure.



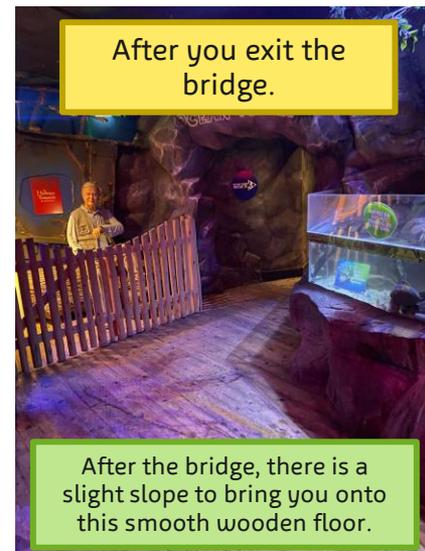
View from entrance of Rainforest Area.

The first half of the Rainforest Area is a soft floor, to emulate the forest floor.



The uneven bridge.

The bridge is wooden, and the slats are bumpy, so be cautious with your footing/using a wheelchair.

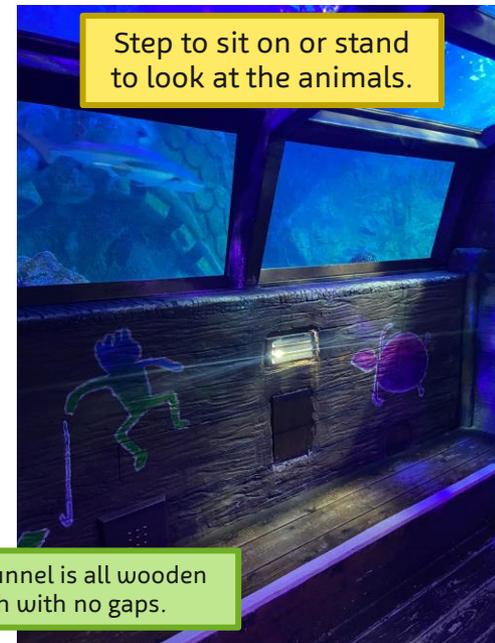
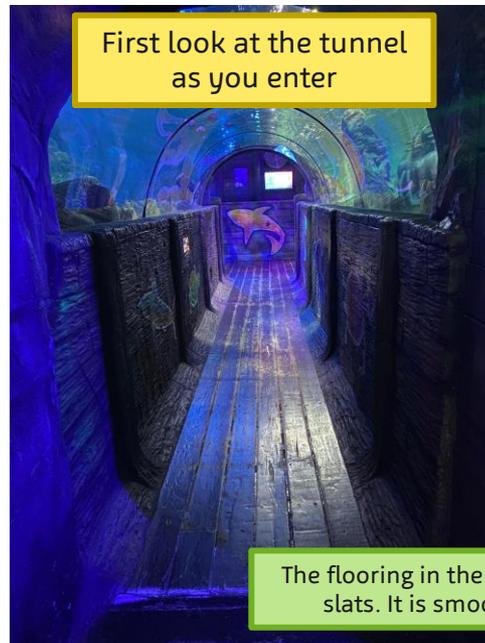
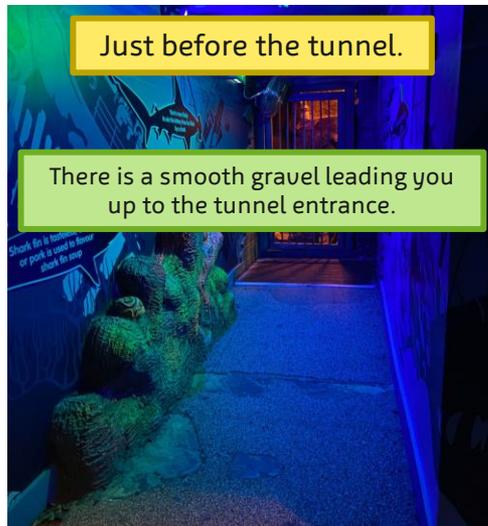


After you exit the bridge.

After the bridge, there is a slight slope to bring you onto this smooth wooden floor.

Shark Tunnel Area

- ★ As you approach the shark tunnel, there are interactive elements allowing guests to feel what a shark fin and a turtle feels like. There is also a button to hear facts about our giant green sea turtle, Phoenix.
- ★ You then enter the shark tunnel, giving you a 180 degree view of our Shark Tank. In busy periods, this area can get quite crowded, as it is the most popular area of the attraction. There are fans in this area to provide comfort in the hot periods.
- ★ There are bright paintings of the animals on the walls and lots of signs around to give more information about the animals.
- ★ This area is fully wheelchair accessible.



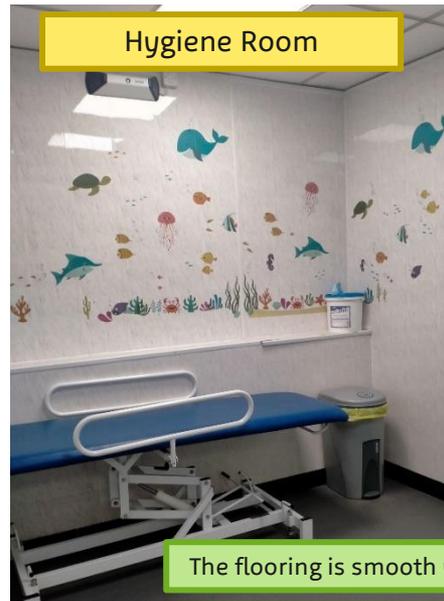
Sounds	1
Touch	2
Smells	1
Sights	2

Nearest Toilets:
Main Toilets

At this point, we recommend to carry on through the tunnel to get to the Main Toilets.

Main Toilets

- ★ As you head out of the Ocean Tunnel and before you enter to our Four Corners exhibit, there are our main toilet area.
- ★ Sometimes this area can be quite wet, due to the Snorkelling with Sharks experience guests walking through the area after being in the tank.
- ★ Inside, we have a hygiene room and baby change facilities.
- ★ We also have accessible toilet facilities, where there are hand rails, mirror, sink, soap and a hand dryer.
- ★ In the toilets, there is some light ambient music.

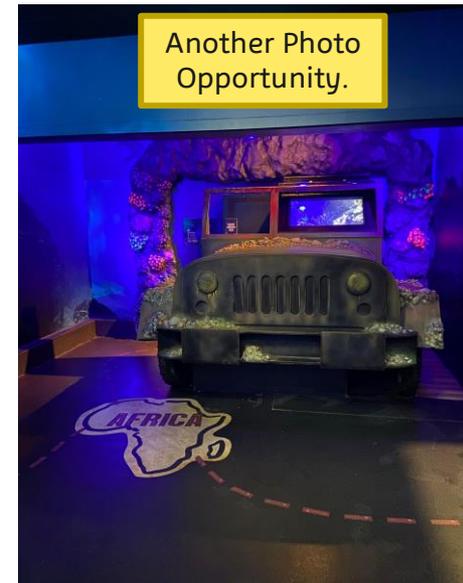
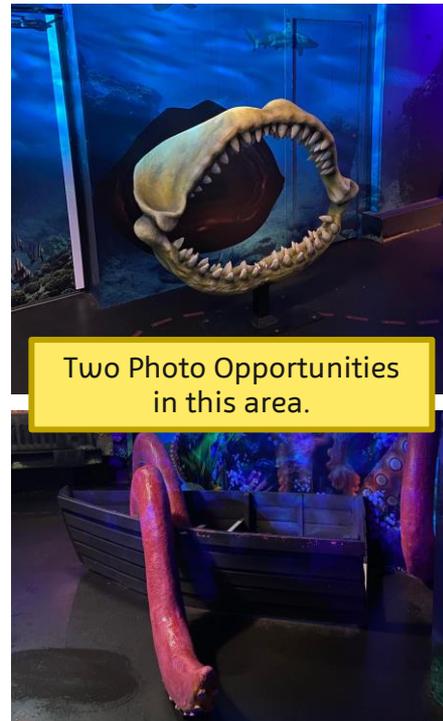


Sounds	1
Touch	1
Smells	1
Sights	1

The flooring is smooth vinyl throughout.

Four Corners Area

- ★ This area has 3 different displays that has a step to see into, but the rest and the surrounding areas are accessible.
- ★ In this area, you will also find lighting on the floor shaped like a map and compass. This projections also move. There are also photo opportunities such as a Terracotta Warrior to put your face through and a 4x4 car that you can sit in.
- ★ There is also an interactive button that will tell you more fun facts about the creatures.



The flooring in this area is all smooth vinyl.

Sounds	1
Touch	2
Smells	1
Sights	2

Nearest Toilets:
Main Toilets

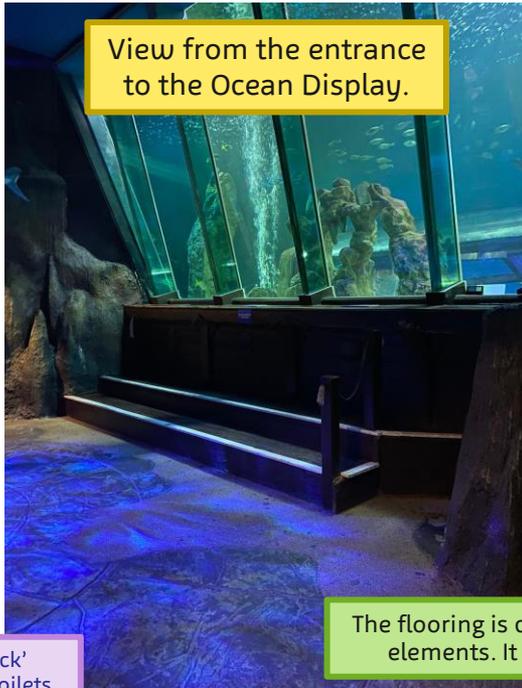
Ocean Display Area

- ★ This area is quite low lit and is a place for guests to sit on the benches and watch the ocean display tank.
- ★ This is where our entertainments team deliver a talk about the creatures you can see using a microphone, because of this, it can get quite loud.
- ★ This area can also be quite busy due to these talks and guests will stop to listen.
- ★ There are two steps to get up to the ocean view window up close, but apart from this, it is accessible to all.

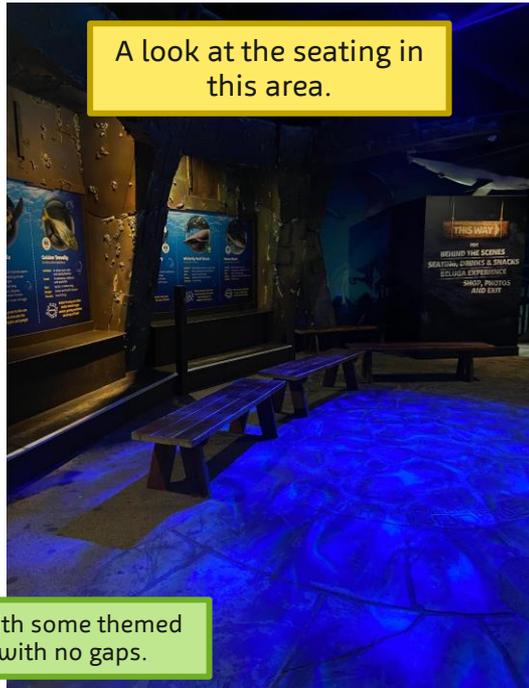
Sounds	3
Touch	1
Smells	1
Sights	2

Nearest Toilets:
Main Toilets

We would recommend going 'back' through Four Corners to get to the toilets.



View from the entrance to the Ocean Display.



A look at the seating in this area.

The flooring is concrete with some themed elements. It is smooth with no gaps.

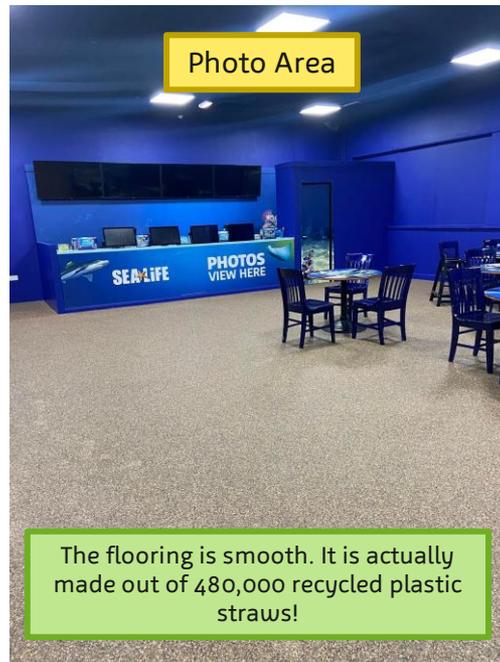
Retail/Photo Area

- ★ As you leave the ocean window area, you enter the end of the attraction which is the photo redemption area, the retail store and then the exit.
- ★ The first thing you will come across is the Photo redemption area. Members of staff will be there to greet you and this is where you can view your photos that you took at the start of the attraction. If you like them, you are able to purchase them there!
- ★ The retail area is where you can buy any souvenirs that you would like. There is also a seating area where you are welcome to purchase food and eat it.
- ★ The Retail shop can get quite busy in peak periods and there is background ambient music.
- ★ This area is fully wheelchair accessible.

Sounds	2
Touch	1
Smells	1
Sights	2

Nearest Toilets:
Main Toilets

Head through the gift shop and turn left to enter Four Corners and subsequently the toilets.



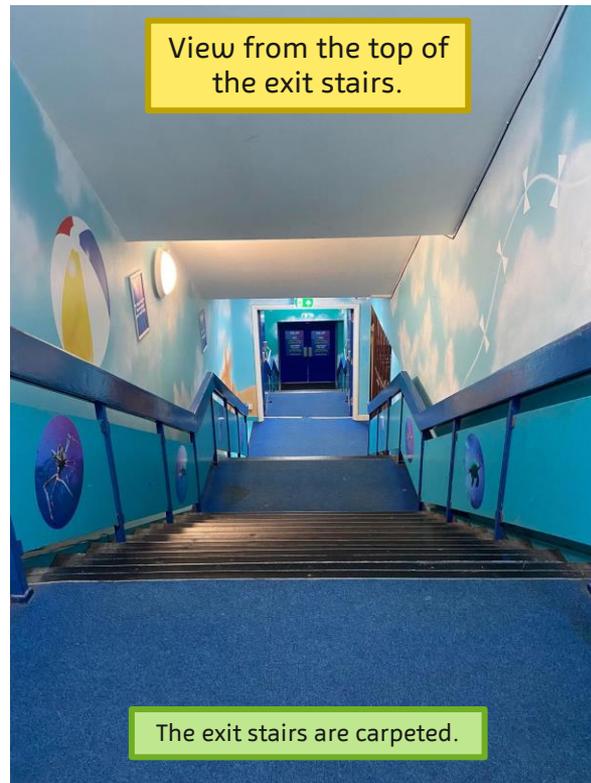
Exit Area

- ★ If you can use the stairs to the exit, there are 36 steps in total to the doors at the bottom.
- ★ This exit route is not accessible. Unfortunately, due to the age of the building, there is only one lift which will be the one that you started the attraction in. There are signs that direct you back to the lift at the start. The best route is through Four Corners then through the double doors to Stingray Adventure, through Quayside/Shoreline and through the double doors to the Landing Area. There is signage throughout the attraction to assist with this!

Sounds	1
Touch	1
Smells	1
Sights	1

Nearest Toilets:
Main Toilets

Head through the 'Lift this way' door, which will take you to Four Corners and thus the Main Toilets.



We are proud to be on AccessAble!

Sea Life Blackpool

Promenade, Blackpool, Lancashire, FY1 5AA

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Introduction

COVID-19 Information

Location

Opening Times & Admission Prices

Parking

Outside Access (Main Entrance)

Reception

Other Floors (Ground Floor to First Floor)

Other Floors (First

Introduction

- Services/facilities within the building include an aquarium, gift shop and picnic area.

[Collapse all](#) [Expand all](#)

Comments

View

Google 'Sea Life Blackpool AccessAble' and you can find even more information.

Coming soon in 2023..

**A Video walkthrough of the
attraction, with top tips!**

Any other questions?

You can contact us on Facebook, Email
or phone us on 01253 621258.

We hope to see you soon!



Thank you