



WEST BAY DISCOVERY CENTRE ACCESSIBILITY GUIDE

This Guide aims to provide information on the access to our Centre and its exhibitions and other Accessibility friendly facilities in West Bay.



West Bay Discovery Centre | Chapel on the Beach |
West Bay | DT6 4EN

□ www.westbaydiscoverycentre.org.uk □ 01308 427288

Owned and operated by the Bridport Area Development Trust

Registered Charity No: 1137231

Welcome

West Bay Discovery Centre is situated in the old Methodist Chapel that was built in 1849. It was converted into a visitor centre in 2018.

It is in the centre of West Bay next to the Bridport Arms public house and the Bridport Arms car park. The nearest designated disabled car parking is at the Quayside. These car parks are run by Dorset Council and charges apply. The immediately surrounding area is uneven with gravel paths. Our manager and volunteers are available if you require any assistance. There is a disabled toilet in the building behind the Discovery Centre.

If you have any queries or require any assistance please phone on 01308 427288 or email info@westbaydiscoverycentre.org.uk.

At a Glance

Level Access

- Access to the building is via a ramp, please ask the volunteers to put it in place.

Hearing

- The fire alarm has flashing lights.
- We can provide a transcript for our audio recordings.
- Please note that with our wide-open ceiling some visitors may find the acoustics challenging.

Visual

- A large print guide is available please ask our volunteers for a copy.
- We are currently in the process of producing a visually descriptive audio guide.
- Assistance Dogs are welcome. A water bowl is available outside the Centre or alternatively please ask our volunteers for assistance.

Getting here

Travel by public transport

Bus

- We are a two-minute walk from the West Bay bus stop turn left and you will see us facing you across the harbour, we are in the former Chapel to the left of the Bridport Arms public house.

First Group run one main route serving West Bay.

- The X53 runs between Weymouth and Axminster train station, along the stunning B3157 Coast Road, serving both Bridport and West Bay.

The service operates with a low floor, accessible buses that can accommodate one wheelchair. They also allow all recognised assistance animals to travel for free.

Train

The nearest train stations West Bay are as follows:

- Maiden Newton (12 miles) – services between Gloucester and Weymouth (including Bristol Temple Meads)
- Crewkerne (12 miles) – services between London Waterloo and Exeter St David's
- Axminster (13 miles) – services between London Waterloo at Exeter St David's
- Dorchester West (15 miles) – services between Gloucester and Weymouth (including Bristol Temple Meads)
- Dorchester South (15 miles) – services between London Waterloo and Weymouth

Coach trips to West Bay

Customers on coach trips to West Bay will usually be dropped off in the main West Bay Road Car park, follow the signs to the Harbour, at the Cornish Bakery shop turn left and walk along the raised bank.

The Discovery Centre is at the end of this path, next door to the Bridport Arms.

Travel by taxi

- A local taxi firm which provides accessible taxi services is **I take 8 Taxis** (07546 223983)

Parking

- The nearest designated disabled car parking is at the Quayside. (6 places)

The standard pay and display parking charges apply to Blue Badge holders in car parks in the West Dorset area owned by Dorset Council, see further information [here](#).

Arrival

Path to main entrance

- The surrounding area is uneven with gravel paths. The gravel path is 270cm wide.





- Alternatively, you can approach the Discovery Centre from the side path leading from the road that fronts the Bridport Arms public house. The path leading towards the building shown below is 94cm. wide at the entrance point.



- The path leads to a short area of paving width is 124cm wide.

Main entrance

- The historic nature of the building and its Grade 2 listed status, means that the entrance has not been adapted.
- The door is 72cm wide.



- Please ask our volunteers to put out the ramp which is placed over one step and open the inner doors to allow easy access into the building.
- Following the step, the floor slopes gradually upwards over a distance of 20cm.
- Wheelchairs that are 60cm wide and up to 140cm from front to back, should not have any problem in accessing all parts of the building open to the public.



Getting around inside

- There is level access from the inner lobby to the main room.
- There is colour contrast between sections of our exhibition displays.



- Our two interactive screens and play areas are 80cm in height.
- At the back is a small lip over the different floor coverings, this has a height difference of 3mm.





There are several pull out panels the highest is 94cm high.

- Our shop display area and desk have low sections.
- The route is 1300mm wide or more.
- There is seating available in the building.
- We have a large print guide of our displays, please ask our volunteers for a copy.



- Our temporary exhibitions are displayed in a glass cabinet.

- We have a choice of films to play none of them are audio so do not require subtitles.

Customer care support

- Volunteers are at hand please ask them for assistance if required.

Emergency evacuation procedures

- There is only one way in and out of the building.
- We have evacuation procedures for disabled visitors.
- The fire alarm has flashing lights.

Nearest Toilet facilities

- There are public toilets located behind the Centre which include a disabled toilet and baby changing facilities.



Path leading from the Discovery Centre to the public toilets located behind our building.



Refreshments in West Bay

West Bay has an amazing choice of food and drink outlets to suit all pockets and tastes and special diets including vegan, vegetarian and [gluten free](#). On the Esplanade are two picnic benches with wheelchair access.

Jurassic Pier & Esplanade in West Bay

The Jurassic Pier, which is 240 metres long, was significantly improved in 2004. It has wheelchair access and plenty of seating. On the Esplanade are two picnic benches with wheelchair access.



Access to the beach

On West Beach special matting was installed in August 2022 to provide wheelchair and buggy access to the beach. The path is made of specially made plastic and aluminium and will be available during the summer season., making the beach accessible to all.



The access to the path is via a slope on the left-hand side as you reach the pedestrian only section of the Esplanade (see images below.)





West Bay Beach Wheelchair Scheme

The West Bay Beach Wheelchair scheme was established in March 2023, four beach wheelchairs are available for hire from April-October. The wheelchairs extend beach access to people of all ages and abilities, and are free to hire in season for further details and how to book see [here](#).

West Bay Beach Wheelchair Scheme

For bookings call
07342 236443

For further information visit
bridport-tc.gov.uk/beach
or scan the QR code below

- Free beach wheelchair hire
- Beach matting
- Changing Places toilet facilities

Wheelchairs/matting available April to October

SUPPORTED BY

Bridport Town Council

Parkdean Resorts

Dorset Council

West Bay Play & Picnic Area

The award-winning West Bay Play Area situated next to the West Bay Car Park in West Bay Road has been designed to be accessible to all ages and abilities. Its features include a sensory area and wheelchair swing.



West Bay Changing Place Toilets

Officially open in February 2024 the new Changing Place Toilet at West Bay Road Car Park has been designed to with extra space and equipment.



The facility includes height adjustable adult changing benches, a ceiling track hoist, a peninsular toilet with space for two assistants, a privacy screen along with practical things such as wide paper rolls, a

large waste disposal bin, a backrest on the toilet seat and a height adjustable wash basin.



West Bay Holiday Park also has a [Changing Place facility](#)

Guide last updated: 15th February 2024