

The Arts by the Sea Festival Accessibility Guide

The 2024 festival takes place between 27th and 29th September. It is a free event and is in Bournemouth Town Centre.

This guide aims to give you information about getting around the festival. If you have any further queries, please contact us at culture@bcpcouncil.gov.uk or call on 01202 128121.

Getting here

By Train

You can travel to the festival from all over the UK by train [[National Rail Enquiries - Official source for UK train times and timetables](#)]. The nearest train station to the festival site is Bournemouth and the festival site is a 30 minute walk from the station (or a short bus ride). There is a bus station and a taxi rank outside the train station (platforms 3 and 4 exit). Most buses will take you into the Town Centre via Bournemouth Square (Gervis Place).

By Bus

You can travel to Bournemouth Town Centre easily by bus from all over the BCP area. More Bus – Plan your journey [[Plan your journey - morebus](#)] The closest bus stops are on Gervis Place, directly in front of Bournemouth Square and Westover Road. There is direct level access to the Central and Lower Gardens, Town Square, Civic Centre, Bournemouth Pier and Beaches. The bus stop is 0.1 miles / 0.2 km from the festival.

Taxis

Taxi Companies that have wheelchair accessible vehicles are:

PRC Streamline 01202 373737

United Taxis 01202 556677

Star Radio Cars Ltd 01202 39191

Mobile Radio Cars 01202 518000

Accessible parking and drop-off points

There are several car parks in the town centre near the festival site. The closest car park with the most level access is the Pavilion Car Park, Westover Road. All car parks have accessible parking spaces. Parking is not free. More information can be found here:

<https://www.bournemouth.gov.uk/Parking/FindaCarPark/CarParks/CarParks.aspx>

Drop off points are:

- ❖ Pavilion car park (use the external lift on the right side of the building to reach Pavilion Terrace, then access Lower Gardens via level access pavement under the flyover).
- ❖ Bournemouth Pier bus stop (level access to Pier Approach next to the Bournemouth International Centre (BIC)).
- ❖ The BH2 leisure complex in the town centre has parking and is adjacent to the Lower Gardens with level access into the Gardens.

Approaches and entrances to principal locations in Bournemouth

There is level access to performances taking place in Bournemouth Gardens from the Square.

The Seafront can be accessed through the Lower Gardens (via Pier Approach).

Levels and gradients

The festival locations of the Square, Lower Gardens and Seafront are all on the level. The Square is the easiest place to access these locations. Access from other points (e.g. Westover Road) may involve some slopes.

Beale Place has a slight incline. The easiest way to access the Pavilion Terraces is from the beach via the Upside-Down House or there is lift access from Westover Road and the Pavilion. East Cliff Zig Zag can be accessed along the promenade.

Signage

The performance areas are zoned and numbered. There are large numbered flags in each zone area.

Quiet Space and Accessible Viewing Area are signposted by flags and shown on the festival map.

The Information Point is located in the Lower Gardens and signposted by a flag.

Lifts

Pavilion lift

You can find the lift on the right-hand side of the Pavilion as you face the front of the building on Westover Road. It gives access from the Pavilion to the Pavilion Terrace overlooking the Gardens. Access to the Lower Gardens and beach from Pavilion Terrace is past Pavilion Dance South West, down a slope and under the flyover to Pier Approach.

The lift is wide enough for one full size wheelchair but may not be wide enough for a large electric wheelchair or mobility scooter. The lift buttons have raised numbers or letters.

There is a café on Pavilion Terrace which is only accessible via a slope near the flyover. The café has outside seating and staff will clear an accessible route if there is any obstruction.

For more information on using the lift and accessible routes around the Pavilion, please visit their website or contact the venue:

<http://www.bournemouthpavilion.co.uk/tickets/accessibility/>

Accessible WC's and Changing Rooms Facilities

Public toilets

Lower Gardens has a permanent *Changing Places* toilet in the public toilet block. This includes a wall-mounted height-adjustable adult-sized bench, a ceiling hoist, peninsular toilet, height-adjustable wash basin, non-slip floor, privacy screen and emergency alarm. The floor space is 12 sq. m. This *Changing Places* toilet has an attendant to service the facility between 9:00 – 18:00. If the attendant is not visible there is a button to call the attendant. From 18.00 – 19.30 the facility is opened via a radar key. The facility closes at 19.30.

The festival also provides a Changing Places toilet in the lower gardens which is fully staffed between midday and 6.00pm Saturday and Sunday

There are also accessible toilets around the festival site:

- ❖ Bournemouth Central East Promenade, next to Harry Ramsden's
- ❖ Pier Entrance
- ❖ Richmond Gardens, Floor 1 multi-storey car park
- ❖ Bournemouth Library in The Triangle

There is also an accessible toilet at Bournemouth Station, next to the National Express ticket office.

Quiet Spaces

The festival has a designated Quiet Space in Pavilion Dance.

Assistance Dogs

Assistance Dogs (and all dogs) are welcome in all areas of the festival site (outside the Town Hall, in Central Gardens, Middle Gardens, Lower Gardens, Town Square and Pier Approach). Between 1 May and 30 September, dogs are not allowed on the majority of the beach and must be kept on a lead on the promenades and paths at all times. For exact beach locations where dogs are permitted visit the BCP Council website.

<https://www.bournemouth.gov.uk/AttractionsLeisure/BeachesandWaterfront/BeachGuidelines.aspx>.

Hearing Induction Loops and Captioned Performances

We do not have any Hearing Induction Loops or Closed Captioning for the outdoor performances at the festival.

Performance Specific Access Information

All performances at the festival are free and unticketed.