

VisitEngland ™

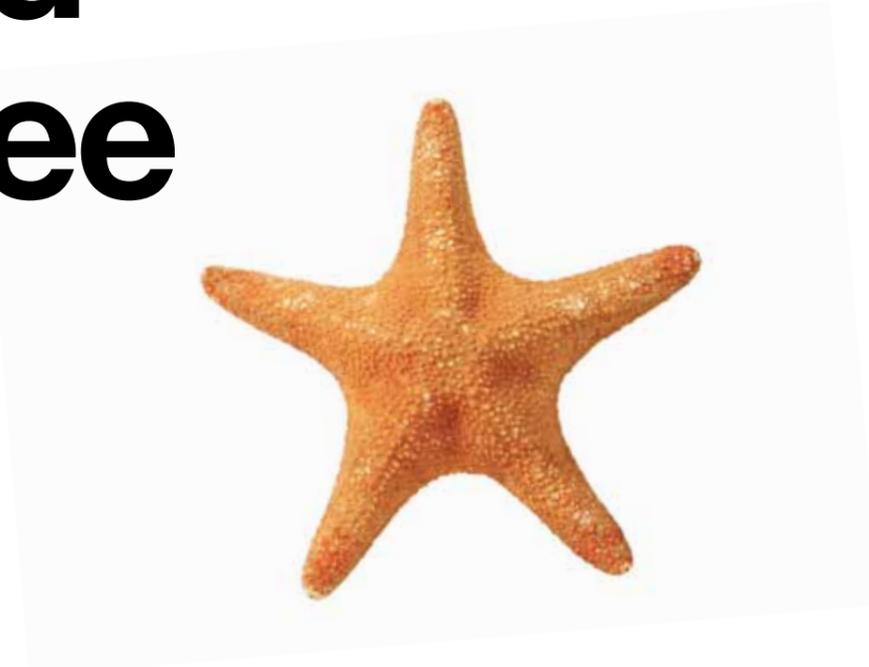
Photo: Adam Bronkhorst

# Access for All

**Your guide to accessible  
coastal, countryside and  
city breaks in England**



# Sun, sea and step-free access



For more tips on accessible travel in England,  
go to [VisitEngland.com/AccessforAll](https://www.visitengland.com/AccessforAll)



## Introduction

Welcome to your 32-page guide to some of the most accessible breaks that England has to offer. Thanks to VisitEngland's Access for All project, a selection of attractions and places to stay at seven destinations around the country have undergone an 'accessible reinvention'. The result is welcome news to the disabled traveller; warm, disability-savvy staff, mobility, hearing and visual impairment ratings for accommodation and improved accessibility to the best attractions in the area. If you're looking to watch the sunset surfside at the beach, traverse the lush expanses of countryside on an all terrain wheelchair or explore some of the country's more undiscovered cities, read on...

**Need to know**  
Under VisitEngland's Access for all campaign key staff members have completed disability awareness training. Accommodation and attractions have been audited by a professional access advisor and many have received a mystery visit from guests with accessibility requirements. All venues listed display full access statements on their websites.

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The Royal Pavilion

Photo: Adam Bronkhorst

# Only in Brighton

The city by the sea's inimitable free spirited identity is open to everyone

If you fancy dipping your toes in Brighton's colourful, eclectic waters, there's some seriously good news. The coastal city's sites and key attractions are more than well prepared for you and your family and friends if you're disabled or have any accessibility requirements. And with many facets to its cultural personality, there's truth in the "there's something for everyone" saying here. Visit and you'll find a host of quirky boutiques in The Lanes, bold



street art and a vibrant, bohemian café culture in the North Laine, juxtaposed against the curved white façades of imposing Regency architecture.

**The Royal Pavilion** sits at the heart of the city. Built for George IV, this nineteenth century Chinoiserie style palace is a symbol of Brighton's love of the left-field. Inside, the Music Room ceiling adorned by 26,000 gold plaster cockleshells is sheer visual spectacle. The ground floor is accessible to wheelchair users and has an audio-visual room. Audio tours, tactile and sign language interpreted tours are available to book in advance.

In the Royal Pavilion Garden you'll find **Brighton Museum & Art Gallery**; home to weird and wonderful artefacts fusing art and history. The Willett Gallery houses a large pottery, fossil and natural history collection, while in the Performance Gallery you can take a look behind the scenes at masks, puppets, sets and costumes. All areas are accessible for wheelchair users. There is a hearing loop at the information desk and shop, tactile/braille maps are also available.

Change the pace entirely at **Sea Life Brighton**. Situated right on the seafront next to Brighton's iconic pier – and with easy accessibility – this is the world's oldest aquarium and an excellent spot to take the kids or grandchildren. New for 2015 is the Jurassic Seas exhibit, where you can feed a deadly Plesiosaurus using state of the art technology, meet Charlie the resident Snakeneck Turtle and see the mighty Megalodon – the most powerful aquatic predator from prehistoric times.

Fancy exploring around Hove? No problem.



Brighton Museum & Art Gallery



Turtle at Sea Life Brighton

**Brighton and Hove buses** operate a fleet of 280 accessible low floor buses that are wheelchair friendly and run 24 hours a day. Plus, they have free Wi-Fi and talking bus stop announcements with visual displays, so you can relax and enjoy the seascape scenery. From the stop at North Street/Old Steine, near Sea Life Brighton take the the 1 or 1A towards Hove and arrive in just 15 minutes.

The **Hove Museum & Art Gallery** is a treasure trove of toys, art and cinema. This majestic Victorian villa was where the first British film was shot in 1898. Learn about film making in one of two interactive galleries. And 'Wizard's Attic' is packed to the rafters with toys throughout history; from Pierotti portrait dolls to *Star Wars* figures, all set to the snores of the elusive wizard.

**Preston Manor** is an elegant seventeenth century historic house which underwent substantial Edwardian remodelling by its upper class family owners; the Stanfords; who became one of the biggest landowners in Brighton. Take a tour around to immerse yourself in the 'Downton'

style upstairs/ downstairs life at the manor. Both tactile and sign language interpreted tours can be booked to view all 20 rooms.

When the sun goes down, Brighton's cosmopolitan credentials don't disappoint. Indulge in some award-winning cuisine at one of its many notable restaurants and then head to a live performance at the **Brighton Dome**. This premier multi-arts venue presents over 600 events annually spanning classical and contemporary music, theatre, dance, comedy, literature, visual arts and film. The Grade I listed Dome setting is pretty special too. There's three accessible performance venues here; the Concert Hall, Corn Exchange and Studio Theatre with Sennheiser and T-loop systems in the auditoria and bar areas. You can also opt for sign language interpreted and STAGETEXT captioned performances, relaxed performances and touch tours.

**The Brighton Centre** is the place to catch the hottest stars; from rock gods to high-profile comedians. It also hosts public exhibitions on the wider cultural arts. This year's eclectic programme includes live dates from Duran Duran, Years & Years, Reeves and Mortimer and Harry Enfield and Paul Whitehouse. There are accessible viewing platforms for wheelchair users, a low level counter and induction loop in the box office and accessible lifts and toilets.

Overall, both public and private organisations in Brighton and Hove are fully committed to making the city as accessible as possible to each and every visitor. And it really shows. You can even download a map detailing locations of dropped kerbs in the city centre. Plus, it also displays photo-routes; indicating step-free access to the key attractions.

**ROYAL PAVILION**  
brightonmuseums.org.uk/royalpavilion,  
03000 290 900

**BRIGHTON MUSEUM & ART GALLERY**  
brightonmuseums.org.uk/brighton,  
03000 290 900

**SEA LIFE BRIGHTON**  
visitsealife.com/brighton,  
08714 232 110

**BRIGHTON & HOVE BUSES**  
buses.co.uk/ information/accessible-  
buses-wheelchairs.aspx,  
01273 886 200

**HOVE MUSEUM & ART GALLERY**  
Brightonmuseums.org.uk/hove,  
03000 290 900

**PRESTON MANOR**  
Brightonmuseums.org.uk/  
prestonmanor, 03000 290 900

**BRIGHTON DOME**  
Brightondome.org, 01273 709 709  
for tickets. 01273 261 541/525  
for access enquiries

**BRIGHTON CENTRE**  
Brightoncentre.co.uk,  
01273 292 695

FOR MORE INFORMATION GO TO

**VisitBrighton.com/plan-your-visit/accessibility**

OR CALL **01273 290 337**

# Where to Stay

**Check in with confidence** – these addresses offer great accommodation and are committed to offering you a warm welcome. Arrive, then kick-back and relax.



Prices from £69  
per room per night



## HILTON BRIGHTON METROPOLE

This elegant Victorian hotel commands seascape vistas. The Salt Room serves British seafood cooked in a charcoal oven on a chic covered terrace. Schmooby by the Sea is the onsite spa. Choose from eight accessible rooms, all adaptable to guests with visual impairment. Five have facilities for wheelchair users and all are fitted with emergency pull cords.  
**Hilton.com/brightonmet, 01273 775 432**



Prices from £79  
per room per night



## THE OLD SHIP HOTEL

Steeped in fascinating history, this Georgian seaside property near the Brighton Centre was where the Prince Regent held his wild birthday party in 1819. Today, it fuses contemporary style with its original 17th century roots. Enjoy private dining in the 400 year old cellars to immerse yourself in its historic spirit. Two accessible rooms have facilities for older and less mobile guests and a Deafgard vibrating pillow alarm is available.  
**thehotelcollection.co.uk/hotels/old-ship-brighton-hotel, 01273 329 001**



Prices from £69  
per room per night



## JURYS INN

In the New England Quarter, next to the mainline train station, the modern style Jurys Inn is a stone's throw from the restaurants and vintage shops of the North Laine. There are three en suite accessible rooms on each of the four floors.  
**Brightonhotels.jurysinns.com, 01273 862 121**



Prices from £109  
per room per night



## THE WATERFRONT HOTEL

In the centre of the action, this hotel backs onto The Lanes and is a short distance to the Brighton Centre and mainline station. It's a luxurious address with lots of facilities; including Otium Health Club with heated swimming pool, Promenade Restaurant and impressive atrium. All public areas are accessible via lift access from the car park.  
**thehotelcollection.co.uk/hotels/brighton-waterfront-hotel, 01273 206 700**

A full access statement giving detailed information on accessibility can be downloaded from each hotel's website.

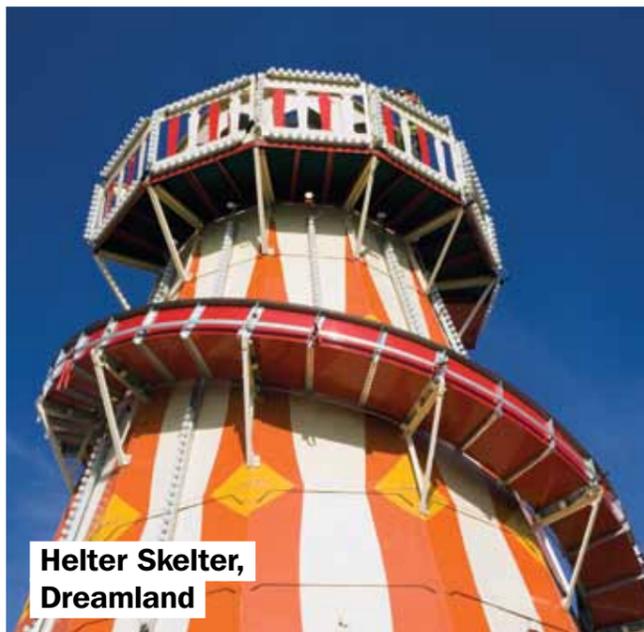


Turner Contemporary

Photo: Alex Hare

# Retro Revival

Firmly back on the cultural map, fall for Margate's unique old-school charms



Helter Skelter, Dreamland

There's a real buzz in Margate right now, and you should make sure you get in on it. This grand old seaside resort has undergone huge cultural regeneration, and today, there's a fresh and spirited vibe – although under the surface you'll still find that warm and welcoming retro twist. Yes, this candy-striped loving town on the East Kent coast is buoyant with artistic energy. It's a real cultural melting pot fusing traditional seaside charms and golden sandy beaches with world-class art, a hip café culture and vintage shops.

The Isle of Thanet is rich in history, and Margate's Old Town celebrates that but adds a funky twist. The streets are lined with chic eateries and laid-back cafés peppered with traditional fish and



Powell-Cotton Museum

Photo: Thanet Tourism, Britain on View, Rod Edwards

chip shops. And just as it embraces diversity in its atmosphere, the town is fully committed to extending the warmth of its welcome to anyone with accessibility requirements.

The acclaimed **Turner Contemporary Gallery** has led the new generation creative charge. Supported by former local Tracey Emin, its 2011 reopening marked the start of Margate's rebirth. It showcases historic and contemporary art by international artists which has included JMW Turner, Constable and Van Dyck as well as Emin herself and Grayson Perry. And it's a striking structure; the stark white angular lines are cutting-edge



Margate Main Sands

Photo: Thanet Tourism

cool, but give a nod to the surrounding coastline's chalky cliffs. Next month the Risk exhibition opens; exploring the risk factor in key artistic movements from abstract expressionism, to post-minimal sculpture and performance art; it's a hot ticket. There are seven accessible parking spaces outside the gallery and two wheelchairs are available to hire. Plus, audio descriptive tours and multi-sensory objects are available for exhibitions free of charge.

After a dose of culture indulge your thrill-seeking side at **Dreamland Margate**. The original 16-acre pleasure park has been reinvented by award winning designer Wayne Hemingway MBE. Soon



Photo: Thanet Tourism

to open is The Scenic Railway - the country's oldest rollercoaster - restored to its Grade II listed timber clad glory. The Crazy Mouse is a hectic waltzer/rollercoaster hybrid and the tea-cup rides have been given a Wedgwood makeover. Staff are decked out in vintage Levi's 501's and T-Shirts adorned with high-octane logos like 'scream if you want to go faster.' Wander round the fairground games or enjoy an outdoor sing-a-long movie. Fast Track passes allow you to queue jump on 5 of your favourite rides.

Get your natural history and green-space fix at the **Powell-Cotton Museum & Quex Park**. In the coastal village of Birchington-on-Sea just west of Margate, this estate is home to the fascinating Powell-Cotton Museum. Named after the family dynasty that owned it, the museum houses a unique collection of natural history, ethnography and fine and decorative arts. Its dioramas (mounted animals against backdrops of their natural habitat)

are a rarity and real highlight. And the new interactive gallery is an excellent choice for families; housing a series of fun and informative exhibits that puts you at the centre of the action. Infrared hearing loop systems are available for talks or guided tours. And two wheelchairs can be borrowed on-site.

And of course, a trip to Margate wouldn't be complete without some time spent right on the golden-hued sand. **Margate Main Sands** is a timeless beach destination with tidal pool, traditional rides and access for all, thanks to the beach wheelchairs that can be booked in advance. Hire a deckchair and work on your tan by day and at dusk take in the sublime colours of the seascape and horizon over a picnic supper. Make up your own mind if Turner was right when he branded Margate's skies "the loveliest in Europe." Events are hosted throughout the summer months here, like the RIBA Sandcastle Challenge and the family-friendly seashore safaris.

FOR MORE INFORMATION GO TO

[VisitKent.co.uk/plan-your-visit/access-for-all](http://VisitKent.co.uk/plan-your-visit/access-for-all)

OR CALL 01227 812 900

# Where to Stay

**Check in with confidence** – these addresses offer great accommodation and are committed to offering you a warm welcome. Arrive, then kick-back and relax.

Prices from £70 per room per night



## BOTANY BAY HOTEL

This stylish coastal retreat perches on the cliff-tops at Kingsgate, overlooking one of the country's most spectacular beaches - Botany Bay in Broadstairs - with its glorious golden sands stretching over 200 metres. Inside all 30 en suite rooms take inspiration from their coastal setting; featuring sand and aqua-hued colour palettes. Two rooms are adapted to allow easy access and a Deafgard vibrating pillow alarm is available.

[botanybayhotel.co.uk](http://botanybayhotel.co.uk),  
01843 868 641

Prices from £120 per room per night



## SANDS HOTEL

If amber-hued sunsets and alfresco drinks sound good to you, this is the place to do it. Directly overlooking Margate Sands, this gorgeous boutique hotel is within easy reach of the Old Town and Turner Contemporary Gallery. Book into the designated accessible bedroom with en suite wet room and wheel-in shower.

[sandshotelmargate.co.uk](http://sandshotelmargate.co.uk),  
01843 228 228



## SMITHS COURT HOTEL

This small, family-run hotel has 41 rooms ranging from single and double to twin and executive rooms and three family suites. Located in the Cliftonville area of town, it offers accessible facilities and a room with lowered surfaces, wheel-in shower and hand rails.

[smithscourt.co.uk](http://smithscourt.co.uk),  
01843 222 310



Prices from £40 per room per night

A full access statement giving detailed information on accessibility can be downloaded from each accommodation's website.

# Grand, but grounded

The Peak District's roots lie in history and nobility, but its verdant open spaces and most iconic stately home are both inclusive and welcoming

Derwent Edge,  
Peak District  
National Park



There's something distinctly regal about the Peak District and Derbyshire. With stately homes as standard, prolific literary connections and eminent English history fused with rolling stretches of lush green space, it's quintessentially 'English'. And, as you'd expect from a place where beauty and tradition blend seamlessly with hospitality and innovation, a trip here is the perfect balance of heritage meets homely.

At the north of the county, sitting on the southerly hills of the Pennines, is the jewel in the Derbyshire crown; the Peak District National Park. As the country's original national park, founded in 1951, today it's one of Europe's most popular. It also packs in serious amounts of dramatic natural features spanning valleys, gorges, lakes and wild moorland. And the best news is that it never feels crowded, thanks to its vast 555 square miles scale, so you won't be short of space. Get away from it all in this breathtaking landscape and its parks and forests, they're the perfect place for strolling, hiking, cycling, riding or climbing.

If you're a wheelchair user or have an accessibility requirement, don't dismiss climbing the hills and traversing the valleys. Hire a Boma 7 all terrain wheelchair and you can explore the terrain alongside the walkers and hikers, no problem.

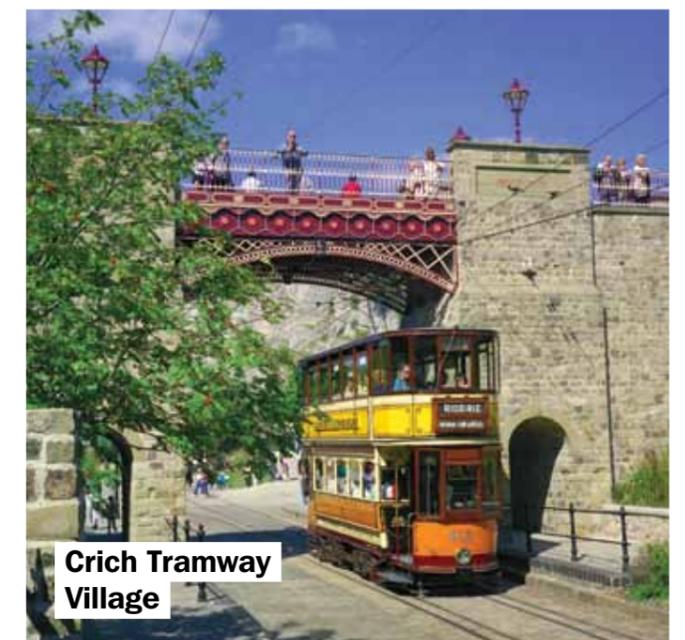
There is a real focus on accessibility in the Peak District and Derbyshire at the moment, with the charity Accessible Derbyshire also running their 'Big Push' campaign to make life easier for disabled people, their families and carers. Whether you are looking for a level stroll around a pretty village followed by afternoon tea in a quaint café or a sumptuous meal in a local pub, businesses are working hard to offer a friendly welcome to all.

The county's iconic historic address is **Chatsworth**. Known as "the palace of the peak", this baroque style stately home is in the heart of the Peak District. The house itself has over 30 rooms including the magnificent Painted Hall. And the art collection is one of Europe's finest; spanning the old masters, Egyptian artefacts and modern sculpture. Outside, 105 acres of beautiful gardens abound. Trail routes

## WHAT TO DO IN THE PEAK DISTRICT



Parsley Hay  
Cycle Hire



Crich Tramway  
Village

### CHATSWORTH

[chatsworth.org](http://chatsworth.org), 01246 565 300

### CRICH TRAMWAY VILLAGE

[tramway.co.uk](http://tramway.co.uk), 01773 854 321

### PARSLEY HAY CYCLE CENTRE

[peakdistrict.gov.uk/visiting/cycle/cycle-hire-centres](http://peakdistrict.gov.uk/visiting/cycle/cycle-hire-centres), 0129 884 493

### PAVILION GARDENS

[paviliongardens.co.uk](http://paviliongardens.co.uk), 0129 823 114

### PEAK SHOPPING VILLAGE

[peakshoppingvillage.com](http://peakshoppingvillage.com),  
01629 735 326

## WHAT TO DO IN THE PEAK DISTRICT

help you navigate around the best water features such as the Squinting Willow Tree Fountain and the maze, rockery, rose and kitchen gardens. Chatsworth has a dedicated team to assist guests with any accessibility requirements. Eight wheelchairs and three scooters can be booked in advance, and with a Sensory Garden on site, it's clear the estate is serious about accessibility.

For retail therapy with a distinctive Derbyshire twist, there's **Peak Shopping Village** in Rowsley. Relaxed and set in a stunning rural area here you can shop, wander round the art gallery or visit an antique auctioneers, a far cry from your local outlet or mall. Parking is free for four hours, with plenty of places to park, including 16 accessible spaces. National names such as Pavers Shoes, Field and Trek and The Gift Company sit alongside local independents. Authentic Furniture stocks hand-crafted sofas and re-claimed baker's benches among lots more, and The Old Station Country Store is a mecca for the green fingered. To make your shopping experience even easier, complimentary wheelchairs are available on request.

For a unique taste of working history, **Crich Tramway Village** is the place to go. This museum and village tracks the story of the tram, propelling it out of the history books and offering first-hand experiences for visitors. Wander around the authentic Edwardian street and enjoy a pint at The Red Lion pub or buy a quarter of humbugs at Barnett's Sweet Shop. You can watch a live restoration of the working tram fleet, or take a woodland walk through to the Sculpture Trail. The designated Access Tram is a

1969 Berlin model, adapted for wheelchair users.

After all that history, it's time to feel the wind in your hair. **Parsley Hay Cycle Hire** is an excellent option if you're looking to explore the Peak District on a bike. You can hire hand crank cycles, tandem trikes, trikes, trampers and wheelchair accessible bikes. Situated eight miles south of Buxton, it's a hub for the High Peak and Tissington Trails giving access to over 30 miles of flat, traffic-free cycling. You can also join up with the White Peak Cycle routes. Stock up your panniers with local handmade cakes, waterproofs and guidebooks from the onsite shop.

**The Pavilion Gardens**, Buxton, contains 23 acres of beautiful manicured lawns and parkland. And don't be daunted by its extensive grounds - level access direct from the car park to the promenade and throughout The Conservatory, Café, Shop, Art Café and Octagon Hall mean it's easy to get around. The Conservatory houses botanical treasures from all over the globe, and, as a Grade II listed property, there's a tranquil, timeless quality to the ambience here. Relax with a picnic listening to a brass band play a nostalgic tune from the bandstand. Or immerse yourself in one of the eclectic events hosted here; from farmers markets to dances and fetes, classic car auctions, circuses or live music.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION GO TO**  
**VisitPeakDistrict.com/**  
**accessibility**



**Pavilion Gardens**

# Where to Stay

**Check in with confidence** – these addresses offer great accommodation and are committed to offering you a warm welcome. Arrive, then kick-back and relax.



**Prices from £165 per room per night.**



## **EAST LODGE COUNTRY HOUSE HOTEL AND RESTAURANT**

This elegant country retreat of just twelve rooms is set in ten acres of landscaped water gardens, very close to Chatsworth. A former hunting lodge with noble connections, the ambience here is refreshingly unstuffy. The accessible guest bedroom can be accessed via an alternative entrance. It has recently been extended and refurbished and includes a bathroom with automatic push-button sliding doors and wheel in shower.

**Eastlodge.com, 01629 734 474**

A full access statement giving detailed information on accessibility can be downloaded from each accommodation's website.

## WHAT TO DO IN THE PEAK DISTRICT



**Prices from £66 per night for two people including breakfast.**



## **RIVENDALE CARAVAN AND LEISURE PARK**

This new generation camping park is the place to book if you fancy getting up close and personal with nature. Choose from camping pods, yurts, touring caravans or holiday lodge rentals. The Tissington cycle trail is just 100 metres away and there's fly-fishing on site. Accessible pitches for tents and caravans are available, while the accessible Pine Lodges are more luxurious.

**Rivendalecaravanpark.co.uk,**  
**01335 310 311/310 441**



**Prices from £435 per log cabin, sleeping 4 or 6 guests for a 3 night weekend break or 4 night midweek break.**



## **HOE GRANGE HOLIDAYS**

Four contemporary self-catering log cabins set on a farm in the Peak District. This is a 'home from home' with special touches such as fresh-from-the-farm free-range eggs and a Swedish log-fired hot tub. As the only holiday accommodation in the country to provide hire of a Boma 7 off-road wheelchair and a previous VisitEngland Access for All award-winner, the accessibility credentials are first-class.

**Hoegrangeholidays.co.uk, 01629 540 262**

Kielder Water  
& Forest Park  
Milkyway



Vindolanda  
Roman Fort

# Ancient Roots

Vast open spaces, a rugged national park and eminent history lend Northumberland its diverse cultural identity

From walls and walking to coasts and castles, this region's remote land and seascapes remain gloriously uncrowded. Home to England's most northerly national park, it's also steeped in natural beauty, so if you're lucky, you may just have a stunning sandy bay, mountain valley or lakeside lawn all to yourself.

History is also a huge part of the lifeblood here, with more castles than any other British county, it's a hotbed for film producers looking to shoot the next period drama or fantasy adventure - both *Harry Potter* and *Downton Abbey* were filmed here.

2000 year old Hadrian's Wall is arguably one of England's greatest historic landmarks. Once the boundary point, marking where the Roman Empire couldn't venture, it stretches 73 miles from coast to coast. And today, it's dotted with intriguing archaeological sites and museums.

The fauna here is world-class too. Northumberland National Park is home to many rare species such as red squirrels, otters and black grouse.

At night the skies come alive in the Northumberland International Dark Sky Park. The largest dark sky park in Europe is one of the best places to enjoy the stellar wonders of the astronomical world.

The county is fully committed to making the diverse countryside terrain as accessible as possible. The local tourist information centres provide accessibility information when you're out and about. Plus, all the trains in the county run with ramps for wheelchair access, designated spaces, accessible toilets, colour contrast and audible announcements.

**Calvert Trust Kielder** is one of the standout highlights of Northumberland's accessibility story. This outdoor adventure centre is the place to go

if you want high-octane fun and don't want to be restricted by your impairment. Expert instructors will guide you through activities spanning kayaking, sailing, zip wiring, geocaching, canoeing, abseiling, archery and laser clay shooting.

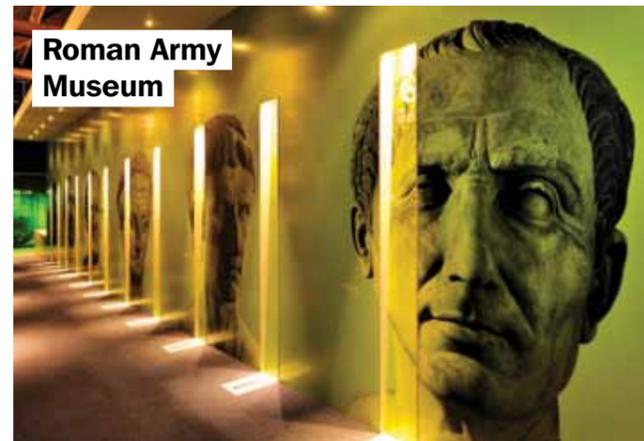
The equipment lets you embrace new challenges and with many options available to reserve before you check in, you won't miss out on new adventures. Climbers can benefit from climbing supports and adaptive equipment, plus paddle grips and archer's arm supports are readily available. The ten three bedroom log style self-catering chalets can be adapted to suit many accessibility requirements. There are two further luxury chalets and the unique Sky Den - a tree house with a spectacular sliding roof, featured on CH4's George Clarke's Amazing Spaces.

If you prefer adventures of the historic kind then the **Roman Army Museum** is one to add to your Northumbrian wish list. Taking history and bringing it to life, quite literally, is what this attraction does so well. Fully immerse yourself in the Roman empire and walk in the shoes of a Roman soldier. The Museum sits directly next to Hadrian's Wall at the site of the Carvoran Roman Fort and adjacent to Walltown Crag; one of the highest standing sections of the wall itself. Learn about the role of the army in the Roman Empire and view the only Roman helmet crest ever to be discovered. Watch the Eagles Eye Film, which includes an aerial view of Hadrian's Wall as it is today, and then transports you back 2000 years to Roman times; it's memorable and evocative. Hearing loops are fitted throughout the museum, and there is easy access for visitors with mobility impairments.

The sister site to the Roman Army Museum is the **Roman Vindolanda Museum and Fort**. This archaeological site on Hadrian's Wall has been active for over 40 years and is arguably one of the country's finest. Hard standing paths surrounding the

site allow wheelchair access to a vast 75% of the remains and you can watch a live excavation from April to September. The physical remains include a large Pre-Hadrianic bath house and a beautifully preserved third century bath house, several Roman army commanding officer's barracks and a Roman Celtic temple built to an unknown Roman Celtic God.

The dedicated museum houses an array of personal belongings lost, abandoned or scattered by the Romans including pottery, jewellery, textiles, coins, shoes and of course, their notable writing tablets.



**Roman Army Museum**

**CALVERT TRUST KIELDER**

calvert-trust.org.uk/kielder, 01434 250 232, Self-catering chalets from £225 – based on a four night stay.



**ROMAN ARMY MUSEUM**

vindolanda.com, 01434 344 277

**VINDOLANDA ROMAN FORT**

vindolanda.com, 01434 344 277

# Where to Stay

**Check in with confidence** – these addresses offer great accommodation and are committed to offering you a warm welcome. Arrive, then kick-back and relax.



**Prices from £500 for a three night weekend break. 7 night breaks from £680.**



**THE HYTTE**

The Hytte (pronounced "hutta") is a Norwegian inspired traditional timber mountain lodge with grass roof. It sleeps eight and has been fully adapted to suit disabled guests including wheelchair users (in fact, it was a previous VisitEngland Access for all award-winner). Take in the spectacular Bingfield sunset from the hot tub, accessible by mobile hoist.

**Thehytte.com, 01434 672 321**



**Prices from £330 per week.**



**GRINDON FARM – THE OLD FARMHOUSE**

One of two properties on this working farm just a short walk from Hadrian's Wall, The Old Farmhouse is a cosy, natural stone farmhouse, sleeping up to four guests. In terms of its accessibility, this self-catering gem is first-rate, too. Local carers can be arranged, the shower is equipped with vertical handrails and lever control and a self-propelled shower wheelchair is available.

**Grindonfarm.co.uk, 01434 684 273**



**Prices from £99 per room per night.**



**MATFEN HALL HOTEL**

A grand country house, set in 300 acres of parkland with a 27 hole golf course and spa. Just eighteen miles from Newcastle in the village of Matfen, this is the ancestral home of Lord and Lady Blackett. But despite the estate's sprawling size, there are just 53 bedrooms. Choose from three accessible bedrooms.

**Matfenhall.com, 01661 886 500**

A full access statement giving detailed information on accessibility can be downloaded from each accommodation's website.

FOR MORE INFORMATION GO TO

**VisitNorthumberland.com/access-for-all**

# Magnitude of history

Lincoln's stalwart heritage fuses with a fun, popular cultural scene

Small, yet perfectly formed, Lincoln packs serious cultural kudos into its ancient heart. This historic city captivates first with its web of medieval streets, magnificent eleventh century cathedral and Norman castle. Yes, it's home to one of only four surviving copies of 1215 Magna Carta; sheer historic gold; but scratch below the surface and you'll also find a vibrant city in touch with its cool, cosmopolitan side. The Steep Hill area is lined with quirky vintage boutiques, cafés, restaurants

and chocolate shops. And despite its inclines, the city is easy to get around thanks to the Steep Hill Shuttle; a wheelchair accessible bus that stops at 13 locations across Lincoln. At the Brayford Waterfront, the atmosphere is more lively; bars, restaurants, luxury hotels and a multiplex cinema fringe this picturesque inland harbour. And, as a city with many cobbled streets, accessible transport is high up on the agenda here. Wheelchair and scooter loan is available from Shopmobility in Lincoln Bus Station, and accessible taxis from Marks Passenger Services.

The Cultural Quarter is where the city's artistic scene ignites. Its eclectic mix of theatres, museums, galleries, music, cuisine, bars and café culture adds a fresh, directional dimension to a break here.

**The Collection and Usher Gallery** is the hub of the Cultural Quarter's action. Fusing an award-winning archaeology museum and the region's premier art gallery in the same location is a genius move.

At The Collection design your own Roman mosaic, immerse yourself in the Stone, Bronze or Iron Age or learn how archaeological treasures weather.



The Strait & Steep Hill, Lincoln



Photo: David Laird

Lincoln Cathedral

After all that ancient-inspired activity, take time out at **Stokes Collection Café**. It's a restorative space serving a delicious menu of speciality teas, coffees and homemade dishes using fresh, locally-sourced ingredients. Sunday brunches are excellent – standout dishes include the 'Sweet Sunday' – an indulgent blueberry and white chocolate crêpe – and the Latino Benedict – eggs Benedict with a fiery chorizo and salsa kick.

At the Usher Gallery accessibility is a high priority. You enter through a wheelchair-friendly glass pavilion and a new, wider lift enables access to the upper galleries. The space is home to fine and decorative art and horology (clocks and watches). Outside in the Temple Gardens admire the elegant neoclassical sculptures and the large commanding bronze known as A Mighty Blow for Freedom.

Arguably the most iconic of Lincoln's landmarks is the **Cathedral** and it's neighbouring castle. The imposing Gothic cathedral towers over Lincoln like a medieval skyscraper. When the cathedral tower was constructed between the 13th & 14th centuries, it claimed the crown as the tallest

building in the world, stealing the mantle from the Great Pyramid of Giza. Take a tour around the cathedral to learn more about the building's impressive history and its connection to Magna Carta. Around 85% is accessible by wheelchair.

**The Museum of Lincolnshire Life** charts the social history of the county from 1750 to today. The Industry and Agricultural Gallery exhibits farming machinery and a first-world-war tank. And at Commercial Row you can step into shops from bygone eras such as the chemist or post office. 90% of the museum is on ground level.

Intersperse that history and culture with some natural beauty at the **Natural World Centre** in

Whisby. Set in the lush expanses of a nature park, the centre hosts inspiring exhibitions and creative events for all the family. Little Darters Adventure play area is an activity hotbed for the kids. Or hire a mobility scooter yourself and explore the woodland trails in Whisby Nature Reserve.

FOR MORE INFORMATION GO TO **VisitLincoln.com/accessible**

# Where to Stay

**Check in with confidence** – these addresses offer great accommodation and are committed to offering you a warm welcome. Arrive, then kick-back and relax.

**MUSEUM OF LINCOLNSHIRE LIFE**  
 Lincolnshire.gov.uk/museumoflincolnshirelife, 01522 782 040

**THE COLLECTION & USHER GALLERY**  
 thecollectionmuseum.com, 01522 782 040

**NATURAL WORLD CENTRE**  
 naturalworldcentre.co.uk, 01522 688 868

**LINCOLN CATHEDRAL**  
 lincolncathedral.com, 01522 561 600

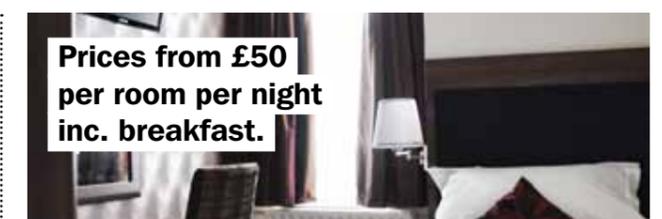
**STOKES COLLECTION CAFÉ**  
 thecollectionmuseum.com/stokes, 01522 523 548



## THE LINCOLN HOTEL

Set in the heart of uphill Lincoln and commanding exceptional views of the Cathedral, The Lincoln is a glamorous hotel in a stylish 1960's building with beautiful manicured gardens. The Green Room is a unique aviation themed fine-dining restaurant. There are two well-equipped accessible rooms with fully-adjustable sanitary ware, wheel-in showers and connecting rooms.

**thelincolnhotel.com, 01522 520 348**



## LONGDALES HOUSE

This Bed and Breakfast is located on the edge of the Bishop Grosseteste University campus. Inside the ambience is cosy and contemporary. There are 18 rooms and breakfast is served in the university Refectory. With an on-site Access Champion, Deafguards, a portable hearing loop, bed risers and an accessible room, there's a wealth of very helpful facilities here.

**Longdaleshouse.co.uk, 01522 583 681**

A full access statement giving detailed information on accessibility can be downloaded from each accommodation's website.

# The new Hood

Nottingham is throwing off its more obvious shackles and emerging as one edgy culture-loving dude

Photo: David Baird



**Council House,  
Old Market Square**



**Galleries of  
Justice Museum**

The Robin Hood green tight-clad clichés may have stuck, but Nottingham is so much more than a city with a charitable hero and a multi million pound nineties movie to its name. Visit and you'll find a vibrant county capital with cosmopolitan city ambitions. Today Nottingham's buoyant independent music, cinema and performing arts scene gives it a hip undercurrent. Fuse that with award-winning heritage, medieval caves, independent shopping, hidden cocktail bars and kicking nightlife and you can see why this city's got the cool kids talking. The art and architecture are pretty up there too; with classical, modern and landscape art showcased across the city. And fine Tudor, Regency and Victorian façades sit alongside the asymmetric industrial lines of Nottingham Contemporary. It's an eclectic cultural hub and one that's fully committed to keeping its colourful sites open to all. As the proud owner of the first accessible tramway in the country, Nottingham is working hard on providing visitors with improved accessibility. Designed by award-winning architects Caruso St John, **Nottingham Contemporary** is one of the country's largest contemporary arts centres at over 3,000 square metres. Inspiration for the building's unique design came from the surrounding 19th century lace markets. Home to four galleries,

a performance and film space, learning studio, shop and a café bar, its changing programme of exhibitions is sure to capture your imagination. Their Access to Art for All scheme provides artist led workshops and free gallery tours for a wide range of groups with additional support needs.

The **New Art Exchange** is a cutting-edge visual arts space that celebrates the region's cultural diversity. And it certainly does it well. With an eclectic variety of art exhibitions, lectures, film-screenings, live music, dance and theatre, it's clearly serious about shining a light on all art forms. All five floors can be accessed by lift. A hearing loop system operates in the reception and performance spaces.

The **Galleries of Justice Museum** is another example of Nottingham's offbeat identity. The unique concept fuses history with live performance. Based at the city's old courthouse and gaol it brings exhibits and stories around crime and punishment to life. Walk in the shoes of one of the city's outlaws, or watch the villainous Sheriff of Nottingham put Robin Hood on trial. 90% of the exhibits at this Grade II listed building are accessible for wheelchair users, with virtual reality presentations available for harder to reach areas.

The city's drinking and dining scene is also flourishing. At **Sinatra Bar and Restaurant** the emphasis is on seasonal fresh ingredients, cocktails



Couple at Nottingham Contemporary

# Where to Stay

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and fine wines. A Pre-Theatre or Express Lunch menu is available and every Thursday they host live music in the bar. Wheelchair access is provided at the entrance and an accessible toilet is located on the same level. Menus are available in large print format.

If you fancy curling up over a languid lunch in a great English pub environment, **The Ned Ludd** is the place to do it. This bar and restaurant showcases 14 craft beers and four real ales on draught, served alongside local artisan food. The front doors open out wide to accommodate wheelchair users, a hearing loop is located behind the bar and large print menus are available.

**Sobar** takes the conventional bar concept and turns it on its head. This alcohol free, café/bar venue puts food, virgin drinks and mocktails at the heart of its business and sets them to the backdrop of original entertainment.

Developed by Double Impact, the Nottingham based drug and alcohol recovery charity, with the support of a grant from the Big Lottery Fund, this venue is inclusive and friendly. A portable access ramp is available, a hearing loop is installed and there is an accessible toilet with handrails.

## NOTTINGHAM CONTEMPORARY

nottinghamcontemporary.org,  
01159 489 750

## NEW ART EXCHANGE

nae.org.uk,  
01159 248 630

## GALLERIES OF JUSTICE

galleriesofjustice.org.uk,  
01159 520 555

## SINATRA BAR AND RESTAURANT

sinatrabarandrestaurant.co.uk,  
01159 411 050

## THE NED LUDD

thenedludd.com, 01159 484 221

## SOBAR

sobar-nottingham.co.uk,  
01158 240 364



Prices from £81 per room per night.



## THE NOTTINGHAM BELFRY

The Nottingham Belfry is an expansive 120 room-strong hotel with state-of-the-art facilities. The luxury spa is a highlight with six treatment rooms, indoor pool, jacuzzi, sauna and steam room. Book in for a signature Espa Rebalancing Ritual. Choose from six purpose-built accessible rooms with emergency pull-cords. Two have a wet room with an accessible wheel-in shower, wall mounted drop down seat and grab rails.

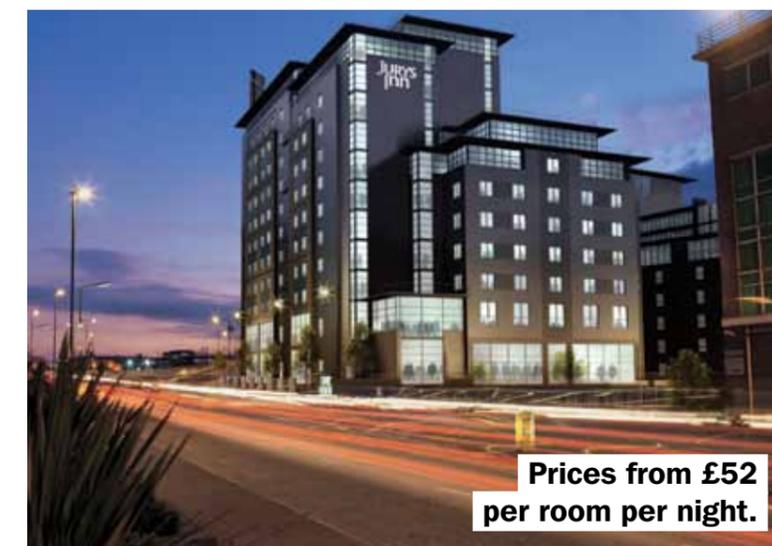
**Qhotels.co.uk/nottingham,**  
**01159 739 393**



## JURYS INN NOTTINGHAM

Literally five minutes from the train station, tramway and main city centre car parks, Jurys Inn Nottingham is the place to check in if you're travelling by public transport and on a budget. Innfusion Restaurant and Intro Pub are located onsite and three of the 264 spacious rooms are wheelchair accessible with lowered beds.

**Jurysinns.com/nottingham,**  
**01159 016 700**



Prices from £52 per room per night.

FOR MORE INFORMATION GO TO

**ExperienceNottinghamshire.com/access-for-all**

A full access statement giving detailed information on accessibility can be downloaded from each hotel's website.



**Custard Factory,  
Birmingham**

## WHAT TO DO IN BIRMINGHAM

# Brum for everyone

Now up there with the big city hitters, Birmingham's star is firmly on the rise

The culmination of huge investment and regeneration over the last decade is propelling this industrial city into an exciting cultural stratosphere. And, as Britain's second largest city, there's no denying its cosmopolitan credentials.

If one building sums up the city's transformation perfectly it's the award-winning Library of Birmingham; setting the cultural tempo with its edgy design. The metamorphosis of New Street station followed; Grand Central is the luxury shopping destination, housed in the mezzanine level. There's a sleek new look at high-end shopping destination The Mailbox, too.

The city's cultural and sporting life is vibrant. As well as a host of outstanding museums and galleries, Birmingham has four Michelin-starred restaurants alongside a profusion of secret cocktail hangouts and waterside bars.

Accessibility is high up on the agenda here, too. Mobility scooters are available from Shopmobility in the Bullring, and Changing Places accessible toilets are installed at The Library of Birmingham and Cadbury World in Bournville. VisitBirmingham.com has a number of photo journeys online; detailing the best access routes in and around attractions. If you need someone to accompany you for a short trip when you arrive here, the city's Southside wardens are an excellent option.

**Alfie Birds and The Oobleck** is a unique hangout. With a tagline that reads "gourmet eats and beats",

## WHAT TO DO IN BIRMINGHAM

you get the gist. This is a kick-back and chill space perfect for meeting friends and enjoying world craft beers, ciders, gourmet burgers and fresh stone-baked pizzas. The Oobleck is a 350 people capacity live music venue, right next door. The main bar and pizzeria have level access and the Oobleck has a short entrance ramp. A large print menu is available in the restaurant.

**Café Opus** is another of Birmingham's interesting, independent food destinations. Tucked away on the ground floor of the magnificent Ikon Gallery in Brindleyplace, it's fuelled by a passion for market fresh ingredients. The all day brunches are of exceptional quality, if you fancy something healthier try the Café Opus Club Salad or the Halloumi Burger. Wheelchair access is provided throughout.

Sports-lovers should put a trip to **Aston Villa Football Club** on their trip hit list. Soak up the atmosphere and tread the footsteps of Villa's finest star players of past and present. The stadium tours are really memorable and give you an insight into the club's history and a chance to get up

### ALFIE BIRDS AND THE OOBLECK

alfiebirds.co.uk,  
01212 706 665

### CAFÉ OPUS

cafeopus.co.uk,  
01212 483 226

### ASTON VILLA FOOTBALL CLUB

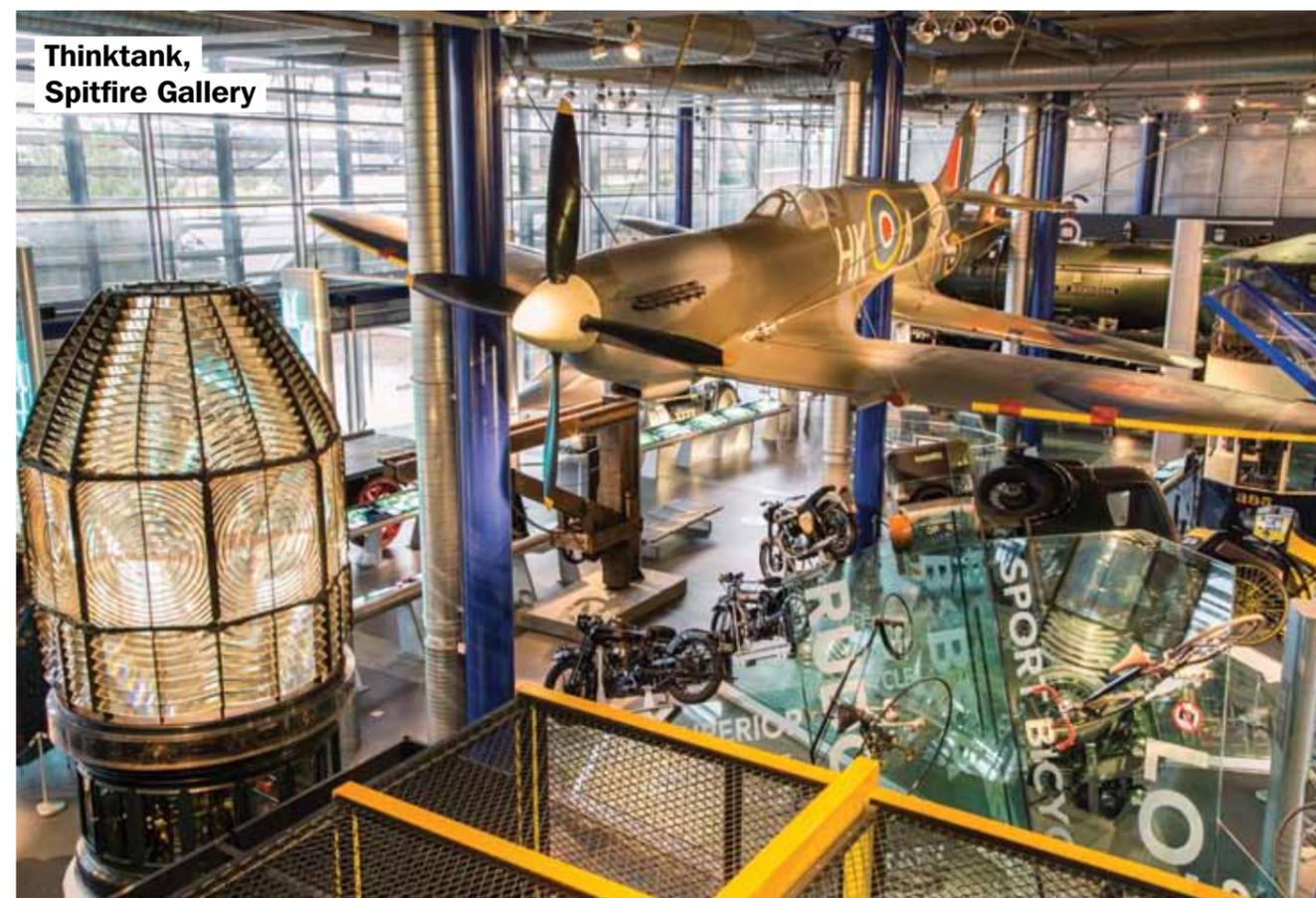
avfc.co.uk,  
08006 120 950

### THINKTANK BIRMINGHAM SCIENCE MUSEUM

birminghammuseums.org.uk/thinktank,  
01213 488 000

### BIRMINGHAM HIPPODROME

birminghamhippodrome.com,  
08443 385 000



Thinktank,  
Spitfire Gallery

## WHAT TO DO IN BIRMINGHAM

close with the European Cup, FA Cup and League Cup. Tour guides will tailor the tour to suit your needs and there is a platform lift for wheelchair users to give access to the football pitch area.

At **Thinktank Birmingham Science Museum** you can travel back in time to experience the city's industrial past in the morning. Then spend the afternoon exploring futuristic inventions and space travel under the very same roof. The outdoor Science Garden is packed full of giant, interactive exhibits. Centrally-located accessible lifts operate to all floors and can accommodate wheelchairs.

If you fancy watching some live opera, ballet, a west end show, some stand-up or dance then head to the **Birmingham Hippodrome**. This not-for-profit registered charity is home to the Birmingham Royal Ballet, DanceXchange and plays host to the Welsh National Opera's entire repertoire. Accessibility is a subject close to the charity's heart. Their own Access Forum Group actively listens and reacts to the needs of all disabled visitors.

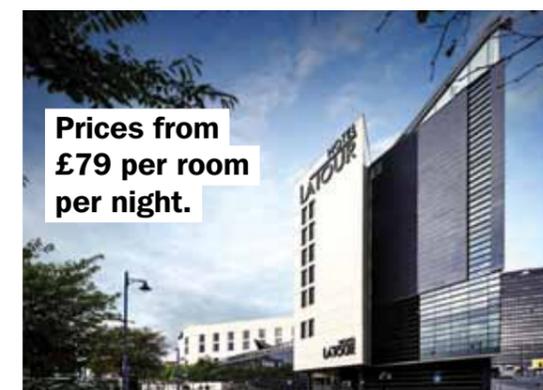


Villa Park

FOR MORE INFORMATION GO TO  
[VisitBirmingham.com/travel/accessible-birmingham](http://VisitBirmingham.com/travel/accessible-birmingham)

# Where to Stay

**Check in with confidence** – this address offers great accommodation and is committed to offering you a warm welcome. Arrive, then kick-back and relax.



Prices from  
**£79 per room  
per night.**



### HOTEL LA TOUR

Right next door to Selfridges and Moor Street Station, this luxury four star hotel excels at delivering exceptional attention to detail. Modern, yet classic in style, it has 174 rooms and an onsite gym. There are ten accessible bedrooms with strobe lights linked to the fire alarm and hearing loops at reception and in the Alvar bar.

**Hotel-latour.co.uk, 01217 188 000**

A full access statement giving detailed information on accessibility can be downloaded from the hotel's website.

# The Accessibility Key: Decoded

## Understanding VisitEngland's National Accessible Scheme

Use this handy, at-a-glance guide to decipher if a hotel is likely to meet your level of accessibility needs. Accommodation that displays any of the official logos have been independently assessed against demanding criteria. Assessed properties

may have facilities such as handrails, ramps, level-access showers, hearing loops and colour contrast. Ratings are split into three categories; mobility impaired and older people, visually impaired and blind people and hearing impaired and deaf people.



### Older and less mobile guests

**Suitable:** If you can climb a flight of stairs, but banisters or grip handles would make it easier.



### Part-time wheelchair users

**Suitable:** If you have problems walking or can walk a maximum of three steps, or need to use a wheelchair some of the time.



### Assisted wheelchair users

**Suitable:** If you're a wheelchair user and travel with a friend or family member who helps you with everyday tasks.



### Independent wheelchair users

**Suitable:** If you're a wheelchair user and travel independently.



### Access exceptional

This is awarded to places that meet the more demanding requirements of independent wheelchair users or assisted wheelchair users.



### Guests with hearing loss

**Suitable:** If you have a slight hearing difficulty, are deaf, wear a hearing aid or have hearing loss.



### Visually impaired guests

**Suitable:** If you have difficulty reading small print, are registered blind, have poor sight or are visually impaired.

As everyone's accessibility needs are unique, please do check your individual requirements can be met before booking.

**Rolling hills.  
Winding lanes.  
Hearing loops.**



For more tips on accessible travel in England, go to [VisitEngland.com/AccessforAll](https://www.visitengland.com/AccessforAll)

VisitEngland 