

Access Statement for The Minack Theatre & Visitor Centre

Introduction

The Minack Theatre & Visitor Centre is located on the cliffside near Porthcurno in West Cornwall. The Minack is open all year for day time visitors, and presents a 17 week season of plays through the summer months. Despite the location, we strive to make our facilities as accessible as practically possible. We have 7 spaces for people in wheelchairs to watch performances, our exhibition centre, shop and cafe are all accessible to wheelchairs, and we have an induction loop within the theatre for the hard of hearing.

Pre-Arrival

- A clearly worded brochure is available describing the main facilities, directions, opening times, public transport and cycle access via roads. The brochure includes our contact telephone number, email and web address. The brochure is widely distributed to tourist venues and Tourist Information Centres in the area.
- The information is repeated on our web site.
- The Minack is accessible by car - 8 miles from Penzance, just off the B3315. Leave Penzance on the A30 towards Lands End and follow the brown tourist signs to turn onto the B3315 at Catchall. Continue to follow the signs, turning left into Porthcurno valley, at the seaward end of the valley go up the winding hill, the Minack is on your left.
- By bus: the 504 from Penzance runs a scheduled service to the Minack car park, the 300 and 1A from Penzance run a scheduled service to Porthcurno Valley; the theatre is a 400m walk up a steep hill.
- By foot: the Minack is just off the South-West Coast Path, between Porthcurno and Wireless Point.
- By bicycle: access about 3 miles from Lands End which is on National Cycle Network Route 3, along the B3315.

- The nearest major town is Penzance, 8 miles distant; access to the Minack is via bicycle, car, bus or taxi. The nearest train station is at Penzance. Accessible taxis are available in Penzance and St Buryan.
- Shop-mobility scooters, wheelchairs and other equipment are available for hire from Penzance.
- RADAR toilets are available in Porthcurno, Sennen and Penzance, plus several other outlying towns and villages.

Arrival & Car Parking Facilities

- Car parking is free for customers.
- There are three speed bumps along the entrance drive.
- The main car park has facilities for approximately 50 cars parking on tarmac, including 7 designated disabled spaces. An overflow grass car park is used at the peak of the season and for performances, and has spaces for a further 250 cars. The car park and paths are lit with sodium lights.
- The main car park is situated just above the Theatre with easy access to the Visitors' Centre and main facilities. The overflow car park on a grass field is located next to the main car park. Vehicles can be parked to allow rear access. Neither car park has kerbs.
- Access to the main facilities is via tarmac or concrete ramped pathways or steps with handrails. All central walkways are wide.
- A large format sign is located at the entrance to the Minack giving details of opening times.
- Dogs are welcome if kept on a lead. A dog bowl is available outside the Visitors' Centre.
- All signage is large format, with clear text.

The Theatre

- Performances run from mid May to mid September at 8pm Monday to Friday evenings and 2pm Wednesday and Friday afternoons (two weeks in June have additional matinee performances for local school children).
- As the theatre is built into the cliff, there are a large number of steps to move around the theatre. There is a viewing area at the top of the site from where visitors can see the whole theatre and watch performances - there are 12 spaces for wheelchairs in this area.
- Access to this area is by a concrete ramp.
- Around the rest of theatre, the paths are concreted and handrails have been installed along all main pathways.
- All signage is large format with clear text.
- The paths and car park are well lit pre and post show and during the interval. Low level lighting is present during the shows, and members of staff are on hand to assist customers who need to move around during the show.

Main Entrance & Reception

- The opening hours of the Visitor Centre are:
 - 9.30am to 5.30pm from Easter to the end of September
 - 10am to 4pm through the winter months (5pm in October).
 - The Theatre is closed to daytime visitors on Wednesday and Friday afternoons from mid May to mid September for matinee performances (plus Monday to Friday for two additional weeks in June when we hold matinee performances for local school children).
- There is one main vehicle entrance. Visitors on foot can enter the site from the main South West Coast Path.
- Visitors are generally free to wander the site of the Theatre although access may

be limited when performers are rehearsing during the summer season.

- The main entrance has a wide, side-hinged door for wheelchair access which is kept open whenever the weather permits. A similar door gives access to the main theatre site from the Reception desk.
- There is a low counter at the main Reception.

Public Areas - Toilets

- There is one toilet block located at the top of the theatre outside the cafe. There is a separate toilet in this block which is easily accessible with a wheelchair and which has baby changing facilities, non-slip flooring and facilities for visitors with limited mobility.
- Doors are side-hinged.
- Hand-washing facilities are designed for ease of use by visitors with limited mobility, e.g. lever taps.
- There is an additional adapted toilet on the west side of the theatre offices at the top of the grass car park.

Cafe & Take Away Coffee Shop

- The main café, accessible for customers, is located in the same building as the main reception and shop, within easy access of the car park.
- There is a flight of 4 steps to a lower seating area with handrails on either side. There are 4 small tables in an area that has level access.
- There is a small external seating area which is accessed by a step from the ramp to the shop.
- Internally, while space is limited the tables and chairs are of a sturdy construction and moveable and the tiled flooring is easily negotiable.

- The cafe is well-lit with clear signage and menus on each table.
- Food is ordered at the counter and served at the table by Minack staff.
- Items are available to take away.
- There is also a take away coffee shop half way down the theatre (involving a significant flight of steps) which is open before performances and during the interval serving a range of hot and cold drinks and snacks.

Shop

- All merchandise in the shop is clearly priced; many items are at a low level, assistance can be provided by staff.

Exhibition Centre

- The Exhibition Centre has good lighting, and a level, easily negotiable surface with a separate entrance and exit. The doors are secured open when the site is open for visitors. In extreme weather, the doors may be left closed, but a member of staff will be available to assist customers as appropriate.
- There are bench seats available in the audio display room of the Exhibition Centre.

Grounds and Gardens

- The Minack has several areas of sub tropical gardens. Where possible these are fully accessible and every effort is made to ensure plants do not obstruct pathways or handrails.

Additional Information

- The theatre is a no smoking site.
- Dogs are welcome anywhere on the site (internal and external) during daytime opening hours (not during performances) if kept on a lead. There is a designated area of the cafe for dogs.
- A number of staff who work in the public areas are trained in First Aid and the use of defibrillators. St John Ambulance also provide trained personnel at evening performances.

Contact Information

- Address: The Minack Theatre, Porthcurno, Penzance, Cornwall TR19 6JU
- Telephone: 01736 810181 (theatre tickets)
01736 810694 (admin and information)
- Fax: 01736 810779
- Email: info@minack.com
- Website: www.minack.com
- Hours of operation:
 - Performances: mid May to mid September
Monday to Friday: 8pm
Wednesday and Friday: 2pm
 - Daytime Visitors: Easter to end September: 9.30am to 5.30pm
October: 10am to 5pm
November to Easter: 10am to 4pm
- Local carers: Penwith District Council Disability Information and Advice Line: 01736 359077
- Local public transport numbers:
 - First Western National Buses: 0845 600 1420
 - Western Greyhound Buses (route 504): 01637 871871
 - First Great Western (Trains): Assisted Travel line: 0800 197 1329
- Local accessible taxi numbers:
 - Village Cabs: 01736 810564

- Penzance Taxi Company: 01736 366366

Future Plans

- Review accessibility of the website during 2009.
- Review counter heights in booking office: review 2009 and schedule work as appropriate.
- Review accessibility of displays in Exhibition Centre: 2010 for completion 2011.
- Review accessibility of doors into the Visitor Centre: 2009.

We welcome your feedback to help us continuously improve if you have any comments please phone 01736 810694 or email info@minack.com.