

ACCESS ALL AREAS

Spotlighting Inclusivity in Gloucestershire



Commitment

The Gloucester Cathedral team are committed to accessibility and are working to give every visitor the opportunity to immerse themselves in its rich history and captivating beauty. Most areas on the Cathedral's ground floor are now wheelchair-accessible, with three lifts and ramps in place, and team members ready to assist people.

Solutions

For inaccessible spaces including the Tower, Tribune Gallery, and Library a Virtual Tour is available from digital devices located at the Visitor Information Point in the North Transept hub.

Tactile

Landscape designers led the transformation of the old car park into a fully accessible, open and welcoming space. Access Consultants incorporated elements for the visually impaired such as terrain indicators different textures de-marking routes and special stone carvings to offer a tactile storytelling experience.



Future Thinking

Cathedrals adhere to strict fabric regulations and applications for building modifications, and accessibility measures may be rejected for aesthetic reasons. During the lift installation in the northern transept access to two further floors was rejected. Thinking ahead, the visitor experience team instructed the lift installation company to lay the groundwork for potential future expansion, to enable them to revisit the proposal at a later date.

Transport

A comprehensive guide titled 'Getting to Gloucester Cathedral' is available on the cathedral website, offering detailed transport guidance to its central location in the city. With only a 10-15 minute walking distance from the train and bus stations, a park-and-ride service is available and 8 blue badge parking spaces there are lots of options to choose from.

Digital

Digital experts were recruited to advise best practices to improve the accessibility of Cathedral's new website. Interpretation consultants supported the development of an app to guide visitors, and boost confidence. The app features enlargeable images, audio and text and is available on the website.

Truly spectacular!

“As a wheelchair user, I was impressed to see that there were ramps and even 2 self-operated lifts which, whilst very awkward to use due to having to manually close the doors behind you, are almost unseen in buildings as old as this. Gloucester Cathedral was much more accessible than any other historical church or cathedral that I have visited thus far.”

Accessibility Review:

“Wheelchair accessible entrance on one side. Ramps inside. Self-operated lifts available (assistance also offered if needed). Most of the Cathedral is accessible to wheelchair users, except for a few side areas which are downstairs. Peaceful environment, no overwhelming lights or sound; as an autistic person I can say that I felt calm and not overstimulated in this environment.”

Durpleton