

Wheelchair Access at the Tower of London



As the buildings at the Tower date back a thousand years access is obviously limited. However because of this, wheelchair users pay a reduced entrance fee of £13 and their carers go free. Nearly the whole of the site is cobbled and would be unsuitable for those who cannot cope with jarring. You will need to have extremely good upper body strength or a fit pusher to negotiate the area. There is a film detailing some of the Towers history continually playing in the Welcome building. There are accessible toilets behind this building.



We joined the guided tour held at regular intervals and carried out by one of the resident Beefeaters. This was both humorous and informative. Towards the end, the tour goes up a flight of steps and wheelchair users have to make a longish detour to avoid them. We suggest you ask the guide to wait for you to rejoin the party before telling the next part of the history. The last part is in the chapel that normally has a wheelchair lift but it was in for repair on the day we visited so we could not see it.

There are audio guides (in several languages) available for hire if you prefer but the building they are obtained from has stepped access and you will need someone to get the unit for you. Unfortunately these are not designed for those with visual impairment.



The Jewel House which contains several displays, a film of the Queens coronation and the Crown Jewels is fully accessible. There is a traveller alongside the jewels (to avoid long queues building up) that is easily negotiated. There is a designated disabled toilet at the rear of the jewel building but it is extremely small. However the newly completed Armouries restaurant is nearby and it has ramped access as well as a toilet (with wheelchair turning space, room to side transfer and for carers if necessary). The restaurant serves snacks as well as hot and cold meals and has good access to tables for wheelchair users.

The Tower shop has an accessible door on the opposite side to the Tower entrance and a lift to the upstairs floor. The Tower produces its own detailed access guide and we will happily send you a copy by e-mail or post if you provide us with contact details.

Despite not being able to access individual areas such as the Bloody tower we still felt it was a worthwhile experience.