

Ampleforth Abbey Disabled Access Information

Introduction

The Abbey of St Laurence at Ampleforth is home to the largest Benedictine community in Europe. The monastic community founded the Abbey in 1802 after settling at Ampleforth Lodge. The Lodge was the home of Fr Anselm who was chaplain to the Fairfax family at Gilling Castle.

The Ampleforth valley is stunningly beautiful. The Abbey is situated on a variety of levels on a private estate of over 1,200 acres within a National Landscape bounded by the North York Moors National Park.

The Abbey Church is arranged over one level, with external and internal ramps and guided pathways for access to the Abbey Church. A manual wheelchair and a motorised wheelchair are available for loan free of charge.

Alban Roe House contains our visitor centre, tea room and shop selling a range of souvenirs. These are all situated on one level with step free access. If you require assistance at all during your visit, please visit main reception and the team will be available to help. Please note, Guide dogs and Hearing Aid dogs are welcome in the Visitor Centre and the Abbey Church but other pets are not. Dogs are welcome in the grounds of Ampleforth Abbey, but must be kept on a lead at all times.

We look forward to welcoming you. If you have any queries or require any assistance prior to your visit, please call us on 01439 766099.

Pre-Arrival

- For full details and maps of how to reach us, please see our website: www.ampleforthabbey.org.uk
- The nearest bus stop is on the Top Road, at the Abbey itself. All buses are accessible and can accommodate one wheelchair. Please check the www.stephensonsofeasingwold.co.uk website for timetables.

Car Parking and Arrival - Visitor Centre

- On arrival at Ampleforth, please use the Visitor Entrance and follow Visitor Parking signs to the Visitors' Centre car park. There are three disabled spaces in the Visitor Car.
- Please do not park on the Drive as access is required at all times for visitors and Emergency Vehicles.
- The path from the car park to the visitor centre entrance is level tarmac.
- The main entrance has a handrail and a permanent ramp.

- The main entrance door is power assisted.

Abbey Church

- There are two Disabled Parking bays at the bottom of the drive for short term parking for those visiting the Abbey Church.
- The main entrance door is manually operated and is 179cm (5ft 10) wide.
- Wheelchair loan is available, free of charge, on request.
- Within the Abbey church, hearing aid loops are in place in the choir and nave of the Abbey Church and speaking venues and can be activated on request.
- The Abbey Church is fully accessible with ramps and stairs with handrails on both sides.
- The floor surface is even stone in the Abbey Church.
- Lighting is generally bright and evenly lit, however some areas of the Abbey Church are more dimly lit. The Abbey Crypt is not accessible with wheelchairs.
- Seating is available in the Abbey Church.

Public Toilets – Abbey Church

- Public toilets are located on the ground floor a short distance from the Abbey Church entrance.
 - A unisex accessible toilet is located on the ground floor, accessed via the outside entrance, and one to the left of the Abbey Church, accessed from the main entrance, and is described below:
 - A light, easy open door 91cm (3ft) wide
 - 102cm (3ft 4) transfer space

The Grange (Retreat Accommodation)

- There is a paved ramp to the retreat accommodation.
- The floor in the Grange is tiled or carpeted.
- There is one double bedroom located on the ground floor with a walk-in shower room and toilet.
- An electric scooter and manual wheelchair are available.
- Guide Dogs and Hearing Aid Dogs are welcome but other pets are not.
- A hearing aid loop is in place in the Rievaulx Conference Room.
- There is Disabled Parking behind the monastery building at the lower end of the drive.
- Guests who feel that they need further assistance should ring the Hospitality Office well before their intended visit to check further details.

Visitor Centre

- The Visitor Centre is located in the east end of Alban Roe House and is fully accessible
- The Visitor Centre has display panels, audio pieces and subtitled films.
- Display panels are all in large text, and have pictorial representation where applicable. All are at a maximum top height of 213cm (7ft).
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- A braille map of the building is available in the entrance lobby.
- The floor surface is tiled or carpeted in the Visitors Centre.
- Lighting is bright and evenly lit.
- Seating is available in the Visitor Centre.

Public Toilets – Visitor Centre

- Public toilets are located on the lower ground floor with access via power assisted door from the rear of the building, tea room, giftshop and visitor experience.
 - A unisex stoma-friendly accessible toilet is located on the lower ground floor, and is described below:
 - A light, easy open door 91cm (3ft) wide
 - 102cm (3ft 4) transfer space
 - The toilet height is 40cm
 - There are vertical rails on either side of both basin and toilet.
 - There is a horizontal rail on the side wall adjacent to the toilet.
- The toilets are well lit with lighting overhead.
- The flooring is non-slip laminate.
- There are crosshead taps on the sinks.

Tea Room

- The Tea Room is situated on the ground floor and has step free level access from the main entrance with a ramp to access the outside seating area.
- The outside seating area has wheel-chair accessible seating.
- The entrance door to the tea room is 76cm (2ft 6) wide

- Tables in the tea room are well spaced apart, with a clear height from the floor of 73cm (2ft 5) with a mixture of upright chairs with and without arms.
- Lighting in all areas in natural daylight with overhead lighting used.
- The flooring in the tea room is terrazzo stone.
- Where possible, all our food produce is locally sourced. We do our best to cater for any dietary requirements; please contact us in advance to check any specific requests you may have.
- The tea room is table service.
- Specials of the day are shown on a blackboard. All staff can assist by running through menus with you.
- The nearest public toilet with an accessible WC is located near the rear entrance, approximately 20 metres from the tea room, via a power assisted door.

Shop

- The Abbey shop sells a wide range of books, gifts, devotional items and monastic produce. The shop can be accessed from the main Visitor Centre entrance via 3 power assisted doors.
- The shop is level wood floor throughout.
- There is ample room within the shop for a large wheelchair to manoeuvre and turn.
- Staff can offer assistance if required.

Grounds and Orchard

- The grounds are set within a valley, with a tarmac road throughout.
- Some surfaces may be uneven and could be a challenge for the severely disabled and very elderly.
- Main pathways are 396cm (13ft) wide.

- There are wooden benches at intervals throughout the grounds.

Additional Information

- Please note that some areas of Orchard tours are unsuitable for wheelchair users.
- All of our staff receive regular training that includes disability awareness training.
- We have a set of evacuation procedures – should you require it someone will assist you with evacuation either out of the building or to a refuge.
- A water bowl is available at the Visitor Centre for dogs.
- Clear signage is used throughout the Abbey grounds using large letters white on a green background.
- There is an area to charge a mobility scooter and battery powered wheelchair. Please ask at reception.

Contact Information

Address: Ampleforth Abbey, York, YO62 4EN

Telephone: 01439 766099

Email: reception@ampleforthabbey.org.uk

Website: www.ampleforthabbey.org.uk

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