Manx National Heritage
*Eiraght Ashoonagh Vannin*

# Access Guide for Nautical Museum

Manx National Heritage recognises that historic properties can present difficulties for people with disabilities. We have prepared an access guide for the Nautical Museum to help you plan your visit. This access guide does not contain personal opinions as to our suitability for those with access needs, but aims to accurately describe the facilities and services that we offer all our visitors.

**Introduction**

For more than 200 years the Nautical Museum in Castletown was home to the 'Peggy', the earliest example of a British schooner, and the only surviving shallop of her kind. The 'Peggy' was built by the inventive Captain George Quayle, who in his time was a businessman, banker and soldier. Extensive archaeological investigations have been completed in the boatyard yielding new information on the 'Peggy' story and revealing an 18th century private dock. The 'Peggy' is now housed in an off-site specialist building for a long-term programme of stabilisation, conservation and study.

The Nautical Museum itself is housed within the former 18th century stable and carriage shed of Bridge House, the Quayle family residence. It is an interesting historic property, which has been operated as a museum since the 1950s.

The Nautical Museum is usually open seasonally (from Easter – October). It has an admission fee and various concessions are available. Our annual pass for Island residents and holiday passes can be purchased online prior to visiting. It is our policy that carers accompanying a disabled visitor are admitted free of charge to all our sites. Please see our website for up-to-date information (www.manxnationalheritage.im).

Visitors using wheel chairs can access the ground floor of the Nautical Museum. There are steps to access the first floor and basement level. There are no alternative means of access to the first floor and basement level.

The Nautical Museum also has a small gift shop. There are no public toilets on site.

We look forward to welcoming you. If you have any queries or require assistance please speak to the entrance team on arrival.

Alternatively to discuss your requirements prior to visiting please email enquiries@mnh.im.

# Contents

**1 Getting to the Nautical Museum**

**2 Entrance Area**

**3 Access for Disabled Visitors**

a. Visitors who use Wheelchairs or have Limited Mobility
b. Visitors who are Blind, Partially Blind or have Sight Loss
c. Visitors who are Deaf or have Hearing Loss
d. Visitors who have Learning or Sensory Difficulties

**4 Visitors with Young Children**

**5 Toilets**

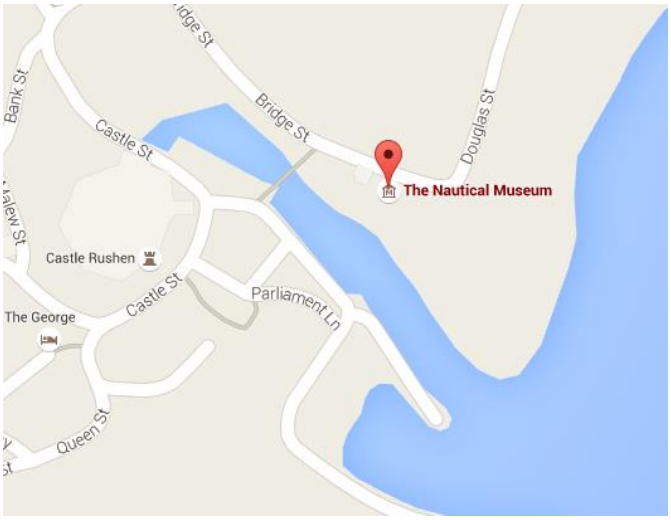
**6 Gift Shop**

**7 Future Plans**

# 1 Getting to the Nautical Museum

The Nautical Museum is located in Castletown in the South of the Island. It is an 18th century building.

**The Nautical Museum, Castletown**




**Map showing Nautical Museum location**

## By car:

There is on street parking outside the Nautical Museum, and two nearby free-of-charge car parks. Visitors should note that Castletown operates a parking disc zone, which means free parking for an allotted time. Some areas of Castletown offer 2 hour limits, others up to 24 hours. Please check the signs when you park.

Disabled badge holders can park in the disc zone for double the allotted time, a parking disc must be displayed. Parking discs can be collected from any IOM Post Office (there is one in

Castletown town centre), the Isle of Man Airport and the Welcome Centre at the Sea Terminal in Douglas.

There are double yellow lines in a number of places around Castletown, please note that on the Isle of Man disabled badge holders are not permitted to park on these lines.

There is a drop off point immediately in front of the Nautical Museum.

There is a dropped curb to access the Nautical Museum.

**Footpath Route to Nautical Museum via Cain Bridge**

## On foot:

The Nautical Museum is near the harbour in Castletown and is on level ground. There are pedestrian pavements leading to the main entrance and there are dropped curbs. There are no pedestrian crossings to aid access. If accessing the Nautical Museum from the town square pedestrians should use the Cain Bridge.

Please note that Castletown is the ancient capital of the Isle of Man and is thus historic in nature. Many of the streets and pavements are uneven. The pavements of Castletown are narrow in places and paved with textured slabs. Visitors using wheel chairs may require assistance due to the uneven surfaces. In addition the slabs can become slippery when wet.

## By bus:

There is a bus stop in the main square. Journey time from Douglas takes approximately 25 minutes.

The route to the Nautical Museum is wheelchair and buggy accessible, but visitors using wheel chairs may require assistance due to the uneven pavements. The route includes crossing the harbour via the Cain Bridge.

## By coach:

Coach visitors can be dropped off immediately outside the Nautical Museum. Coach operators may be able to park on the harbour side if spaces are available. Alternatively there is a coach park on Farrant's Way (to the rear of the Market Square). Visitors should be made aware that the Nautical Museum is a 5-10 minute walk from the coach park.

# 2 Entrance Area

Access to the Nautical Museum is through double glass doors. The doors are not automated. The doors are not heavy. The doors open inwards. The main entrance has a slight ramp.

**Main entrance – double glass door**

**Main entrance – showing slight ramp**

The main entrance has a medium height counter and is well lit. There is an induction hearing loop fitted. The reception desk is staffed at all times, and our team is happy to help.

**Main reception area and shop counter**

Torches are available to borrow from reception for those who require them.

Assistance dogs are welcome and a water bowl is available at reception, please ask.

There is free WiFi on site. Please ask staff for log in details.

## Cloak Room Facilities

The Nautical Museum has no cloakroom facility. Heavy bags or bulky items can be left at reception if space allows.

# 3 Access for Disabled Visitors

The Nautical Museum offers a warm welcome to all.

Visitors with specific needs are welcome to contact Manx National Heritage in advance of their visit and descriptive guided tours can be arranged. To discuss your requirements please email enquiries@mnh.im.

Assistance dogs are welcome and a water bowl is available at reception, please ask.

## Visitors who use Wheelchairs or have Limited Mobility

Only the ground floor of the Nautical Museum is accessible to visitors using wheel chairs.

There is seating available on the ground floor.

Please find full details of the gallery level changes below.

## Level Changes (Nautical Museum)

### Ground Floor

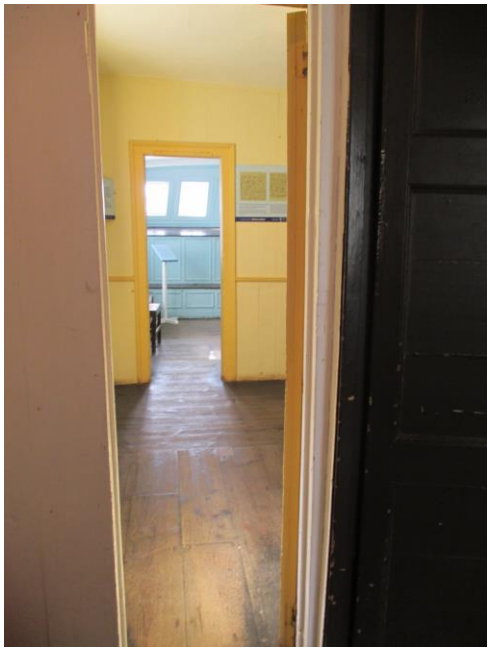
Access to the main entrance of the Nautical Museum is level, with a slight ramp.

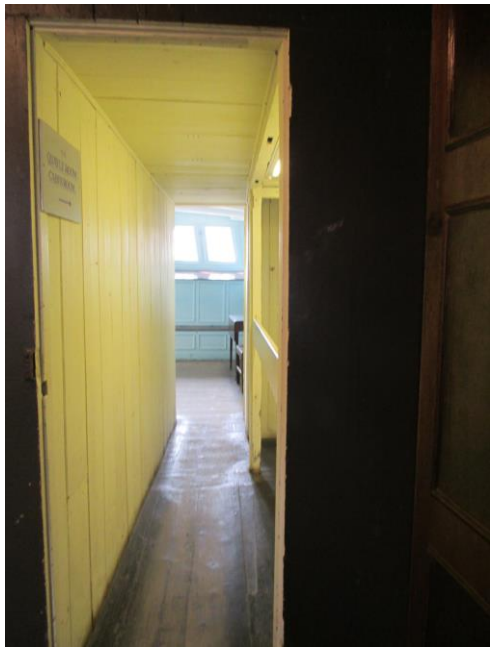
The ground floor galleries of the Nautical Museum are accessible to visitors using wheelchairs via moderate ramps. The historic cabin room is accessed via a narrow corridor, please see width measurements below.

The floor surfaces vary throughout the ground floor, alternating between wooden floor boards, paved stones and concrete.

**Moderate ramp with handrail to Quayle Gallery (ground floor)**

**Route to cabin rooms (ground floor) – width at narrowest point 70cm**





**Narrow corridors leading to historic cabin room (ground floor) - width at narrowest point 58cm**

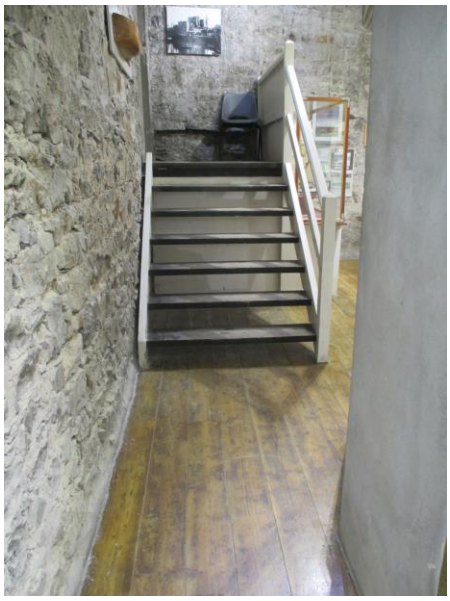
There is sofa seating in the Quayle Gallery, together with an interactive family-friendly area and a film detailing the history of the Quayle family and the Peggy story.

**Seating and film area in the Quayle Gallery**

**Quayle Gallery interactive area**

## Ground Floor to Dock Viewing Platform:

Leading from the Quayle Gallery is a set of 7 open-riser steps which lead to and from the dock viewing platform. The steps are wooden and there is a single handrail.



**Steps leading to/from the dock viewing platform from the ground floor**

**Dock viewing platform**

**18th century private dock as seen from viewing platform**

## First Floor

From the ground floor (left hand side) is a set of 15 steep open-riser wooden steps leading to the Sail Loft Gallery on the first floor. There are two small landings on the staircase. There is a single handrail.

**Open-riser steps leading to first floor – Sail Loft Gallery (looking up stair well)**

**Steps leading to first floor – Sail Loft Gallery (looking down stairwell)**

The first floor has two small galleries, one dressed as a reconstructed sail loft (the Sail Loft Gallery) and the second has a collection of ship models and nautical ephemera (the Ship

Model Gallery). The two galleries are joined by a narrow corridor. The floor surfaces are wooden floorboards, and a small area of concrete. The floor is level.

**First Floor – Sail Loft Gallery leading to Ship Model Gallery**

Visitors can either return to the ground floor via the Sail Loft steps (detailed above) or the Ship Model Gallery steps on the right hand side. There are 15 steep wooden open riser steps, with hand rail. The steps have white edge markings.

**First floor steps leading to and/or from the ground floor (right hand side of building)**

**First floor steps leading to and/or from the ground floor (right hand side of building)**

## Boat Cellar (Basement)

Leading from the ground floor is a set of 7 open-riser wooden steps with double hand rails leading to and exiting from the boat cellar. The boat cellar is where the Peggy boat was kept for over 200 years. The boat cellar has a wooden decked walkway which leads to a viewing platform to see the 18th century private dock.

**Boat cellar steps leading to/from the ground floor**

**Bottom of boat cellar steps**

**Boat Cellar in 2016 showing decked walkway (without the 'Peggy')**

**The Boat Cellar with the 'Peggy' (2014)**

## Visitors who are Blind, Partially Blind or have Sight Loss

The Nautical Museum is an historic building with open-riser staircases leading to the first floor galleries and the boat cellar (please refer to the mobility impairment section for more detailed information). The right hand stairwell leading to the first floor has white strip edging and a double handrail to assist access.

Please note there are varying floor surfaces throughout the Nautical Museum, mostly wooden floors but some concrete slabs as well. Lighting levels are moderate in most areas, although the boat cellar, cabin room and first floor galleries have lower level lighting.

The Nautical Museum staff are happy to explain more about the history of the building to visitors on arrival and can suggest a route to follow.

Torches can be borrowed from reception.

Assistance dogs are welcome and a water bowl is available at reception, please ask.

Visitors with specific needs are welcome to contact Manx National Heritage in advance of their visit to request a descriptive guided tour. To discuss your requirements please email enquiries@mnh.im.

## Visitors who are Deaf or have Hearing Loss

The main reception area has an induction loop for our hearing impaired visitors. The hearing induction loop requires your hearing aid to be set to T.

There is written interpretation.

There is a subtitled film in the Quayle Gallery.

Assistance dogs are welcome and a water bowl is available at reception, please ask.

Visitors with specific needs are welcome to contact Manx National Heritage in advance of their visit to talk about your requirements. To discuss your requirements please email enquiries@mnh.im.

# Visitors who have Learning or Sensory Difficulties

The Nautical Museum is a peaceful place to explore. It is full of interesting nautical objects, fascinating stories and the building itself is unusual. Ask the staff about the special features of George Quayle's Cabin Room.

We also have an interactive space in the Quayle Gallery, where visitors can dress up and explore more about 18th century Island life. There is also a film detailing the history of the Quayle family and the Peggy story.

The Nautical Museum is a small building, and can get busy if a school party or coach party is visiting. This means the site can become noisy and disorientating, which some visitors may find challenging.

When planning your visit our staff would be happy to advise whether the Nautical Museum has any large pre-booked groups and can advise on quieter visiting times.

Torches can be borrowed from reception for visitors with sensory difficulties.

We can also offer familiarisation tours for visitors with learning difficulties during quieter times so they feel more confident to revisit. To discuss your requirements please email enquiries@mnh.im.

**Seating and film area in the Quayle Gallery**

# 4 Young Children

Young children are very welcome at the Nautical Museum and are encouraged to explore and have fun. The Quayle Gallery has a fantastic family-friendly area, where you can dress as George Quayle, challenge your navigation skills or test your sea legs!

The Nautical Museum is a curious building with an unusual history. We suggest asking the friendly staff to tell you about the secrets of George Quayle's Cabin Room!

We also know that historic buildings can sometimes be a bit daunting, so we offer torches to shine in those scary corners.

We ask parents to remember that the Nautical Museum is an historic site with open-riser staircases and an outdoor viewing platform, so please keep a close eye on young children.

**Quayle Gallery interactive area**

All Manx National Heritage sites support and welcome breastfeeding mothers.

There are no baby changing facilities available on site.

# 5 Toilets

There are no public toilets at the Nautical Museum. The nearest public toilets are at the harbour (5-10 minute walk). The nearest accessible public toilet is at the Castletown Civic Centre (5-10 minute walk). It is operated by a radar key, which can be borrowed from the Civic Centre staff.

There is also a male and female accessible toilet at Castle Rushen, which can be used by MNH visitors.

There is also an accessible toilet at the Costa coffee shop outside the main entrance of Castle Rushen.

The Nautical Museum does have a small staff toilet on the ground floor. In an emergency please speak to the staff who will show you the facility.

# 6 Gift Shop

The Nautical Museum has a small gift shop, located at the entrance way.

The shop is  accessible to visitors using wheelchairs.

It has a mid-level counter.

There is a hearing induction loop at the shop counter.

Lighting in the shop is good natural daylight with additional overhead lighting.

**The Nautical Museum Gift Shop**

# 7 Future Plans

The Nautical Museum team receive customer service and disability awareness training, and are always happy to help. We work with a range of partners across the Island to ensure our sites and collections are accessible, engaging and inspiring to a broad range of users. We are always seeking to improve our services for visitors and appreciate your feedback.

Manx National Heritage is committed to improving access to heritage assets for everybody; and is working to embed an inclusive 'access for all' philosophy across the organisation and in everything we do.

If you would like to discuss access and inclusion in more detail please contact Access & Inclusion Champions Katie King on 01624 648023, Katie.king@mnh.im, or Suzie Walker on 01624 648091, Suzanne.walker@mnh.im.

# Contact Information

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| **Address:** | The Nautical Museum, Bridge Street, Castletown, IM9 1AX |
| **Telephone:** | 01624 824186 |
| **Website:** | www.manxnationalheritage.im |
| **Email:** | enquiries@mnh.im |
| **Opening hours:** | *Please see our website for up-to-date opening hours* |