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**SHELL
GROTTO**
MARGATE

Visual Story

This Visual Story will help you find your way around the Shell Grotto. We have included photos and information about the things you will see on your visit.

For full access, travel and visitor information, see our Access Statement. We also have a Sensory Map available.

shellgrotto.co.uk/visit

Updated: Feb 2024



Arrival

This is the Shell Grotto from the outside. We are on a hill. There are two sloped steps into a porch but no step-free access. You walk through the porch and into the shop.



Shop

This is our shop. You walk through here to get to the Grotto. You can have a look in the shop at the beginning or end of your visit.

We don't have any cafe facilities on site.





Reception

This is the reception desk where you will be greeted by a friendly member of our team. This is where you buy tickets to visit the Grotto and ask questions.

When you buy a ticket, you will be given a map and an activity sheet.



Toilet

As you walk in, our public toilet is on your right. There is only one toilet and it is unisex. There is baby-changing facilities on the wall. There might be a queue to use the toilet on busy days.

The Museum

After the reception, you walk down 7 steps into a small museum. There are handrails on both side.

At the bottom of the stairs, there are some shells on the wall which you may gently touch.

In the museum there are lots of different objects to look at and things to read.

There is small table which you can sit at and some colouring pencils which you can use to complete your activity sheet.



The North Passage

Once you have finished in the museum, there are 9 steps to get down into the Grotto. There is a handrail to your left.

You enter the Grotto through a chalk tunnel called the North Passage. The North Passage does not have any shells in it.

The Grotto is quite dark but there are lights all the way along. The floor is uneven in the Grotto too so please walk carefully.



The Rotunda and Dome

The North Passage leads you to the Rotunda. This is a circular passage filled with shell mosaics.

At the other end of the Rotunda is the Dome. In the ceiling of the dome is a skylight which lets natural light in.



The Serpentine Passage

After the Dome is the Serpentine Passage. The Serpentine Passage is also full of shell mosaics. Some of the patterns are named on your map.



The Altar Chamber

At the end of the Serpentine Passage is a rectangular room called the Altar Chamber. This is the end of the Grotto.

When you are finished looking, make your way back the same way you entered.

