

- THE -
SHELL
GROTTO
MARGATE

This guide will help you find your way around the Shell Grotto.
There are photos of all the things you will find as you explore.
There are also photos of what you can do here.

This is the Shell Grotto building from the outside. We are on a hill. There are two sloped steps into the porch. You walk into the porch and push open the door.



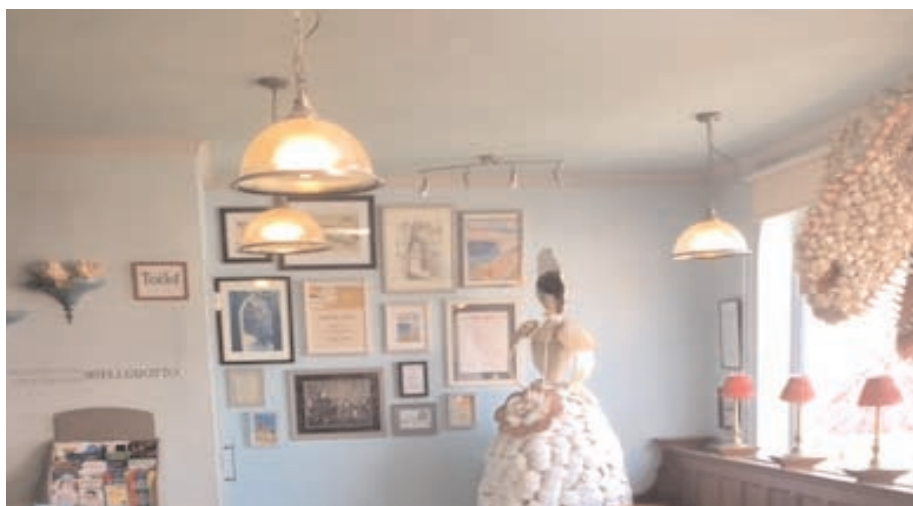
This is the shop. You walk through here to get into the underground Grotto. Please follow our one-way system to aid with social distancing. There are arrows on the floor.



As you walk in the toilet is on your right. There's just one and it's unisex.

There are long pews under the windows where you can sit, and we might ask you to leave bags or luggage here if they are large.

We don't have any café facilities on site.



This is the desk where you will be greeted by a friendly member of staff to check in your pre-booking. (Sometimes we will greet you at the door.) All we need is your name to find your booking. You can take a map and activity sheet and we will tell you more about the Grotto. You can ask them any questions you have.



You walk down 7 stairs into a small, darker, museum room. There are handrails on both sides.

At the bottom of the stairs there are some shells on the wall.



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



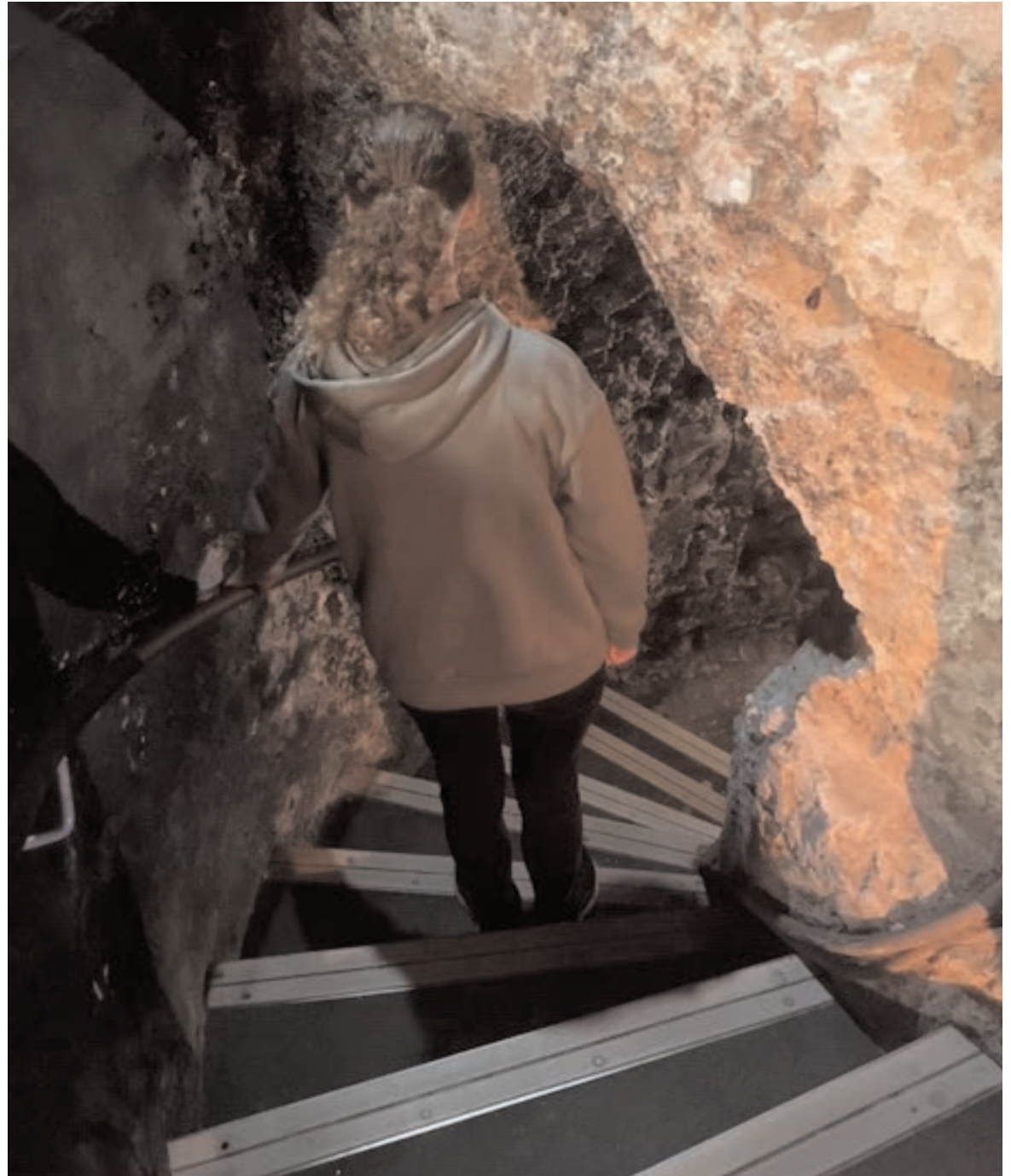
You can open the drawers for some history about the Grotto.
We have sadly removed all our interactive exhibits due to Covid.



When you are ready, you go down 9 stairs into the Grotto. There is a handrail to your left.

It is a bit darker but there are lights.

The floor is uneven in the Grotto so walk carefully.



The first part of the Grotto is a chalk passageway. We also call it the North Passage.

This is quite narrow. You have right of way entering the Grotto, and we ask visitors leaving the Grotto to back up and let visitors enter first to aid with social distancing.

This will take you to the shell mosaics.

You musn't touch the shells in the Grotto a they are very delicate.



You walk through the arch into the Rotunda.

This is a circular passage. You go left as you enter as this area is one way.



At the other side of the Rotunda you get to the Dome.
Above you there is a skylight and you can see the sky.



You now walk down the Serpentine Passage, which is no longer one way.

The shells have been put together in a mosaic to make different patterns.

You can look out for the patterns. Some of the pattern names are on your map.

Please keep to the left as much as possible, being careful of the walls.



At the end of the Serpentine Passageway there is a room.
This is called the Altar Room.



On one wall there is a photograph of a group of ladies.



You are at the end of the Grotto. You can look at the shells for longer and then walk back, turning left into the Rotunda to follow the one way system, when you have finished. Please give way to people entering the Grotto at the Chalk Passage.

