

# What to Expect When Visiting Staithes Museum

Welcome! This guide tells you what to expect when visiting the museum. It has stairs, friendly volunteers, and many objects to look at. You can ask questions if you are unsure - email [staithesmuseum@gmail.com](mailto:staithesmuseum@gmail.com) or ring 01947841454.

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## Arrival and Orientation

**Please note:** Staithes is a beautiful but challenging village to access. The main route into the village is a steep hill with narrow pavements.

### Getting to Staithes

#### By Bus

Take the **X4 bus** and get off at **“Staithes – Captain Cook’s Close”**.  
Walk along the road with a terrace of cottages, then continue down the steep hill into the village. The museum is on your **right**.

#### By Car

You can park at the **Bank Top car park** at the top of the hill. There are two car parks side by side:

- **Council Car Park** – pay at the machine (often only accepts coins or RingGo app).
- **Private Car Park (iPark)** – pay via app or cash. Uses number plate recognition. Charges apply year-round.

There are **no designated disabled spaces**. The walk down the hill takes around **10 minutes**, and the walk back up takes **15 minutes**.

## Council Car Park Charges (as of 4 June 2025)

| Time     | Price |
|----------|-------|
| 1 hour   | £2.90 |
| 2 hours  | £4.40 |
| 4 hours  | £5.80 |
| 6 hours  | £6.60 |
| 24 hours | £7.90 |

Blue Badge holders must also pay. Charges apply **9am–6pm, 1 March–31 October**.

You can drop someone off at the **bottom of the hill** (near the museum). There's space to turn your car around. You can also park on the High Street for up to **40 minutes**, if a space is available.

## Entry and Tours

- **Free entry** all year round – no need to book in advance.
- **Donations welcome** (card or cash) – they help us keep the museum open!
- **Guided tours** are available for up to 5 people. They last 30 minutes and cost £40. Book online or contact us to arrange a special out-of-hours tour.
- **Well-behaved, dry dogs** are welcome at the museum.



# Museum Layout and Accessibility

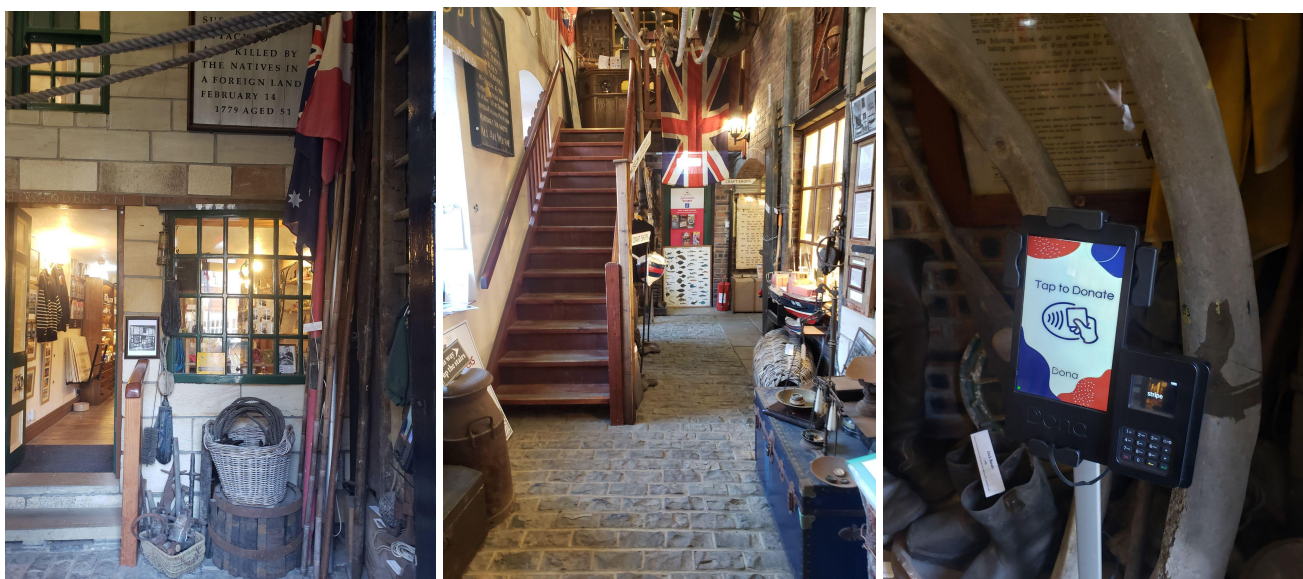
## Getting In

- There are **two steps** up from the pavement (on a slope), then a short flat stretch (2 metres), then **three more steps** into the museum. There is a handrail.



## Entrance Area

- The floor is made of **replica cobblestones**, which are difficult for pushchairs and wheelchairs.
- Volunteers may greet you and offer directions.
- There is a folder of Large-print exhibit labels by the entrance.
- Exhibits here include fishing gear, a whalebone, and a view of our **replica 18th-century street** where young Captain Cook once lived.
- There is a **card donation point** - donating is optional, but it helps us keep the lights on!



## Downstairs Corridor

- More fishing gear and original hymn sheets from the building's time as a chapel.
- Flat paving stones after the first turn to the right.
- Museum shop (left) and crafters' shop (right) with friendly volunteers.
- Exhibit with a **Victorian mourning mannequin**, **school desk**, and **Captain Cook's original shop shutter**.

*Note: Some visitors may find the mannequin unsettling.*

- You can sit on the pew to rest.



## Stairs to Main Gallery

- 13 stairs with handrails on both sides.
- Quiz boxes at the top (3 options):
  - **Children's Quiz** (object-based)
  - **Non-reader's Picture Quiz** (Count the museum's objects, or just tick them off)
  - **Adult Quiz** (more challenging)

Borrow a pencil, and ask a volunteer if the quiz sheets run out. If you need an A4-sized quiz sheet, please ask!



## Upstairs Gallery

Volunteers wear name badges and love to share stories and answer questions.

- A video plays quietly on loop (speech + music).
- Start your visit **clockwise** (go left at the start).
- Exhibits include (in order):
  - **Coins, soapstone carvings, scrimshaw, and animal figurines.**
  - **Clocks, fossils, and Cook's last voyage copperplate prints.**
  - **Cook-related objects**, like a **taxidermy turtle** and **beach litter.**
  - **Model boats**, including Ron Potter's replica of the replica *Endeavour*.
  - **Staithes people photo section** and **Staithes Group artist paintings.**
  - **Dame Laura Knight exhibit** – including her paintings and letters.
  - **Staithes Methodism and chapel history.**
  - **Lifeboat display**
  - John Cole video showing how to make a **lobster pot.**
  - **Staithes Railway exhibit** with silent video and photos.
  - **Staithes bonnets**

*Note: Some visitors may find the child's doll wearing a Staithes bonnet unsettling.*

- **Local mining industry.**
- There is a bench to sit down on near the lobster pot video.
- **Please don't touch the objects.**



## Exit Route

- Follow signs to the **exit on the opposite side of the room** to the entrance.
- **Card/cash donation point** at the top of the stairs.
- **Curved stairs** with handrails lead to the gift shop.
- Second cash donation pot is in the gift shop
- Exit through a door with **two steps down** to re-enter the entrance area.
- Exit via the **automatic doors**. Watch out for the **steps down to the street**.



## Visitor Services

- **Two museum-managed shops:** books, ganseys, nautical toys, and rocks.
- **Two local craft shops:** run by 18 local crafters (email: museumcraftsstaites@gmail.com).
- **No public toilets** or **café** on site. The nearest public toilets are 10 minutes' walk down the high street, facing the beach.
- **Photography allowed**, except in the crafters' shop.
- A **Large print binder** of exhibit labels is available if the writing on the labels is too small to read.
- A **Visual Story** for your visit is available here:  
[https://docs.google.com/document/d/1d\\_ggWfikip7yY0YBAJ86shIEptoa5u-WB\\_TVYKGUB9KU/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1d_ggWfikip7yY0YBAJ86shIEptoa5u-WB_TVYKGUB9KU/edit?usp=sharing)
- There is **no internet or phone signal** in the museum building.

## Planning Your Visit

- Most people spend around **30 minutes** in the museum.
- **Quietest time**: between **12:00 and 13:00**.
- In summer: ~50 visitors per hour.  
In winter: ~15 visitors per hour.
- School holidays are **very busy and noisy**.