Introduction

HMS Caroline is a restored First World War Light Cruiser and the last survivor of the Battle of Jutland, which has been converted into a floating museum and visitor attraction. Visitors can experience a mixture of historic restoration, special effects and hands-on interactive exhibits. HMS Caroline is the most accessible historic ship in the UK.

The site

The Ship is open 10.00am – 5.00pm, Monday - Sunday.

Last admission is 4.00pm, but we do advise you to leave at least 1 hour and 30 minutes for the tour.
Getting Here

By train:
Titanic Quarter Station is the nearest train station. From there take the pedestrian footbridge into Titanic Quarter and turn left onto Sydenham Road. Turn right onto Queen’s Road.

By road:
Vehicles approaching Belfast on the M1 or M2 should follow the signs to Belfast City Airport M3, taking the first exit for Titanic Quarter.

By glider:
Glider service G2 departs from the City Centre (Wellington Place). Alight at stop Catalyst Inc (Queen’s Road). Journey time is approximately 10 minutes from the City Centre.
Car parking and arrival

- The ship has a car park with accessible parking spaces.
- There are 4 accessible parking spaces.
- There is an additional coach parking area and turning circle.
- The car park closes at 5pm.
Car Park Entrance

Car Park Spaces
- Visitors make their way from the car park across the wooden bridge and into the pump house alongside the ship. Entrance tickets can be purchased inside the pump house. The pump house is accessible by steps or ramp.
- There is a hearing loop system at the reception desk
Bridge to pump house

Pump house entrance
There is a reception desk located inside the Pump House where you can pay for or collect your tickets.

Wheelchairs are available on request at arrival.

There are two galleries in the Pump House.

They contain exhibitions with text panels and images.
Audio Guides

- You will exit the Pump House via automatic doors located in gallery two of the Pump House.
- Visitors can collect their audio guides, headphones and maps for the self-guided tour at the booth beside the gangway.
The audio guide tour can be activated by pointing the silver device at the audio guide points throughout the ship and clicking the black button. Please note, some audio guide points on the ship are at a high level.

Throughout the tour, historic spaces on the ship will play different soundscapes to recreate sounds that would have been heard in the various areas in 1916.

Exhibition panels on the ship on average contain heading text at font size 32 and main body text at front size 24.

Light levels will vary throughout the different areas of the ship.
Entrance and Boarding HMS Caroline

- Entrance on to the ship is by gangway. The gangway is level and wheelchair accessible with a handrail either side, however the angle of the gangway may change according to tide levels. Here is a link to the tide timetable:
  - https://www.belfast-harbour.co.uk/tide-tables/
- In windy weather the gangway may move slightly as the ship sways in the water.
The tour begins in the drill hall, which is located through the door on the left at the top of the gangway. The drill hall has seating and exhibition panels.

Projected in the drill hall is a short film depicting the Battle of Jutland. While the film plays, the lights in the drill hall dim. The film is played at a high volume and contains scenes that some may find upsetting. Visitors may skip the film if they wish.
• The exit from the drill hall and on to the rest of the tour is located at the other side of the room.

Drill hall with film

• On exiting the drill hall, visitors can make their way in to the Captain’s Quarters. The doorway in to the Captain’s is inaccessible by wheelchair.

• Visitors can take an alternative level route along the deck to the left of the doorway. This bypasses the Captain’s Quarters, however there is an audio guide point along the wall to the right which provides a description of the area.
Both routes come out on to the Quarterdeck. Please note, the deck may be slippery in wet weather.

The lower deck can be accessed by lift or stairs; some stairs may be steep.
Quarterdeck

Stairs to lower deck

Lift to lower deck
Lower deck

- The lower deck contains several restored historic spaces and is mostly level.
- Areas of the lower deck also contain interactive displays and activities.
- Corridors on the lower deck may be narrow in some areas.
- Some historic spaces have small steps at the doorways.
- Light levels vary in different areas along the lower deck.
The Engine Rooms are located in the middle of the Lower Deck.

Engine Rooms are accessible by stairs only.

Visitors walk along a raised platform to view the engines.

Inside the Engine Rooms, an audio visual display is projected. This recreates the sounds of the engines and is played at a high volume.

The Engine Rooms are dimly lit and there is a strong smell of oil from the turbines in this area.
Stairs to Engine Rooms

Inside Engine Rooms
- You will exit the Engine Rooms by a staircase which leads into two areas with information panels and interactive media- these are the Dazzle Zone and Torpedo School.

- One either side of the Torpedo School and Dazzle Zone, there are two corridors leading to the next area of the ship. Both corridors lead to the same place.

- The corridor to the left (from the Dazzle Zone) is not wheelchair accessible, the corridor to the right (from the Torpedo School) is level and wheelchair accessible. Both corridors have slightly uneven floors and low lighting.
Left-hand-side corridor with raised doorways

Right-hand-side level accessible corridor
• Following the corridors, visitors can proceed straight ahead into the on-board café.
• The café offers a selection of hot drinks, soft drinks, tray bakes, sandwiches, and hot food.
• The café is level, with seating areas with benches that can be moved.
• This area may have strong smells of food and possibly crowds of visitors at the tables.
• To continue the tour back on the upper deck, visitors can exit the café via a set of stairs or a lift located inside the café.
Café exit stairs

Café exit lift
Virtual Access Suite

- On exiting the café, visitors can visit the Virtual Access Suite. The Virtual Access Suite provides access to remote and hidden areas of HMS Caroline.
- There are several interactive displays, activities and a tactile model of the ship.
- Some of the exhibits and activities in this area play sound at a high volume.
- There are some seating areas in the Virtual Access Suite.
Forecastle

- Visitors can continue out of the Virtual Access Suite, past the Sick Bay and Galley and outside on to the deck.
- From here, the Forecastle is accessible by a set of stair up or a lift.
- From the Forecastle, the Navigating Bridge above can be accessed by stairs only.
- These stairs are quite steep and can be slippery in wet weather.
- The Navigating Bridge contains confined areas such as the Day Cabins.
Gift Shop

- The on-board gift shop can be accessed by stairs or lift back down from the Forecastle.
- There are two doorways for entrance in to the gift shop. The doorway on the same side as the lift is wheelchair accessible with a small ramp.
- Please note, there is a corner of a display unit inside the shop quite closed to the accessible doorway.
- The gift shop offers a variety of souvenirs.
- Visitors return their audio guides to staff in the gift shop.
- Inside the shop is level, however, this area is slightly confined and some visitors may have issues with manoeuvrability around the shop.
- The gift shop can get crowded if there is a large group of people inside at the one time.
- A soundscape may be playing inside the shop and there is a fluorescent light that changes colours.
Raised doorway in to the gift shop (if viewing from the Forecastle this is located down the stairway on the right-hand-side).

Accessible doorway in to the gift shop (located on the same side as the lift back down from the Forecastle).
Toilets

- There are toilets in the pump house, including one unisex accessible toilet. These are located to the right of the ticket desk.
- The ship has ladies and gents toilets on-board the ship. These are located on the upper deck outside the Virtual Access Suite, opposite the Sick Bay.
- There are two unisex accessible toilets on-board. One is located before the entrance to the Drill Hall on the right-hand-side, opposite the red desk. Another is located past the gent’s toilets, opposite the Galley.
- Accessible toilets contain baby changing areas, hand rails, mirrors, and alarm chords.
- All toilets contain electric hand dryers.
Ladies’ on-board toilets

Gent’s on-board toilets
On-board accessible toilet outside
Drill Hall

On-board accessible toilet opposite galley
Additional information

- Our staff are trained in Autism Awareness and Dementia Awareness and are happy to provide assistance and answer queries.
- Accompanying essential companions can gain free admission on to the ship.
- Please be advised that access to the ship will be restricted for the safety of accessible users during period of high tide.
- We would suggest to customers with additional mobility requirements to come 60 minutes either side of high tide as the gangway can become steep as the tide rises. Here is a link to the tide timetable: [https://www.belfast-harbour.co.uk/tide-tables/](https://www.belfast-harbour.co.uk/tide-tables/)
- The narrowest door on the ship is 64cm
- When inside the lifts, please be advised to stay clear of the lift sides and doors to ensure the lift does not stop.
- Please note, high heels with a diameter smaller than a 2p coin (2.5cm) cannot be worn on board the ship. Heel caps that can be fitted should be purchased in advance.
- We have evacuation procedures. In the unlikely event of an evacuation, someone will assist you with evacuation out of the building or ship. In the event of an emergency, on-board lifts can be used up to ten times.
- There are automatic doors in various areas throughout the ship.
- We welcome assistance dogs; water bowls are available on request.
Contact

We welcome any feedback and suggestions to ensure everyone has the opportunity to have an enjoyable and engaging visit to HMS Caroline.

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