

Venue and Performance Access Information – Dancing in Caves

Fort Amherst

Made By Katie Green is committed to inclusive practice. We endeavour to make all our events as accessible as possible. If you have any access or mobility requirements, or have difficulty standing for extended periods of time, please contact us in advance so that we can advise you on access and make the best arrangements for your visit.

We hope that the following information will provide all the details you might need to know about accessing our performance, hosted in this unusual setting.

Access Contact

Contact our Producer, Kate McStaw, for any additional information.

Phone or text: 07792 377106

Email: katemcstraw@hotmail.co.uk

Kate aims to respond to all enquiries within 2 working days.

Venue details:

Originally constructed during Napoleonic times in preparation for a possible invasion, Chatham's Fort Amherst was also used as a civil defence centre in both world wars. The tunnel complex has been adapted to allow for tourist access, including the addition of lighting. The venue complex also consists of a visitor centre and cafe.

Address: Fort Amherst, Chatham, ME4 4UB

Fort Amherst have some accessibility information available to view on their website, however this pack covers all this information as well as additional notes specifically for the performance: <http://www.fortamherst.com/index.php/about/visitor-information>

Additional information specifically about the Fort Amherst tunnels can be found here: <http://www.fortamherst.com/index.php/about/origins-of-fort-amherst>

There is step free access to the visitor centre and café (open until 4pm daily) and the toilets.

Fort Amherst contains a steep gradient and steps (the steps will not be used during the performance) so is unsuitable for wheelchair users and those with limited mobility, unless accompanied by someone who can support use of the steep slope.

There are some narrow passages within the tunnels, minimum width of 1 metre, which you need to pass to access the full performance.

Bookable Access Facilities

If you need a personal assistant / support worker to accompany you, for you to attend the performance, please contact us to secure their free assistant's ticket.

There is disabled parking available in the Fort Amherst car park (entry is via the main gate next to the cafe). Please contact us in advance should you wish to reserve a space. All car parking spaces are on hard standing ground.

Contact Kate McStaw, our Producer, via phone 07792 377106 or email katemcstraw@hotmail.co.uk

Travel Guide

Bus

The nearest bus stop is at Chatham Fort Amherst Council Offices (Bus 190). Note that it is an uphill walk (approximately 3 minutes) from here to the entrance to Fort Amherst.

ARRIVA BUSES KENT AND SURREY

<https://www.arrivabus.co.uk/kent-and-surrey/>

From Chatham Railway Station

Mon - Sun: bus no. 190 – every 20 minutes

<https://www.arrivabus.co.uk/GetTimetable/?guid=787c599c-8170-484f-9b85-10f27d97623f&id=67533&date=170723-180705>

Train

The nearest train station is Chatham, approximately 5 minutes by taxi from the train station to Fort Amherst or 4 minutes by bus from Chatham Railway Station to Chatham Fort Amherst Council Offices.

Trains run direct to Chatham from London (Victoria and St Pancras International) and from Sittingbourne, Faversham and Ramsgate.

For train times, contact the National Rail Enquiry line on 08457 484950 or visit www.nationalrail.co.uk

Parking

There is free on site parking for those visiting the tunnels and visitor centre. Entry is in the main gate next to the cafe and parking is on the Parade Ground.

Arrival Guide

- Venue opening times
The parkland grounds of Fort Amherst are open free of charge from 9am to 7pm daily.
During the summer the café is open 8am to 4pm, and tunnel tours run from 11-12 and 2-3pm.
From 4pm onwards on the performance dates (28th July) the venue is open to ticket holders only.
- Arriving at the venue
On arrival, you will approach the tunnels entrance by walking downhill from the car park area.
- Ticket collection
Tickets can be collected from the café/visitor centre building. There is a ramp up to this building from the car park. The accessible toilet is inside this building. There is flat level access between the car park and tunnel entranceway.
You can print your tickets in advance (via the PDF attached when you book your tickets online) but don't worry if you can't print them as there is a door list as well.

- Access contact on site
Should you need to speak to one of us prior to the performance start, please ask at the ticket desk for either Kate or Katie.
- Arrival times
You are advised to arrive no later than 15 minutes prior to your selected performance time; if you would like to arrive more than 30 minutes prior to your selected performance time, please contact us in advance to arrange this.
Please note that the performance is 45 minutes in duration with no interval.

Toilets

There is an accessible toilet in the café building. The distance between the toilet and the performance site ranges between approximately 30m and 100m, depending on where you are situated within the tunnels.

The route is flat within the café building to the toilet.

Access to the Performance

At this time, we are not able to offer Audio Enhancement such as loops, intra red or mobile connect systems / British Sign Language / Captioning / Audio Description / Relaxed Performances – however this is something we are looking to explore for future performances. Should you have any feedback on this, please do get in contact.

Assistance Dogs

Registered Hearing Dogs for Deaf People, Guide Dogs for the Blind, Disability Support Dogs, Medical Assistance Dogs, Disability Assistance Dogs and Seizure Alert Dogs are permitted to enter the venue. Owners are responsible for the control of their dogs at all times and they must be on a lead whilst in the grounds of the Fort.

Please contact us in advanced to discuss accommodation of an assistance dog.

Lighting

The tunnels are electrically lit but the lighting levels are purposefully kept low to protect the tunnel environment.

Please note that there may be moments (approximately 30 seconds long each) of near-blackout (except for security lighting) during the performance. If you would like any further information on this, please contact us.

Music/Sound

The performance is underscored by recorded music throughout, and there is a live musician (song and guitar) performing within the piece. If you would like any further information on this, or copies of the lyrics being sung, please contact us.

General Information

The performance takes place within a tunnel complex, which is a cool environment. Please dress warmly. Sturdy shoes are recommended.

This is a promenade performance, watching sections of dance at different sites throughout the tunnels. It is approximately 45 minutes in duration, and we ask our audiences to stand and walk throughout. Should you need to bring a fold-up seat with you to access the performance, you are welcome to do so, but please inform us on arrival so that we can assist you as required to ensure best sight lines and to inform you of longer sections, where it is most appropriate to sit. All sections are no longer than 5 minutes duration, before walking to the next section.

At the beginning of the performance the musician, Lou, will hand all audience members a torch, attached to a lanyard, to wear during the performance. This is a safety precaution, meaning you can shine the torch directly up onto the tunnel ceiling should you need assistance / first aid / wish to leave the performance for any reason. If you shine the torch, one of the performance stewards will come to assist you as required.

Head protection helmets are not required in the tunnels.

The performance is 45 minutes in duration with no interval.