

This access statement does not contain personal opinions as to our suitability for those with access needs, but aims to accurately describe the facilities and services that we offer all our guests/visitors.

Access Statement for Rochdale Pioneers Museum

Introduction

The museum is situated in the Toad Lane Conservation Area off Hunter's Lane and St Mary's Gate in Rochdale. Toad Lane is a cobbled street and the Rochdale Pioneers Museum is at 31 Toad Lane with the word 'STORE' displayed over the door.



The museum is a member of the Visitor Attraction Quality Assurance Scheme. The museum has three floors.

Visitors enter the ground floor by the shop door and find themselves in the original Pioneers' shop with information boards telling the development of the movement and display cabinets showing various artefacts.



The first floor hosts various temporary exhibitions relating to the co-operative movement.



The second floor houses the Learning Loft which is an educational space used by various groups. It is also used as part of the schools' workshops and for art and craft activities on Pioneer Wednesdays during the school holidays and at special family events. This floor is also used as a cinema where films relating to the movement are shown. Group visits are welcomed and informative guided tours and talks are delivered. The museum also offers a programme of lectures relating to the movement.



We look forward to welcoming you. If you have any queries or require any assistance please phone 01706 524920 or email museum@coop.ac.uk.

Pre-Arrival

- For full details and maps of how to reach us please see the directions section of our website.
<http://www.rochdalepioneersmuseum.coop/visiting-the-museum/find-us/> Alternatively, you can plan your journey by car or public transport using a journey planning website.
- Take care when using our postcode! The Museum postcode will take you to the wrong location. If driving to the Museum watch out for the brown tourist signs saying 'Toad Lane Conservation Area' rather than following sat nav. If using an online map or smartphone map app put 'Rochdale Pioneers Museum' as your destination rather than the postcode.
- We are located in Rochdale Town Centre, in the Toad Lane Conservation Area, just off Hunter's Lane and St Mary's Gate (A58).
- We are a five minute walk (0.4 miles) from the Rochdale Transport Interchange (bus and Metrolink).
- We are a 20 minute walk (1 mile) or five minute taxi ride from Rochdale Train Station (cost around £4).
- Follow the black fingerpost signs if walking from the Transport Interchange or Train Station.
- Toad Lane is a cobbled street and therefore some difficulty may be experienced by wheelchair users.
- The ground floor of the museum is made from large slightly uneven stone slabs but the other floors are level and smooth tiles.
- There is a lift on the ground floor of the museum to allow access for all to the upper floors.

Car Parking and Arrival

- There is no onsite parking.
- The nearest car park is in the Rochdale Exchange Shopping Centre, on Hunter's Lane opposite the Museum, sat nav OL16 1BA.
- The Reed Hill car park is also only 100m away and offers three hours of free parking.
- Parking for Blue Badge holders is available in Rochdale Town Centre, the closest being in the Hunter's Lane Service Area, 100m away, sat nav OL16 1YL.
- There is a drop off point at the main entrance. Visitors need to cross the cobbled street and slightly uneven paving slabs to the door.
- The door is a single width push door, with an opening of 90 cm. Entrance from the shop to the exhibits is through an automatic opening door with an opening of 110cm and a push button at seated height.

Main Entrance, Reception and Ticketing Area

- The museum is situated on a slight hill and the path in front of the museum is made up of large slightly uneven stone slabs.
- The reception desk is located in the back room of the ground floor.
- The museum is on three floors and there is a lift to the upper floors which enables full access for all. The floor surface on the ground floor is traditional slate.
- There are some cushioned chairs near the reception desk.
- Lighting throughout the museum is from low energy spotlight bulbs but is subdued to preserve the artefacts and create a feeling of authenticity.
- Entrance to the museum is free but donations are welcomed. The donation box is situated opposite the reception desk.
- The Museum is fully accessible for wheelchairs and buggies.

Attraction (displays, exhibits, rides etc.)

- The front room of the museum is set up as the original Pioneers' shop.
- Dressing up clothes are also stored in here.
- Artefacts are displayed in glass cases and in drawers, which visitors are encouraged to open, are accessible from a seated position.
- On the first and second floors there are some interactive touch screen activities; all can be accessed from a seating or standing position.
- At various places in the museum there are hands on child friendly activities and on the second floor there is a play area linked to shopping and co-operation
- A museum officer or volunteer will give short introductory briefings if required.
- Visitors can also enjoy watching films relating to the movement in our learning loft.

Public Toilets

- There is a unisex public toilet on the first floor, which is accessible by stairs or lift.
- There is a unisex accessible toilet and baby changing facilities next to it and a key is not required to access it.
- The toilet door is 960 mm wide and opens outwards. The handle is 850 mm from the bottom of the door.
- 700 mm transfer space to the left when facing the toilet.
- The toilet seat height is 470mm above floor level.
- There is a vertical grab rail on the right of the toilet and a horizontal grab rail to the left of the toilet.
- There is an emergency red alarm cord located to the left of the toilet when facing it.
- The toilet is well lit with energy saving fluorescent lights.
- There is a sink which is 800 mm above the floor and has vertical grab rails on both sides.
- The tap type is lever.

- A hand dryer is 780mm above floor level as are the paper towel and toilet roll holders. There are disposable facilities within the toilet.
- The mirror is 1m above floor level.
- The floor surface is non slip tiles.

Shop(s)

- There is a shop with a range of souvenirs posters and DVDs directly opposite the reception desk on the ground floor.
- A selection of books relating to co-operation are displayed on a low level table beneath the board showing co-operative values at the rear of the ground floor.
- There is ample room within the shop for a wheelchair although the surface of the floor is uneven.
- Items are displayed on tall display racks and low units.
- Payment for goods is taken at the reception desk.

Additional Information

- We have a set of evacuation procedures-should you require it someone will assist you with evacuation out of the building.
- We have a evacuation sledge to assist people from the upper floors who are unable to use the stairs.
- Assistance dogs are welcome and water can be provided on request from the Reception.

Future Plans

- A loop system is to be installed within the next few months.

Contact Information

Address (Inc postcode): Rochdale Pioneers Museum 31 Toad lane
Rochdale OL12 ONU

Telephone: 01706 524920

Email: museum@co-op.ac.uk

Website: www.rochdalepioneersmuseum.coop

Hours Of Operation: Tuesday to Saturday 10am to 5pm Closed
Sunday and Mondays

Local Equipment Hire: Rochdale Shopmobility, 21 Baillie Street
Town Centre Rochdale OL16 1JA. Tel:
01706 925986

Local Public Transport: Buses from Rochdale Interchange