

Arts by the Sea Festival

Easy Read Guide

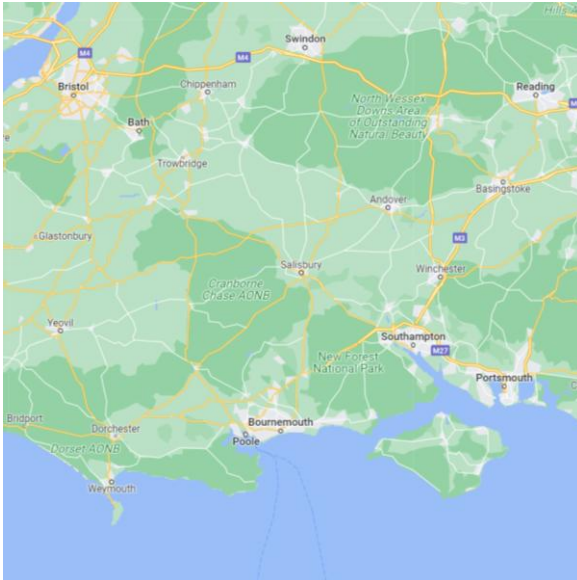




Welcome to Arts by the Sea Festival!

Arts by the Sea Festival is a free outdoor arts festival.

Our theme this year is 'Elemental'.



The festival is in Bournemouth Town Centre. Our festival site runs from The Square and through Bournemouth Gardens.



Festival dates are Friday 25th September to Saturday 26th September 2025.

Performances and activities start from late afternoon on Friday.

Accessibility (1/2)



Arts by the Sea welcomes all and aims to be accessible to everyone.



Most site locations and shows are wheelchair accessible. Some may take place on the grass areas in the gardens.

Some performances will have accessible viewing areas with chairs.



There are several [car parks](#) with blue badge parking spaces and [public transport links](#) on the festival site.

There are accessible toilets in the Lower Gardens, including a Changing Places toilet.

We welcome support and guide dogs to the festival site.

Accessibility (2/2)

If you need to take a break from the noise and crowds, the Central Gardens (by the Cenotaph) or on the beach either side of Bournemouth Pier are less busy.



We have sound-cancelling ear defenders available to loan out from our Information Point in the Lower Gardens. Some areas of our festival site can get very crowded, particularly the route through the Lower Gardens.

We have more information on our different sites on pages 6 and 7 of this guide.

PERFORMANCE KEY

-  Installation
-  Sensory Spectacle
-  Join in
-  Walkabout
-  Speech Free
-  Open Mic

Our Performance Key in our brochure highlights:

- Types of art form
- Sensory spectacles
- Join in participatory activities
- Walkabout performances
- Speech-free performances
- Open Mic sessions

Assistance & Help



For more information contact:

Website: www.artsbythesea.co.uk

Email: culture@bcpcouncil.gov.uk

Phone: 01202 128121



Arts by the Sea's friendly volunteers are on hand to help with information and directions.

They wear bright pink T-shirts.

Photography and filming



We have photographers and film makers capturing footage to share online and use in the future.

If you don't want to be photographed, please let our photographers or volunteers know.

Site Information



The Square

The Square will host an installation activity, performance and some music. There will also be traders.

The Town Square can be very busy during peak times.



Lower Gardens

The Lower Gardens will host several different performances and walkabout acts. There is a flat path leading through the gardens with some benches throughout.

Note that there is a short fence bordering most of the grassy areas with some access points.

The Lower Gardens has public toilets and our Changing Places Toilets. This is also where you will find our Information Point.



Bandstand Area

The Bandstand Area is located within the Lower Gardens. This area has an access point and often people will bring their own camping chairs or picnic blankets to use while enjoying the music from the Bandstand.



There will also be an installation to look at.



Westover Gardens / Picnic Park Deli

There is a slope and incline to reach Westover Gardens from the Lower Gardens. You can also access this site from Westover Road.



Westover Gardens has Picnic Park Deli, a local café, where you can sit and enjoy a beverage or light lunch.



Street Food Corner

Street Food Corner is the area beside the Pier Approach flyover. It is accessible.

This is the map of our festival site

2026 FESTIVAL MAP



ZONES

- 1 THE SQUARE
- 2 LOWER GARDENS (PERFORMANCES)
- 3 LOWER GARDENS (GREEN HUB / COMMUNITY ZONE)
- 4 BANDSTAND AREA
- 5 PICNIC PARK DELI
- 6 STREET FOOD CORNER

SERVICES

- P PARKING
- T PUBLIC TOILETS
- C CHANGING PLACES TOILETS
- i FESTIVAL INFORMATION
- i TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRE

Festival Highlights



Three Fire Acts

An exciting show with light and sound by the Lords of Lightning, a dragon, and a fire display.

Friday 25th and Saturday 26th September

Lower Gardens

Shows at

19.00 to 20:05

20:15 to 21:05

21:15 to 22:05



The Hide

Birdwatching, storytelling and sound

Street Food Corner

Saturday 26th September

12:30 to 13:00

15:00 to 15:30

17:00 to 17:30



Rhea Hanlon

Has done the art for our brochure.

Come and see a piece of her art

Friday 25th and Saturday 26th September

Bandstand Area

11:00 to 22:00



Bombay Dance Club

Watch or join in Bollywood dancing

Saturday 26th September

Lower Gardens

12:00 to 12:30

14:45 to 15:15

17:15 to 17:45



Flood

A show about water and acrobatics

Saturday 26th September

The Square

13:00 to 13:40

15:30 to 16:10



Hydropunk

Have fun keeping the water flowing in a giant machine

Saturday 26th September

The Square

12:00 to 17:00



Music from the Bandstand

Friday 25th September,
18:00 to 22:00

Saturday 26th September,
12:45 to 22:00 –

Lots of different types of music on the bandstand.



Pirate Taxi

Watch circus fun on a taxi

Saturday 26th September

Lower Gardens

14:00 to 14:40

16:30 to 17:10



The Walk of the Dandelion

See a giant puppet

Saturday 26th September

Lower Gardens

11:30 to 12:15

14:45 to 15:30

16:30 to 17:15

Have a go at making a dandelion, 11:00 to 17:00



Green Hub & Community Zone

Saturday 26th September
10:30 to 17:00

Lower Gardens

Get hands-on and explore the ways you can help our planet in your day-to-day life. Get creative with local community organisations!



The Story Works & Arts Award

Saturday 26th September
10:00 to 16:00

Lower Gardens

Join in for some playful, creative arts & crafts, as well as to pick up an Arts Award booklet.



The Centaur Stage

Sign up to sing on this stage

Street Food Corner

Friday 25th September

17:00 to 22:00

Saturday 26th September

18:00 to 22:00

Tell us what you think...



We'd love to hear what you thought about Arts by the Sea and if you have any ideas for how we can improve!

Fill in our festival survey:

Arts by the Sea Festival Audience
Survey 2026



Thank you!!

