



Beach Wheelchair Hire Schemes Across the UK 2008

Every effort has been made to check that these details were correct at time of going to press. We recommend that you telephone in advance before setting out for the beach.

Beach name	Telephone Number	Information
Bournemouth Seafront	01202 451781	Free, £25 refundable deposit Advance bookings off-peak only
Alum Chine, Bournemouth	01202 451781	Free, £25 refundable deposit Advance bookings off-peak only
Durley Chine, Bournemouth	01202 451781	Free, £25 refundable deposit Advance bookings off-peak only Matting put down June onwards to enable standard wheelchairs to access the beach as well
Boscombe, Bournemouth	01202 451781	Free, £25 refundable deposit Advance bookings off-peak only Matting put down June onwards to enable standard wheelchairs to access the beach as well Adapted Beach Hut with disabled access available for hire by groups
Southbourne, Bournemouth	01202 451781	Free, £25 refundable deposit Advance bookings off-peak only
Sandbanks, Poole	01202 708 181	Free, £25 refundable deposit Can be booked in advance Access Guide also available from the Tourist Information Centre with details of accessible transport, accommodation & attractions
Polzeath Beach, Cornwall	01208 869 924	Free, donations welcome Available from Anne's Cottage Surf Shop, Polzeath. ID required Can be booked in advance
Chichester Harbour, Hampshire	01243 512 301	Free During the 2008 season the wheelchair will either be available from the Harbour or the Whittering Estate; please call for details & to

		<p>book.</p> <p>Advance booking recommended</p> <p>Lots of other accessible facilities & activities including sailing & wheelchair-friendly paths</p>
Barnstaple, Devon	01271 328 866	<p>£5 annual membership fee, £25 refundable deposit, £3 hire charge</p> <p>Can be booked through Community Transport</p> <p>Available from Shopmobility.</p> <p>2 forms of ID required</p> <p>Advance bookings only</p>
Gyllyngvase, Falmouth	01326 312884	<p>£5 per day</p> <p>Available from the Gyllyngvase Beach Café</p> <p>Can be booked in advance, but only for one day at a time in peak season</p>
Hastings	01424 781020	<p>Free for use on the beach, £2 for a half-hour session in the sea with a lifeguard. Submersible, towed rather than pushed.</p>
Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire	01437 760999 www.pippa-pembs.org.uk	<p>£3 per day, £35 refundable deposit</p> <p>Can be booked in advance</p> <p>Available from P.I.P.P.A. at The Coach House in Bridge End Square, SA61 2NO. They also hire out other mobility aids and personal care equipment</p>
Great Yarmouth	01493 846 346	<p>Free, £20 refundable deposit</p> <p>ID required</p> <p>Can be booked in advance</p>
Looe, Cornwall	01509 263709	<p>£5 per day</p> <p>Form to fill in</p> <p>ID required</p> <p>Only to be used on the beach itself</p> <p>They will store your own chair for you</p> <p>No advance booking, but may make exceptions</p>
Shetland, Scotland	01595 743920	<p>Free</p> <p>Available from Disability Shetland</p> <p>Advance bookings only</p> <p>Can be booked for several days at a time</p>
Fistral Beach, Newquay	01637 850 584	<p>£5 per day, reductions available for shorter sessions</p> <p>Available from the Fistral Surf Hire Shop.</p>

		ID required Can only be used on Fistral Beach Can be booked in advance
Towan Beach, Newquay	01637 878 134	£5 per day Available from the Blue Reef Aquarium. ID required Can only be used on Towan Beach
Scarborough	01723 369 910	Free, £70 refundable deposit Available from Scarborough Shopmobility ID required Advance bookings only
Marazin Beach, Cornwall	01736 710 202	Free, £10 refundable deposit Available from The Godolphin Arms Can be booked in advance
Saundersfoot, Pembrokeshire	01834 813672	£3 per session, morning or afternoon £20 refundable deposit, or swap chairs Can be booked Available from the Tourist Information Centre on the seafront Note: Slipway to beach is fairly steep
Studland Bay, Dorset	01929 450500	Free, Deposit car keys or bank card etc. No advance bookings
Whitby	01947 602 897 (Summer) 01947 821 001 (Winter)	£2.50 hire charge, £5 refundable deposit When the Cliff Lift is open, the wheelchair is available from the Lifeguards Office. During the winter the wheelchair is available from the Whitby Disabled Action Group for use in the surrounding countryside. ID required
Teignbridge, Dawlish Warren	07876 346648	Free, £10 refundable deposit

Before you go: planning your trip

The most commonly available sandchair in the UK is manufactured by Landeez. These are big, sturdy machines (although they are collapsible and can easily be transported in the boot of your car). However, they are also quite heavy and they **cannot be self-propelled** so adult users will need a fairly strong, able-bodied friend or carer to push them.

The comfort of your ride will very much depend on the terrain. Disability Shetland advises that due to the lack of head or neck supports in most Landeez-type chairs, people with conditions that could be affected by bumping over rough ground **should consult their GP before using them.**

Many of the sandchairs are stored in cafes, harbour offices and lifeguard stations. Staff **may not have the necessary training or equipment** (hoists etc) to assist you in transferring from your usual chair into the hire chair.

Always **ask for a demonstration** and read the instructions. Different chairs vary; don't assume that because you've used one all-terrain chair before you'll know how to work the brakes on this one!

Even in peak season most beaches only have one or two sandchairs available so it's always best to **book in advance** if possible.

If your local beach doesn't have a sandchair or all-terrain wheelchair available – why not? Often, local Tourist Information Offices haven't heard of these fantastic inventions yet so why not call or write to them, asking them to consider purchasing one for visitors to your beach to use. And if you do decide to wheel beside the seaside this summer, why not contact *Mobilise* and let us know how you got on?