

Health and Safety onboard HMS Alliance

In general

If you have queries about health and safety then more details can be provided and staff can arrange a time for you to look on board prior to your visit. There is an asbestos register for the museum and if you wish to see that please ask the staff. There are obstructions on the floor, ceiling and side walls and some of the passages are very narrow. Please take it carefully and slowly throughout. Ensure there are sufficient adult supervisors with the group during your time on Alliance depending on the size of the group. There are steps up to the submarine and there is a hand rail all the way up. Entry and exit to the submarine is through doors at either end which are secured in place. They should be left open and not moved by public. Also there are bulkhead doors separating the compartments. No bulkhead doors are to be closed but some doors may move if you push them so please do not move them and do take care while moving through them especially do not rest fingers near door rims and do not use the door as a pivot. All other doors in the boat can also be finger traps and should not be moved. There are occasional places in the submarine where small patches of oil/grease may be found for example in engine parts so do not reach into such areas. It is rare for someone to get claustrophobia or panic attacks while onboard but if this seems likely stay near the back of the group so you can make an exit back the way you came in. In case of fire or similar emergency follow the staff and the museum's procedures. Should the alarm sound, leave by the nearest exit and assemble on the jetty. Do not try to extinguish a fire as fumes from old materials could spread without you being aware of it. A single wheelchair user can access the aft end only and there is a lift leading to it. It is the responsibility of the teacher/group leader to tell the museum about any specific needs or concerns before the visit.

In the fore-ends

Keep head low as you enter through main door, watch out for the ladder and the raised platform it stands on at floor level, two ends of rails at head height, uneven floor, low bulkhead door to next compartment with step just in front of it. Some patches of grease on the floor next to the torpedo tubes. The torpedo loader can move and be a collision hazard or finger trap.

Along the mess rooms corridor

Do not try to lie in any bunks as they are old and may give way. In the passageway opposite the Senior Rates mess there is a grill that must not be lifted as it could trap fingers and there is a ladder leading down which is out of bounds. There is another low bulkhead door just before the wardroom and a step on the floor next to it.

In the control room

There are instruments at head height, the first periscope handle is at head height, it is also on a raised circular platform. There is a missing section of floor panel just to the left of the

aft planesman's seat. As we exit this room the corridor is very narrow indeed. In that passageway do not sit on the heads as they are old and may give way.

In engine room

As you enter this area there is a missing section of the floor panel to the right next to the wall. Do not try to move parts of the lathe. Do not try to go behind the engines or motor panel. In the middle of this room there is a head hazard half way along and also a step up, and the room narrows a lot. There is a bulkhead door into the aft ends with a long raised step.

In aft end

There is a very uneven floor in here. There are also torpedo rails at head height. The torpedo loader can move and be a collision hazard or finger trap. Do not try to climb into the torpedo tubes. The breathing tubes must not be put in the mouth. The exit door is a low one and then there are steps down. This has a hand rail all the way along.