

Hi there!



My name is Jack Macaque

& this is my trip to Trentham Monkey Forest

#MySocialStory 



I visited Trentham Monkey Forest, I saw fascinating Barbary macaque monkeys roaming freely in a 60-acre Staffordshire woodland!

I arrived by car but could go by:
Car Bus Train Walking

I planned ahead by looking at the 'How to find us' page on the Monkey Forest website



When I arrived at Trentham Monkey Forest, I saw a car park with a rough surface, on the south side entrance of the historic Trentham Estate.

The car park was busy and took a little bit of time to find a space. If there wasn't any disabled bays available I could be dropped off at the front by the entrance.



Once parked up we headed towards the beautiful 18th-century gatehouse building right in front of us. This distance is around 50 yards.

There were a few others walking straight towards the gatehouse, also excited to visit the monkeys!



Both kiosks were to the left and right of me. the queue went down quickly and when it was my turn, I showed the kiosk assistant my pre-booked ticket or pay on the day ticket.

As I have a disability, I was entitled to a free carer. I needed to get one of: DWP, DLA letter, PIP letter or Blue Badge out ready to show the lovely assistant.

I also picked up an accessibility leaflet to help me with my needs if required.



When I was scanned through, I was be told to enjoy my day and that I did!

I saw in front of me, lots of space for fun, refreshments, relaxation and shopping.

This is known as the
Monkey Forest Patio Area



This area can get quite busy, so can be overwhelming.

To the left of me is Hidden Trail where I could go to have a quiet escape.

If I wanted a playful distraction, I could also play on the brand-new Primate Play Space.

These two places were located towards the left as soon as I entered through the kiosks and were signposted by a lime green leaf. Picnic benches are located here also.



When I went further up I saw another lime green leaf, pointing me towards the peaceful meadow that also has a few picnic seats.

There is even a pond at the top of the meadow for me to enjoy nature and have a bit of tranquil escapism. This was really peaceful and a great quiet zone for me to have a sensory break.



To my right, there was a Banana Café to have a much or a Jungle Shop where I could purchase a souvenir.

In the Café, past the double doors were the Monkey Forest toilets. There are joint baby and disabled facilities, as well as additional baby changing facilities in both male and female lavatories.

There was a little bit of a queue for the toilets but it went down quick. There were grab bars to help me use the toilet. There is no hoist support available.



From the main entrance to the dining area, there is level access. The route is 900mm wide, or more. The door is 900mm wide. To get to a table, there were no steps. The dining area is self-service. I needed table service, so the staff helped me. There is no background music in the café but it can be noisy.

They cater for vegetarian, gluten free (celiacs), lactose free (dairy free), nut free, low fat, high fibre and vegan specific diets. Do ask at the counter as the team are happy to help with any dietary requirements.

A photograph of a wooden wall with a sign that reads "Jungle Shop". The word "Jungle" is in dark grey, block letters. The word "Shop" is in white, block letters inside a teal, leaf-shaped oval. Below the sign is a small white rectangular object.

Jungle Shop

From the main entrance to the shop, there is level access, it was reasonably simple to get to.

The route through is 900mm wide, or more as is the door. It is all one level from cafe to shop so I moved around with ease.

Conservation Centre

There are two other rooms that I entered that were fun and educational.

The two rooms were full of information about primates and the park itself.

One of which had an awesome monkey video within it, pictures and real life monkey skeletons!



In the centre of the patio area is the Willow Monkey, a great spot to take a selfie or meet someone who is lost.

Directly behind the Willow Monkey, if I walked straight past it, is the Monkey Forest entrance.



Before I entered I needed to watch a short safety video as this is the only place in the UK with free-roaming Barbary macaques, I needed to be prepared!

If I couldn't understand the rules, my carer would of had to help me for my own safety.

Once the video was finished, the park guide dressed in yellow allowed me to enter the fascinating monkey woodland for my epic monkey adventure.



When i entered the Monkey Forest, some of the monkeys got into a little argument and made a lot of noise! This can happen as the forest perfectly preserves their natural behaviours. So I should expect a little bit of noise and running as this is how monkeys act in the wild. I must remain calm and still even if it appears a bit scary or is very loud!



I loved the Monkey Forest!

It was great to see the monkeys in this environment and get so close!

The floor is a little bit bumpy and dusty as it is the natural landscape of a forest. However, it should be smooth enough to roll a wheel on if needs be .



The route through is well signposted and every guide was easy to spot, in yellow uniform, in case I required help or support.

There were also several benches throughout for me to have a rest.



The accessible route is signposted and guided me to see 90% of the Monkey Forest, I only missed a small corner of the forest due to a challenging incline/decline.

Both sides of the challenging area are clearly signposted

The trail is 1200metres long. The path has a hard, rough surface. The trail is sloped in some places but is mostly flat.



Some staff have disability awareness training but all were helpful. There is information on the path to read about the monkeys but alternatively, I could talk to any of the knowledgeable guides.

There are hourly feeding talks and it was easy to find out when these were by talking to a guide or seeing a sign in each feeding section.




SERVICE DOG

Due to the nature of the park guide dogs are not allowed in the monkey enclosure as the monkeys are free roaming and dogs are natural predators of the Barbary macaques.

The team are happy to look after guide dogs in the onsite office whilst you can enjoy your time in the park.

Call them on 01782 659845 to arrange this.



Have you got your
re-entry stamp?

- Get your stamp
from the Kiosk or
- Shop to re-enter

When I left Monkey Forest, I could go one of two ways. I could either leave through the exit turnstile to the left of the kiosks. Or, if I am struggling with this, I can go out of the service gate on the far right hand side of the kiosk - if I ask the helpful kiosk assistant. The exit is clearly signposted and if I want to come back in on the same day I can get a stamp from the kiosk and do it all again!