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Submarine HMAS Ovens Tour Frequently Asked Questions

Can kids participate in the tour?

Yes, but only children aged five and over can board the submarine. Small children under the age of five will have great difficulty negotiating the ladders therefore they are not permitted on board for their own safety. Children aged 5 to 16 must be accompanied by an adult and supervised at all times.

Can seniors participate in the tour?

Yes, however you must be reasonably fit and strong, with full body control and hand-eye-coordination. Anyone who can sustain moderate physical exertion for the duration of the tour (1 hour) will find the tour an enjoyable experience.

Can pregnant women participate in the tour?

Yes, however if you are more than 24 weeks pregnant, it may be quite difficult for you to negotiate the ladders and bend/manoeuvre through the confined spaces of the submarine.

Can people with a disability or medical condition participate in the tour?

It depends on your situation. In general you can participate if you have:

- Reasonable levels of fitness and strength
- Full body control and hand-eye-coordination
- Ability to climb independently (unsupported by walking aids)

The following conditions may impact on your ability to complete the tour:

- Back, limb or joint injuries
- Respiratory or heart conditions
- Missing limbs or part thereof, inclusive of prosthetics
- Vertigo, claustrophobia, dizziness or loss of balance
- Visual impairment (except wearing prescription glasses or contact lenses)

Can people with injuries participate in the tour?

It depends on your injury. If you have broken bones, or a severe neck or back injury you should not participate on the tour. If the injury affects your ability to walk, climb or hold on to the hand rails, it is recommended that you do not participate for your own safety and well-being.

Can I take a camera on board?

Cameras can be used on board, but must be carried on board in a bag that fastens around the waist; these may be provided by the Museum. Hand held items are not permitted on board, as hands must be kept free at all times.

Can I bring medication?

Essential medication can be carried on board in a bag that fastens around the waist. These may be provided by the Museum.



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What kind of shoes should I wear?

It is recommended that you wear enclosed shoes with flat soles. Thongs, high heels and strappy sandals are not recommended. High heeled shoes pose the risk of becoming lodged in the floor grating. Footwear that slips on such as thongs and some high heels pose the risk of falling off and may hinder movement up and down the ladders. Enclosed shoes are best because they allow your feet to comfortably manoeuvre through the ladders, narrow rungs, changes in levels and to avoid protrusions at floor level.

Where can I leave my belongings while participating in the tour?

Fully secured lockers are provided to store your personal items, backpacks and hand held items during the tour. These are located near the front entrance to the Museum. The lockers require a \$2.00 coin deposit to be inserted and this will be given back to you once the key is returned.

Can I take a bag or backpack on board?

Bags that fasten around your waist can be provided by the Museum for essential items, such as medication or cameras. Your hands must be kept free at all times to ensure a safe journey through the submarine. Backpacks can hinder your movement. Lockers are available to safely store your items while on the tour.

What is the duration of the tour?

The tour takes approximately 1 hour and 10 minutes. Please note that there are no toilet facilities on board the submarine. If you decide to leave the tour early, the whole tour group will need to stop and wait for another guide to come and collect you.

Can I book a tour for people with disabilities?

Group bookings and carer arrangements can be discussed with the Museum's education/bookings staff. Wherever possible the WA Museum will work with the organisation or carer to arrange access to the submarine. While the Museum is committed to working with people in their desire to experience the submarine tour, the Museum is mindful of our responsibility to prevent any accidents or injuries. Entry to the submarine remains at the discretion of the Museum.

Carers accompanying people with disabilities on the tour will be admitted to the submarine free.

Can I book a tour for school children?

There is a maximum booking of 30 students for submarine tours - classes will be divided into groups of up to ten students. Special education groups and pre-primary groups must have a ratio of accompanying adults of one adult per three students. All other groups there must be at least one adult supervisor with each group of ten students.

Adults accompanying school groups are admitted to the submarine free, up to the allocated ratio. Additional accompanying adults are required to pay. Carer arrangements for special education groups can be discussed with the education/bookings staff.