



THE SPIRIT OF DISCOVERY STONE JETTY

Start by the RNLI Hovercraft Station at the end of the Stone Jetty. Introduced in 2002, the RNLI hovercraft is a vital tool designed specifically for the unique challenges of Morecambe Bay. Unlike a traditional lifeboat, its bright orange hovercraft can skim over water, sand and mud—perfect for the ever-changing channels of the bay. From its distinctive modern station building, this specialist team, largely made up of volunteers, plays a crucial role in keeping the bay safe.



As you walk towards the jetty, look out for the “Trip the Light Fantastic” mural - commissioned by arts organisation Deco Publique and created by local artists Shane Johnstone and Kate Drummond as part of the Vintage by the Sea festival.



Perched on the Stone Jetty, the Time and Tide Bell is a magical artwork that comes to life with the sea. Designed by sculptor Marcus Vergette, it rings naturally as the tide rises and falls, creating a gentle, ever changing soundscape. It was brought to Morecambe through a community-led project, and supported by groups such as the Morecambe Artist Colony. Part of a UK wide project, it was created to highlight our connection to the coast and raise awareness of rising sea levels and climate change.



The Time and Tide Bell will ring naturally twice a day, as the high tide reaches the clapper. You can check Morecambe's high tide times here: www.tidetimes.org.uk or via the QR code.



The TERN Project is a playful and imaginative trail of artworks celebrating the birdlife and coastal character of Morecambe Bay. On the Stone Jetty, the artworks are interactive and fun: here you'll find a wordsearch, hopscotch, tongue twisters and even a mysterious 'mythical bird' sculpture watching over the bay.



Stop for a drink at the Stone Jetty café before carrying on with this coastal trail of discovery!

Designed primarily by artist Gordon Young, collaborators Ann Kelly and Russell Coleman, and landscaper Jim Hodson, the games and puzzles invite you to pause, explore and enjoy the Stone Jetty in a completely different way.





At the end of the jetty, look out to sea and to the distant Lakeland peaks across the bay—and closer to the shoreline, the limestone hills of Arnside and Silverdale.

For centuries, Morecambe Bay was a busy gateway between Lancashire and the Irish Sea. In the 1800s, the Stone Jetty became a lively departure point for steamers to Belfast, Dublin and Londonderry, carrying both passengers and cargo—coal and coke heading west, livestock and farm goods returning. Over time, larger ports like Heysham and Barrow took over, and the routes gradually shifted elsewhere.



Imagine the fishing boats heading out at dawn, trading vessels arriving with goods, and steamers pulling up to the bustling quay to pick up passengers bound for Ireland or beyond.



As you walk back along the Stone Jetty towards The Midland Hotel, passing the cormorants on their Rock Islands, look left across the grass to the area surrounded by the Bird Fence (by artist David Kemp).

This is the site of the forthcoming Eden Project Morecambe (due to open in 2028), an ambitious seafront attraction set to reimagine the town for the future. It will feature striking shell-shaped domes, outdoor gardens and immersive spaces celebrating the rhythms of Morecambe Bay's coastal and marine world.



Stop at the Midland Hotel for a drink or meal - opened in 1933, it is one of Morecambe's most iconic landmarks—an elegant Art Deco building designed by architect Oliver Hill for the London, Midland and Scottish Railway.



Cross the road in front of The Midland and walk towards The Platform and Festival Market, so you don't miss another TERN Project artwork - the 'Flock of Words' - a 300 metre path featuring poems, songs, quotes and jokes!



We hope you've enjoyed this Discovery Trail! Have you played hopscotch or solved a riddle, taken a photo with one of the TERN artworks, or called into the beautiful Art Deco Midland Hotel? Tag us on Facebook or Instagram @lancmorebay !