

Family fun - things to do at the beach

Collect shells. You won't find hundreds of seashells on Barry Island beach, but if you look carefully you will find some of these common UK seashells along the shoreline and near the rock pools on either end of the beach.

Common limpet 	Common mussel 	Common periwinkle 
Common whelk 	Common cockle 	Flat periwinkle 
Grey top shell 	Slipper limpet 	Blunt gaper 
Dog whelk 	Thick top shell 	Common oyster 

Rock-pooling. Look out for shrimp in the pools, crabs skulking under clumps of seaweed, while starfish cling to the rocks that anchor seaweed. Molluscs, barnacles and anemones sit on the pool floor, and you might see a hermit crab (one that takes another new shell every time it outgrows the old one) if you're lucky!

Remember to follow the seashore code and handle all wildlife with care. Only keep one animal in a bucket at any one time and don't keep them out of the water too long. Make sure to put everything back where you found it and don't pull live seaweed off the rocks.

Beach drawing. Collect more things from the beach like driftwood, dried seaweed, pebbles and sea glass. Then use a stick to draw in the sand and use your beach finds to add detail and colour. Why not draw a boat or a mermaid?

Hunt for footprints. Make footprints in the sand and then follow other footprints that you find. Perhaps you'll see dog paw tracks or different shoe or foot sizes.

Write your name in the sand. Using your finger or a stick write your name in big letters in the sand. Or if there is enough space write a fun message like #beachdaysarethebestdays

Make stone towers. Find flat stones of different sizes and pile them up into towers. See who can make the tallest stone tower before it topples over (or the tower with the most stones before it topples over!)

Build sandcastles or make a sand sculpture. Don't worry if you forgot your sand castle bucket you can still create a sculpture out of sand – try making a dolphin, turtle or fish.

Sand hopscotch. Mark out your hopscotch grid with a stick and draw the numbers in. You'll need a tossing stone too!

Play frisbee, a ball game or fly a kite. Barry Island's wide, flat sandy beach is ideal for running after a frisbee or a ball, and at certain times of the year, windy enough to fly a kite.

Make a story with found objects. From your beachcombing see what objects you have collected and what characters they could be. Spend some time creating characters - think about how the objects might move, what actions they might take, where they would go on the beach or how they might interact with each other. Will your story be a daring adventure of bravery and rescue, or a love story, or a journey of discovery, overcoming obstacles along the way?