



THE HELIX: HOME OF THE KELPIES

Write the missing words

The Helix is an exciting new parkland providing activities _____ as cycling, walking, watersports and _____ more. The Helix is _____ home of The Kelpies, two 30-metre-high horse head sculptures which are a true feat of engineering.

The Helix Park is The Home of the Kelpies - the largest equine sculptures _____ the world. Located _____ Falkirk and Grangemouth, it _____ created as a space for the communities in the Falkirk area to come together. The Kelpies go a step further in bringing together not _____ people from different parts of Scotland and the UK, _____ from all over the world. Tourists continue to flock to the iconic structures, and take the story of The Kelpies with them to spread the message internationally. The Kelpies _____ transformed the area into a five-star tourist destination.

Standing at 100ft tall and weighing more _____ 300 tons each, the magical Kelpies are a man-made wonder and a feat of engineering. The works of art, created by artist Andy Scott, have become iconic on the landscape after _____ modelled on real-life icons of times gone by — Clydesdale horses Duke and Baron. The Kelpies represent the lineage of the heavy horse of Scottish industry and economy, pulling the wagons, ploughs, barges and coal ships that shaped the geographical layout of Falkirk.

The Kelpies' name reflects the mythological transforming beasts that possess the strength and endurance of 100 horses; a quality that's analogous with the transformational change of the area's landscapes, endurance of its inland waterways and the strength of _____ communities. You can visit The Kelpies free of _____ any time of the day, 365 days of the year _____ to their prime location in The Helix community park. The area around the massive sculptures has _____ designed to give access for all, meaning everyone can come and see them up close. You can even go inside a Kelpie _____ a tour for an exclusive look at their engineering and ingenuity. _____ forget to round off your trip at the visitor centre for souvenirs and a tasty lunch.

The park itself features plenty to be explored, including around 500km of connected cycle paths. Discover one of _____ routes including the 16-mile core route, Helix Around Town Tour (HArTT) starting at The Helix and heading to The Falkirk Wheel, Callendar Park and _____ to The Helix using cycle ways, towpaths and parkland. The paths are multi-use if you prefer to explore _____ foot. The Helix is linked _____ two National Cycle Routes as _____ as the new John Muir Trail making it incredibly accessible and the ideal base to explore from.

The Helix also boasts a new lagoon, cafe, adventure zone and splash play area.

Parking

The Helix Car Park is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and The Kelpies Car Park is open from 8am - 10pm. (Please note this _____ be subject to change). Charges for The Kelpies Car Park apply (please see The Helix website for _____ details).

FREE parking is available at the Helix Park Car Park and also at Falkirk Stadium (a short 2-minute walk _____ the road from Helix Park) all year round, _____ on match days involving Falkirk Football Club. It may be worthwhile checking [Falkirk Football Club's fixtures list](#) before departing for The Helix and The Kelpies.

The Visitor Centre at The Helix

Open 09:30am to 5:00pm, 7 days a week.

Plaza Café

The Plaza Café is open seasonally from April until October. We open 12.00pm - 5.00pm weekdays and 10.00am - 5.00pm weekends and local school holidays. It _____ a selection of sandwiches, snacks, hot and cold drinks, and ice creams for warmer days.

Toilets

The Helix Park Toilets are located at the Plaza Café. Normal opening hours are 10:00am to 5:00pm (but they remain open until 8:00pm _____ the summer season).

Answer these questions.

1. What is The Helix? What activities can you do there?

2. What are The Kelpies like?

3. Who created The Kelpies? What did he model them on?

4. What do The Kelpies represent?

5. When can you visit The Kelpies? Is it allowed to go inside?

6. What facilities does The Helix offer?

7. Where can you park free of charge?

8. When is the Plaza Café open?

