

Fifty nine ST HELENS – WORLD OF GLASS MUSEUM.

A short stroll through the town centre takes you to this good modern museum. It is astride the St Helen's canal and based on the site of the old Pilkington Glass Works. A glass blowing demonstration is included in the admission charge.

Catch a train from Eccles towards Liverpool Lime Street.

[OPTION : If you have a bus pass you may wish to alight at St Helen's Junction station and catch a bus from outside there into the town centre bus station – it's a bit quicker. Come out of the bus station and turn right up Bickerstaffe Street.]

OTHERWISE:

Alight at Huyton station.

Go via the underpass (outside the station) to the other platform and catch a train to St Helens. (*They go to Wigan or further north*).

Alight at St. Helens Central. *This is a fine new station building. Notice from the arches in the road viaducts just how many tracks there used to be here!*

On leaving the station walk straight ahead up Bickerstaffe Street, passing the bus station on your right.

In a short distance you see the war memorial on your right. *This is the main square of the town - next on the right is the Victorian Town Hall with its impressive entrance, and ahead a statue of Queen Victoria.*

However take a step or two backward and go left down Hardshaw Street. *There are a lot of solicitors' offices in St Helens aren't there?*

On the right is The Counting House – *real ales and food in a grand building.*

At the end of Hardshaw Street turn left in front of the shopping centre. Then turn right past the front of the parish church – *an imposing brick edifice.*

A short way on to the left is The Glass House (*Wetherspoons – real ales, good wine selection and food.*

Cross the street next to it (Foundry Street) and then turn left down it.

The 'World of Glass' is straight ahead of you. You enter it via a small, recreated glass furnace building. *Inside There are displays of ancient glass artefacts, glass making, a very good audio-visual presentation on the development of glass, and a furnace room with glass blowing demonstrations on the hour. There is a museum café – pleasant, spacious and with terrace by the canal.*

The exhibition is open 10.00 – 17.00 Tuesday to Sunday inclusive (also Bank Holiday Mondays). Admission charge is category two (just) for an adult but there are discounts on this for pensioners, children and family groups.

Cross the bridge over the canal. *On this side are the excavated remains of the large 19th Century regenerative glass furnace.*

On leaving the exhibition:

OPTION: go back up Foundry Street and retrace your steps through town (*perhaps a bit of shopping*) to the bus station or railway station.

OTHERWISE: To return direct, turn right out of the door along Chalon Way East. Cross the road to Shaw Street and follow this to St Helens Central. (The bus station for buses to the Junction station is left up Bickerstaffe Street).

At St Helens Central station board a Lime Street train. *Saint Helens was a real industrial town, and still is to a degree – notice the modern Pilkington plant on the left, just as the train leaves.*

Alight at Huyton. Cross via underpass to the other platform and catch a Manchester Victoria train home.

CLASSIFICATION: SHORT, EASY

INDUSTRIAL HISTORY, MODERN MUSEUM,
SHOPS, CANAL, PUBS, and CAFES.

RAIL FARE: category three.

TOTAL COST: category four (for one adult, without refreshments, but including the museum admission charge).

MAP OS 1:50 000 sheet 108 Philip's Street Atlas Merseyside.