

Sixteen STOCKPORT – A TOUR OF THE OLD TOWN.

Stockport Old Town is full of interesting old buildings. It's full of life on market days (Tuesdays, Fridays and Saturdays). Visit once and you're bound to come again.

Take the train to Manchester Victoria and from there a tram to Manchester Piccadilly Station. From here there are many trains that stop at Stockport.

Option: - turn right as you get off the tram and on Fairfield Street use the lift on the left to the link bridge lounge.

Alight at Stockport. At the bottom of the platform steps turn right. Go left down the station approach road.

Cross Wellington Road, go left and then right at the library.

Walk along St Petersgate. On your right is the Prudential Building. On the left is The Parish Church of St Peter. *Dating from 1768 the church is open 11.00 – 14.00 on Tuesdays and Fridays, and between 11.00 and 13.00 on Saturdays.*

Continue along St Petersgate. On the right is St Peter's Chambers. Then there is the Calvert's Court.

Just beyond turn right onto High Street.

The building on this corner was the deaf and dumb institute – it says so.

Ahead you will see Frederick Robinson's brewery building.

U turn to your left down onto Lower Hillgate. You now pass the brewery and brewery tap (The Spread Eagle) on your right.

Lower Hillgate becomes Little Underbank a narrow street with many shops. On your right you will see the impressive Winter's clock façade.

Winter's is now a Holt's pub but it was once a clockmaker and jewellers.

Go under the bridge. *Notice the fearsome steps that lead up to market level at both sides.*

On your left immediately after the bridge is The Queen's Vaults.

It's a tiny gem – do go in! This former wine cellar still has all the (defunct) tasting taps at the bar but now sells excellent Sam Smith's beers.

Continue down to the circle. Just off to the left you will see The Three Shires. *This is a black and white building from 1580.*

At the circle go right onto Great Underbank. On the left you will see Underbank Hall.

It's a fine black and white building now serving as the National Westminster Bank. Go in (during banking hours only!) to see the amazing interior.

Carry on to the end of Great Underbank and turn right up the steep Bridge Street and onto the market area. Immediately on your right is the Produce Hall. *Do go in for a look and a shop. There is a café at balcony level as well.*

Opposite the Produce Hall is the old iron and glass market hall. *This is a great asset and survival. Yes in the 1970s they did want to demolish it.*

Go to the left-hand side of the market hall and on your left is a row of old shops. *Some of these buildings still contain ancient timber crook frames inside the brickwork.*

One of the shops is called Staircase House. This is now the local history museum. *Free admission and open Tuesday to Sunday. Tel 0161 480 1460.*

Further up on the left is the large church of 'St Mary's in the Market' with its graveyard and across the road is the Pack Horse.

U-turn to the right down the other side of the market hall.

At the end of the market hall go left onto St Petersgate. This takes you over the bridge you saw earlier.

Now follow St Petersgate to get back to the railway station.

CLASSIFICATION: MODERATE – ONE STEEP STREET, MEDIUM LENGTH.
SHOPS, MARKETS, ARCHITECTURE, LOCAL HISTORY, PUBS, CAFES.
RAIL FARE – category one

Maps: OS 1:50 000 sheet 109

Manchester A-Z