

Thirty eight LIVERPOOL –CLASSICAL CITY CENTRE

Liverpool has some groups of architecture that can be described only as “grand”. One of these groups immediately outside Lime Street station provides a range of great cultural options as well. Travel is on the historic Liverpool & Manchester Railway.

Take the Liverpool train from Eccles Station. You are now travelling on the historic Liverpool and Manchester railway (civil engineer - George Stevenson). *This is the world’s first inter-city railway, officially opened September 15th 1830 by the then Duke of Wellington.*

In order below are some of the significant features of the line.

One. The line crosses Barton Moss then Chat Moss. *To cross this boggy ground the line was floated on hurdles of brushwood. It still bounces as a train passes by.*

Two. On the right is Botany Bay Wood then a view of Winter Hill with Atherton & Leigh in the foreground.

Three. On the left in the stone cutting at Parkside is the memorial to William Huskisson. *This is where he was fatally injured by Rocket on the opening day.*

Four. Newton le Willows - Early buildings on right.

Five. Earlestown. *It was once a major north, south, east, and west rail junction. Just beyond are some signs of what was a substantial railway works of the London & North Western Railway. William Hardman Earle, who modestly named the resulting town after himself, set it up.*

Six. Sankey viaduct- crossed immediately beyond Earlestown. *The early railway travellers felt that this was like flying.*

Seven. Rainhill. The early station buildings are still here. *This is where the famous locomotive trials took place in 1829.*

Eight. Olive Mount cutting. *Cut through the red sandstone above Liverpool its scale awed the early travellers on the line. A branch goes off to the docks through a tunnel on the right. Boat trains used to go down this to the Atlantic Liners.*

Nine. Edge Hill. This well-preserved station is the start of a later diversion down to Lime Street. *(The original LMR line goes off to the left, then along tunnels to Crown Street (passenger) and Wapping (goods and docks)).*

Ten. Edge Hill Cuttings. *The subterranean approach to Lime street is cut through the red sandstone buff of Edge Hill that dominates Liverpool.*

Eleven. Liverpool Lime Street. – The terminus so alight here.

Make your way straight out of the front of the station and descend the steps. *In front of you is a breathtaking group of classical style buildings. What sources of wealth do you think could have financed this set of buildings?*

The nearest building is St George's Hall. *Cross Lime Street and walk right along the front of St George's Hall. The hall is often open for visitors, concerts and exhibitions and has a grand interior On your right is the Gothic Lime Street Railway Hotel (now student residences) followed by the the Empire theatre.*

On this very fine square are statues to Albert and Victoria. *Notice the 'fishy' lamp columns. Then you come to the Wellington column. He was a national hero following the Battle of Waterloo.*

Beyond this is the County Sessions House. Turn towards the left down William Brown Street and there is the Walker Art Gallery. *This is open 10.00 – 17.00 daily, admission free. On display is an exceptionally fine collection of paintings and sculptures, (a wow!).*

Next is the Picton Library with its remarkable rotunda. *It has a fascinating interior, and again admission is free. Enter via Liverpool Central Library entrance.*

Onto the 'World Museum'. *This is open daily 10.00 – 17.00. Admission is free. Its collections are scientific and ethnographical. There is an excellent planetarium on the top floor.*

Further down and ahead you will see the entrance to the Mersey Tunnel. Go left behind St George's Hall. Then go left up St John Street. *On the right is 'Dr Duncan's' which sells real ales (Cain's) and food. Well worth a visit, this Victorian building has a seriously impressive interior.*

Continue up St John Street, cross Lime Street and ascend the steps into the station to catch the train back to Eccles.

CLASSIFICATION: SHORT, EASY.
 HISTORIC RAILWAY, ARCHITECTURE, THEATRE,
 MUSEUM, LIBRARY, PUB, CAFÉS.
 RAIL FARE – category THREE