

Forty HEBDEN BRIDGE - TOWN

This is a delightful, bustling, self-contained little stone town in the East Pennines. It is on flat ground, but hemmed in by very steep hills on all sides. There are pubs, cafes, restaurants, old-fashioned shops, a canal wharf and a market on Wednesdays. You'll want to come again!

Take the train from Eccles Station to Manchester and alight at Manchester Victoria. Change here onto a Leeds stopping train via Bradford. *You are now travelling along the Manchester and Leeds Railway of the 1830's. George Stephenson was the civil engineer for this line. There is much fine, Pennine landscape on the route and the long Summit Tunnel soon after Littleborough.*

Alight at Hebden Bridge. *The railway station has a buffet, waiting room with small lending library, and toilets. The station is very well preserved having escaped the 1970's institutional vandalism.*

Walk down the approach road and go left just before the bridge over the canal. Walk through this park keeping to the right hand side near the canal and out the of the gates at the other end.

Cross over bridge 17 at the locks and walk left along the towpath to look at the mill that is just ahead. Return to bridge 17 and go left down the short slope and along the street to the main road.

The town is a triangle between the road to your right and the street ahead. *Therefore I shall not describe every possible street but just the outsides of the triangle. Then you can explore the other streets yourself.*

Cross the main road, go slightly left, then turn right along Bridge Gate. On the right is 'The White Swan' (*this sells real ales including Black Sheep*). Facing it is the terraced riverside and old Packhorse Bridge over the Hebden Water (*fancy feeding the ducks?*).

Further along on the left is the 'Shoulder of Mutton' (*real ales and food*). Further still is the 'White Lion Hotel' (*real ales and food*).

However on your right is the little town "square" with its old fashioned shops. (*Have you noticed just how many cafes there are in this town?*)

Go left just after the shoulder of Mutton and cross the Iron Bridge (*made in Manchester!*) You are now on the Town Hall Square. *Notice the millennium clock and opposite the fine town hall building. On Wednesdays there is a market held on this square.*

Return over the bridge and go to the opposite side of the town centre square. *There is a large former Co-op building.*

Take Albert Street out of the centre. On the left is the fine Oxford House – *presumably inspired by Oxford College buildings.*

On the right is The Albert (*real ales*).

At the main road you turn right (*however the wharf area is opposite - cross if you wish to look at this*).

On your right is the Railway (*real ales and food*).

On the left side is the Cinema! [OPTION: at this point explore the other streets of the town]

Cross the road and go through the memorial garden, over the canal, then left through the park.

On leaving the park go right up to the railway station. Go down the steps through the underpass to the Manchester platform for the train back.

CLASSIFICATION: SHORT, EASY.
 HISTORIC RAILWAY, MANY CAFES & PUBS,
 CANAL, OLD-FASHIONED SHOPS, PARK.
 CINEMA, ARCHITECTURE.

RAIL FARE – category THREE

Maps: OS 1:50 000 sheet 104