

Fifty two.**LIVERPOOL – ALBERT DOCKS**

The impressive Albert Docks buildings house a plethora of shops, pubs, cafes, restaurants, a major museum and an important art gallery. If you've time (and energy) you could pass a variety packed full day.

Catch a train from Eccles to Liverpool Lime Street.

Alight at Liverpool Lime Street and descend lift, escalator or stairs to the Liverpool Underground. Go to the Wirral Line platform and board any departing train.

Alight at Liverpool James Street station. Take the James Street Exit and turn right down to The Strand. *The strand was the original waterfront and docks. All in front of you is reclaimed land. In the centre of the Strand was the two track Mersey Docks and Harbour Board railway and above this was the Liverpool Electric Overhead Railway line, on a long steel viaduct running the full length of dockland, (hence it was known locally as "The Docks' Umbrella".*

Cross The Strand and go left along it. You will come to the entrance gates to the Albert Docks on your right after about two to three hundred yards.

Walk towards the dock buildings. Ahead of you is the Dock Office. *An imposing but restrained building with a fine Tuscan Portico it was designed by Hartley and Hardwick and built in 1848.*

On your right is the pump house - *this provided the hydraulic power to work all the warehouse cranes on the docks.*

Walk down the right hand side of The Dock Office. Here is the anchor of HMS Conway. *A large Royal Navy sailing ship kept for training, but unfortunately destroyed in a storm on the Menai Straits in the 1950s.*

Behind the anchor is the entrance to the Merseyside Maritime Museum. *Opposite this see the Great Western Railway goods office and beyond that the spectacular Pier Head buildings described in trip 51. Entrance to the Maritime Museum is free. Inside is a great collection of maritime artefacts and fascinating exhibitions about trade and sea travel.*

Continue ahead across a small swing bridge. The harbourmaster's house is on the right (*open for visits*) and straight-ahead is the Mersey (*fine views*).

Go left into the dock itself and follow round the covered arcade. *Jesse Hartley designed the entire dock complex. It was officially opened in 1848 and dedicated to Albert, the Prince Consort.*

The Tate Northern gallery is on your right. *Admission to this fine display of modern art is free. There may be a charge for special exhibitions on the top floor.*

A full circuit of the arcade will bring you back to The Maritime Museum.

As you leave the docks go towards the dock gates *notice the two great Cathedrals of Liverpool on the skyline.*

Go left outside the gates and right across the Strand to James St Station to catch a train going to Liverpool Central.

Alight at Lime Street and go up to the main line platforms to catch a train to Eccles.

CATEGORY: SHORT EASY.
FINE ARCHITECTURE, SHOPS, CAFES, PUBS,
MUSEUM, ART GALLERY, VIEWS BRACING
ESTUARY AIR.

RAIL FARE: category four.

MAP OS 1:50 000 sheet 108 Liverpool A-Z
Philip's Street Atlas Liverpool & Merseyside