

Seventy five**ELLESMERE PORT- NATIONAL
WATERWAYS MUSEUM.**

Sited where the Shropshire Union Canal joins the Manchester Ship Canal, and overlooking the Mersey Estuary, this historic dockyard provides a fine home for the many rescued barges in the National Collection. It provides an interesting and instructive day out.

Catch a train from Eccles to Liverpool Lime Street. Alight there and descend lift, escalator or stairs to the Liverpool Underground.

Go right onto the underground and to the Wirral Line platform.

Board a train to Ellesmere Port.

Alight at Ellesmere Port Station. Exit straight onto the station approach road on the right.

Walk ahead past the Station Hotel to join the main road. Cross it and continue in the same direction.

Follow it as it begins a gentle curve to the right. Ignore the underpass and cross the slip road. *There are now signs for the museum.*

Go under the bridge and cross the next slip road.

Walk towards the right and then turn left away from the roundabout.

You go over the canal and left down some steps towards the National Waterways Museum. *Ahead of you is the Manchester Ship Canal adjacent to the Mersey Estuary. The view takes in from Liverpool Cathedral on the left, the Runcorn Bridge and to the oil refineries on the right.*

The entrance to the museum is on the right of the buildings to your left.

Admission is £6 at 2010 prices (concessions). Open daily 10.00 to 16.00. Tel: 0151 355 5017. Website: www.nwm.org.uk

The museum tells the stories of Ellesmere Port (*the buildings date from 1795 by Telford and Jessop*), barge building and the lives of bargees and porters. There are period houses, stables, a blacksmiths' forge and several locks. The power hall has a collection of working engines (*including a 1930 Gardner engine from the yacht Cordelia II*).

The pumping station has Lancashire boilers and steam engines – *these provided hydraulic power for the cranes on the dock. The engines are in steam on the first Sunday of every month and every Bank Holiday.*

At the far end of the site is the junction of the Shropshire Union Canal with the Manchester Ship Canal.

When you leave the museum go back the way you came.

At Ellesmere Port Station catch a Liverpool train from the same platform as you arrived at.

Alight at Liverpool Lime Street.

Leave the underground station and turn left along the tunnel.

Ascend to the mainline station to catch the return train to Eccles.

CLASSIFICATION: SHORT EASY

ARCHITECTURE, HISTORY, CANALS,
VIEW, MUSEUM, CAFE.

RAIL FARE: category four

Maps: OS 1:50 000 sheet 117 Philip's Street Atlas Cheshire