

Eighty nine**LIVERPOOL – ONE for SHOPPING.**

Liverpool One has a huge number of shops. The finest of modern architecture combined with good design of public space and the exclusion of road traffic makes this a tranquil and impressive experience. If you haven't shopped in the new Liverpool then you haven't shopped!

This itinerary shows you where most the shops are -I suggest you try it before you unleash a shopping frenzy. The atmosphere and architecture make it well worth it for the non shopper! [There are now pleasant traffic free routes to the Albert Dock and Pier Head too.]

Catch a train from Eccles to Liverpool Lime Street.
Alight at Liverpool Lime Street and leave the station to the left.

Cross Skelhorne Street towards The Crown Hotel, and then go right across Lime Street from there.

Walk straight along Elliot Street and left round the J.D.Wetherspoon's pub onto Great Charlotte Street. *The former John Lewis Department store is opposite.* Turn right on Ranelagh Street - *across the road is a small shopping centre above Liverpool Central Station.*

Turn next right onto Cases Street (*with its fruit stalls and the impressive exterior of The Midland pub. On the right is The Globe – a lovely old pub selling cask marque real ales*).

Go through Clayton Square Shopping Centre on the level to come straight out at the opposite side. *Facing is the Saint John's centre –you'll come back past that later.*

Turn left and go to the end of Parker Street. *Notice the pargeting on the corner building and The Lyceum Post Office further left.*

Turn right along Church Street. *This is a fine, wide shopping street – On the corner of Basnett Street is the very grand, stately Marks & Spencer building – formerly The Compton Hotel built in 1886.*

Opposite the M&S building turn left onto Church Alley to take a look at the Bluecoat Centre. *Built in 1717, this is Liverpool's oldest building and very attractive too. The name comes from the blue robe worn by boys attending such a school. Look at the keystones over the ground floor windows (cherubs or pupils?). It is now an art centre. There are galleries, a restaurant, cafe and a quiet courtyard garden. Open daily. Admission is free and includes guided tours 12.00-16.00. Tel: 0151 702 5324 Website: www.thebluecoat.org.uk*

Return to Church Street and go left along it. *On the left is Keys Court, another shopping centre, with thirties exterior and imaginative new architecture inside-take a look.*

At the cross roads turn left onto Paradise Street. *The Odeon Centre is on right but you'll be in it later on.*

Continue to walk past the new John Lewis store on your right.

Turn right just beyond it. *In front of you are a new bus station and a multi story car park that looks good! Ahead is the Albert Dock.*

Walk beyond The Hilton on your right and go right onto The Strand. *The striking shape of One Park West is based on a ship's prow. There is a glimpse of the grand buildings at pier head. The Strand was originally the waterfront.* Turn right again, onto Canning Place. *It is attractively done with fountains, pink sandstone terraces and ponds-one of which is decorated with old piles (from a jetty!).*

Go just beyond these to see the first Liverpool dock (1709). *It is under your feet. Excavated on a Time Team programme, it is down the hole just beyond steps.*

Ascend the steps and stone seating on the left to see Chavasse Park. *Francis Chavasse was the second Bishop of Liverpool. It is a small city park to take a break from shopping!*

[OPTION: To avoid the steps go past them and left along South John Street. There is a lift on the left - it is just before the narrow Wall Street goes right towards Paradise Street. Go up three floors to Chavasse Park.]

Go to the bridges to see upper and lower South John Street below you. *This is impressively creative architecture.*

Go down one floor to level four by the lift in the middle of the park. Go straight ahead as you come out of the lift (*but first you might want to take a look behind you at the impressive light well on the staircase.*)

Turn left along Upper South John Street balcony and you come to Lord Street running across.

[OPTION: go left about 100yds to see Derby Square – *with its impressive Queen Victoria monument.*

Look to the right along Castle Street to see the 17th century Town Hall – *it is open to the public in August. No admission charge for a very good visit.*

Afterwards return to South John Street.]

Cross Lord Street and go onto North John Street. *On the left is Boodle House (1798) and on the right Central Buildings with the four Beatles statues. It's now the 'Hard Day's Night Hotel!*

Turn right onto Mathew Street in the Cavern area. *The Cavern Club is a few yards along on the right. The Grapes on the left sells food and real ale.*

Bear right onto Rainford Gardens. *The tiled White Star sells cask marque real ales, and The Welkin, a J.D. Wetherspoon real ale and food pub, is at the end.*

At Button Street turn left, and then left along Whitechapel.

Next, turn right onto Richmond Street. *Here are smaller shops. Then on Williamson Square there are fountains, the Liverpool Playhouse and the chocolate and cream 1897 Lee's building. The impressive St John's Tower is ahead.*

As you face Clayton Square shops turn left. *The St John's Centre on your left has a lot of shops and a market, but it's hard to find the way out again!*

Go up the steps ahead (or slope to left of them). *The recent work has opened up Lime Street station to view and makes a pleasant space in front of it.*

Cross Lime Street and enter Lime Street station for your train back to Eccles.

CATEGORY: MEDIUM EASY.

ASTOUNDING ARCHITECTURE, SHOPS, SHOPS,
CAFES, BARS, SHOPS, PUBS, ART CENTRE,
MORE SHOPS.

RAIL FARE: category three.

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Liverpool A-Z

Philip's Street Atlas Liverpool & Merseyside