

**Ninety five****BUXTON – SOLOMON’S TEMPLE &  
POOLE’S CAVERN**

A stroll through this elegant spa town takes you to a country park where you can walk through woodland and on high moor. From Solomon’s Temple there is a splendid panorama of the White Peak. Afterwards you can go under it in Poole’s Cavern with its fossilizing waters.

Take the train to Manchester Victoria and from there a tram to Manchester Piccadilly Station. From here catch a Buxton train. *Option: - turn right as you get off the tram and on Fairfield Street use the lift on the left to the link bridge lounge.*

The train goes through fine limestone scenery from New Mills onwards. *After Dove Holes station, you can see Solomon’s Temple by looking ahead from the left side of the train.* Alight at Buxton Station.

Leave the station and walk to the right then across Palace Road. Walk down in front of the hotel grounds and cross Devonshire Road. Then cross the main road left. Poor provision for pedestrians here!

Go down Water Street to the Buxton Opera House.

Enter the Pavilion Gardens through the gate just beyond the Opera House and Conservatory.

Fork next left to cross the ornate bridge, and then go right along the park between the river and the lakes.

Curve away from the river at the miniature railway and walk to the RHS of the children’s play area. You see the mansions and hotels on the Broadwalk across the lake.

Follow the path to its junction with the Broadwalk.

Leave the park and cross Burlington Road on the right. Then cross Macclesfield Road.

Walk up College Road opposite and fork right onto Temple Road. *Temple of Mammon methinks! It is lined with splendid houses.*

Follow Temple Road as it bends left abruptly.

Cross the road ahead to enter ‘Go Ape’ and Poole’s Cavern car park. The cavern entrance, display and cafe are on the right.

**a) SOLOMON’S TEMPLE:**

Cross the car park to the wooden chalet for ‘Go Ape’.

Take the steps up beside it and at the top of the short flight fork left and uphill. *A green ‘Ring of Trees’ way marker points it out.*

Keep ahead above the adventure ground that is ‘Go Ape’.

Fork left at a tree stump with a green 'ring of trees' way marker on its back and a locator badge just beyond it (*with Z Y Med X on it I think*).

When you come near to the edge of the wood (an open field on your left) fork gently right up through the trees. You can see the light at the top edge of this wood. *This mature woodland was planted by the sixth Duke of Devonshire in 1820. Known as the Grin Plantation it can raise a smile or two, but it was to shield Buxton from the industry on Grin Low.*

Head up and leave the wood through the little gate in the wall.

Follow the path as it climbs steeply ahead. *This hummocky ground seems to be made of lime, mortar, coal and ash. That's because it is! This area was used for lime burning. On your left is an old lime kiln with two barrow runs to it.*

Go through another stile gate in the next wall and walk up to Solomon's Temple. Ascend the spiral staircase. *There is a grand panorama of the White Peak. You can see Buxton below and the limestone quarrying in the opposite direction. Below is the uneven lime burning area.*

On leaving the tower turn left across the uneven ground heading slightly towards the wood. *You pass two gate posts (no gate, no fence, no wall though!) There is an old lime kiln on the right.*

Follow the path with the wall and woodland on your right.

Ascend a flight of steps, go through a gate and turn left. Follow this path ahead. *The quarry is on the right with caravans tents etc.*

You come out of a gate onto a field - split the angle between the wood and the rutted track going down and head across the field towards limestone outcrops. Cross the tarmac road ahead and go across the grass with the quarry fence on your right.

Curve towards the right around it, and then go through the stile gate ahead into the woodland.

Turn right to Poole's Cavern (signed) and keep at roughly this level.

You come to an elongated X junction of paths. Go across it to take the left fork downwards.

At the bottom is a whitewashed stone cottage. Turn right a few yards and then left down the steps.

Go left down the path to the car park.

#### b) POOLE'S CAVERN:

The cafe, display and gift shop are off the side of the car park and worth visiting. *The cave is very impressive with cascading waters and fascinating rock formations. The waters rapidly fossilize anything placed in them (don't fall in!) Open all the year round. There are guided tours every twenty minutes.*

*Admission is category two. [Tel:01298 26978](tel:0129826978). Website: [www.poolescavern.co.uk](http://www.poolescavern.co.uk)*

Leave the car park and cross the road to go down Temple Road opposite. Bear right to continue down to Pavilion gardens.

Cross Macclesfield Road and go onto the Broadwalk. Keep along this.

At the end, go past the RHS of The Old Hall Hotel. *St Anne's well is on your right - you can try some of the mineral water there.*

Pass between the Crescent and the Pump house. *The old Buxton baths building is on left.*

Cross towards the Grove Hotel and turn left past it.

Bear right up Station Approach. *There is a good hardware/DIY store here!*

Cross the road to the station for a train back to Manchester Piccadilly.

CLASSIFICATION:                    MEDIUM    MODERATE

PARKS, WOODLAND, COUNTRYSIDE,  
VIEWS, CAFE, CAVE.

RAIL FARE:                    category three

MAPS:    OS 1:50 000 sheet 119            Philip's Street Atlas Derbyshire.

*\*This is a very good trip indeed but the connection times with the current (2010) timetable can be more than ample – I suggest a shop or a coffee in Manchester. If it doesn't suit you, consider buying a Peak Wayfarer to let you use the tram to Piccadilly. It will be a little dearer but more flexible.*