

## Liverpool Trip Update - London LDWA 17-19 April 2015 - Downloadable Version

This is an update for the trip this weekend. This version omits personal information. It includes the plan for the walks and meals and some ideas for things to do if you have spare time, or are taking an extra day as I know some are. I have sent some of this before, more to those who booked later, but it's in one place below. Below the bits in *italics* are where you need to do something or let me know your choice in advance. I will bring some printed copies of this briefing with me and have also put it on the London website as a download pdf you could *put on a smartphone or tablet* (the YHA has free wifi). *If you are bringing a mobile phone please text me your number, of give it to me there, my number is below.*

A streetmap can be downloaded [here](#) and I have copies of a folded map to hand round, but *if you want one posted to you in advance let me know.* I know some of you know Liverpool well, but I haven't assumed any knowledge below, so ignore what you already know.

If you are **arriving by train at Lime Street, to get to the YHA** you can walk or use a bus. To **walk** there are various routes: one more scenic way (15-20 mins only) is to follow the walking signs to Albert Dock from near the station main exit, soon downhill on pedestrian walkways and through the car-free shopping area (this is Liverpool One), and once you reach the main dual carriageway road, Strand, near the waterfront cross it. Head half-left towards the 'big white wheel' (on Salthouse Quay, a road) passing Albert Dock and then ahead, left of the wheel, to keep along the waterside of the old dock until Queen's Wharf (a road), where turn left and then cross Wapping (a road) and head left for a short way, when the YHA is just to the right with access off a parallel street (Tabley Street). The hostel is only visible from some places. This dockside route avoids walking along the dual carriageway, but this is more direct. If you have a heavy bag and want to use a **bus**, the [City Link/C5](#) hopper bus - map on link - leaves from near Lime Street main exit every 12 mins - get off after passing the ACC, at Queen's Wharf (a road), head inland to cross Wapping and follow final directions above (don't stay on the bus as it doesn't pass the YHA and you'll end up in Toxteth or back at Lime Street!).

For those **staying in the YHA**, they have grouped the nine of us into female and male six bed dorms probably en suite, so one male and two females will need to be willing to take upper bunks. If this isn't going to work for you, then they need to know in advance and will move people to other rooms onto lower bunks, *if so please call the YHA direct and ask to move* (details below). Of course we may be sharing our two rooms if the hostel does get full, so *be careful with valuables*. The YHA staff are helpful and know the area and have basic maps. If he's on duty, James is very useful for local knowledge. There is a modern self catering kitchen with fridges and cheaper meals are served in the YHA restaurant or you can cook (*let me know if you **don't** plan to join the group meal below on Saturday*). For Saturday you will need a packed lunch so you may want to make a sandwich up - there are shops in Liverpool One and a Tesco Express that opens until late on the main road (Strand) walking west about 12 mins, next to the Travelodge Strand (a different one). Although near the main road, the YHA is well soundproofed, secure and only a few minutes walk to Albert Dock. I will have a car parked in the YHA car park and can bring any food items *if you tell me in advance what you want.*

**Friday:** The **first led group walk** will start from the **Liverpool YHA at 5.30pm** on Friday afternoon and will mainly cover the waterfront on pavements, and then end up where we are eating as a group. This is likely to be in Liverpool One, where there is a food level up the escalator off Paradise Street, a pedestrian street, opposite Starbucks and a bit up from John Lewis. On this upper level there are various well-known and biggish eateries with a range of prices and we can either chose one here or use another place nearby. This area I have chosen as for anyone arriving on a later train it's en route from Lime Street to the YHA and near the other hotels and is very easy to find - if you are late at Lime Street text me and we can give you a meeting place, such as the base of the escalator. After dinner we may stroll briefly up past the Cavern Club, which any music fans can visit for a modest entry fee (see below) and stay as long as you like, before walking back to the YHA or hotels.

**Saturday:** We get the Merseyrail train at 09.41 from Moorfields Station platform 2 to Hightown and walk back around 20 miles. We leave the **YHA at 9.15** (with packed lunch and have an early breakfast) and walk to Moorfields, passing the main Travel Centre, where we pick up a Day Saver (Saveaway) ticket that also covers buses and the basic ferry - we may be able to bulk-buy these tickets for everyone to save time queuing. Moorfields is very near the Exchange Travelodge and not far from the other hotel. Hightown is up the Sefton sea-coast towards Formby and the walk back is first among dunes (that may be muddy) and then promenades, canals and pavement to reach the main waterfront, passing the Three Graces (the name for these historic buildings). The walk will then continue east along the Mersey waterfront (with an option to drop off to the YHA) and heads inland to visit the trendy Lark Lane area to cross Sefton Park, and finally on to Penny Lane for a bit of Beatles nostalgia. We use a bus (82 to the bus station) back to the YHA or city centre hotels. There are also other drop-off options earlier using buses or trains. The **evening meal** is booked for an Italian restaurant called [Amalia](#) (menu online) on Argyle Street, not far from the YHA and hotels, for 8pm. From the YHA, *we can meet to walk there at 7.45pm*. As it's easy to walk right past this place and not see it, I will point it out on the first Friday walk.

**Sunday: Two city sightseeing led walks:** the first *leaving the YHA at 9.30am* visits the Chinese Arch, the two cathedrals, a sunken garden, the Philharmonic (a pub with an impressive gents! - you'll see, perhaps even the ladies!) and some historic Georgian streets of past merchants' houses in the Hope Street area, to reach Lime Street. Here the plan is to join a professionally guided walk led by a local guide (who may speak Scouse!) which entitles us to the restaurant discount: so although it's not really a free walk (as the guides only get the tips we chose to pay) you save this on the meal, see below. This walk covers the origins of the city, the main neo-classical buildings here and then makes its way down covering the Beatles history and sites, the Cavern Club area, some wartime history - Liverpool was the HQ of the Battle of the Atlantic in WWII - and to Cunard and to the White Star Line of Titanic fame (or infamy); ending at the waterfront and ferry terminal. I have done this walk and found it worthwhile. ***If you don't plan to do this guided walk, I need to know in advance, as with a large group they need warning and we may get a dedicated guide, so please email me asap only if you are not doing this walk.*** Once at the ferry terminal, we take the **2pm ferry cruise** on its triangular route across the Mersey with views of the waterfronts on both banks. On return to the same ferry terminal, we take the 26 bus from the nearby bus station up to **Anfield and walk into Stanley Park** - there are brief views of both Anfield and Goodison Park, homes to Liverpool and Everton FC for the socceros. Then a walk back into town, including along the elevated ridge that is now Everton Park, with views across the city and some social history of what was here before - to reach the Lime Street/Exchange Street area and YHA in time for getting the 18.47 train to London. To avoid carrying heavy bags all day for those leaving Sunday, before we set off initially from the YHA we can *arrange to leave bags*, so these can be picked up after the walks (I will have a car at the YHA for lifts back to Lime Street). Those in hotels near Lime Street may want to arrange similar stowage. You may also want to *take a packed lunch or snack on Sunday; the ferry has food*.

#### **Budget for:**

**Walrus Card/Day Saver** about £5 or less, no concs.

[Amalia](#) expect up to about £20 for a 2-course meal, plus extra for drinks, tap water is free, but (and it's a nice but!) we get a 20% discount if we use the walk guide on the Sunday. Fair choice of vegetarian as well as usual Italian with extensive choice. Booked for the group in my name or as LDWA. You can also make free coffees etc back at the YHA!

**Guided walk** on Sunday, say £6 as a donation, but offset by a similar restaurant discount.

**Ferry** round trip at £10 (concs £8.50)

Minor **bus fares** unless you have an ancient's national bus pass (bring it!).

Expenses if you are staying **Thursday or Sunday nights** as well (as some are).

#### **Contact details:**

Paul Lawrence 07768585657

[YHA](#), 25 Tabley Street, Liverpool, Merseyside L1 8EE 0845 371 9527

[Travelodge Liverpool Exchange Street](#), 38 Exchange Street East, Liverpool L2 3PS 0871 559 1849

**LDWA insurance** covers this trip but is limited to civil liability; it's not a travel insurance.

### **If you have spare time:**

There are many things to see and do in Liverpool, see links for websites below.

Remember on the walks and ferry trip you will see many of the main sites of central Liverpool so you may want to visit a gallery or museum instead. Liverpool was European City of Culture in 2008 and has more galleries etc than anywhere in UK outside London. The waterfront and parts of the city are a UNESCO World Heritage Site centred on Liverpool as a Maritime Mercantile city and reflected the city's significance as a commercial port at the time of Britain's greatest global influence. The World Heritage Site stretches along the waterfront from Albert Dock, through The Pier Head and up to Stanley Dock, and up through the historic commercial districts and the RopeWalks area to St George's Quarter which is dominated by the magnificent St George's Hall.

Other sites include: [Cavern Club](#); Liverpool One; Beatles Experience; Beatles tours; Maritime Museum; Liverpool Museum; Tate Liverpool; Albert Dock; Walker Art Gallery; World Museum; and the Metropolitan Cathedral (RC) crypt comes with good reports. We visit this Cathedral on the Sunday morning walk but there will be services on and no time to dally.

**A postscript for the soccerroos** - perversely for both Norman and I both our two teams have got to the two FA Cup semi-finals to be played at Wembley on this very Saturday afternoon, so we will miss seeing Liverpool beating Aston Villa and Reading beating Arsenal! But anyway see you at Wembley for the final Norman (unless you got a semis ticket!).

### **Things to see in Liverpool.**

[Visit Liverpool](#) lists the main attractions, and most museums are free:

Liverpool has the largest collection of museums and galleries in the UK outside London. National Museums Liverpool's seven venues include the [World Museum](#), [Museum of Liverpool](#), [Merseyside Maritime Museum](#) and [Walker Art Gallery](#). The famous [Mersey Ferries](#) cruises are unique to Liverpool and a great way to see the city. Stop off at [Spaceport](#) to explore all things intergalactic, or [U-Boat Story](#) for a fascinating insight into a World War II German submarine. Fans from all over the world make the pilgrimage to Anfield, home of [Liverpool Football Club](#). You can do a stadium tour, visit the interactive [Liverpool FC Museum](#) and eat in the [Boot Room Sports Café](#). [Albert Dock](#) is one of the country's top heritage attractions, boasting museums, galleries, restaurants and bars. At the Dock, the [Beatles Story](#) is a huge draw for Fab Four fans, and provides a fascinating insight to the life and times of the Beatles. And [Tate Liverpool](#) stages international exhibitions of the best in modern art. The [Magical Mystery Tour](#) also leaves from Albert Dock, and is a two-hour journey around the places that made the Beatles, including Penny Lane and Strawberry Field. The National Trust runs tours to [Mendips and 20 Forthlin Road](#), Lennon and McCartney's childhood homes, which are beautifully preserved. See where the Beatles composed many of their early songs. [Liverpool Cathedral](#) is Britain's largest, and is a truly great and spectacular space. Try and catch one of the many events, or take the Tower Tour nearly 100 metres above ground for amazing views of Liverpool city region. [The Bluecoat](#) is a cutting-edge arts centre housed in a 300-year-old building, offering a programme of art, literature, music and dance. It's also home to a wide range of artists and creative businesses. Witness an engineering masterpiece first-hand with [Mersey Tunnels Tours](#), a unique behind-the-scenes tour of the Queensway Tunnel, running deep beneath the River Mersey. Liverpool has more [parks](#) than Paris, and the stunning [Sefton Park Palmhouse](#) is the jewel in the crown of one of Liverpool's most loved green spaces. And over in Wirral, [Port Sunlight](#) is a unique and beautiful 19th century garden village created solely for the Sunlight Soap factory workers. Step inside [Port Sunlight Museum](#) to experience what it was like to live and work during the village's heyday.