

NORTH WEST ENGLAND 4 DAY

Arrive in Manchester – overnight stay

DAY 1 MANCHESTER

Morning:

Radical Manchester Trail

Guided walking tour of Manchester (note John Rylands Library shut till 2007)
The trail explores Manchester's political activism and reform from the Peterloo Massacre onwards. Spanning the earliest days of the radical press through to the Chartists, the Anti-Corn Law League, Marx and Engels and the Women's Suffrage movement.

OR

Cottonopolis Trail

This trail explores the sites of the world renowned Manchester cotton industry, from the former largest trading room in the world at the Royal Exchange to the tiny restored workers cottages. It looks at how cotton wasn't only an industrial phenomena but a social one too, in a story of heroes and villains, of inspiration and ignorance.

Museum of Science & Industry in Manchester

Situated in the oldest surviving passenger railway buildings in the world, the Museum tells the story of the history, science and industry of Manchester - the world's first industrial city.

Lunch:

Manchester

Afternoon:

Metrolink tram ride from Manchester to Salford Quays.

Take a ride on Manchester's newest form of transport from the city centre to the newly developed Salford Quays. The journey follows the route of the city's industrial past, along the River Irwell.

Walking tour of Salford Quays

Explore the Quays, formerly the thriving terminal docks for the Port of Manchester and Britain's largest inland waterway. Discover the docks' links with North America and Canada and the history of the dock which was once one of the busiest in the world.

The Lowry

After major redevelopment Salford Quays is now one of the country's premier waterside leisure destinations. Visit The Lowry, the award winning arts and theatre complex. Home to the world's largest collection of work by L.S.Lowry – the artist famous for his paintings of the landscape and people of the industrial revolution in the North West.

OR

Imperial War Museum North

Opened at The Quays in July 2002 and created to give northern audiences access to the national collections. Housed in an amazing new building designed by world-renowned architect Daniel Libeskind, IWM North focuses on how war shapes lives and also offers great views of Salford Quays from its viewing tower.

Mersey Ferries trip to Liverpool

Boat trip from Salford Quays to Liverpool along the Manchester Ship Canal. Opened by Queen Victoria in May 1894, the 'Big Ditch' as it was affectionately known, brought deep-sea shipping all the way to Manchester and led to the creation of the thriving industrial community of Trafford Park. (note only runs from May to September)

OR

Train journey from Manchester to Liverpool

175 years after its opening, take a ride on the Liverpool and Manchester Railway, the line that signalled the birth of mainline passenger rail travel.

Dinner:

Liverpool

Overnight stay in Liverpool

DAY 2 LIVERPOOL

Morning:

Walking tour of Albert Docks

Opened in 1846 the Albert Dock was filled to overflowing with valuable cargoes from all over the world, the five blocks of five storey warehouses providing floor space surrounding a quadrangle of water the size of Trafalgar Square. The Dock was a unique experiment in warehouse construction, all created from an unpromising stretch of the Mersey shore that had been used for shipbuilding and timber storage. Its warehouses are one of the supreme examples of industrial architecture.

Merseyside Maritime Museum

Housed in an old warehouse in Albert Dock, the museum explores the history of one of the world's greatest ports and the people who used it. The museum also hosts a collection of shipping records in the maritime Archive and Library, as well as the original shipbuilder's model of the Titanic and one of Lusitania's propellers. Retrace the steps of the nine million emigrants who left Liverpool between 1830 and 1930 for new lives in America, Canada, Australia and New Zealand and discover the port's role in the transatlantic slave trade and emigration.

Until 4 June 2006 you can also visit the 100% Cotton Exhibition at Merseyside Maritime Museum. This large-scale exhibition features all aspects of the cotton trade from growing, harvesting and trading to production and manufacture, and in particular examines the changing role of Liverpool in this worldwide industry. Through a series of 'Cotton Tales' and a broad range of objects from plants, tools and machinery to historic and contemporary fashions and textiles, visitors see the impact of cotton on people's lives.

Lunch:

Liverpool Albert Docks

Afternoon:

Coach trip to Port Sunlight

This unique village was purposely built by William Hesketh Lever to house employees of his Lever Brothers factory. First started in 1888, the village, built on the banks of the Mersey, was bounded by a tidal inlet that flowed to the river on one side and the main Birkenhead/London railway line on the other. The community contained a town hall, library, post office, church, swimming pool and even its own newspaper. Lever wanted his workers to live and work together in harmony, so all the provisions necessary for a complete village were constructed. The area and community still survive today and gives a fascinating insight to village living during the height of the industrial revolution.

St. Helen's – visit to World of Glass

Situated in the heart of the Victorian coal and glass town of St Helens, The World of Glass visitor centre has something to offer people of all ages. Step back in time to the Victorian cone house built in 1887, then cross over the Sankey canal using the unique glass bridge into the contemporary glass pavillion. There are exhibitions, fantastic glass-blowing demonstrations and Victorian furnace tunnels to discover as well as learning about the history of one of the most famous glass-making cities in the world.

DAY 3 STOCKPORT

Morning:

Hat Works Museum

Visit the U.K.'s first and only museum dedicated to the exciting world of hats and hat making. The museum explores the history of Stockport's hat manufacturing industry, which made the town famous at the end of the 19th century. There are demonstrations of hat-making, exhibitions and there's the opportunity to try on hats of all styles and designs from throughout history.

OR

Styal – Quarry Bank Mill

Founded in 1784 by a young textile merchant Samuel Greg, Quarry Bank Mill and Styal Estate was one of the first generation of waterpowered cotton spinning mills. Waterpower was the wonder of the late 18th Century and today you can see this technological breakthrough in action at Quarry Bank Mill & Styal Estate. Now converted into a Georgian museum this attraction is a valuable resource for learning more about our industrial and social heritage. It features galleries devoted to water and steam power, hands-on displays and exhibits, plus an 1830s Beam Engine and a Horizontal Steam Engine that steam daily. Visitors can discover the lives of the mill workers and their children as well as enjoying great country and riverside walks through the 384-acre estate.

Lunch:

Cheshire

Afternoon:

Northwich – Anderton Boat Lift

This is one of the greatest monuments to Britain's last canal age and known as the "Cathedral of the Canals". Built in 1875 by Edwin Clarke it was the world's first and is currently the UK's only Boat Lift. The Anderton Boat Lift is a 60ft high hydraulic lift system, which transports narrow boats, working boats, and trip boats from the Trent and Mersey canal to the River Weaver, and from the River Weaver to the Trent and Mersey Canal. Today visitors can take a boat trip on the river and on the lift and experience this magnificent piece of engineering first hand.

OR

Macclesfield – Silk Museum and Paradise Mill

During the industrial revolution, Macclesfield thrived as the silk centre of the North West, with 120 mills and dye houses located in the town. The Story of silk links Macclesfield with China and the Far East though the silk routes. The development of the silk industry in Macclesfield is told through an award-winning audio-visual programme, exhibitions, models and silk textiles and fashions. It offers the chance to explore the wonders of a working silk mill as it was in the 1930s, discover how they made silk buttons in the 1600s and try weaving, designing and printing. The Museum is housed within the Heritage Centre, built in 1813 as a Sunday school to provide education for the children who worked in the silk mills.

Dinner:

Manchester or Lancashire

Overnight stay in Manchester or Lancashire

DAY 4 BURY

Morning:

Bury - East Lancashire Railway

Opened in 1846 to link the Manchester to Bolton line with Radcliffe. It was a popular passenger and freight route, which continued along the Irwell Valley to Rawtenstall. With assistance from Bury and Rossendale Councils, the line was reopened in 1991. The attraction offers the chance to take a journey along the route and learn more about the history of the line.

Lunch:

Lancashire

Afternoon:

Lancashire – Helmshore Mills and Queen Street Mill Textile Museums

Helmshore Mills Textile Museum, nestles in the undiscovered beauty of the Rossendale Valley. Experience two of Lancashire's original textile mills. Enjoy live demonstrations of traditional textile techniques. Discover how raw cotton is transformed into thread and watch the mighty waterwheel powering the stocks as they thump the wet cloth. Revolution tells the story of Lancashire's role in the industrial revolution. Discover famous inventors and international textile treasures including an Arkwright Water Frame.

Queen Street Mill Textile Museum brings steam powered weaving to life. The mill was Lancashire's last 19th century steam powered weaving mill and today the museum is packed full of sights, sounds and smells to stimulate the senses. A unique experience to re-live the days when steam ran the world. Discover the boiler room and see the stoker feed the flames of the Lancashire Boiler. Marvel at the remarkable steam engine Peace and watch as she powers 300 looms in the weaving shed.

Dinner:

Manchester or Lancashire

Overnight stay in Manchester or Lancashire

Visit www.industrialpowerhouse.co.uk for more information on the trails, and to discover more great heritage attractions across the region. Register to receive monthly e-newsletters with details of industrial heritage themed events throughout the year.