

Places to GO...

Exploring Stockport and local attractions

Town trail and public transport information



Archive copy only

Please note that some of this
information is now out of date.

This may include the walking
route, contact numbers and
public transport information.





Welcome to GMPTe's 'Places to Go' guide,
Exploring Stockport
Hats and hills, mills, museums and markets



Wind up and down the hills of the town, exploring a warren of fascinating historical buildings, take shelter underground or relax with a stroll in peaceful parkland. It's all yours to enjoy, and easy to get to by public transport.

The river Mersey springs into existence in Stockport, where the confluence of the rivers Goyt and Tame have cut a gorge through a ridge of colourful red sandstone. Around this gorge, Stockport has grown into a wonderful array of beautiful buildings and fascinating heritage sites. The town is one of the oldest in the area; it had a Norman castle, retains some splendid medieval buildings and sports several of the finest churches in the north-west of England. Its once-famous hat industry has left its mark, too - and there are marvellous parks just a short bus ride away.

It's easy to get to Stockport by train or bus - the rail and bus stations are right in the heart of the town, close to a number of attractions and heritage sites, making this old market town a great place to spend a day exploring.

Make it an even better day out

Start your day by stepping onto a bus, train or tram.

You don't need a car to get out there and enjoy yourself! Simply step onto a bus, train or tram and you're on your way to a great day out, by yourself or with friends or family. The adventure begins from the moment you step out of the door.

Greater Manchester has an excellent public transport system that'll take you where you want to go quickly and easily. It's a fun way to get out and about, no-one has to drive so you can all enjoy the journey - and you don't have to worry about traffic jams, getting directions or parking problems. Better still, at the end of the day everyone is free to relax in the pub!

See inside for a handy guide to:

- ***Planning your journey*** *page 10*
- ***Choosing and buying tickets*** *page 12*
- ***Getting more information*** *page 14*

Up and down in the town centre

The heart of old Stockport clings to the slopes of a sandstone gorge, where a warren of alleys, passages, lifts and steps link the bustling shopping areas in the shadow of the magnificent railway viaduct that carries the main Manchester to London line high above the Mersey. Built in 1842 using 11 million bricks the viaduct is the largest brick-built structure in Britain.



On the hill beyond this is Stockport's memorable town hall, known affectionately as "The Wedding Cake" due to its remarkable architecture; the interior is equally impressive. Opposite this is the town's Art Gallery, with changing exhibitions plus Victorian and contemporary paintings and sculptures. *Phone 0161 474 4453. Frequent 192 buses whisk you up the steep Wellington Road South to these locations if you don't fancy the walk.*

In and around Great Underbank

The oldest parts of the town centre, however, cluster near the site of the castle. In Great Underbank, amidst all the banks and building societies, is the picturesque Underbank Hall, a medieval "magpie" half-timbered mansion and itself now a bank. Through the centuries it was the town house of several of Cheshire's landed gentry. The neighbouring Three Shires Wine Bar is of a similar age. Just past these, turn up the steep cobbled brow to rise to the Market Place (the steep climb can be avoided by using the lift in The Courts development on Warren Street). The fabulously ornate glass & cast-iron market hall is being refurbished during 2008 but is expected to re-open by the end of the year. Film buffs may recognise it from the Hollywood film YANKS. Beside the Bakers Vaults is Castle Yard, where stood Stockport's castle from the 1100's until the Civil War when it was demolished.

Walk to the left of the market hall to find the Tourist Information Centre, housed in the painstakingly renovated Staircase House and packed with information and heritage displays.



Staircase House and Stockport Story

Near the market you will find Staircase House, incorporating Stockport Story and Stockport Tourist Information Centre. Staircase House is a grade 2★ listed medieval town house dating back to around 1460. It boasts an intriguing array of rooms linked by corridors and narrow passages. All the rooms have been restored using period colours, furniture and artefacts, which reflect the attraction's long and eventful history. When you visit you will begin a journey through time. This is history at its best – you are positively encouraged to touch the objects and travel back in time.

Next door, Stockport Story will take visitors on a fascinating journey through Stockport's history dating back over 10,000 years through to the present day. Explore changing social climates, attitudes and lifestyles and hear from characters of Stockport's past.

Staircase House is open Monday to Friday 12pm to 5pm, Saturday & Sunday 10am to 5pm. The Stockport Story is open Monday to Sunday 10am to 5pm. Both are closed Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day. Admission to Stockport Story is free. A charge is made for admission to Staircase House. For more information phone 0161 480 1460.

The Tourist Information Centre is open 9.30am to 5pm Monday to Saturday and 1pm to 5pm Sunday and public holidays. For more information phone 0161 474 4444.

www.staircasehouse.org.uk
www.stockportstory.org.uk



Just beyond here is the sturdy St Mary's Church, largely rebuilt 200 years ago but retaining some medieval features. Circle round the other side of the market hall to return to the front of the produce hall and buttermarket, here turning left. Crossing the high bridge over Little Underbank, keep ahead to find St Peter's Square, with its statue to Cobden and the imposing brick church that gives the Square its name. Slip down the hill to the right here to drop to Mersey Square, fronted by the spectacular Art-Deco Plaza Cinema, now a leading arts centre. Turning sharp right brings you to Chestergate, alongside the Square for one of Stockport's most unusual 'hidden treasures'.

Stockport's underground

At 61 Chestergate, close to the Merseybank Shopping Centre, you'll find the fascinating Air Raid Shelters complex. After being largely "forgotten" for 50 years, a veritable labyrinth of tunnels honeycombing the sandstone cliffs south of the Mersey have been



opened to visitors. The tunnels were cut into the soft rock during the Second World War and were the largest purpose-built public shelters in Britain. Here up to 7,000 people took refuge from Luftwaffe raids during the early years of the war. The atmosphere, sights and sounds of that era are recreated in painstakingly crafted detail.

There is an admission charge to visit the tunnels, which are open daily from 1pm to 5pm. Evening guided 'Explorer Tours' delve deeper into the complex on the first Wednesday of the month, while Family Tours are available on Saturday and Sunday afternoons.

For prices, bookings and full details phone **0161 474 1940** or visit www.airraidshelters.org.uk

Hats off to Stockport

Huge Victorian mills still dominate the skyline of central Stockport. The town had the country's greatest concentration of such mills and produced a wide range of cottons and textiles. A particular niche market was developed and exploited, with many mills coming to specialise in the production of felt and the manufacture of hats. Stockport was soon at the heart of the English millinery trade - over several centuries millions of hats made in this textile town were exported to customers at home and abroad. Changing fashions meant that the last such works closed just a few years ago, but tantalising glimpses of this industry are to be seen around the town and this heritage is recalled in the unique Hat Works Museum, right next to Stockport Bus Station in Wellington Mill. Interactive displays, colourful collections and ever-changing exhibitions are spread over two floors. There are also 20 fully operational Victorian hatting machines.

*The museum is open daily. Phone **0161 355 7770** or visit www.hatworks.org.uk*



A stroll in the park



Just to the east of the town centre are the peaceful acres of Vernon Park. This is a fully restored high-Victorian park with fountains, formal gardens,

bandstand, avenues and promenades rising from the banks of the river Goyt. There are great views across to the Peak District hills and at the heart of the park is Stockport Museum. Linked to Vernon Park is the Woodbank Memorial Park which has memorable woodland walks.

*The park is open every day - for museum times phone **0161 474 4460**. See page 10 for details of buses to and from the park.*

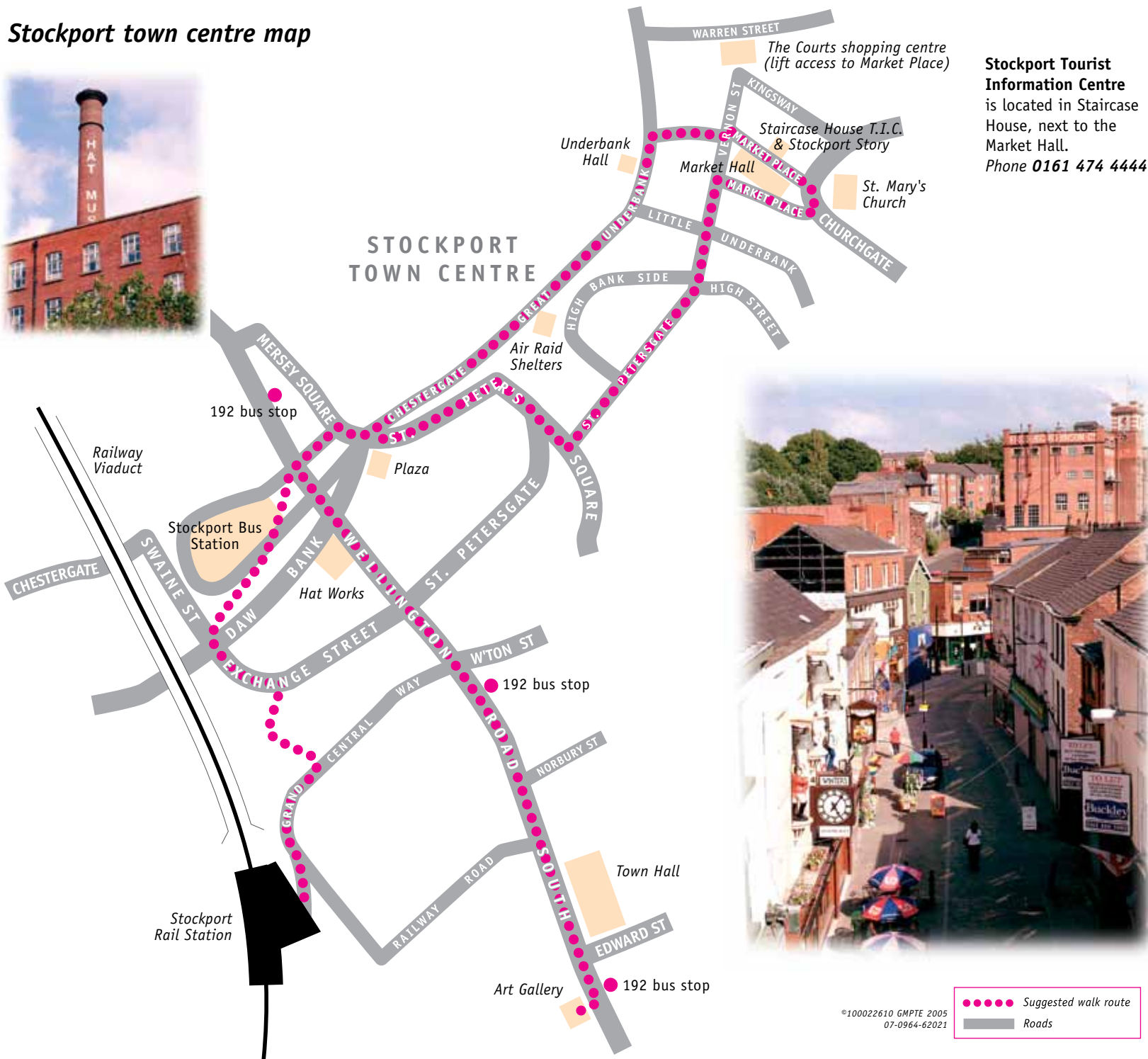
A marvellous medieval hall

One of Stockport's many other parks is a slightly longer bus ride from the centre, but holds one of the town's treasures. Bramhall Park, leafy acres surrounding the magnificent Bramall Hall, perched above the meandering Lady Brook. This is simply one of England's best black and white timber framed medieval halls, comfortably cluttered with period displays, recreations and decoration.

*The Hall is open daily Easter to September, closed on Mondays from then to Christmas, open weekends only New Year to Easter. For more information phone **0161 485 3708** or visit www.bramallhall.org.uk. See page 10 for details of buses to and from the park.*



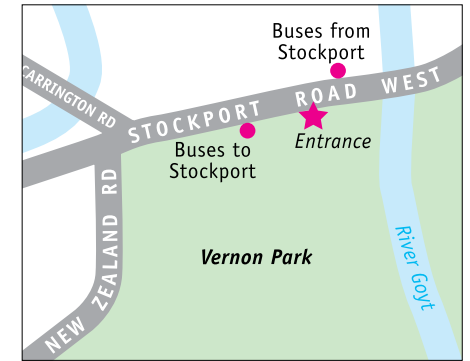
Stockport town centre map



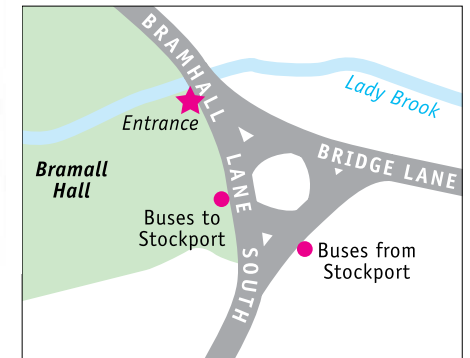
Stockport Tourist Information Centre is located in Staircase House, next to the Market Hall.
Phone **0161 474 4444**



Vernon Park



Bramall Hall



●●●● Suggested walk route
— Roads

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Planning your journey

When you go by bus, train and tram you won't need to worry about driving unfamiliar routes, finding somewhere to park or keeping the kids entertained along the way.

You will all be free to relax and enjoy the views on your route.

Getting to Stockport couldn't be easier, with frequent buses and trains from Manchester, through trains from Bolton and Salford Crescent providing easy connections from all other parts of Greater Manchester. The rail station is a short (and steep) walk from the town centre. Stockport Bus Station is right in the town centre and there are excellent services from Manchester and many local areas.

If you're going to include a visit to Bramhall Park then bus 378 runs there frequently from Stockport Bus Station. Alight at the roundabout opposite the main park entrance and walk up the main drive up to the Hall. For your return journey to Stockport catch the same service from the bus stop outside the park gates.

If you're going to include a visit to Vernon Park then buses 330, 380, 384 and 389 run there frequently from Stockport Bus Station. Alight at the stops opposite the park entrance. For your return journey to Stockport catch bus 330, 381, 383 and 389 from the bus stop outside the park gates.

Most public transport services run until around 11pm Mondays to Saturdays. On Sundays and public holidays services run less frequently and last services may run a little earlier.

We've made general recommendations for your journey, based on starting points in different districts of Greater Manchester on the next page, but for details of exact times and routes please phone Traveline on **0871 200 22 33***

<i>Starting and finishing from (area or district).</i>	<i>The information shown is for your guidance. Please phone Traveline 0871 200 22 33* for details of exact routes and times.</i>
Bolton	Catch a bus or train to Bolton town centre and make a direct train connection there. Direct trains run to Stockport from Bolton Interchange. Alternatively catch a bus or train to Manchester centre then catch a bus or train from Manchester Piccadilly to Stockport. The return journey is the reverse of above.
Bury	Catch a bus or tram to Manchester centre then catch a bus or train from Manchester Piccadilly to Stockport. The return journey is the reverse of above.
Manchester Trafford	Check if there is a convenient bus or train service direct to Stockport, otherwise catch a bus, train or tram to Manchester centre then catch a bus or train from Manchester Piccadilly to Stockport. The return journey is the reverse of above
Oldham Rochdale Wigan	Catch a bus or train to Manchester centre. Then catch a bus or train from Manchester Piccadilly to Stockport. The return journey is the reverse of above.
Salford	Catch a bus or tram to Manchester centre then catch a bus or train from Manchester Piccadilly to Stockport. Trains also run directly from Salford Crescent. The return journey is the reverse of above
Stockport	If you live near Stockport there will probably be a convenient bus or train service to and from the town.
Tameside	Check if there is a convenient bus or train service direct to Stockport, otherwise catch a bus or train to Manchester centre then catch a bus or train from Manchester Piccadilly to Stockport. The return journey is the reverse of above.

*For more information about day tickets visit www.gmpte.com/daytickets or phone 0871 200 22 33 for a leaflet. (Calls cost 10p a minute from landlines, mobile and landline networks may charge an additional tariff).

Choosing and buying tickets

You'll enjoy great value when you travel by public transport.

Travel costs less 'off-peak' – after 9.30am on weekdays, or anytime at the weekends or on public holidays and so we recommend that you make the most of the bargain priced 'off-peak' tickets shown below.

Single tickets are available for every public transport journey and some companies also offer returns and their own 'day' tickets that are valid on their services only. If your trip involves changes or multiple journeys, there's an excellent choice of 'off-peak' tickets which allow you to travel throughout Greater Manchester, making as many journeys as you want. They last the whole day so you don't have to keep paying fares each time you travel – and these tickets can be used on nearly all companies' services.

Whichever ticket you choose for yourself, accompanied children under five travel free. A special fixed low fare called the 'concessionary fare' is available for under 16's and on trains and trams they pay approximately half fare. Child fares are also available for all the tickets featured except DaySaver.

National Concessionary Travel Passes are issued throughout England and allow free off-peak travel on bus services. GMPTE passes issued to residents of Manchester also allow free travel on trams and local trains in Greater Manchester at off-peak times and for reduced concessionary fares at other times.

An Under-16 Card is needed to travel on Metrolink if you are aged 13 to 15. These are available free and you can get an application form from GMPTE Travelshops or visit www.gmpte.com

For bus, train and tram

OFF-PEAK

DaySaver tickets are available for various combinations of bus, train and tram travel. Simply buy your ticket from the bus driver, rail station booking office (or the train conductor if closed) or Metrolink ticket machine before your first trip of the day.

- **DaySaver Bus only** £4.30
(also available before 9.30am for £4.60)
- **DaySaver Bus and Train** £5.30
- **DaySaver Bus and Tram** £5.80
- **DaySaver Train and Tram** £6.30
- **DaySaver Bus, Train and Tram** £7.00

For train only

OFF-PEAK

Rail Ranger gives you unlimited 'off-peak' travel on all trains in Greater Manchester for a whole day. Buy Rail Ranger from the station booking office or the train conductor if the booking office is closed.

- **Rail Ranger** Adult £4.00, Child £2.00

For tram only

OFF-PEAK

MetroMax gives you unlimited 'off-peak' travel on all Metrolink tram routes for a whole day. You can buy MetroMax from Metrolink ticket machines at all tram stops.

- **MetroMax** (off-peak price depends on boarding stop)
Adult £2.90 – £4.00, Child £1.10 – £1.70
Also available before 9.30am - Adult £6.00, Child £2.60
- **MetroMax Four-Adult** £10.00
- **MetroMax Family** £6.20 any day Monday to Friday, £5.00 Saturday or Sunday (up to three children, accompanied by one or two adults)
- **MetroMax Weekend** Adult £5.00, Child £2.50, Family £7.00

To travel further by bus, train and tram

OFF-PEAK

Wayfarer tickets are ideal if you're travelling further afield for the day. You can use them for travel throughout Greater Manchester and also parts of Derbyshire, Lancashire, Cheshire and Staffordshire. With a Wayfarer ticket you can travel by bus at any time and by train and tram after 9.30am Monday to Friday and all day at weekends and public holidays.

- **Wayfarer Adult** £10.00
- **Wayfarer Group** £20.00 (up to four people, including two adults)
- **Wayfarer Concession** £5.00 (aged 5-15 or 60 and over)

Available in advance from GMPTE Travelshops, staffed rail stations and tourist information centres in the Peak District. You cannot buy them on the bus, on the train or at Metrolink tram stops.

Season ticket holders

Don't forget if you have a Traincard, Countycard or County Bus Saver you can use it to travel throughout Greater Manchester. And if you have a Greater Manchester rail season ticket (for journeys between two Greater Manchester rail stations) you can travel by train anywhere in Greater Manchester at weekends and public holidays.

For more information about day tickets visit www.gmpte.com/daytickets or phone 0871 200 22 33 for a leaflet. (Calls cost 10p a minute from landlines, mobile and landline networks may charge an additional tariff).

All prices shown correct September 2009.

Getting more information

By phone (ideal when you're out and about!)

Buses, trains and trams: Phone Traveline on **0871 200 22 33*** (7am – 8pm Mon to Fri, 8am – 8pm Sat & Sun and public holidays) for information about bus, train and tram times and the tickets that will suit you best.

Trains: For up-to-the-minute information about the next train from any Greater Manchester rail station, simply phone 'How's my train running?' on **0161 228 0322** and follow the instructions given. Our automated service will tell you what time the next train is and if there are any delays.

Buses: You can check bus times from most bus stops using your mobile phone.

- **Key in** the bus stop code on your mobile phone – the code is shown on the bus stop plate.
- **Text** the code to number **84268**.
- **Read** the text reply giving you timetable information for buses using your stop. (Service costs 25p plus the standard charge from your mobile phone service provider.)

Online

Full information about public transport services and a journey planner is available online at **www.gmpte.com**

In print

GMPTe produce a range of timetables and information about public transport which you can pick up at any **GMPTe Travelshop**.

By post

Ask for leaflets to be posted to you by phoning **0871 200 22 33*** saying which leaflet or timetable you require.

*Calls cost 10p a minute from landlines, mobile and landline networks may charge an additional tariff.

Connecting People with Places



FREE pocket guide

Greater Manchester has lots to offer when it comes to connecting people with places. Whether it's shopping, sight-seeing, visiting friends or just getting to and from work; you can do it using buses, trains and Metrolink trams.

Our pocket guide is crammed with useful tips and info such as:

- Planning your journeys
- Choosing the best tickets
- Free travel in the city centre
- Useful maps
- Information on the move

Order your copy today.

Phone: **0871 200 22 33**

(Calls cost 10p a minute from landlines, mobile and landline networks may charge an additional tariff. Lines are open 7am to 8pm Monday to Friday, 8am to 8pm Saturdays, Sundays and public holidays.)

or visit: **www.gmpte.com**



This is one of a range of GMPTE 'Places to Go' guides, giving you ideas for walks, attractions, places to visit and things to see in Greater Manchester and surrounding areas. The guides are completely **FREE** and each one gives you carefully researched, helpful information about the places featured, recommended routes for superb walks and details of how to get there and back by public transport.



If you would like other 'Places to Go' guides:

- **Call at a GMPTE Travelshop (at bus stations in Greater Manchester).**
- **Visit www.gmppte.com where you can order online.**
- **Phone 0871 200 22 33 and leave your details.**

(Calls cost 10p a minute from landlines, mobile and landline networks may charge an additional tariff. Lines are open 7am to 8pm Monday to Friday, 8am to 8pm Saturdays, Sundays and public holidays)

If you have any comments about this leaflet or suggestions for new guides please email publicity@gmppte.gov.uk or write to **Marketing Communications, GMPTE, PO Box 429, Manchester M60 1HX**

Disclaimer: The information provided in this guide has been carefully checked but GMPTE cannot accept responsibility for inaccuracies or errors.



PO Box 429
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M60 1HX

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Fax 0161 244 1011

public transport information



0871 200 22 33
10p a minute from landlines
traveline.info

7am - 8pm Mon to Fri • 8am - 8pm Sat, Sun & Public Hols