

Places to GO...

In and around Oldham and Alexandra Park

Town trail and public transport information



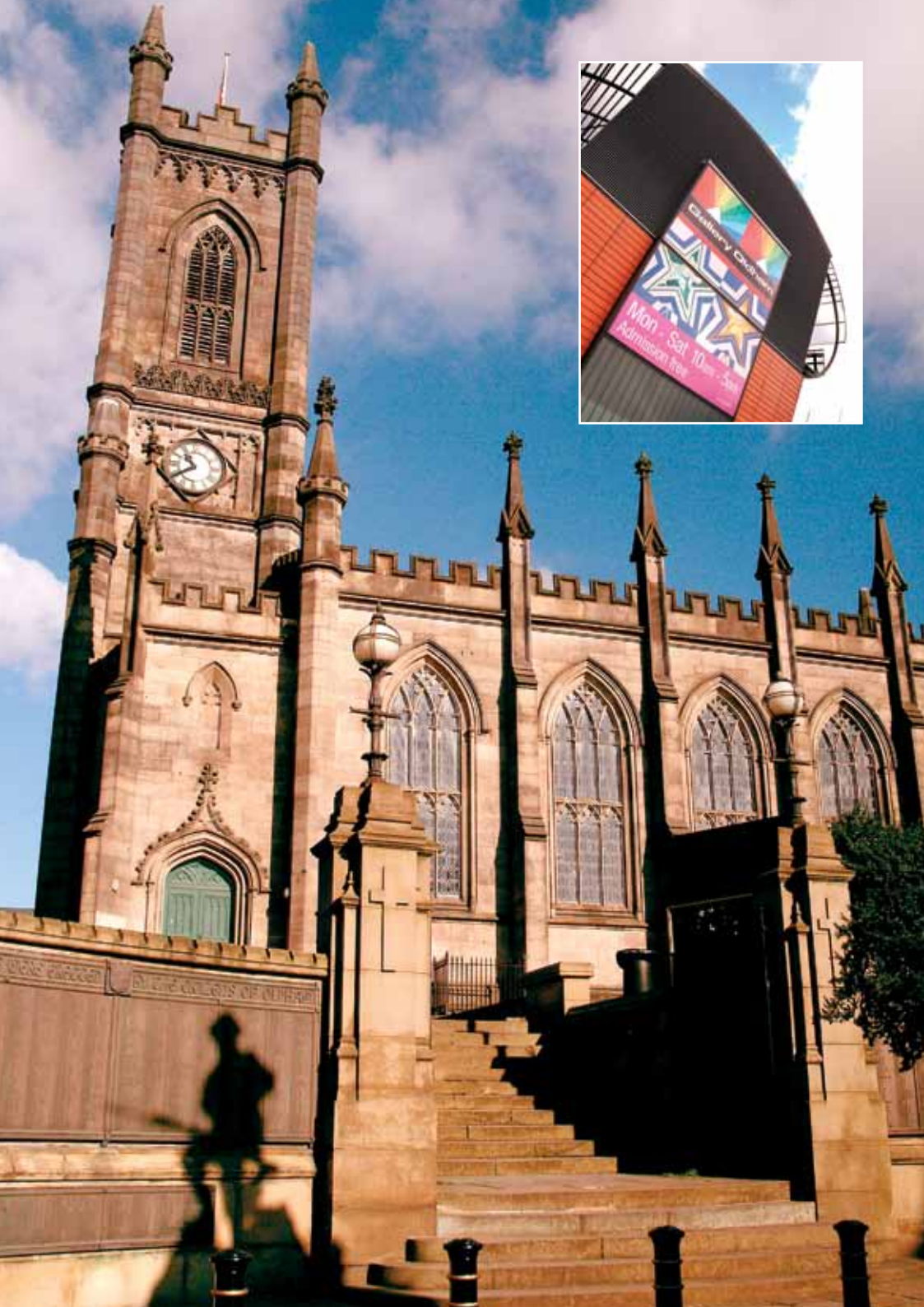
Transport for
Greater Manchester

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information is now out of date.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,

In and around Oldham

***Victorian treasures, fascinating history
and a beautiful town park***

Explore the Victorian architectural heritage of Oldham town centre, take in fine public art and visit a superb and historic park.

Famed as one of Lancashire's great mill towns, Oldham has a fine selection of Victorian buildings. Our town trail takes in the best of these architectural gems, and introduces you to the town's rich cultural heritage. Just one mile from the town centre you can get away from the hustle and bustle and enjoy a fine formal park with many fascinating features.

There's plenty to enjoy in and around Oldham, and if you want to know more the Tourist Information Centre in Gallery Oldham can provide you with a wealth of information.

Phone **0161 770 3064** or visit www.visitoldham.co.uk

Make it an even better day out

Start your walk 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 walk everyone is free to relax in the pub!

See inside for a handy guide to:

- | | |
|---|-----------------------|
| <i>– Planning your journey</i> | <i>page 10</i> |
| <i>– Choosing and buying tickets</i> | <i>page 12</i> |
| <i>– Getting more information</i> | <i>page 14</i> |

Exploring the town centre

1 Your trail starts at Oldham Bus Station, a winner of a Royal Town Planning Institute 'Best Urban Regeneration Project' award and a Civic Trust award. The Civic Centre tower is in front of you to the right. At 61 metres tall, it can be seen on a clear day as far away as Salford, Trafford, Wythenshawe and Winter Hill in Lancashire.

Cross the road from the bus station and take the first walkway on the left between the shops (signposted for the library) to Market Place. Turn immediately to your left, walking up Henshaw Street. Here look at the buildings above the shop-fronts (Hemshaws and Travelcare) and you will see an unusual series of stone capitals representing trades people of the past.

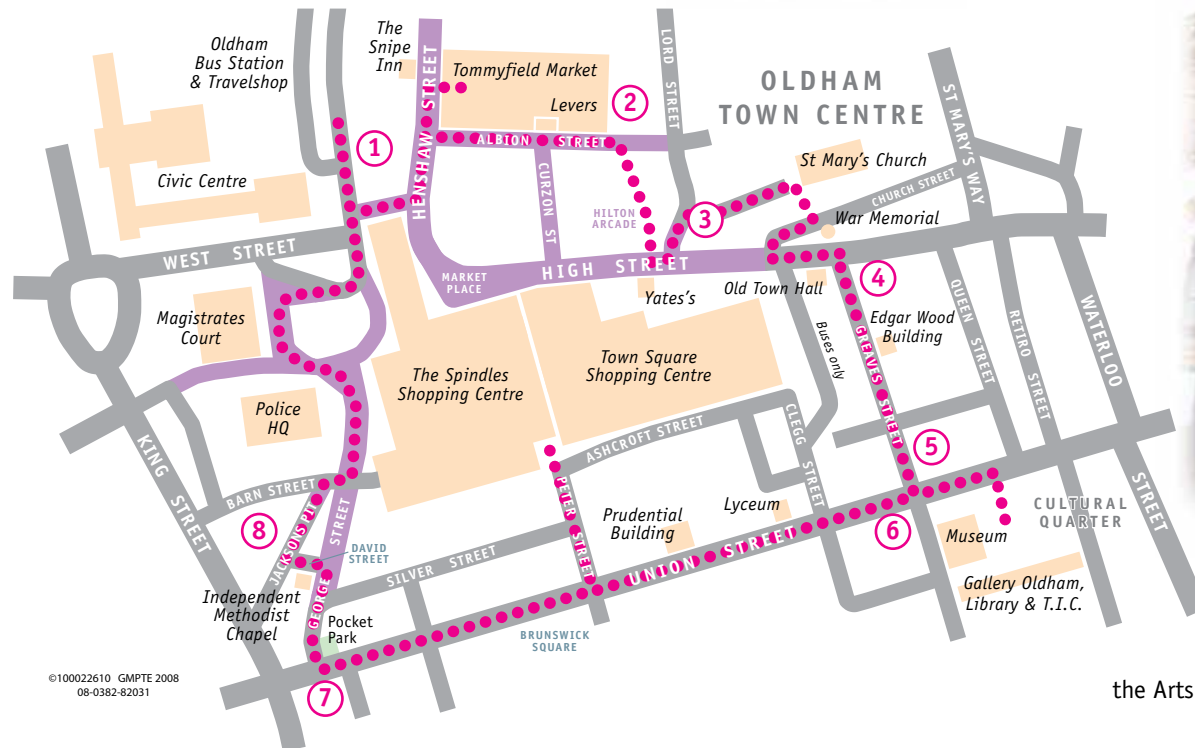
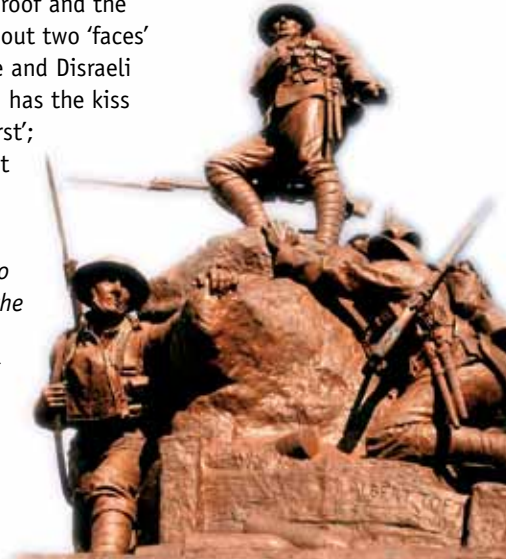
At the Snipe Inn, cross the road and enter **Tommyfield Market**, which claims to be the largest permanent indoor market in England. It's name is derived from 'Tommy's Field' - after Tommy Whittaker who was a pig breeder who rented the field from a farmer and established the market back in 1830. Tommyfield was also a centre for political rallies, circuses and fairs - now it's the place to pick up bargain, so it's well worth a browse!

Retracing your steps out of the market, turn left and left again into Albion Street (which runs along the front of the market), to **Levers Fish and Chip Shop**. Look out for the blue plaque which commemorates the first chips being fried here in around 1860 - the start of a British culinary institution!



2 Directly opposite Levers shop you'll see the entrance to **Hilton Arcade**. Running along the left hand side of the arcade there's a fascinating window mural telling the story of Oldham from 1834 to 2004 - giving you a real insight into the history and heritage of the town. At the end of the arcade, look up at the lovely glass roof and the wrought ironwork and see if you can make out two 'faces' said to represent Victorian political figures Gladstone and Disraeli (Gladstone has the winged collared shirt and Disraeli has the kiss curl). Opposite the arcade there's another Oldham 'first'; look for the blue plaque on the McDonald's restaurant marking the site of the first ever Yates's Wine Lodge that opened there in 1884.

3 Turn left onto the High Street and then left again onto Lord Street. Take the first right onto Church Lane. At the end is **St Mary's Church**, which is built in the simple Gothic Revival style. If the church is open, take a look inside at the contrasting, ornate, almost Rococo style interior. Close-by is the **War Memorial**, commissioned to commemorate the men of Oldham who were killed in World War I.



Cross the road to the Old Town Hall, which is opposite the War Memorial. Its facade is copied from the temple of Ceres on the River Ilissos near Athens. Also notable is the fact that Sir Winston Churchill was declared a Member of Parliament for Oldham on its steps in 1900. The Old Town Hall is currently vacant but exciting plans for its regeneration are being developed.

4 Take the road down the far side of the Town Hall - Greaves Street - and look out on the left side of the street for an unusual building immediately beyond the NatWest and RBS banks. This is the **Edgar Wood Building**, constructed in a style which, according to the architect combined the Arts and Crafts movement with the look of an old Lancastrian cottage. Some cottage!



5 Walk down Greaves Street and cross over Union Street. Turn left and walk a short distance along Union Street before entering the gardened area. You are now in Oldham's Cultural Quarter. In front of you are Gallery Oldham and Oldham Library and Lifelong Learning Centre.

Standing in the small park in front of the gallery look up to your right and along the side of the **Library** you will see relief carvings of great figures in art, music and literature (there are more on the other side of the library). Up on the chimney breast is the original Town Crest.

Take a look inside. In the foyer, you will see a test tube chandelier, inspired by how the world's first test-tube baby, Louise Brown, was born in Oldham in 1978. Also here is Oldham Tourist Information Centre.

Take the lift on the left up to the second floor, where you will see an interesting photographic panorama of Oldham, taken in 1879. Return back to Union Street.

Galley Oldham is open Monday - Saturday 10am - 5pm. Admission is free. For more information phone 0161 911 4653 or visit www.galleryoldham.org.uk



6 Go left along Union Street and on the right you will see some classic buildings set amongst the modern developments – first, the **Lyceum** and **School of Art**; and further along the **Prudential Assurance Building** which was designed by the famous architect Alfred Waterhouse, who also worked on Manchester and Rochdale Town Halls.

Cross the road and turn right onto Peter Street. At the top is the Spindles Shopping Centre, named with reference to Oldham's prominence as a cotton-spinning town during the Industrial Revolution. Oldham was the most productive cotton-spinning town in the world by 1890, accounting for 13 per cent of the world's total production. On entering the shopping centre, turn left and you will soon come to an atrium. Look up at the stained-glass roof, designed by famous local artist, Brian Clarke. It is one of the largest stained-glass roofs in Europe and illustrates the life of another Oldham-born man, composer Sir William Walton.

Retrace your steps and exit out of the shopping centre and walk down Peter Street, turning right back onto Union Street. Walk along Union Street noting the remaining arches of Brunswick Square on your left.



7 Turn right into George Street, on the corner of which is **Pocket Park** – a tiny little green space with several attractive works of public art. Exit Pocket Park and walk up George Street where you will find, on your left, the old Independent Methodist Chapel built by volunteers in 1815. At the chapel go down David Street and turn left onto Jackson Pit. This is one of the oldest areas of the Town Centre, being part of the original road from Manchester to Huddersfield. Underneath the Chapel, notice the row of cellar dwellings rented out in the 19th century to some of the Town's poorer occupants – and a stagnant pool or 'pitt' where women were 'ducked' for gossiping in times gone by!



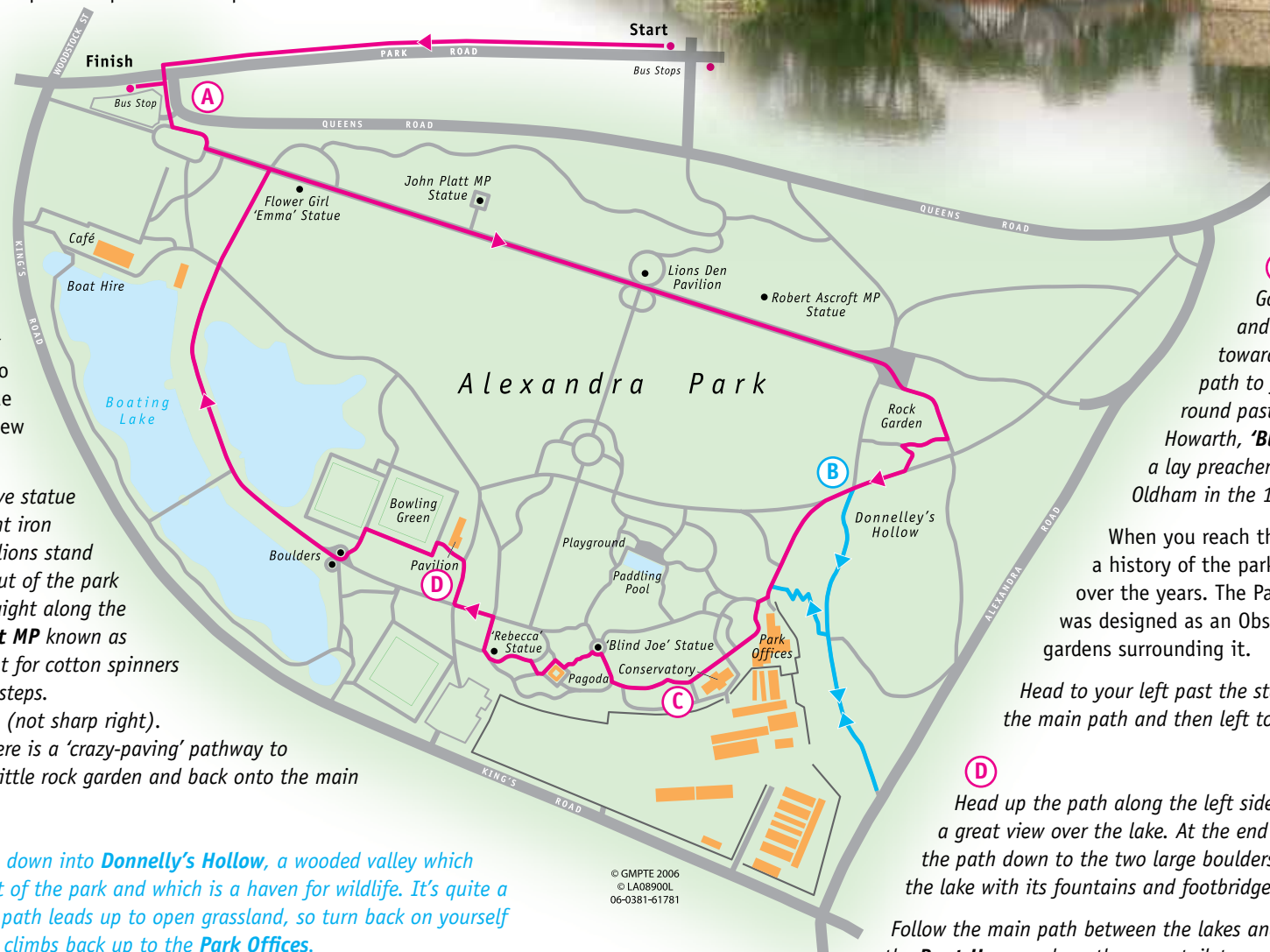
8 Walk up Jackson Pit back to George Square. Walking through the square you will notice three, bronze pieces of public art. Created by artist Andy Roberts, they show what might happen if three boulders rolled through Oldham, picking up pieces of the Town's history on the way. Items depicted include mill machinery and a page from the town's newspaper. Take a look at the bollards, too, which feature the insignia of an owl - 'Owld-ham' - a visual pun that is seen all around the town.

Follow the curve of George Square round past the Three Crown Pub to West Street. You are now back at Oldham Bus Station.



A walk in Alexandra Park

Alexandra Park is a wonderful example of a formal Victorian town park and a testament to the regeneration of Oldham and its civic pride. The park was originally built as a 'work creation' scheme for local people made unemployed during the cotton famine caused by the American Civil War. It was named to commemorate the marriage of the Prince of Wales to Princess Alexandra in 1865. After restoration the park re-opened to the public in 2004.



A From the bus stop walk along Park Road and enter the park through the main gates and head left up the flight of steps facing you. Just before you go up the steps there's a delightful statue of a flower-girl 'Emma' and a great view across the park.

Walk along the path past the impressive statue of **John Platt MP** to the lovely wrought iron **Lions Den Pavilion**, where two stone lions stand sentry and look across the formal layout of the park to the fountain and pagoda. Carry straight along the path past the statue of **Robert Ascroft MP** known as 'The Workers Friend', because he fought for cotton spinners rights. Continue until you reach some steps. Go up the steps and bear to your right (not sharp right). As this short path comes to its end there is a 'crazy-paving' pathway to your right. Take this through a lovely little rock garden and back onto the main path, heading downhill.

B If you like, you can now take the path down into **Donnelly's Hollow**, a wooded valley which contrasts with the formality of the rest of the park and which is a haven for wildlife. It's quite a steep, stepped path. In 100 yards the path leads up to open grassland, so turn back on yourself and take the path on your right which climbs back up to the **Park Offices**.

Otherwise, carry on down the main path past the Park Offices and go through the little gate into the beautifully kept **Conservatory Gardens**.

C Go through the gardens and out through the gate towards the **Pagoda**. Take the path to your left which curves round past the statue of Joseph Howarth, '**Blind Joe**' - for 40 years a lay preacher and the 'bellman' of Oldham in the 1800's.

When you reach the Pagoda, look inside for a history of the park and how it has changed over the years. The Pagoda, opened in 1899, was designed as an Observatory and has superb gardens surrounding it.

Head to your left past the statue of '**Rebecca**' up to the main path and then left towards the boating lake.

D Head up the path along the left side of the bowling green for a great view over the lake. At the end of the first green, take the path down to the two large boulders and take in the view of the lake with its fountains and footbridges.

Follow the main path between the lakes and on your left you will see the **Boat House**, where there are toilets and a café. Follow the path back to the park entrance.

© GMPTE 2006
© LA08900L
06-0381-61781

Alexandra Park is open throughout the year. The trail is approximately ¾ mile in length.

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.

Oldham is easy to get to using public transport, with buses linking the town directly to many places in Greater Manchester and beyond. Our suggested town trail is a circular walk designed so you can start and finish walking at any point. Because the bus and rail stations are in different parts of the town you will start at a different place depending on if you choose to travel by bus or train.

Most buses to Oldham stop at Oldham Bus Station to allow you to start and finish your journey at point ①. There are frequent services direct from Manchester, Ashton and Rochdale and it is easy to make connections from other Greater Manchester Districts in Manchester city centre.

Alexandra Park can easily be reached by bus 408 from Stand L at Oldham Bus Station. The service runs hourly throughout the day including weekends and evenings.

Oldham Tourist Information Centre is located In Gallery Oldham on Greaves Street. Phone **0161 770 3064** or visit **www.visitoldham.co.uk**

Most public transport services run until around 11pm Mondays to Saturdays. Last services may run a little earlier on Sundays and public holidays.

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

Starting and finishing from (area or district)	The information shown is for your guidance. Please phone Traveline 0871 200 22 33* for details of exact routes and times.
Bolton	Catch a bus or train to Manchester centre. Then catch a bus from Piccadilly Gardens to Oldham Bus Station. (Some trains run direct from Bolton to Rochdale so it may be more convenient to change there.) The return journey is the reverse of above.
Bury Manchester Trafford	Catch a bus, train or tram to Manchester centre. Then catch a bus from Piccadilly Gardens to Oldham Bus Station. The return journey is the reverse of above.
Oldham Rochdale Tameside	If you live near Oldham there will probably be a convenient bus service to and from the town. Alternatively, catch a bus or train to Rochdale or Ashton town centre and make a direct connection there. Direct buses run between Rochdale and Oldham and direct buses run between Ashton and Oldham. The return journey is the reverse of above.
Salford	Catch a bus, train or tram to Manchester centre. Then catch a bus from Piccadilly Gardens to Oldham Bus Station. The return journey is the reverse of above.
Stockport Wigan	Catch a bus or train to Manchester centre. Then catch a bus from Piccadilly Gardens to Oldham Bus Station. The return journey is the reverse of above.

* 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.gmp-te.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.gmp-te.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).

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**



GMPTe

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
Manchester
M60 1HX

Tel 0161 244 1000
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