

The Upper Tame Valley

and the Saddleworth Villages

Choose from two wonderful walks – flat or hilly! – with easy access to starting and finishing points by public transport.

The Pennine Watershed marks a great geographical divide, from where streams run east to the North Sea and west to the Irish Sea. These two walks take you down from the watershed into the Tame Valley north of Oldham, visiting pretty villages, England's highest canal and a remarkable tomb recalling murder most foul!

Flat route

A gentle walk across the hills and along canal towpaths

Start: Brun Clough Reservoir car park, Standedge. (on the bus route from Oldham to Huddersfield).
Finish: Uppermill.
Distance: 3 miles.
Time: Allow 1½ hours.
Terrain: All downhill, easy walking mostly on towpaths and footpaths.
Family friendly: Yes.
Accessibility: Good.
Recommended footwear: Light walking shoes/boots.

Hilly route

An rugged walk across hills, pastures and marshes

Start: Brun Clough Reservoir car park, Standedge. (on the bus route from Oldham to Huddersfield).
Finish: Uppermill.
Distance: Nearly 4 miles.
Time: Allow 2 – 2½ hours.
Terrain: Moderate hill climb with rough, marshy and stony paths and stepping stones.
Family friendly: Older children.
Accessibility: Not suitable for wheelchairs.
Recommended footwear: Walking boots/Wellingtons essential.

Across the hills to Diggle (start of both walks)

11

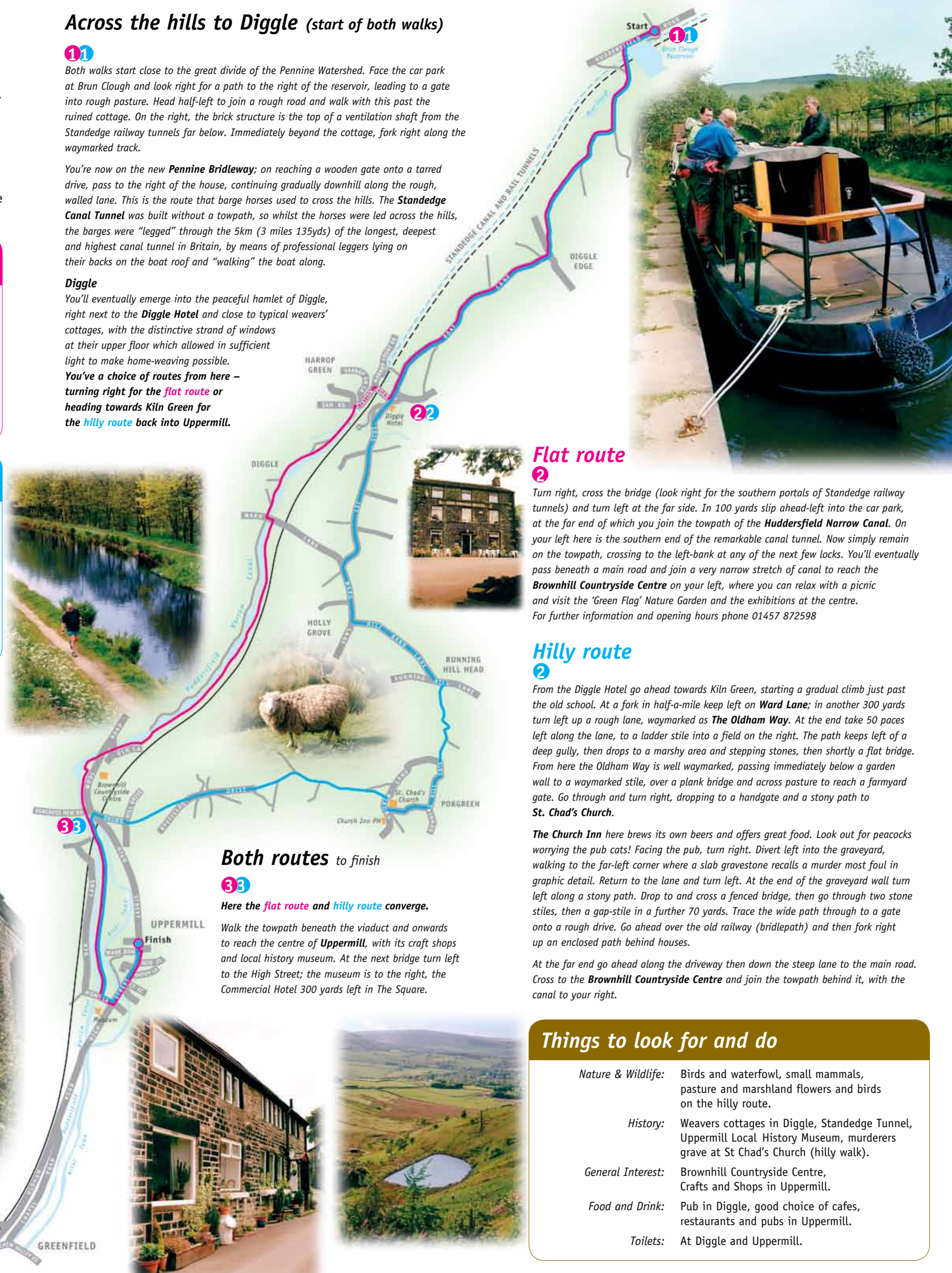
Both walks start close to the great divide of the Pennine Watershed. Face the car park at Brun Clough and look right for a path to the right of the reservoir, leading to a gate into rough pasture. Head half-left to join a rough road and walk with this past the ruined cottage. On the right, the brick structure is the top of a ventilation shaft from the Standedge railway tunnels far below. Immediately beyond the cottage, fork right along the waymarked track.

You're now on the new **Pennine Bridleway**; on reaching a wooden gate onto a tarred drive, pass to the right of the house, continuing gradually downhill along the rough, walled lane. This is the route that barge horses used to cross the hills. The **Standedge Canal Tunnel** was built without a towpath, so whilst the horses were led across the hills, the barges were "legged" through the 5km (3 miles 135yds) of the longest, deepest and highest canal tunnel in Britain, by means of professional leggers lying on their backs on the boat roof and "walking" the boat along.

Diggle

You'll eventually emerge into the peaceful hamlet of Diggle, right next to the **Diggle Hotel** and close to typical weavers' cottages, with the distinctive strand of windows at their upper floor which allowed in sufficient light to make home-weaving possible.

You've a choice of routes from here – turning right for the flat route or heading towards Kiln Green for the hilly route back into Uppermill.



Flat route

2

Turn right, cross the bridge (look right for the southern portals of Standedge railway tunnels) and turn left at the far side. In 100 yards slip ahead-left into the car park, at the far end of which you join the towpath of the **Huddersfield Narrow Canal**. On your left here is the southern end of the remarkable canal tunnel. Now simply remain on the towpath, crossing to the left-bank at any of the next few locks. You'll eventually pass beneath a main road and join a very narrow stretch of canal to reach the **Brownhill Countryside Centre** on your left, where you can relax with a picnic and visit the 'Green Flag' Nature Garden and the exhibitions at the centre. For further information and opening hours phone 01457 872598

Hilly route

2

From the Diggle Hotel go ahead towards Kiln Green, starting a gradual climb just past the old school. At a fork in half-a-mile keep left on **Ward Lane**; in another 300 yards turn left up a rough lane, waymarked as **The Oldham Way**. At the end take 50 paces left along the lane, to a ladder stile into a field on the right. The path keeps left of a deep gully, then drops to a marshy area and stepping stones, then shortly a flat bridge. From here the Oldham Way is well waymarked, passing immediately below a garden wall to a waymarked stile, over a plank bridge and across pasture to reach a farmyard gate. Go through and turn right, dropping to a handgate and a stony path to **St. Chad's Church**.

The Church Inn here brews its own beers and offers great food. Look out for peacocks worrying the pub cats! Facing the pub, turn right. Divert left into the graveyard, walking to the far-left corner where a slab gravestone recalls a murder most foul in graphic detail. Return to the lane and turn left. At the end of the graveyard wall turn left along a stony path. Drop to and cross a fenced bridge, then go through two stone stiles, then a gap-stile in a further 70 yards. Trace the wide path through to a gate onto a rough drive. Go ahead over the old railway (bridlepath) and then fork right up an enclosed path behind houses.

At the far end go ahead along the driveway then down the steep lane to the main road. Cross to the **Brownhill Countryside Centre** and join the towpath behind it, with the canal to your right.

Both routes to finish

33

Here the flat route and hilly route converge.

Walk the towpath beneath the viaduct and onwards to reach the centre of **Uppermill**, with its craft shops and local history museum. At the next bridge turn left to the High Street; the museum is to the right, the Commercial Hotel 300 yards left in The Square.

Things to look for and do

- Nature & Wildlife:** Birds and waterfowl, small mammals, pasture and marshland flowers and birds on the hilly route.
- History:** Weavers cottages in Diggle, Standedge Tunnel, Uppermill Local History Museum, murderers grave at St Chad's Church (hilly walk).
- General Interest:** Brownhill Countryside Centre, Crafts and Shops in Uppermill.
- Food and Drink:** Pub in Diggle, good choice of cafes, restaurants and pubs in Uppermill.
- Toilets:** At Diggle and Uppermill.

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.

Both walks start at Brun Clough Reservoir which is on the main bus route between Oldham to Huddersfield. Ask the bus driver to stop at the car park, where the Pennine Way crosses the A62 Huddersfield Road, 400 yards before the West Yorkshire boundary. Diggle is north-east of Oldham so if you live some distance away you may need to make a connection.

Bus 184 runs hourly Monday to Saturday and every 2 hours on Sunday and public holidays, from Oldham to the starting point at Brun Clough Reservoir. This service starts in Manchester and also picks up near Greenfield station if you are making a connection there (see below).

Alternatively you can catch a train from Manchester Victoria station to Greenfield. From the station turn up the hill to the road junction then cross Oldham Road to the bus stop on the left (heading downhill). Catch 184 bus to Brun Clough Reservoir, as above.

For the return journey catch bus 184 from Uppermill High Street at the stop outside the Methodist Church, next to the Commercial Hotel, back to Greenfield (for trains) and to Oldham and Manchester.

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

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 phone 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.
Tameside Oldham Rochdale	If you live in an area near the start point check if there is a convenient bus service direct to the start, or other convenient connections. If not, catch a bus to Oldham then catch bus 184 from Oldham Bus Station to Brun Clough Reservoir, near Diggle. Alternatively catch a train to Greenfield where you can connect with this bus service. For the return journey buses return from Uppermill to Greenfield (for train connections) and Oldham.
Bolton Stockport Wigan	Catch a bus or train to Manchester centre. Then catch a train from Manchester Victoria to Greenfield. Here you can connect with bus 184 to Brun Clough Reservoir, near Diggle. For the return journey buses return from Uppermill to Greenfield (for train connections) and Oldham.
Bury Manchester Salford Trafford	Catch a bus, train or tram to Manchester centre. Then catch a train from Manchester Victoria to Greenfield. Here you can connect with bus 184 to Brun Clough Reservoir, near Diggle. Alternatively catch a bus or train to Oldham then catch a bus from Oldham Bus Station to Brun Clough Reservoir, near Diggle. For the return journey buses return from Uppermill to Greenfield (for train connections) and Oldham.

* 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.

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 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 £5.60, Child £2.60
- **MetroMax Four-Adults** £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.

Places to GO... Upper Tame Valley and the Saddleworth villages

Walk routes 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 to The Upper Tame Valley and the Saddleworth Villages



Uppermill

Uppermill is a small, attractive town, rich in history and featuring a wealth of art galleries, craft centres, restaurants and pubs. During the year it is home to many festivals and special events. From Uppermill you can take narrowboat rides on the newly restored Huddersfield narrow canal under the Pennines to Marsden or to Stalybridge. For further information visit www.oldham.gov.uk/huddersfield-canal



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:

- **Planning your journey**
- **Getting more information**
- **Choosing and buying tickets**

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.gmpte.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@gmpte.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.



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public transport information



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

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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

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or visit: www.gmpte.com

