

LIVERPOOL HOLIDAY

29TH to 31ST MARCH 2026

On a cloudy Sunday morning, our group of seventeen ladies and just two gentlemen set out for Liverpool with our coach driver, Simon. The weather deteriorated and by the time we reached Saddleworth Moor the rain was pouring down and it only got worse!

We made a short detour to see Everton Football Club's huge new stadium, which particularly excited one member of our party and also Simon the driver! Our only problem then was finding the hotel as it didn't have a sign but luckily, after a few circuits of the dock area, we arrived and the sun came out!!

Our location was great. The hotel overlooked the Liver Building and the Mersey. Many of the party went for a walk along the beautiful Water Front that night, but all came back with tales of hanging on to each other to prevent being blown over in the mighty gales.

Next morning, after an excellent breakfast, we all boarded the coach again and met our guide Phil. He gave us a two hour tour of many of the city's highlights, laced with Liverpool humour and dad jokes. The quality of the many public buildings is amazing and there are some beautiful Georgian houses, as well as the magnificent Sefton Park with over a million daffodils. We stopped by both the Anglican and Catholic Cathedrals which, appropriately, are both on Hope Street. We learnt how the two Bishops, Shepherd and Warlock, got together in the 1960s to stop the sectarian violence which had previously blighted the city. We also saw many Beatles' locations including Ringo's birthplace, the Liverpool Institute where Paul and George (and Arthur Askey) went and the adjoining Art School where John was a student.

The afternoon and next morning were free for us to wander. Many of the party visited the modern Roman Catholic Cathedral, with its huge dome and enormous crypt which was constructed using 9 million bricks. It was planned to have the second largest Cathedral in the world above it. Despite the windy weather, some went on boats up and down the Mersey. Of course a trip to Liverpool wouldn't be complete without a visit to the superb Beatles Story, but there are so many other great Museums and Galleries. One slightly lesser known delight is the main Library, with its historic Reading Room and stunning modern extension which towers over you.

Many of the party went to the Philharmonic Public House, with its fabulous panelled interior and famous toilets, whilst some Ubered to Crosby Beach to see the naked Anthony Gormley figures. The latter also found a Senior Citizens' karaoke, together with cheap beer and food, at a nearby pub!

All of us were delighted with the friendliness of the staff in the hotel. The highlight for one of our party was the sight of many Scotsmen dressed in kilts who descended on Liverpool to watch a football match later.

Our return journey was in sunshine and we arrived home tired but happy. Liverpool really is a must visit destination, with so much to see and do. I believe most of us will return soon.

Many thanks to Pam for organising what I hope is the first of many great trips.

Luke Pickering