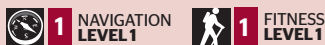


• Distance 4km/2½ miles • Time 1hr • Type Urban canals



Plan your walk



WHERE: Castlefield, Manchester.
START/END: St Peter's Square Metro stop (SJ839979).
TERRAIN: City pavements and canalside towpaths.
MAPS: OS Explorer 277; Landranger 109.
GETTING THERE: St Peter's Square is on the Manchester Metrolink network (© 0161 205 2000, www.metrolink.co.uk). National rail and coach services run from nearby Piccadilly station and Chorlton Street.
EATING & DRINKING: Numerous options. Try The Ox on Liverpool Road (© 0161 839 7760, www.theox.co.uk).
SLEEPING: The Ox also has accommodation, or try The Castlefield Hotel, also on Liverpool Road (© 0161 832 7073, www.castlefield-hotel.co.uk).
VISITOR INFORMATION: Manchester TIC is in the Town Hall on Lloyd Street (© 0871 222 8223, www.visitmanchester.com).



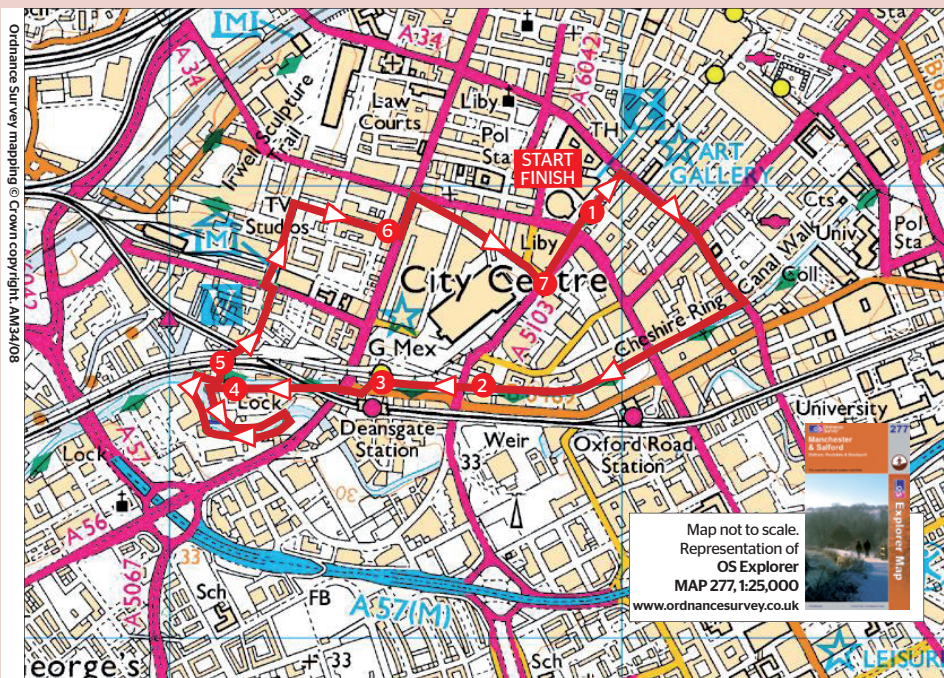
PHOTOGRAPHY: ALAMY

This walk takes in some of Manchester city centre's many highlights and varied history - from a Roman fort to the site of the famous Hacienda club. Starting right in the middle of St Peter's Square the walk heads along the Rochdale Canal to Castlefield, before looping back to St Peter's. You will also pass the Museum of Science & Industry, the Central Library and Bridgewater Hall.

- 1. START** From St Peter's Square tram stop, walk through the square with the library and rear of the Town Hall on your L. At the far side of the square, turn R onto Princess Street and walk down to Canal Street. Follow the path down to the other side of the canal and walk under the bridge - this is the Rochdale Canal. Keep walking canalside, passing Oxford Street lock and underneath busy Oxford Street, until you pass the entrance to the Bridgewater Basin on your R, adjacent to the Rain Bar (an old umbrella factory).
- 2.** Pass more locks and a weir,

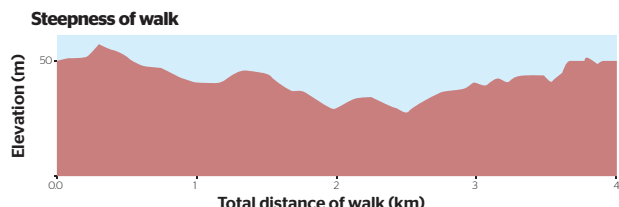
keeping the canal on your R. After Tib Dock, go under a bridge and walk up a ramp to reach Whitworth Street, adjacent to the Cheerleaders Bar. Ahead and across the road you can see Deansgate Station. Walk to the end of Whitworth Street and cross Deansgate, continuing straight ahead underneath a railway bridge. Immediately afterwards, take the ramp on the R to join the canal towpath.

- 3.** Turn L, keeping the canal on your R, and walk under a stone footbridge to the junction of the Rochdale and Bridgewater canals. Duke's Lock is the 92nd and marks the start of the Rochdale Canal. It was named after Francis Egerton, Duke of Bridgewater, who paid for its construction.
- 4.** Now turn L at the adjacent Albert's Shed and take the flight of steps opposite. Walk straight ahead to the Bridgewater canal basin. This is a delightful area and well worth a detour! Keeping the canal on your R, turn L and follow the path to



Continued...

LOCAL RAMBLERS AREA/ GROUP: Manchester & Salford Ramblers (© 0794 786 4534, www.manchester-ramblers.org.uk).



eventually cross two bridges. The first is a straight metal bridge and then an arch bridge to reach the opposite side of the canal. Turn R and follow the canal past Choice Bar and over a wooden bridge. You can see Jackson's Wharf straight ahead. Turn R towards the striking arched bridge, crossing it towards Catalan Square. On the far side of the square is a cobbled road. Turn L here and pass under a railway bridge. Take the flight of steps straight ahead, walking towards the Roman fort, Mamucium. The castra, or fort, was founded in AD79 and guarded the road between Deva Victrix (Chester) and Eboracum (York).

- 5.** Follow the path around to the R, then turn R again towards the blue tourist fingerpost sign. Turn L and walk along Duke Street, crossing Rice Street, to reach Liverpool Road. Cross at the zebra crossing and continue ahead, passing the entrance to the Museum of Science and Industry. After a short distance you will see the entrance to St John's Gardens on your R. Enter the gardens and walk through to the gate on the far side, leading onto St John Street (central Manchester's only surviving Georgian terrace).
- 6.** Turn L and cross Deansgate at the

first traffic lights onto Peter Street. After a few yards you will see a flight of steps ahead. Head up these and keep walking straight ahead along Windmill Street. After a few minutes you will see Manchester Central on your R and the international concert venue, the Bridgewater Hall, behind. (To ensure the hall remains acoustically separated from the city noise, the building rests on 300 giant steel springs).

- 7.** Finally, cross over the tramlines at the pedestrian crossing and turn L towards Oxford Street and St Peter's Square to return to the tram stop.

Route devised by Patricia Mumford for Get Walking Keep Walking in Manchester

Anquet Route and gradient profile created using Anquet Maps v06. Download more maps from www.Anquet.co.uk

