

LIVERPOOL BOOKLET

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WHAT IS LIVERPOOL LIKE?

Appearance of Liverpool nowadays

Liverpool is an industrial city situated in the northwest part of England. During the recent years, the city has become one of the most popular destinations due to the many attractions that it offers. It is really easy to fall in love with this metropolitan city, but sometimes it is difficult to explain why.

The reasons that help to explain the city's special charm are not only physical. In fact, the city

has a strong personality that makes the visitor feel part of it. Liverpool is characterized by being a multicultural city, which provides the visitor with a sense of belonging and contributes to its cultural richness. Another characteristic of the city is the mixture of modern and ancient buildings that, far from creating a chaotic sensation, gener-

ates a sense of diversity. Moreover, the astonishing views to the Merseyside River and to the sea give to the city a melancholic and inspirational atmosphere since it seems to situate the city into another dimension.



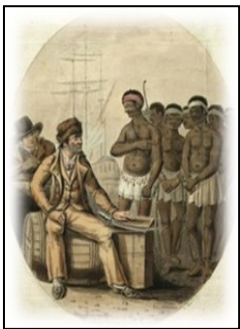
LIVERPOOL'S HISTORY

Although Liverpool is now a modern and a metropolitan city, it has undergone a complicated historical process

due to its status as a port city. In fact, it has contributed to the arrival of different communities of people with

diverse religions, cultures and life styles.

If we go back to Liverpool in the 18th century, we will witness one of the most shameful episodes of mankind: slavery. The African slaves were enduring a journey



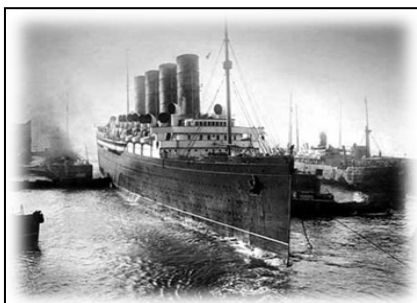
known as the "Middle Passage" which consisted on the sale and transportation of slaves from

Africa to the West Indies so as to exploit them in sugar or cotton plantations. Liverpool, as well as the rest of the colonizing cities, benefit from the goods extracted in the plantations. Fortunately, this dark episode ended with the abolition of slavery in 1833.

The 19th century seemed to be a renewal period, for Liverpool was one of the richest cities in the world and its port was one of the main trade centres. The city received a high number of immigrants, mostly Irish who escaped from the Irish potato famine in 1840. With immigrants came diseases and the city was full of dirt and corpses. It is important to re-

mark that although we are referring to Liverpool as a city, it was not considered as that until 1880 as a consequence of the vast increase of the population.

In the 20th century, the population of the city had reached 685,000. Liverpool was one of the most important ship manufacturers. The clearer example is that the famous transatlantic ship Titanic as well as the Mauritanian were built in the city. Another important improvement that the city underwent was the building of the Airport in 1930. Liverpool was one of the objectives for the Germans during World War II due to its convoy port. As a result, the city was fiercely bombed and lots of people lost their lives.



In the 1980s Liverpool partook of the recession that affected the whole country. It had the highest rate of unemployment in the UK. Because of this, many people

were forced to flee in search of employment, which further left the city vacant and derelict. During this period Liverpool City Council was also declared bankrupt. It is remarkable from this century the growing multiculturalism of the city. The most visible community which emerged in the city was the Chinese community. However, other communities settled down in Liverpool such as Scandinavians, Germans, Dutch and the emerging black community which was already established. The mixture of cultures created a sense of identity visible for example in the city's inhabitant's specific accent or the creativity in the field of music with the world-famous Beatles. Gradually, the city consolidated a sense of community and cultural acceptance that was essential to its increasing success.

The city was a slave market, as we Daniel Defoe said: "**Liverpool has an opulent, flourishing and increasing trade to Virginia and English colonies in America**".

Daniel Defoe, *A Tour Through the Whole Island of Great Britain* (1724)

Improvements in 2008

Although in the 21st century the city undertook important transformations such as the final development of its dock, the John Lennon airport remodelling, the increasing importance of the city football clubs: Everton FC and Liverpool FC, or the city centre reform, among others; the city's nomination to be Capital of Culture in 2008 contributed significantly to the lovely image that Liverpool has nowadays.

Since 2008, Liverpool sent away that old image of social deprivation and desolation which had represented the city over the years. Instead, a sensation of vibrant cultural life invaded the streets of the city. Liverpool, as

European capital of culture, welcomed a vast number of tourists never seen before. It also experimented an increase of the economy. A revealing study which analysed the economic and cultural impact of the city's nomination as Capital of Culture showed that the city received 9,7 million visitors and generated, roughly speaking, £750.0M for the economy. Moreover, it was found that 80% of the citizens considered that the living conditions of the city had been improved since 2008, as well as its cultural attractions.

Nowadays, the city's attractions are not only based on football and

music. In fact, tourism is nowadays the most promoted Liverpool attraction due to the city's highly important historical and cultural heritage.



WHAT CAN YOU DO IN LIVERPOOL?

Liverpool, the name itself conjures up images of its glorious maritime history, musical heritage, two of the biggest teams in the English Premier League and not just one, but two different majestic cathedrals. This city in northwest England and the surrounding metropolitan area is all this and more. Liverpool is experiencing an exciting renaissance, initiated by the success of its year as European Capital of Culture in 2008.

Currently, this metropolis is filled with fabulous new shops, lively restaurants, hotels and the latest trendy cocktail bars, and a first



class cultural offer with lots of museums and galleries. This town is filled with energy, life, humor and offers many activities. There is no doubt that you will enjoy your visit

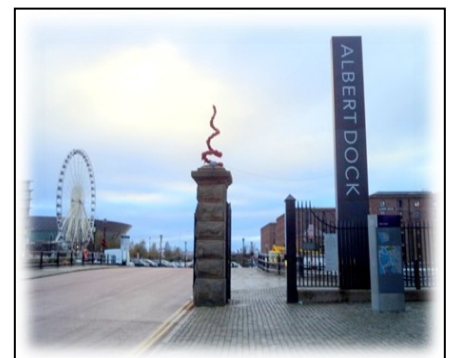
and you can also look for the numerous Lambananas spread all over the city and the Super Lambanana! (see the photo above).

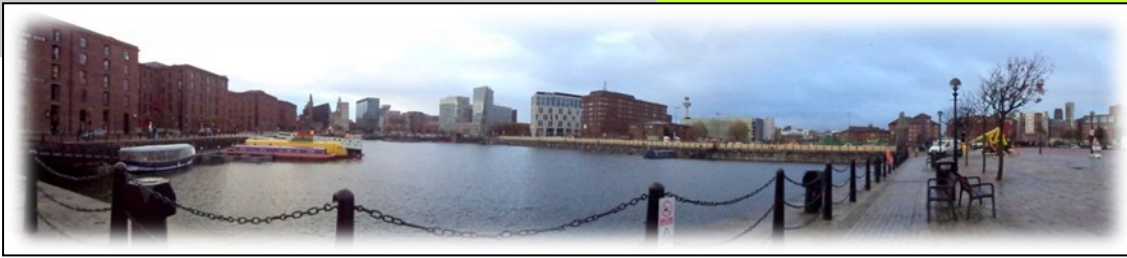
The Albert Dock

One of the most interesting places to visit in the city of Liverpool is undoubtedly the Albert Dock. It is a huge structure of port buildings that was designed in the late nineteenth century and was once an architectural revolution; besides it is one of England's largest set of buildings.

Nowadays the Albert Dock is one of the most well known areas of Liverpool, and certainly it will be for a long time. About four million visitors come each year to the Albert Dock, and it is the most visited attraction in the UK outside its capital, London. Attractions like the Tate Liverpool, The Beatles History, the Merseyside Maritime Museum, the International Slavery Museum, the Shiverpool Ghost Tours or the Yellow Submarine are interesting to visit. Today the port

is not only used for trading but a tourist and residents attraction. The Albert Dock has not only years of history, but a variety of bars and restaurants. The Albert Dock is the perfect place for a stroll along the boardwalk or a night at the bars. There are also two museums, an art gallery (the Tate Modern), a big wheel, which offers incredible views of this beautiful city, lots of interesting souvenir shops and many hotels located in the Albert Dock. For music lovers there is a monument to the Beatles and also a bus that leaves from the dock and takes you around Liverpool. The Albert Dock is a five minute walk from the city center.





Museums

Liverpool has magnificent museums, many of them are free. Some of the most important are:

The International Museum of Slavery, shows us the whole story about Liverpool, being a significant place of the slave trade between Africa and North America. It is very informative and rich in content; in it we can obtain a little idea of the scale of the tragedy at economic, cultural and anthropological level, which involved the massive business of slavery from the discovery of the American continent and until the nineteenth century.



The Merseytime Maritime Museum: This vast museum shows us the history of the city of Liverpool, intrinsically linked to the sea. Liverpool was a world-class boat factory for much of its history, and we can see a great display of marine elements of all times. There

are also interesting sections on World War II and the Titanic as Liverpool took part in its design and construction as well as mock-ups and showings of slave clothes and jewelry among other things. Another section of the museum deals with the centuries of incen-



The Walker Art Gallery exhibits paintings of the Renaissance and later, highlighting works by Rembrandt, Monet, and others with many works of great value. Along with St Georges Hall and the building which includes the Central Library, and World Museum, the Walker Art gallery completes the historic buildings from monumental downtown Liverpool.



This gallery is worth a visit for two reasons: from the outside, the neoclassical building is already interesting and inside, where its real charm is placed, you can visit a handful of varied exhibitions. It is especially noted for its art collections (painting and sculpture) and, what is more, it lodges one of the largest art collections in Britain.

Cathedrals

Liverpool has two large cathedrals, both of very recent construction.

In Great George Street, there is the Anglican cathedral, built in 1978 in neo-Gothic style, surrounded by gardens and on a hill, is visible from many points of



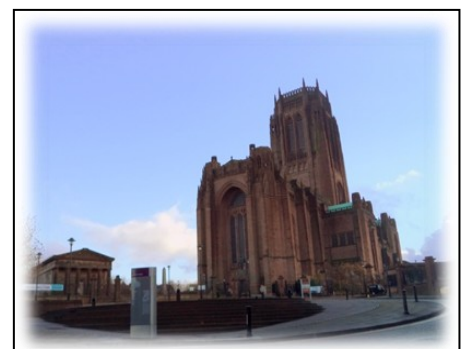
the city. Taking Hope Street you come to the Catholic cathedral, called The Metropolitan Cathedral of Christ the King, which dates from 1967 and has a curious circular shape with a sturdy tower.

The Anglican Cathedral is very large and it is more traditional in style than the Catholic cathedral, but not much older. The first part of the building constructed (the



Lady Chapel) was completed in 1910, but the rest would take more than seventy years to be completed. The Liverpool Anglican Cathedral in Liverpool has several records, including the largest cathedral in the United Kingdom, which has the world's highest bell tower-in addition to the more heavy-steeple bells. It also boasts to be the highest cathedral with the tallest and widest Gothic arches in the world.

The Metropolitan Cathedral is a building which looks very modern, circular in shape and if you walk inside it you will presence a psychedelic environment as it looks like a disco due to the amount of colorful lights. The exterior is reminiscent of a Mayan temple, since its access is through a large number of ascending stairs ending in a plaza with metal panels showing figures of stylized birds.



Urban Landscapes

Hope Street is a beautiful street in Liverpool, with its Georgian homes, pubs and new bars and restaurants, all with a modern French touch. It is worth having a beer or delicious fish and chips in the historic Philharmonic (1898).

Lime Street: it is a very lively street situated in the city center where you can find, among others, a great variety of cheap fast food restaurants like McDonald's or KFC surrounded by lots of shops and what is more, lively and entertaining karaoke, where you and your friends can have a great time.

St George's Hall is a stunning neo-classical building of enormous dimensions (it is said to be the largest of its kind in Europe), which always offers several public exhibitions.



Liverpool One: In the city center you can find this modern and attractive shopping area that provides the best brands, good restaurants and bars, and in a short time has become the center of Liverpool. On winter there's also an ice ring for skating, so you can have fun with your family and friends! It is spacious, open and elegant, a bet that has succeeded.



The Cavern Club is the world's most famous pub. The reason for that is that the legend of The Beatles started there and, therefore, much of the history of modern music. Nowadays, The Cavern can no longer be visited as it was because it was demolished but, next to it, what may be considered a replica was opened. It is found in Matthew Street and it is the most visited place in Liverpool. Apart from John, Paul and

company, some of the most famous bands of recent decades like The Who, The Rolling Stones or Elton John have stepped into it. It is a perfect place to sit and have a beer in a friendly atmosphere while listening to imitators or different singers versioning significant songs.



Port Sunlight is a pretty village that Lever Brothers built for a specific and good reason. This reason was giving the workers of their soap factory a place to live and enjoy the community. In 1899 and 1914 around 800 houses were built and around 3,500 people lived in those houses.

Besides, Port Sunlight is a perfect place to discover the little beautiful landscapes in England. From my point of view I would say that it is like being in a story where all the magic can happen; the colors, the streets, the story behind, the trees, everything gives you a feeling of being in a fairy tale.

Essentially, here you can visit two important buildings. The first one is the Lady Lever Gallery which has many good art pieces. The second one is the museum where you can learn many things about the soap factory and the life that people had back in those days in the community.



Anfield: This football stadium was opened for the very first time in 1884. It gives us a whole new perspective of the society of Liverpool and, in general, of Britain.



The conceptions created about the English people and their politeness is totally contrary if you enter into this football world. "This is Anfield" is a sentence they use to intimidate the visitor that is coming to play; that's why there's nothing else to say. Nevertheless "You'll never walk alone" is the main quote that they use to make people feel part of a team.



Moreover the strong feeling they have and the sense of belonging is embodied in the football museum. You can even feel how they feel

when being part of this community.

Besides, it is not an expensive place to visit; the ticket may cost you around 10 Euros, which is pretty good for what you get to learn there. Even if you are not a football fan, this place needs to be visited for the background that it has and for the different perception you learn of the English people.

Chinatown: Liverpool Chinatown is the oldest Chinese community in Europe. The Arch that you can see in the photo was built in 1999. It is the tallest in Europe and around the world except China. The arch is the gate that welcomes you into the area where the Chinese community established itself. Chinatown is a great place to eat. The decoration of the arch is very beautiful. This area is fully decorated in Asian style; even the streetlights seem straight out of Beijing. It is close enough to the city center, right next to the Anglican Cathedral. In addition, the architecture provides a perfect contrast to the

architecture provides a perfect contrast to the typical English buildings. There are superb views to enjoy again and again.



Where to eat?

Moreover, in Liverpool there is a large variety of places where you can eat. Whether you like the typical food of the country or you like to stay comfortable eating some other kind of food that you are used to, a good spot to go is Liverpool One. Here you can find Italian restaurants, Starbucks, Buffets, etc and the prices are not as high as they may be in other places, so they are affordable.

On top of that you can also go to pubs and have the typical fish and chips or some other good dishes. The Philharmonic is a very beautiful place to visit and have something to eat. It is full of beauty

everywhere you look at and you are treated kindly. The food here is a little more expensive than in the Liverpool One restaurants but, still, is pretty good.



WHAT HAVE WE LEARNT FROM OUR EXPERIENCE?

Going to Liverpool altogether with the class has involved not just visiting the town and learning some history but enjoying the trip with the classmates. It does go further because this trip has allowed us to understand the British culture, its history and its society.

First of all, we have learnt a little bit of the Beatles history, as we did not know much about the group. We could see our first vision of this group at the airport, where stands a Yellow Submarine. We did not realize how much the Beatles were part of Liverpool until we found some museums explaining the creation of the group and its development, the original Cavern where they performed and many other things that proved their relation with Liverpool. In fact, we really enjoyed going to this pub where they performed because we could feel we were part of the city.

Furthermore, one of the most important things of visiting Liverpool too is Anfield, one of the city's

football stadiums. It has always been said that you cannot judge anything until you see it with your own eyes, and that was the exact case. The Liverpool stadium made us feel how magnificent and enthusiastic it is for the Liverpoolians to see a live football match because the tour guide made us feel all the battles they won and lost, but mostly, the effort they put to achieve their current status.

In the same line, we had a look at Chinatown. Although we did not have much time to work on it, it is worth saying that the Chinese Arch leads us to think that a part of the Chinese community have a place in Liverpool, so this means that multiculturalism can be found in Liverpool.

Another interesting thing we visited was Port Sunlight, a residential part of the city next to the river. In it, we visited a museum in which we tried to judge by ourselves the significance of some of the paintings.

Moreover, we visited the Interna-

tional Slavery Museum, in which we could find proof of the endurance African people had to bear. We found explanations and photographs of slave sales and we could also listen to some recordings of different people explaining everything about slavery.

Finally, we also visited the cathedrals in Liverpool, the Anglican and the Catholic. We visited them and we were explained how and why they were created. Each cathedral had its own function although today they are mostly tourist attractions.

All these activities helped us feel part of Liverpool and understand the reason of some of the questions we might had before this trip. We learned the history of this town and the reason of its culture. But mainly, and more importantly, we learnt to feel part of Liverpool, and this is very relevant because it means that integration has become very easy during our stay.

LIVERPOOL

HISTORICAL

PICTURESQUE

CHARMING

CULTURAL

COSMOPOLITAN

LIVELY

FAMOUS

MULTICULTURALITY

TOURISTIC

