
Big Hope2 Coach Tour of Liverpool

1. Chinatown and Chinese Arch

Oldest Chinese community in Europe.

Chinese businesses, such as restaurants and supermarkets, and facilities for the Chinese community.

Paifang Arch: largest, multiple-span arch of its kind outside of China.

2. Liverpool Cathedral (Anglican, Church of England)

Gothic style sandstone Cathedral. Designer 21 years old Sir Giles Gilbert.

Started 1904, completed 1972. Yes 1972!

Largest Anglican Cathedral in the world; 5th largest Cathedral in the world

3. Hope Street

Links Anglican and Catholic Cathedrals.

Liverpool Hope (Ecumenical) University name originates from the street linking the two cathedrals and the work of Archbishop Worlock and Bishop Sheppard in ensuring its survival in the 1980s

4. Liverpool Institute of Performing Arts LIPA

Founded and part funded by Sir Paul McCartney. Opened by Queen Elizabeth II 1996

5. Blackburne House Centre for Women

Originally standing in fields and open heathland, outside the old town boundary, this mansion house was built, in 1788, by John Blackburne.

He was a salt manufacturer, wealthy merchant and trader, former mayor of Liverpool in 1760, and one of the Town's most notorious slave traders.

In the mid-19th century it became a Girls Grammar School, and is now an educational and arts centre, working especially with women and ethnic minorities.

Paid for by the people of Liverpool to create a lasting memorial to the work of the two religious leaders whose presence towered over Liverpool during the dark days of the 1970s and 1980s.

6. Worlock and Sheppard Statue

Bishops David Sheppard (the Anglican Bishop of Liverpool who played cricket for England) and Derek Worlock (the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Liverpool). Affectionately dubbed "fish and chips": always together and never out of the papers.

Designed by Stephen Broadbent. Commissioned 2005

7. Philharmonic Hall

Hall: Home of the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra, Chief Conductor, Vasily Petrenko from St Petersburg. Founded 1840, UK's oldest continuing professional orchestra.

Hall was opened in 1849 destroyed by fire in 1933. Present hall opened in 1939 and stages about 250 events each year, of which more than 60 are classical concerts.

8. Philharmonic Pub

Public House: 1900 ornate, flamboyant, art nouveau pub (Accompanied Ladies may visit the Gentleman's toilets!)

9. Everyman Theatre

Opened 1964 by Arthur Dooley, Roger McGough and Adrian Henri: the Liverpool Scene.

During the 1970s and the 1980s works of Liverpool playwrights, including Willy Russell and Alan Bleasdale, received debuts in the theatre: included Shirley Valentine and John, Paul, George, Ringo ... and Bert. Started careers of Julie Walters, Pete Postlethwaite, Bill Nighy, Barbara Dickson,

In 2011 completely rebuilt and in 2014, it was awarded the Stirling Prize by the Royal Institute of British Architects for the best British building of the year.

10. Liverpool John Moores University

Formerly the Notre Dame High School, Convent and Women's Teacher Training College (1842) a precursor college of Liverpool Hope University.

11. Roman Catholic Metropolitan Cathedral of Christ the King

Originally designed by Sir Edwin Lutyens in a massive Romanesque style and started in 1939. War interrupted its construction and a modern, smaller, rounder and less expensive Cathedral designed by Sir Frederick Gibberd was consecrated in 1967.

Known as Paddy's Wigwam (Paddy is the colloquial term for an Irish person and most Irish are Catholic; wigwam is the shape of an American Indian tent) or the Mersey Funnel (the shape of the Cathedral resembles a funnel).

12. University of Liverpool & The Victoria Tower

Established in 1881 as University College Liverpool, admitting its first students in 1882. Awarded its own degrees since 1903. Victoria Tower was completed in 1892 to accommodate the growth in student numbers and funded by Victorian benefactors including Tate (sugar) and Hartley (jam). Now houses the Victoria Gallery and Museum.

One of the 3 Universities in Liverpool (also Liverpool John Moores and Liverpool Hope.) Ranked in the top 1% of universities worldwide. A founding member of the elite Russell Group of 20 UK universities. One of the original 6 'red brick' universities due to use of bricks and terracotta dressings.

A research-based university with 33,000 students pursuing over 450 programmes spanning 54 subject areas in both arts and sciences. Includes University of Liverpool School of Medicine established in 1835 and strong links to the neighbouring Royal Liverpool University Hospital.

In 2006 the university became the first in the UK to establish an independent university in China, making it the world's first Sino-British university in partnership with Xi'an Jiaotong University, Xi'an

13. Dickie Lewis

David Lewis opened men's clothing business 'Lewis's' in 1856.

Bomb damaged in World War 2, new building 1947. Sir Jacob Epstein was commissioned to make a sculpture and he came up with a naked man standing at the bow of a ship, defiant and proud.

The statue is officially titled Liverpool Resurgent, but it is known as Dickie Lewis's.

We speak with an accent exceedingly rare,

Meet under a statue exceedingly bare,

Shop closed in 2007, now an apartment hotel but Dickie and popular meeting point and object of curiosity for visitors.

14. The Adelphi Hotel

First Hotel on the present site was opened in 1826 and soon became most popular hotel in the city. Now regularly the lowest score on Trip Advisor!

Replaced in 1876, which was bought in 1892 by the Midland Railway. When opened, it was "regarded as the most luxurious hotel outside London".

Due to Liverpool being a major arrival and departure point for ocean liners during the early 20th century, the Adelphi served as the most popular hotel in the city for wealthy passengers before their journey to North America.

15. Lime Street

Created in 1790, named after local lime kiln. Street originally outside the city limits, but by 1804 the kilns were causing problems at a nearby infirmary. The doctors complained about the smell, and so the kilns were moved away, but the street name remained.

Arrival of the railway in 1851, the street was in a central location. Lime Street is mentioned as the favourite haunt of the prostitute "*Maggie May*" in the Liverpool folk song of that name,

Oh dirty Maggie Mae they have taken her away

And she never walk down Lime Street any more

In recent years Lime Street has deteriorated and it is currently being redeveloped.

16. St George's Hall

The site formerly occupied by the first Liverpool Infirmary from 1749 to 1824.

Competition in 1839 to design the concert hall was won by Harvey Lonsdale Elmes. Construction started in 1841 and opened in 1854. Pevsner considered it to be one of the finest neo-Grecian buildings in the world. In 2004, the hall and its surrounding area were recognised as part of Liverpool's World Heritage Site.

Neoclassical style building, containing concert halls and law courts. On the east side is St George's Plateau and on the west side are St John's Gardens.

17. St George's Plateau

It's here that Liverpool gathers at times of protest, celebration and remembrance. Associated with public rallies and gatherings, including events following the deaths of the Beatles members John Lennon and George Harrison, the homecomings of Liverpool and Everton football teams after Cup Final victories and the opening of the 2008 Capital of Culture.

A flat space between St George's Hall and Lime Street railway station and the Empire Theatre and contains statues of four lions, cast iron lamp standards, monuments, including equestrian bronzes of Prince Albert and Queen Victoria by Thomas Thornycroft, and a one to Major-General William Earle by Birch. Grade I Liverpool Cenotaph which was unveiled in 1930, designed by L. B. Budden and sculpted by H. Tyson Smith. It is regarded by many as one of the most remarkable war memorials in the country.

18. William Brown Street

A road that is remarkable for its concentration of public buildings comprising The Walker Art Gallery, Liverpool Central Library and the World Museum. It is named after William Brown, a local MP and philanthropist, who in 1860 donated land in the area for the building of a library and museum.

19. The Walker Art Gallery

One of the finest art galleries in Europe, the Walker Art Gallery, home to renaissance masterpieces, Tudor portraits and one of the best collections of Victorian and Pre-Raphaelite art in the country. Also has an outstanding display of contemporary art including work by David Hockney, Lucian Freud and Bridget Riley.

First held in 1957, the John Moores Painting Prize is the UK's best-known painting competition and is named after its sponsor Sir John Moores (1896-1993).

20. Churchill Way

1960s traffic regeneration scheme included the concrete Churchill Flyover and associated walk ways.

2012 council proposed the demolition of the flyovers and walkways beneath them. Seen as a brutal structure with its dark and threatening pedestrian routes.

2013, Friends of the Flyover proposed Churchill Way Flyover could be transformed into a unique urban park. It would cost less than £3-4million costs of demolition and add a unique public space.

21. Queensway Mersey Tunnel

The Queensway Road Tunnel crosses under the Mersey, between Liverpool and Birkenhead. It is 2.01 miles long and contains a single carriageway of four lanes, two in each direction. Known as the Birkenhead Tunnel or Old Tunnel. The air shafts for the ventilation of the tunnels are clearly visible on each side of the Mersey River.

More than 1.2 million tons of rock, gravel, and clay were excavated; some of it used to build Otterspool Promenade. (seen later in this tour).

The tunnel, cost £8 million and was opened in 1934 by King George V; the opening ceremony was watched by 200,000 people. At the time of its opening it was the longest road tunnel in the world, a title it held for 14 years until the opening of the Vielha Tunnel, Spain, in 1948.

22. The Kingsway Tunnel (or Wallasey Tunnel)

Road tunnel under the Mersey between Liverpool and Wallasey. The tunnel is 1.5 miles long. It was built because the Queensway Tunnel was unable to cope with the rise in postwar traffic. It comprises identical twin tubes. Each has two lanes. They carry on average 45,000 vehicles a day (almost 16.4million per year).

23. Dale Street

So called because it led to the dale through which flowed the stream from Moss Lake to the Pool of Liverpool.

The street together with Castle Street, Old Hall Street, Victoria Street and Water Street are the original main commercial streets and occupy an area of the medieval town of Liverpool.

Also the principal location for the large packhorse and coaching inns which provided for travellers and changes of horse for the coaches coming from and to the rest of England.

24. Town Hall

Liverpool Town Hall stands in the Business Quarter at the ancient centre of Liverpool at its junction with Dale Street, Castle Street and Water Street. It is a designated Grade I listed building. Pevsner refers to its "magnificent scale", and considers it to be "probably the grandest ...suite of civic rooms in the country", and "an outstanding and complete example of late Georgian decoration". Built between 1749 and 1754 replacing an earlier town hall nearby.

It is not an administrative building but a civic suite, Lord Mayor's parlour and Council chamber.

Both grand in scale and in ambition, a fitting comment on Liverpool's vast wealth at the turn of the 19th century.

25. Canada Boulevard and Second World War

The Liverpool Blitz (August 1940-May 1941) was the heavy and sustained bombing of the city area during the Second World War by the German Luftwaffe. Liverpool was the most heavily bombed area of the country, outside London, due to the city having, along with Birkenhead, the largest port on the west coast and was of incalculable importance to the British war effort. Around 4,000 people were killed in the Merseyside area during the Blitz. (see Bombed Out Church). Physical evidence of the impact of the bombing remained until the 1990s.

Liverpool was strategically very important during the Second World War. The large port had for many years been the United Kingdom's main link with North America, and proved to be a key part in the British participation in the Battle of the Atlantic. As well as providing anchorage for naval ships from many nations, the port's quays and dockers would handle over 90 per cent of all the war material brought into Britain from abroad with some 75 million tons passing through its 11 miles of quays. Liverpool was the eastern end of a Transatlantic chain of supplies from North America, without which Britain could not have pursued the war.

Canada Boulevard was officially named in 1995 in recognition of the support provided by the Canadian Army during the Second World War, including the protection of convoys during the Battle of the Atlantic. Every tree along the boulevard was named after a warship or merchant ship that disappeared during the Battle of the Atlantic.

26. The Pier Head, UNESCO and the Ferries

The Liverpool World Heritage Site (recently under threat) consists of six distinctive historic areas, which reflect its functional and visual variety. It stretches along the waterfront from Albert Dock to Pier Head and on to Stanley Dock, through the historic commercial districts and the Rope Walks area to the cultural quarter around William Brown Street. In July 2004 Liverpool was described by UNESCO as 'The supreme example of a commercial port at the time of Britain's greatest global influence.'

The Pier Head has many other famous attractions and landmarks from The Beatles Statue that was erected in 2015 and to the famous Mersey Ferry. It is frequently home to large scale events, performances and exhibitions.

There has been a Ferry across the Mersey for more than 800 years. During 1953 the Mersey Ferries carried almost 3 million people to the popular seaside destination of New Brighton.

27. Royal Liver Building

The Three Graces consist of the Royal Liver Building, The Cunard Building and the Port of Liverpool Building.

Construction began in 1908 and opened in 1911 as the home of Royal Liver Assurance.

The Royal Liver Building adorned by two Liver Birds, is the city's landmark. The Liver birds are the city's emblem and you'll find them dotted across Liverpool's precious architecture.

The tale of the two Liver Birds relates to the city's maritime heritage. The Liver bird that looks over the Mersey River is said to represent the wives who stay at home and look out to their sailor husbands out at sea and the Liver Bird that looks over the city represents these sailors out at sea, looking back to the city and their family. Local legend also holds that if the two birds were ever fly away, Liverpool would cease to exist. Now offices and venues.

28. Cunard Building

A Grade II listed building built between 1914 and 1917, with a style influenced by both the Italian Renaissance and Greek Revival.

Until the late 1960s it was the headquarters of the famous Cunard Cruise Line. Liverpool maintains its close and proud relationship with Cunard, with the building keeping its original tenant's name and being the host to the reuniting of the Three Cunard Queen liners in 2015 and the Centenary celebrations of the Cunard headquarters in 2016.

The former passenger luggage room has been transformed into an exhibition of British popular music. The British Music Experience, is a permanent exhibition dedicated to some of the finest British music artists from 1940 to present day. The remaining floors of the building are offices.

29. Port of Liverpool Building

This was the first of the Three Graces to 'grace' the waterfront with its presence, with construction starting in 1904 and opening in 1907 as the headquarters of the Mersey Docks and Harbour Board. The MDHB housed here until 1994 when it moved downriver to the Seaforth Container Docks.

30. The Leeds Liverpool Canal

127 mile canal connecting the Yorkshire industrial towns of Leeds, Bradford and Wakefield with Liverpool and the rest of the world. Canal approved in 1770 and completed in 1816. Declined into the 20th century and last used commercially in 1980s, although leisure usage continued.

In the mid-18th century the growing towns of Yorkshire were trading increasingly. Links to the west were limited. Bradford merchants wanted to increase the supply of limestone to make lime for mortar and agriculture using coal from Bradford's collieries and to transport textiles to the Port of Liverpool. On the west coast, traders in Liverpool wanted a cheap supply of coal for their shipping and manufacturing businesses and to tap the output from the industrial regions of Lancashire. A canal across the Pennines linking Liverpool and Hull would have obvious trade benefits.

The new £20 million Liverpool Canal Link was completed in 2009. It re-connects the Leeds and Liverpool Canal to Liverpool's South Docks via Stanley Dock, allowing boats to travel past the world-famous Three Graces and into the Albert Dock.

31. Museum of Liverpool

Opened in 2011, is the world's first national museum devoted to the history of a regional city and the largest newly-built (and archaeologically controversial) national museum in Britain for more than a century. It was awarded the Council of Europe Museum Prize for 2013.

It has exhibits specific to Liverpool and its history including the overhead railway, the stage where John Lennon and Paul McCartney first met, the city's rich sporting and creative history about Liverpool and Everton FC and The Beatles!

Exhibits include Ben Johnson's Liverpool Cityscape, a life-size Liverbird, the first Ford Anglia from Ford's Halewood production line and Chris Boardman's famous Lotus sport bike. Surrounded by Superlambananas.

32. Liverpool One Shopping Centre

The project, involved the redevelopment of 42 acres (170,000 m²) of underutilised land in Liverpool city centre. It is a retail led development, anchored by department stores John Lewis, with additional elements including leisure facilities (anchored by a 14-screen Odeon cinema and 36-hole adventure golf centre), apartments, offices, public open space and transport improvements.

The completion of Liverpool ONE in 2008 has significantly boosted the local economy as well as lifted Liverpool into the top five most popular retail destinations in the UK. Liverpool ONE is the largest open air shopping centre in the United Kingdom and the 5th largest overall.

The cost of construction associated with the project was £500 million, with a total investment value of £920 million. It has enhanced the link between the waterfront and the retail centre of the city.

33. The Pool of Liverpool and King John

The low land alongside the Hilton Hotel is the line of a small stream which passes into the city centre under Liverpool ONE towards St George's Hall. This. The Pool was converted into the world's first commercial wet dock in 1715 to protect ships from the huge Mersey tidal range, but filled in when newer docks were built on Mersey waterfront.

Little evidence remains except for pavement designs and the modern fountains between the Hilton and Chavasse Park which represent the tidal heights of the Mersey. Some 10-20 metres below modern ground level is the original brick dock of Liverpool. This may be seen through a glass window outside Lewis's but more impressively can be visited via the Maritime Museum.

34. Liverpool Docks

During the Medieval period Chester on the River Dee was the main regional port. It had silted up by the end of the c17th and its trade with Wales and Ireland transferred to Liverpool. Liverpool with its narrow scouring neck and its high tidal range avoided siltation.

Liverpool's first dock was the world's first enclosed commercial dock, the Old Dock, built in 1715. The Lyver Pool, a tidal inlet in the narrows of the estuary, which is now largely under the Liverpool One shopping centre, was converted into the enclosed dock.

With the growth in trade and the size of ships further interconnected docks were added 7.5 miles downstream and by mid-17th century a rapid expansion in trade had taken place with the USA and West Indies. At this time it had more trade than its closest rivals London and Bristol. The docks enabled ship movements within the dock system 24 hours a day, isolated from the high River Mersey tides. Associated with the port was the storage and processing of imported goods such as sugar, tobacco and timber in vast warehouses plus industries such as ship building.

In 1893 an overhead railway was built to transport the dockers and in 1884 the Manchester Ship Canal was built. This bypassed Liverpool and was briefly a threat to the Port of Liverpool.

Most of the smaller south end docks were closed in 1971 with Brunswick Dock remaining open until 1975. Many docks have been filled in to create land for buildings: at the Pier Head,

The largest dock in the network, Seaforth Dock, opened in 1972 and deals with grain and containers, accommodating what were the largest containers ships at that time. 2016 saw the opening of Liverpool2, a newly constructed container terminal situated directly onto the river. This terminal enables the Port of Liverpool to receive larger container vessels and is now the 5th largest in Britain.

Both White Star Line and Cunard Line were based at the port. It was also the home port of many great ships, including RMS Baltic and the ill-starred RMS Lusitania and the RMS Titanic. In 1972 Canadian Pacific was the last transatlantic line to operate.

35. The Triangular Trade

Colonial expansion led to increased trade with the USA and West Africa. By 1750 Liverpool was involved in the notorious Triangular Trade which exceeded that of both London and Bristol.

Manufactured goods Liverpool to West Africa traded for slaves. Slaves taken to West Indies and North America and sold. Profits invested in Liverpool or invested in eg rum, sugar, cotton and shipped back. Profits spent on developing Liverpool's wealth (buildings, industries and institutions).

The trading of slaves ceased in 1807. Slavery ceased in 1833. 1999 City made a formal apology for the Liverpool's role in the slave trade.

36. The Royal Albert Dock

A complex of dock buildings and warehouses. Designed by Jesse Hartley and Philip Hardwick, opened in 1846. At the time of its construction the Albert Dock was considered a revolutionary docking system because ships were loaded and unloaded directly from/to the warehouses. Due to its open yet secure design, the Albert Dock became a popular store for valuable cargoes such as brandy, cotton, tea, silk, tobacco, ivory and sugar. However within 50 years, larger, more open docks were required.

After 1945, the general decline of docking in the city and movement of the docks downstream meant that the future of the Royal Albert Dock was uncertain. In 1972 the dock was closed having lain derelict and silted up for nearly 10 years. The re-development of the dock began in 1981, led by the Merseyside Development Corporation and the Royal Albert Dock was re-opened in 1984.

The Dock is a major tourist attraction with shops, apartments, hotels, maritime and slavery museums, the Beatles Museum and Liverpool Tate Gallery North. It is the most visited multi-use

attraction in the United Kingdom, outside London. The docks and warehouses also comprise the largest single collection of Grade I listed buildings anywhere in the UK.

37. International Slavery Museum (ISM)

The transatlantic slave trade was the greatest forced migration in history. In 1994, National Museums Liverpool opened the Transatlantic Slavery Gallery, the first of its kind in the world. The ISM opened in August 2007 and by March 2010 welcomed its millionth visitor.

Its Vision is to promote the understanding of transatlantic slavery and its enduring impact. To address ignorance and misunderstanding by looking at the deep and permanent impact of slavery and the slave trade on Africa, South America, the USA, the Caribbean and Western Europe.

38. Merseyside Maritime Museum

In the Albert Dock. It contains a variety of objects associated with the social and commercial history of the port of Liverpool. Highlights include ship models, maritime paintings, colourful posters from the golden age of liners and even some full sized vessels. There is also the major current exhibition Titanic and Liverpool which tells the story of Liverpool's links to the ill-fated liner.

39. Tate Liverpool

Tate made his wealth through the import and refining of sugar cane in Liverpool. He then moved to London where he used his fortune to establish the Tate art collections. When the Tate Gallery in London wanted a northern outpost Liverpool was considered to be the most appropriate location.

40. Beatles Story

An exhibition of Beatles' memorabilia. Large numbers of visitors.

41. Liverpool Echo Arena and BT Convention Centre

Cost £164m, financed by Liverpool City Council, English Partnerships (now the Homes and Communities Agency), the Northwest Regional Development Agency and European (ERDF) funding.

The MOBO Awards, MTV Europe Music Awards, Davis Cup Tennis, GB Judo World Cup and European Team Badminton Championships have all appeared at Echo Arena as have International superstars such as Sir Paul McCartney, Elton John and Beyoncé.

42. Exhibition Centre

Brand new state of the art, purpose built exhibition centre for public and trade events. Opened 2015. Attracted, BBC Worldwide Showcase, the Royal College of Nursing Congress and the European Association for International Education. Party political conferences, British Council of Shopping Centres), National Cancer Research Institute. A variety of events have taken place including Wound Expo, The Allergy and Free From Show, The Liverpool Wedding Show, MCM Comic Con and RenewableUK. Future events include the Netball World Cup.

43. Watersports Centre and Liverpool Marina

Liverpool Watersports Centre in Queens Dock is part of a charity working with disadvantaged groups. It is committed to making watersports accessible to everyone including visitors to the city, local people and visits by schools and groups working with disadvantaged groups.

Liverpool Marina is located on the edge of the city, yet in a peaceful location with superb on site facilities including a yard with a 60 tonne hoist. Liverpool Yacht Club has been based at the marina

for more than 20 years with a year round racing programme and an active cruising section. It has a shared waterspace which is home to dinghy sailing, a canoe club and wakeboarding. It is also one of the best canal boat marinas in the UK.

44. Liverpool Overhead Railway and Extension Tunnel

The Overhead Railway was built in 1893 to transport dockers to work and ease congestion along seven miles of Liverpool's docks. It was also marketed as a tourist attraction as it provided amazing views of the docks, shipping and transatlantic liners on the River Mersey. It was fondly known as the 'dockers' umbrella' as it also provided shelter from the rain.

Originally five miles long from Alexandra Dock to Herculaneum Dock, the railway was extended at both ends over the years of operation, as far south as Dingle and north to Seaforth & Litherland. At its peak almost 20 million people used the railway every year. The railway closed in 1956 despite public protests (which continue today).

The Liverpool Overhead Railway Southern Extension Tunnel stretches for half a mile from Herculaneum Dock to Dingle underground railway station, which was the southern terminus of the Liverpool Overhead Railway. The tunnel and station are now disused, the former station now being used as motor repair garage. The tunnel portal at Herculaneum Dock is half way up a cliff so that the track seamlessly run onto the elevated section of Overhead Railway.

45. The River Mersey

The source of the Mersey is in the Peak District National Park. The Mersey is formed by the confluence of the Rivers Tame and Goyt in Stockport. It flows through south Manchester, then into the Manchester Ship Canal. It exits the canal near Warrington and then narrows as it passes between the chemical (ICI) towns of Runcorn and Widnes.

From Runcorn the river widens into a large estuary, which is 3 miles (4.8 km) at its widest point. The course of the river then heads north as the estuary narrows between Liverpool and Birkenhead on and empties into Liverpool Bay. In total the river flows 70.33 miles (113 km). At Liverpool it has a tidal range of 21ft and access to the ferries is via floating landing stages

A railway tunnel between Birkenhead and Liverpool opened in 1886. Two road tunnels pass under the estuary. The Silver Jubilee Bridge completed in 1961, crosses between Runcorn and Widnes, adjacent to the Runcorn Railway Bridge opened in 1868. The new Mersey Gateway Bridge was completed in 2018 and is being formally opened by the Queen this month (June 2018).

46. Wirral View across the River Mersey

Looking across the Mersey to the west it is possible to see the Wirral Peninsula (and on a clear day) the mountains of Wales including Moel Famau and Snowden. To the left (east) are the chemical industries of Runcorn and Widnes with the ICI Chemical industry, Stanlow Oil Refinery, Manchester Ship Canal. To the right (west) are Camel Laird (ship building, submarines and oil platforms), Birkenhead and New Brighton (holiday resort in inter war period).

47. Mersey Basin Campaign

Water quality in the Mersey was severely affected by industrialisation. In the 1970 it was the most polluted river in Europe. In 1985, the Mersey Basin Campaign was established to improve water quality and encourage waterside regeneration. They built the 23km interceptor sewer from Speke to Sandon Dock. This intercepted 26 untreated sewers which previously discharged into the Mersey.

This led to a massive improvement in environment and water quality. The smell of raw sewage disappeared and fish and seals returned. The River became used for leisure and yachting from the Liverpool Marina. In 2009 it was announced that the river is "cleaner than at any time since the industrial revolution" and is "now considered one of the cleanest in the UK".

The river gave its name to Merseybeat, developed by bands from Liverpool, notably the Beatles. In 1965 it was the subject of the hit record "Ferry Cross the Mersey" by Gerry and the Pacemakers. Who sang at the Big Hope in 2008.

48. International Garden Festival 1984

The Garden Festival Site was a refuse tip for the city of Liverpool. An International Garden Festival was held from 2 May 1984 to 14 October 1984. The aim was to revitalise tourism and the City of Liverpool which had been neglected by successive post-war Governments (most notably Margaret Thatcher) and suffered economic recession, and the idea came from Conservative Environment Minister Michael Heseltine. The festival was hugely popular, attracting 3,380,000 visitors.

Since the festival closed, the site has passed through the hands of a series of developers. From the late 1980s until its closure in 1996, the Festival Hall was used as the Pleasure Island amusement park. Half of the site has since been turned into residential housing. In 2006 new plans for the now derelict site for 1,000 new homes and the restoration of the original gardens were announced. Thus far no houses have been built but the restoration has taken place.

49. Otterspool Promenade

Built in 1950 by landscaping a site that had been used for disposal of household waste and rubble from the Queensway Tunnel under the Mersey). The stated desire of the local authorities was to 'Firstly...provide a place where the citizens of Liverpool can enjoy their leisure in pleasant surroundings on the banks of the Mersey Estuary. Secondly...for providing a large area where the essential need to the community for the disposal of its refuse could be met economically and by the use of hygienic and up-to-date methods.'

It is now a place of recreation with wonderful views across the Mersey to the Wirral.

50. Sefton Park

Originally part of Royal Deer Park of Toxteth, owned by Earl of Sefton. 1867 the Council purchased the land for the development of the park for £250,000 from the Earl of Sefton. In the Mid c19th there was demand for large aristocratic mansions in the South of Liverpool.

A competition to design a grand park was won by a French landscape architect Édouard André and Liverpool architect Lewis Hornblower. The park was opened on 20 May 1872 by Prince Albert who dedicated it "for the health and enjoyment of the townspeople". Design comprises footpaths, green spaces, two natural watercourses flowing into a man-made lake. Hornblower's designs for the park lodges and entrances were elaborate structures and included follies, shelters and boathouses. The parkland itself included a deer park and the strong water theme was reflected by the presence of pools, waterfalls and stepping stones.

The Park, its exclusive villas and ornamentation reflected the grandeur of the City during its mid Victorian period when Liverpool was the second city of the Empire. But the park declined in the Post 2nd World War period.

In 1983 major park improvement programme, prior to the International Garden Festival. In 2005 the park received approval for a £5 million renovation project which involved the refurbishment and

improvement of many of the park's features. The work began in June 2007 was completed in summer 2009.

51. Liverpool Hope University