

**Forty nine****CHESTER CATHEDRAL AND SHOPS.**

Chester has a large historic cathedral with an excellent musical offering. There are also excellent shops including the famous rows. These could be treated as separate visits if preferred.

Catch the stopping train to Newton-Le-Willows and change there to catch the Llandudno/North Wales train soon after on the same platform.

Alight at Chester Station. *This grand station was opened in 1848 to serve the Chester & Holyhead Railway and also the Chester to Shrewsbury route.*

Immediately outside the station catch the free rail link bus into town past Iceland and get off on Frodsham Street.

Walk ahead and turn right onto Eastgate. *This is the main shopping street.*

Go under the Victoria Jubilee Clock and turn right into St. Werburgh Street.

Follow this up to the Cathedral entrance. *Built of the same sandstone as Eccles Parish Church this large Cathedral was originally a Benedictine Monastery. By the side of it is the elegant cathedral close.*

[OPTIONAL CATHEDRAL VISIT: there is a charge (category one) to visit the cathedral. (Discounts are available for pensioners and groups. Enquires for groups and guided tours: 12 Abbey Square Chester CH1 2HU or call 01244 324756 or [www.chestercathedral.com](http://www.chestercathedral.com).)

The cathedral has a fine carved wooden quire. *Under the misericord seats are some amusing carvings and above them the small angels are posed as musicians or builders.*

There is a splendid cloister enclosing a peaceful garth (garden). *The stained glass here has some interesting little inserts – can you find the Everest climbers' entry?*

There is also a consistory courtroom.

*The Cathedral has regular musical services (posted at the entrance), organ recitals and concerts. The music is of a very high standard.*

Leave the Cathedral through the gift shop to enter the refectory hall. *(serves very good lunches and afternoon tea).*

Leave the refectory by the steps up into the Abbey Close. Head out through the abbey gateway.]

Facing the cathedral is the Town Hall (Gothic, 1869) and on its right the 'Westminster Coach and Motor Car Works' building. *The Duke of Westminster, one of England's wealthiest individuals, owns the Grosvenor estates and lives at Eaton Hall just south of Chester. So these names keep cropping up around the town.*

Facing the town hall go left along Northgate Street. *Notice that there is much use of pargetting (decorative plasterwork) on building facades in Chester.*

As you come to the end of Northgate Street the Rows start above you. *For every shop, pub or café on the street you will now get an additional one above set back in the rows – make sure you don't miss going along these.*

Go right on Eastgate Street and continue to the stone pillar.  
Turn left to go down Bridge Street.

Half way down at the cross roads is the Chester Heritage Centre; on the right is The Falcon and down the street right is The Grosvenor Museum with many Roman artefacts. *(The Falcon serves Sam Smith real ales and some good food – I recommend a lunch here.)*

Return up Bridge Street and on the right go up the steps into the Grosvenor Arcade. *This contains many modern shops and some fine tile work. The tile work has tracery similar to that on the pargetting around the town.*

Leave the Grosvenor arcade via Newgate Row and exit onto Eastgate Street.  
Turn right and walk along to Foregate Street or Frodsham Street to catch the rail link bus back to Chester General Station.

Catch a train to Newton le Willows and change there for Eccles.

CATEGORY:                   SHORT    EASY.  
                                  ARCHITECTURE, SHOPS, PUBS, CAFES,  
                                  MUSEUMS

RAIL FARE: category four.

MAP OS 1:50 000 sheet 119

Chester A-Z