

Five ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE –TOWN CENTRE and MARKET

This is a historic Lancashire Market Town with courts and regimental centre. There is a large market, many shops, museums and an art gallery. It has a significant number of fine buildings including churches and tiled front public houses.

Take the train from Eccles Station to Ashton-under-Lyne.

Outside the railway station cross the minor road, then go through the small garden. Turn left along the main road. After a short distance use the pelican crossing to go to the front of the Tameside MBC Offices.

There is a tourist information office inside.

Go left and then right down the side of the building to come onto the Market Square.

On your left is the historic market building being rebuilt following arson.

Turn to your right up the steps to visit the Ashton Town Hall and Museum. *This is a fine building well worth a visit. It is open from 10.00 to 16.00 Monday to Saturday. Admission is free. It includes the regimental museum and a history of the area.*

Next take the opportunity to browse the Market Square.

The market is there seven days a week and the last Sunday of each month includes a farmers' market.

Leave the square at the diagonal corner from the Town Hall building and go down Warrington Street.

Cross Stamford Street and continue. At the end is 'The Station Hotel'.

This is a noted Good Beer Guide establishment. There was a railway station here once – notice the coat of arms above the pub door.

Walk back up a few yards then turn right along Church Street. Go to the impressive parish church of St Michael and All Angels.

Go to the left of the West Door then left out of the churchyard.

Cross Stamford Street and pass the 'Angel Hotel' on your left

Notice another fine tiled front.

Then cross St Michael's Square and bear right then immediately cross the main road to the Memorial Gardens.

Go to the dramatic war memorial.

Across from the gardens there is the splendid Albion United Reformed Church with a school to the left of it.

Walk uphill behind the memorial and leave the gardens via a very short right then left. Walk uphill towards the main road and a shop called Karson's.

On your right is an impressive decorated brick building housing Armstrong's Office furniture. It's worth going to look at the front of this large building which was the Albion Congregational Sunday School and church hall! Later a non denominational day school).

Go left down the main road towards the town. There are traditional small shops on both sides.

Notice Bowker's Baker shop on the left. Worth shopping here – my favourite is the cured pork pies – scrummy!

A little further on go left down Swan Street to the Phoenix temporary market hall. *Notice the delightful corner building opposite on Cork Street.*

Next go down Fletcher Street into the Market Square area.

You can now go shopping crazy if you wish.

CLASSIFICATION: SHORT, EASY,
 SHOPS, MUSEUMS, MARKET, FOOD & DRINK
 RAIL FARE – category one

Maps: Manchester A-Z