

Seventy four**SHEFFIELD – CIVIC CENTRE & SHOPS.**

Steel yourself for a visit to Sheffield! This is a walk around the very fine civic buildings and also some good shopping in this compact city centre. The same itinerary covers both of these so you can make this a shopping trip, or a cultural trip, or both.

Take the train to Manchester Victoria and from there a tram to Manchester Piccadilly Station.

From Piccadilly catch a train that stops at Sheffield.

Option: - turn right as you get off the tram and on Fairfield Street use the lift on the left to the link bridge lounge.

The train journey takes you through the attractive Hope Valley.

Alight at Sheffield and leave through the main entrance. *This is now glazed in. Notice the Wyvern roundel on it – a sign that this was Sheffield Midland Railway station.*

Walk straight ahead between the water features. *The one on the left is like a Peak District river flowing over the millstone grit-Sheffield was noted for its waterworks.*

Take a look back at the station- *it is like a conservatory in front of the hill behind.*

Cross the main road and walk up Howard Street with 'The Howard' to your right. *(Real ale. Howard is the family name of The Dukes of Norfolk.)* Walk uphill through the University of Hallam buildings and curve to the right as you come towards a main road. *There is a poem by Andrew Motion (Poet Laureate) on the side of one of the buildings.*

Turn left to cross the road and go straight ahead into the MS (*Museum, Sheffield*) building. *(Admission free – it is open from 08.00).*

Go up the escalator. The galleries are on the left. *The galleries are open daily 10.00 – 17.00 but 11.00 open Sunday. The permanent displays are The Metalwork Gallery and the Ruskin Gallery. The Metalwork gallery has a splendid display of cutlery, its history and its manufacture. The Ruskin gallery illustrates the influence of John Ruskin on the arts.*

Walk ahead and you enter The Winter Gardens. *Admission is free. It is well planted and was very fragrant when I was there! This splendid wooden arched and glass building was completed in 2002. The architects were Pringle, Richards, Sharratt. Outside to the right you can see the famous Crucible Theatre.*

Leave the Winter Gardens by the left hand side. *You come out onto a very fine modern space with spherical stainless steel fountains.*

Turn right and go into the Peace Garden *with impressive fountains and the rather grand Town Hall on the right.*

Leave the Peace Gardens and turn right in front of the Town Hall. (W. Mountford 1896). *Notice the frieze. Three sheaves of wheat appear on the coat of arms - Sheaf Field you see! Enter by the front door to see a fine entrance hall and stairway. In a room on the left is a large display of the fine civic silver.*

Continue past the Town Hall - *you are now at the start of the main shopping area.*

Go left a short way to Barker's Pool. *Perhaps Sheffield should now be famous for fountains!*

In the centre of Barker's Pool is the war memorial – *a large flag pole on elaborate bronze base.*

To the right is Sheffield City Hall – *an imposing 1930s classical building. Go into the entrance hall to see the elaborate decoration.*

Ahead on the right is The Sheffield Water Works Company office. *(This is now a Lloyds Bar with good value real ale and food). Opposite is Cambridge Street with 'The Benjamin Huntsman' J.D. Wetherspoon real ales and food.*

Walk back towards the Town Hall and bear left onto Fargate. Immediately on the left is Orchard Square shopping centre *(not obvious). This courtyard is where John Brown was born and apprenticed in the steel trade. See plaques). In the courtyard is 'The Museum', a 'cask marque' real ale pub.*

[OPTION for Civic Tour: Go right onto Norfolk Row *to see the RC Cathedral of St Marie.*

Carry on to the end and turn right onto Norfolk Street. *There are fine buildings on your left including a rather shy Samuel Smith's Brewery pub called The Brown Bear - with a lovely old brick facade.*

Turn right onto Surrey Street alongside the Town Hall and then rejoin Fargate on your right.]

Continue down Fargate and at the end is the Cathedral Church of St Peter and St Paul. *This is a lovely church with a complex interior and a good mix of ancient and modern art. Opposite the Cathedral is the grand facade of Cutlers' Hall.*

From Fargate turn right onto High Street. *Here you see more shops and the new tram system. The trams consist of three articulated short carriages.*

You come to Castle Square. *There is a J.D.Wetherspoon house called 'The Banker's Draft' on the left and a little further along is the Co-op.*

[OPTION: To see the market walk further along High Street and turn left onto Haymarket. The market is on the right. *It is a good size market on three levels, but I cannot award any aesthetic points for the market building. (Zero ruskins, I would say).*

Retrace your steps back to Castle Square, and continue the main itinerary.]

Turn right onto Arundel Gate and walk along. *On the right is the colourful Lyceum Theatre.*

Continue until you come to Hallam University on left and Museums Sheffield on right. *You were here earlier.*

Curve left and then down Howard Street to Sheffield railway station for your train back to Manchester.

CLASSIFICATION: SHORT, EASY.

MUSEUMS, CATHEDRALS, GARDENS,
ARCHITECTURE, PUBS, CAFES, SHOPS,
MARKET.

RAIL FARE: category four

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Philip's Street Atlas South Yorks
Sheffield A-Z