

**2018  
TOUR**

***Merseyside***

***GUIDE***



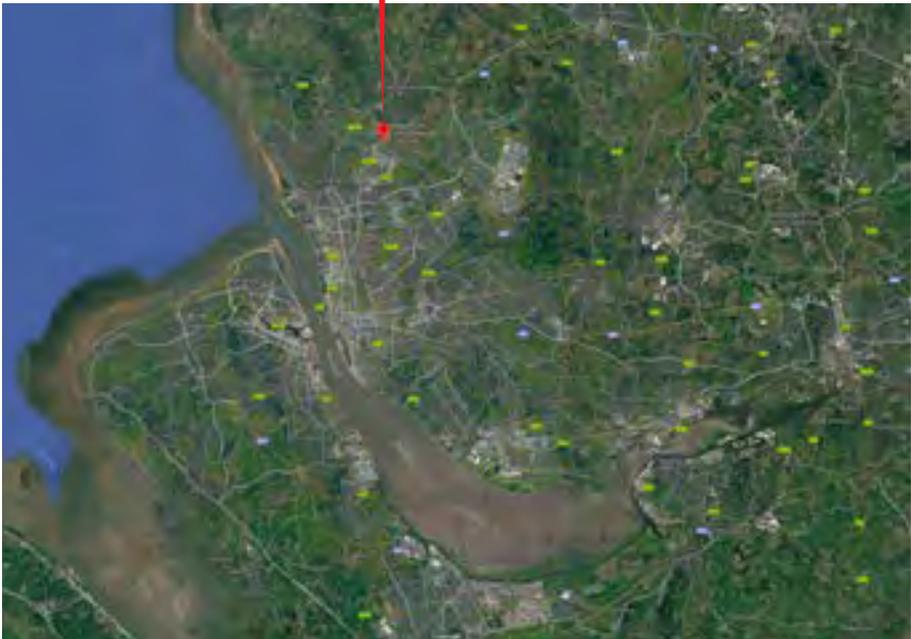
## **Welcome to the 2018 NOPS Kit Kat Tour**

Liverpool is a great city. It's a place where the new and old rub shoulders, where Brutalist buildings contrast with Victorian and Edwardian architecture. The Royal Liver Building stands next to the Cunard Building and behind them rises the slender brutalist spire of the beacon at St John's Shopping Centre. The gothic Anglican cathedral (newer than it appears) and the defiantly modern Catholic cathedral sit at either end of Hope Street.

Lancashire's rambling countryside, challenging moorland and extensive waterways make it a natural habitat for outdoor photography, with two Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) to conquer, including the majestic Pendle Hill.

The locations listed in the guide have been selected as popular areas to photograph. I have tried to be accurate with the postcodes but as many locations are rural, they are an approximation. They are not intended as an itinerary but as a starting point for a trigger-happy weekend. Most are within one hour drive of our accommodation.

Please take care and be respectful of the landscape around you. If you intend climbing or doing any other dangerous activities, please go in pairs (at least).





## **Ainsdale Sand Dunes National Nature Reserve**

---

**Map Ref 1** Postcode PR8 2QB

---

This reserve is a mix of open dunes and pine woods with many way marked paths. The dunes are home to many animals and insects including a distinctive race of sand lizards, the fearsome dune tiger beetle (2cm long) and up to 20% of the national population of nocturnal natterjack toads. Rare plants abound.

### **Access**

---

The reserve has no public car park.

Ainsdale Discovery Centre, Southport PR8 2QB. 0151 934 2967.

Beach parking, Shore Rd, Southport PR8 2QA.



## Albert Dock

**Map Ref 2** Postcode L70 1AD

Engineer Jesse Hartley built the 1.25 million square feet site and it was opened by Prince Albert on 30 July 1846. It was the first structure in Britain to be built entirely of cast iron, brick and stone. In 1848, the world's first hydraulic warehouse hoists were installed on the site. The Dock was built to accommodate sailing ships but by 1900 only 7% of ships using the port were sailing ships. Barely 50 years after its completion the Albert Dock was closed. Today the Dock's colonnades make up the largest group of Grade 1 listed buildings in the country. There are an abundance of cafés and museums: Tate Liverpool, Beatles Story, Merseyside Maritime Museum and Slavery Museum. The view from the Echo Wheel is reputedly worth it.

### Access

The Dock is open seven days a week from 10am. There is on-site parking and 24-hour parking available at the ACC Liverpool and Liverpool One multi-storey car parks. Try: Albert Dock (Car Park G), Gower Street L70 1AD  
King Park, Kings Dock Street L1 8LE  
Q-Park, Liverpool One, 35 Strand Street L1 8LT



# **Blackpool and the Firework Competition**

**Map Ref 3** Postcode FY4 1HT

The UK's favourite beach resort features multiple attractions from Blackpool Pleasure Beach to stunning beaches with three piers and the unforgettable Blackpool Tower. Or follow Doug Wallace's example and document all human behaviour: people's interactions and emotions, believable and absurd.

The World Fireworks Championship Blackpool 2018 (Friday 7 September. From 19:30, first fireworks from 20:30) will light up the skies above Blackpool once again. The event will gather together the crème de la crème of the world's firework elite and promises jaw-dropping entertainment. All displays subject to suitable weather conditions. There may be traffic delays arriving and leaving the event. Please park in the southern car parks and use the tramway to travel to the event.

## **Access**

To book for the fireworks: Tower Festival Headland, Promenade FY1 4BJ. 01253 478222.

Parking: Lytham Rd, Blackpool FY4 1HT. South Car Park, Yeadon Way, Blackpool FY1 6BF. Bolton St, Blackpool FY1 6AA



## Chester Zoo

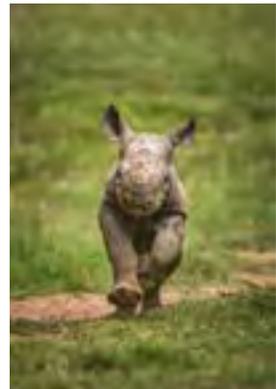
### Map Ref 4

With 21,000 animals, in 125 acres of award-winning zoological gardens, Chester Zoo has many conservation projects at home and abroad.

### Access

You can book online up to 9.30am on the day of your visit. That will make you a saving compared with paying at the gate. Adult £21.81.

The main entrance is just off the A41/Moston Road, well signposted when you approach Chester, just look out for the brown signs. Once you get onto the A41, from whichever direction, simply stay on that road until you reach a roundabout with a large wooden ark on it. From there follow the signs into the zoo. Sat Navs get confused so please ignore them once you get onto the A41! Do not turn down Flag Lane North as it is a dead end.



## Crosby Beach

**Map Ref 5** Postcode L23 8TA

The famous sculptures are made from 17 body-casts taken from Antony Gormley's body and are all standing in a similar way. The idea was to test time and tide, stillness and movement, and somehow engage with the daily life of the beach. The distance between the pieces is 50m to 250m. They were all on a level and those closest to the shore were buried as far as their knees. The work is now permanently sited outside Liverpool on Crosby Beach, U.K.

### Access

Free car parks: Mariners Rd, Liverpool L23 6SX and Waterloo, Liverpool L23 8TA



## **Ellesmere Port and Stanlow Oil Refinery**

---

**Map Ref 6** Postcode WA6 9PW

---

Ellesmere port sits on the River Mersey at the entrance to the Ellesmere Canal. It has retained large industries including Stanlow oil refinery, a chemical works and a car factory.

Stanlow is one of the largest and most well-known oil refineries in the UK, occupying nearly 1,900 acres on the southern bank of the Manchester Ship Canal. It makes a dramatic outline against the sky.

### **Access**

---

To view Stanlow refinery use Helsby and Helsby Hill near Frodsham (120 Old Chester Rd, Helsby, Frodsham WA6 9PW)



## Formby

**Map Ref 7** Postcode L37 1LJ or L37 2EB

Sitting between Crosby beach and Ainsdale nature reserve, Formby's glorious beach with its dramatic sand dunes is surrounded by sweeping coastal pinewoods. Rare wildlife, prehistoric footprints and miles of coastal walks are just waiting to be discovered – part of an amazing and ever changing landscape. There is a guided walk to visit the shipwrecks (0151 934 2964 or [landscape.partnership@sefton.gov.uk](mailto:landscape.partnership@sefton.gov.uk)).

### Access

Victoria Road: follow brown signs with National Trust logo 'Formby Point' from roundabout at north end of Formby bypass by the BP petrol station. Victoria Road car park entrance at grid reference SD281082: use postcode L37 1LJ. Public toilets are available at Victoria Road during car park opening hours.

Lifeboat Road: follow brown signs with beach logo 'Lifeboat Road' from roundabout at south end of Formby bypass. Lifeboat Road car park entrance at grid reference SD275065: use postcode L37 2EB.



## **Jubilee Tower, also known as Darwen Tower**

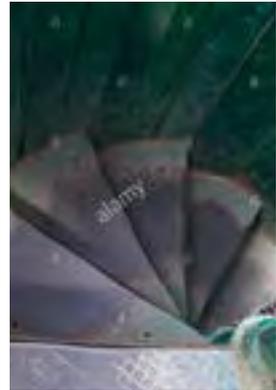
**Map Ref 8** Postcode BB3 0LA, Grid reference SD 678 215

Perched atop of Darwen Hill, the octagonal tower dates back to 1898. It was built to celebrate the victory of the local people for the right to access the moor. Today, visitors can climb the tower's internal stairs for an even more breathtaking view of the surrounding country that includes Yorkshire, the Isle of Man and even Blackpool Tower.

### **Access**

Darwen Tower can be reached by walking from Sunnyhurst Woods Visitor Centre, Earnsdale Road, Darwen BB3 0LA or from Darwen Town centre, through Bold Venture Park. Car parking is available on Earnsdale Road or various Pay & Display Car Parks in Darwen.

From M65 Junction 4 follow A666 towards Darwen. Sunnyhurst Woods is signposted on your right before the town centre.



## **Knowsley Safari Park**

**Map Ref 9** Postcode L34 4AN

Situated around Knowsley Hall on the ancestral estate of the Earl of Derby, the reserve is home to many different animals including elephants, giraffes, lions, bongos, tigers and baboons. There is a bypass route past the baboons for those who wish to avoid the risk of the baboons damaging their cars. Amur Tiger Trail is home to the Amur Tiger otherwise known as the Siberian Tiger. The area is 10,000m<sup>2</sup> and includes forested areas, natural streams and ponds. The Equatorial Trail focuses on animals who thrive in habitats around the Earth's Equator. Four completely different species of animals are housed in this exhibit, the South American tapir, Sitatunga, Rhea and the Capybara. Knowsley's crash of 11 adult rhinos is one of the most successful and genetically diverse breeding groups in Europe. The latest calf (as at 4 June 2016), Nomvula, born to mum Meru and is the 19th to be born at the facility in the last 40 years.

### **Access**

L34 4AN, only about 15 minutes away from our hotel base.

10:00 to 16:00. £17.50. £13.50 Concessions



## Liverpool Cathedrals

**Map Ref 10** Postcode L1 4DL or L3 5TB

Explore the Liverpool Cathedrals of Hope Street, the bombed-out Church and the Chinese Arch. The Anglican Cathedral is the largest in Britain. It was designed by Giles Gilbert Scott and was built from 1904–1978. The view down the nave is stunning. At the other end of Hope Street is the Metropolitan Catholic Cathedral, sometimes referred to as the Wig-Wam due to its cone-like structure. From the Catholic Cathedral, walk down Mount Pleasant towards St Luke's, the Bombed Out Church, at the top of Bold Street, followed by the Chinese Arch. The Bombed Out Church was destroyed in the Blitz of 1941. It is used today for open air theatre performances and markets, among other events. Just over the road from St Luke's is the the largest Chinese arch outside of China.

### Access

Anglican Cathedral, St James Mount L1 7AZ

Metropolitan Cathedral, Mount Pleasant L3 5TQ

Bombed out church, Leece St L1 2TR

Chinatown Gate, Nelson St L1 7BA

Parking: 21 Colquitt St L1 4DL or 38 Mount Pleasant L3 5TB



## Liverpool Skyline, Three Graces, Mersey Ferry

**Map Ref 11** Postcode L2 8SZ or L1 8LT, other side CH41 1AU

The Pier Head area of the city is listed as a World Heritage site. The Port of Liverpool Building, the Cunard building and the Liver building, known as the 'Three Graces', sit side by side along the waters edge. The 1907 Port of Liverpool Building acted as the headquarters of the Mersey Docks and Harbour Board. The 1917 Cunard Building was influenced by the design of Italian palaces. The 1911 Liver building was home to Royal Liver Assurance. The famous Liver Birds on the roof comprise of a male, looking back across the city, and a female, looking out to sea. There's been a ferry across the Mersey for more than 800 years and is a fantastic way to see Liverpool's world-famous waterfront.

### Access

Commuter service runs 7:20 and 9:50. Adults £3.50 return. Daily River Explorer Cruise runs from 10:00 to 16:00. It runs between 3 terminal locations: Pier Head (Liverpool), Seacombe (Wirral) and Woodside (Wirral). Journey time 50 minutes, with the option to break and re-start at any terminal throughout the day. Free entrance to U-boat Story at Woodside Ferry Terminal included. Adults £9.00. Free parking at Seacombe terminal. Parking for Pier head: 1-3 Rumford St, Liverpool L2 8SZ or 35 Strand St, Liverpool L1 8LT Parking for Woodside: 50 Bridge St, Birkenhead CH41 1AU



## Malpas Yesteryear Rally

**Map Ref 12** Postcode SY14 8JN

The Malpas Vintage Machinery Association Ltd was founded in 1971 by a small group of vintage tractor and steam engine enthusiasts. The first Malpas Yesteryear Rally was held in 1972 and this years rally will be held on the **8 and 9 September 2018**. There are about a thousand exhibits including: steam engines, commercial vehicles, military vehicles, cars, tractors, heavy horses, working demonstrations and old time fairground.

### Access

Hampton, Malpas, Cheshire SY14 8JN. Alongside the A41, fourteen miles south of Chester. Adult £10, Seniors £9.



## Mersey Tunnels

**Map Ref 13** Postcode CH44 6NY

The **Kingsway Tunnel** (or Wallasey Tunnel) is a toll road tunnel (A59) between Liverpool and Wallasey. The Kingsway comprises identical twin tubes, carrying on average 45,000 vehicles a day. In silhouette, the brutalist ventilation shafts share a likeness with the outline of Liverpool's Catholic cathedral, with sloping sides leading up to a taller central section.

The **Queensway Tunnel** (Birkenhead Tunnel or Old Tunnel ) links Liverpool and Birkenhead. Sir Basil Mott supervised the construction with John Brodie, City Engineer of Liverpool. The tunnel entrances, toll booths and ventilation building exteriors were designed by architect Herbert James Rowse. Their decoration is by Edmund Thompson and are Grade II listed buildings. At the time of its opening it was the longest road tunnel in the world.

### Access

As far as I can make out a single car journey through the tunnels costs £1.80. Tollbooths are located on the Wallasey side. Take turns in driving through? To photograph the ventilation shafts: Car park at 50 Bridge St, Birkenhead CH41 1AU. The Wirral circular trail (walking) runs past the Queensway shaft. Views across the Mersey here for the Albert docks too. For Kingsway shaft (Wallasey CH44 6NY) park Wallasey CH44 6QY.



# National Waterways Museum

**Map Ref 14** Postcode CH65 4FW

Sitting where the Shropshire Union Canal meets the Manchester Ship Canal and the River Mersey, the old docks have been transformed into one of the greatest collections of historic boats in the world. Using the latest interactive technology and hands-on exhibitions, you can experience what it was like to live and work on our waterways over the last 200 years.

## Access

South Pier Rd, Ellesmere Port CH65 4FW. 0151 355 5017.

Open 10:00 to 17:00.

Adult £9.75, Concession £8.50. The ticket price is your annual pass. It now allows you to return as many times as you like during a 12 month period.



## **Ness Botanic Gardens**

**Map Ref 15** Postcode CH64 4AY

Based on the Wirral peninsula, Ness Botanic Gardens was born of one man's passionate interest in plants and his desire to share that interest with others. Today the commitment to maintain, develop and share the beauty of the gardens that Arthur Kilpin Bulley created over 100 years ago remains. The gardens are run by the University of Liverpool.

### **Access**

Neston Rd, Little Neston, Ness CH64 4AY. The gardens are open 10:00 till dusk. Last admission to the gardens is 17:00. Adult £8.25.



## New Brighton

**Map Ref 16** Postcode CH45 2JS

New Brighton is a seaside resort on the Wirral Peninsula, three miles from Liverpool. Originally a watering place for the wealthy merchants of Liverpool, New Brighton hit the peak of its popularity in the first two decades of this century. Most of the sand disappeared by the 1960s because of the tidal changes in the River Mersey. Despite this, some notable features remain: the Lido outdoor swimming pool, a fine promenade and 'The Palace' amusement park. Today's visitors to New Brighton are day-trippers from Liverpool and the Wirral. A hot summer day can still draw large crowds. Martin Parr photographs document contemporary New Brighton: and urban seaside resort, run down, but very much alive. A new giant sculpture addressing the issue of plastic pollution is situated on Marine Lake. The larger-than-life sculpture has been constructed entirely from thousands of used plastic bottles collected from across Merseyside.

### Access

Perch Rock car park, 59 Marine Promenade, Wallasey CH45 2JS  
Marine Point, King's Parade, Wallasey CH45 2PA



## **Polo at Chester Racecourse**

**Map Ref 17** Postcode CH1 4LZ

Enjoy the Sport of Kings: there's something special about watching the oldest and most exhilarating team sport, pitch-side. The lively atmosphere, the thrilling action and the passion of play make for the perfect opportunity to capture engaging images at Chester Polo Club. There are two matches on the Friday (semi-finals day), followed by two matches on the Saturday (finals day). Fixtures offer an extravagant prize fund in a six goal tournament that attracts high profile teams and players from around the world. Spectators are provided with the opportunity to witness outstanding play and sportsmanship, with serious games set to be played across a tournament.

### **Access**

The Racecourse, Chester, CH1 4LZ. 01244 304 600. [enquiries@chester-races.com](mailto:enquiries@chester-races.com)

General admission entry on Friday 7 September is free, £8 on Saturday 8 September.

Car parking on the Open Course, located in the centre of the racecourse. It is advisable to purchase parking in advance, either online or phone: 01244 304 610. Car parking £8.



## **Ribble Estuary National Nature Reserve**

**Map Ref 18** Postcode PR9 9PJ

Ribble Estuary National Nature Reserve is the most important site in the UK for wintering wildfowl. The Reserve occupies over half of the Ribble estuary, including extensive areas of mud and sand flats and is one of the largest saltmarsh habitats in England. It supports over 250,000 ducks, geese, swans and wading birds and is internationally important for 16 species of wintering birds. The best times to visit the site to see the wintering birds, local wildlife and environment are in the autumn and winter.

### **Access**

The NNR occupies land on both sides of the Estuary. The two most accessible car parks are at Lytham, and on the Marshside coastal road. Southport (RSPB Marshside, Marine Dr, Southport PR9 9PJ. Grid ref SD353205) or Lytham St Annes are the nearest places for toilets and refreshments. Safe access is limited to public footpaths, as the rest of the Reserve is tidal saltmarsh and mudflats.



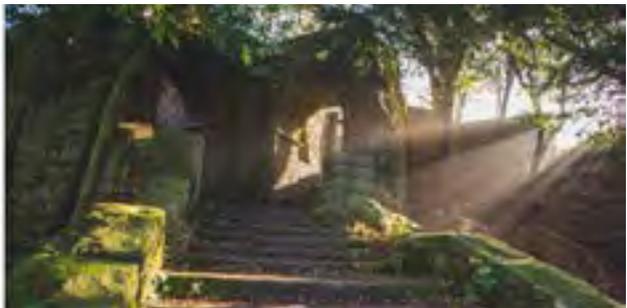
## Rivington Terraced Gardens

**Map Ref 19** Postcode BL6 7SB

Rivington Terraced Gardens were created for soap magnate Lord Leverhulme. Situated below Rivington Pike, the Gardens were designed by Thomas Mawson between 1905 and 1922. The dramatic hillside garden, featured a heavily-wooded area including a network of footpaths and the terraces. There is a man-made ravine and cascade, with several bridges and fords. The upper section contains the remains of the formal gardens including a Japanese garden and lake, an Italian garden and lake, and the former Orchestra lawn. The park has a 7-arched bridge, summer houses and the Pigeon Tower. Today, the original structure of the Gardens remains but ornamental planting has been replaced by woodland. It's a magical place of winding footpaths and unexpected surprises, much loved by local people and visitors from across the region.

### Access

The gardens are owned by United Utilities but are open to the public free of charge. Their Great House Information Centre is a fantastic place to learn more about them and pick up maps and walking guides. Rivington Terraced Gardens are situated immediately east of Lever Park and Rivington Hall Barn. The easiest way to get to the gardens is to drive to Rivington Hall Barn and walk from there. Rivington Hall Barn is situated on Rivington Lane (postcode BL6 7SB). There's plenty of free parking at the barn.



## Southport

**Map Ref 20** Postcode PR9 0TJ

Southport is a classic English resort: a historic pier on the seafront, complete with a train, gardens and amusement park, Southport Pleasurelands. Maybe a good place to capture entries for 'All the fun of the fair' comp in November. King's Gardens is located on the Promenade. The gardens have been restored with Victorian shelters and the Venetian Bridge and King's Gardens Tea Rooms, a beautiful vintage tearoom. A unique experience is the multi-award winning British Lawnmower Museum, housing over 200 restored exhibits it's the world's only lawnmower museum. See lawnmowers of the rich and famous, it's tribute to the garden machine industry over the last 200 years.

### Access

Parking on and around the promenade is free for 2 hours. If you plan to stay longer try NCP, London Street PR9 0TJ



## Speke Hall

**Map Ref 21** Postcode L24 1XD

Speke Hall is a Grade I listed, wood-framed wattle-and-daub Tudor manor house in Speke, Liverpool, England. Built in 1530 and the last significant change to the building was in 1598, when the north range was added by Edward Norris. During the turmoil of the Reformation the Norrises were Roman Catholics so the house incorporated a priest hole and an observation hole in a chimney. There is also an eavesdrop which allowed a servant to listen in on people awaiting admission at the original front door. The gardens date from the 1850s. In the courtyard are two ancient yew trees, male and female, called 'Adam' and 'Eve'. They are estimated to be at least 500 years old. The Hedge Maze. Designed by Adrian Fisher, it has 12 gates, 5 bridges, 4 finger mazes, 3 weather vanes and a viewing platform. It's a-maze-ing! The view of the River Mersey from the platform is a rewarding surprise.

### Access

L24 1XD. Open 10:30–17:00 £11.70. Follow the airport signs from M62 exit 6 or M56 exit 12, then the brown signs for Speke Hall. Free parking on site.



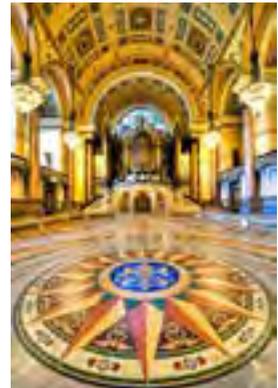
## St George's Hall

**Map Ref 22** Postcode L1 1JJ

Considered the centre of the city, St George's Hall sits opposite the Lime Street railway station. Designated as a Grade I listed building by English Heritage, the Hall houses a number of concert halls and law courts. Completed in 1854, it has notable Greek and Roman architectural features. This is one that you can't miss. The large pillars and horizontal lines make it an imposing building! This would be a great subject matter to experiment with taking composite images and then stitching them together in post.

### Access

St. George's Place, L1 1JJ



# Talacre Beach

**Map Ref 23** Postcode CH8 9RD

Talacre is a village in Flintshire, North Wales. It has miles of golden sand and the Point of Ayr lighthouse, built in 1776. The area around the beach is a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), with the dunes home to a rare collection of natterjack toads, while the Dee estuary is a vital haven for wintering birds. The lighthouse has been noted for numerous ghostly sightings, people claiming to see a figure wearing old fashioned lighthouse keeper clothes and standing in front of the glass dome of the abandoned lighthouse. Talacre was used by the armed forces during the Second World War, as an aircraft firing range. Fighters flew over the remote village every day, shooting at wooden targets in the dunes and at drogues towed by aircraft.

## Access

From the main A548 coast road, take the Talacre exit on the roundabout, follow the road (Station Road) over the railway bridge and continue on to Talacre Village.

Sat Nav: CH8 9RD



## **WWT Martin Mere**

**Map Ref 24** Postcode L40 0TA

Martin Mere is an excellent place for photographing wildlife, no matter what your level of experience. Its attractions include an otter enclosure, pond dipping zone, an eco-garden and close-up encounters with around 100 species of water-birds. During KitKat at Martinmere the fungi flourish, falling leaves make kingfishers easier to spy and there's the awesome sight of thousands of pink-footed geese coming back to the mere for the winter. You can visit the reserve at special dawn and dusk events to witness birds arriving and taking off en masse (see What's On pages on the WWT website for details).

Wildlife Photography workshop. Saturday 8 September. Workshop with Andy Bunting from InFocus, winner of the WWT Nikon Photograph of the Year Competition and BIAZA Wildlife in the Wild. 10:00 to 16:00. £65 per person.

### **Access**

WWT Martin Mere, Fish Lane, Burscough, Lancashire, L40 0TA. 01704 895181. Situated off the A59, the Centre is signposted from junction 8 on the M61, junction 3 on the M58 and junction 27 on the M6. Free to park at the Centre.

£14.00, Concessions £11.00. Open from 09.30 everyday. Boat tour: £3 for 30 minutes.



## **Our accommodation**

**Premier Inn  
Liverpool North  
Northern Perimeter Rd  
Netherton  
L30 7PT**

**[www.premierinn.com](http://www.premierinn.com)**

**0871 527 8628**

We are 10 minute walk from Old Roan station (offering access to central Liverpool in 17 minutes). There's an adjoining Beefeater and an Asda for fuel and snacks just round the corner.



### **Tide times** Crosby Beach

	Low	High	Low	High
Friday 7	04:10	09:49	16:34	22:13
Saturday 8	05:11	10:43	17:31	23:03
Sunday 9	06:03	11:31	18:21	23:48
Monday 10	06:51	12:15	19:07	
Tuesday 11		00:31	07:36	12:57

### **Sun** Crosby Beach

	Rise	Set
Friday 8	06:31	19:47
Saturday 9	06:33	19:45
Sunday 10	06:34	19:42
Monday 11	06:36	19:40
Tuesday 12	06:38	19:37

2018 TOUR  
**Merseyside**

