

Dear fellow-Motorhomer,

I can now tell you about one of the UK's best kept secrets. The wonderful city of [Liverpool](#) and the magical [Sefton Coast](#) ! [only a couple of miles from the M57/M58, then take the A5758 and follow signs for Gormley's "*Another Place*".

Head to the [Hall Road Coastguard Station](#) for the amazing panoramic views of Liverpool Bay, the beach, the "[Iron Men](#)" statues, the Welsh Hills, ships entering the River Mersey... An Admiral of the Fleet in the 19th Century remarked that the views were second only to the Bay of Naples ! And the sunsets are truly something else.

You are supposed to buy a parking ticket, but you would be fine just sitting in the van admiring the view for free. Wardens are a very rare sight. They very occasionally arrive by car to do spot checks, or maybe just to empty the ticket machines. I've never seen a penalty ticket on a vehicle But if you were to go for a walk or a cycle, it would probably be wise to buy and display a ticket. The good news is that it's free after 5pm anyhow. You are not supposed to stay here overnight, although I know that some do, but there are a couple of other options which I list below.

Overnight staying

The coastal *Blundellsands* area of [Crosby](#) is a very safe, quiet and affluent area.

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Blundellsands>

and makes an ideal base to park your motorhome.

There is a large car park opposite the leisure centre at the bottom of Mariners Road. There are no signs that I can see to say you can't stop overnight, and I have seen vans that do.

There are also several roads in Blundellsands where an unobtrusive overnight stay would (probably) be no problem. Try rotating between these if staying more than one night. They are all only yards apart, extremely quiet, and mostly not overlooked by home-owners.

a) at the junction of the Serpentine North and Merrilocks Road there is a little triangular public park. You could park on the Merrilocks Road side, but the other side opposite the "*Drummoyne Court*" flats might be even better.

b) Blundellsands Road West, a nice broad road with overhanging trees. Several residents have "white vans", etc and I'm sure I've seen a motorhome now and then. The adjoining Nicholas Road beside the high wall of the school is another option.

c) in Burbo Crescent outside the brown-coloured sheltered flats. A guy who lived there had a motorhome parked outside for years, until last year.

d) Bottom of the northern part of Warren Road, next to the Lawn Tennis club, or a bit closer to the junction with the Serpentine South, by the railings.

e) Top of the southern part of Warren Road, between the Catholic and United Reformed Churches.

A place **NOT** to park. On Burbo Bank Road, near the junction with the Serpentine South, outside the Montford Missionary. It looks ideal, but there is a moaner who lives in the tall flats opposite, who will be straight out to complain !

Sefton Coastal Path

Between Crosby and Southport, you can do it in sections, walking or cycling, and there are rail stations all the way up the coast, if you run out of energy!

<https://bemusedbackpacker.com/2020/09/21/cycling-the-sefton-coastal-path-from-southport/>

<https://visitseftonandwestlancs.co.uk/media/57465/The-Sefton-Coast-Path.pdf>

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/travel/destinations/europe/united-kingdom/england/lancashire/articles/UK-coastal-walks-Formby-coast-near-Liverpool/>

Rail Network

Liverpool has the best local rail network outside of London. You can get an all day off-peak ticket for about £5. Crosby is about equidistant from Southport and Liverpool.

Park for free in the [Hall Road station](#) car-park or the nearby [Blundellsands & Crosby station](#) car-park if catching a train to explore Liverpool or Southport. This line was the world's first commuter line (1848) and the trains run about every 15 minutes.

Liverpool Architecture & Art

Almost every building which survived the Blitz in Liverpool city centre is a listed building. English Heritage describes Liverpool as "England's finest Victorian city", although many of its jewels are also Georgian and Edwardian.

I wrote large parts of these Wikipedia articles.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Architecture_of_Liverpool#Quotes_about_Liverpool_buildings

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_public_art_in_Liverpool

If I was to say to anyone the must-sees of Liverpool are:-

1. [Pier Head](#) and the business district.

the UK's largest clocks on the [Royal Liver Building](#) (also the first large reinforced concrete building in Europe, and the UK's largest and tallest office building for over 50 years, until 1962)

[Cunard Building](#), based on the Farnese Palace in Rome

[Port of Liverpool Building](#) (the interior is amazing as are the "Night & Day" sculptures round the back.)

the [Georgian Town Hall](#) (the finest in the country) / Exchange Flags ([Nelson Monument](#)) / Castle Street / Dale Street / Water Street (check out [Oriel Chambers](#), the world's first "skyscraper" and the imposing [India Buildings](#), and the exquisite [Martins Bank](#)) - (railway station: [Moorfields](#) or [James Street](#) [the world's first deep-level underground station and the first accessed by lifts])

2. [St George's Hall](#) (dubbed "the finest building in the world" and "worthy of ancient Athens" by Queen Victoria) / St. George's Plateau - the [War Memorial](#) and the [fountain](#), Wellington's Column and statues of Queen Victoria and Albert, and Disraeli / [St. John's Gardens](#) / the

[Museum](#) & [Walker Art Gallery](#) (the only national Art collection outside of London) & [Central Library](#) on [William Brown Street](#) - (railway station: [Lime Street](#))

3. Cathedrals

a bit of a walk down Renshaw Street, but on the way you can see "the bombed-out church", [St. Lukes](#) (a memorial to the victims of the Liverpool Blitz, the most intense on any city in the country). Walk down [Rodney Street](#) ("the Harley Street of the North", and the birthplace of Gladstone at Number 62) towards the [Anglican Cathedral](#) (the largest in the country, and the largest Gothic cathedral in the world), stop in [St. James Cemetery](#) ("the most romantic in England" and resting place of Huskisson, MP for Liverpool and the first man to be killed by a train !). Walk back along [Hope Street](#), stopping at the [Philharmonic Pub](#) ("the most ornate in the country") to the [Catholic Cathedral](#) (affectionately known as "Paddy's Wigwam"). Walk back down Brownlow Hill and have a look at the [Adelphi Hotel](#) ("the finest hotel in the world", according to Charles Dickens), and the station is again not far away. (railway station: [Central](#))

4. [Royal Albert Dock](#)

the world's first fireproof dock warehouse, and the largest Grade I listed building in the country. (railway station: [James Street](#))

5. Liverpool's Public Parks

English Heritage has named them "the most important collection of public parks in the country", and the worldwide public park movement was started in Liverpool. New York's Central park can trace itself back directly to the Liverpool (& Birkenhead) parks.

The three best are quite close together in the south of the city. For this one take your bike with you on the train !

[Princes Park](#) (Grade II*), architect Joseph Paxton's first major park.

[Sefton Park](#) (Grade I) including the beautiful glass and cast-iron Palm House, designed by Édouard André and Lewis Hornblower

[Calderstones Park](#), with its thousand-year old oak tree, and the "calderstones" - six small neolithic stones, older than Stonehenge. (railway station: [St. Michaels](#))

6. [Mathew Street](#) / Beatles (!) - (railway station: [Moorfields](#) or [James Street](#))

Beyond

Going north of Crosby, you have another beach at [Formby](#), and the pine woods, the world's first lifeboat station, and red squirrel reserve. (railway station: [Freshfield](#) or [Formby](#))

then on to [Southport](#) and its famous [Lord Street](#) (reputedly the basis of Paris's streets. Emperor Napoleon III was exiled at Southport for a while, and admired it so much he told Haussmann to copy it for Paris !), and of course Southport's massive beach. (railway station: [Southport](#))

Have fun ! You will be back, I'm sure.

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Best Wishes

Rod

tel: 07973 170865