

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 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 all the time..

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. It's still on Google Earth !

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 Missionaries. 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 or puff !

<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-areas "Saveaway" ticket for about £5, which could take you as far as Chester.

<https://www.merseytravel.gov.uk/tickets-and-pricing/ticket-types/saveaway-ticket/>

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. You are on the [Northern Line](#) with southbound trains marked "Hunts Cross" and northbound trains marked "Southport". Bikes are allowed in the first and last carriages I believe.

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](#)

You can and should enter these three grand "*cathedrals of commerce*" and see some of their stunning interiors. [you may need to book, and pay, for a full tour of each building]

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. Cultural Quarter

[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, or [Bold Street](#) ("*the Bond Street of the North*") from the station - take your pick - 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). Pause at [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 !). After spending time inside the cathedral, walk back along [Hope Street](#) - stopping first for a drink at the [Philharmonic Pub](#) ("*the most ornate in the country*") - to the [Catholic Cathedral](#) (affectionately known as "*Paddy's Wigwam*"). Walk back down Mount Pleasant 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](#)) The new [Liverpool One](#) shopping centre is nearby.

5. Liverpool's Public Parks

English Heritage has named them "*the most important collection of public parks in the country*", and the world-wide 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

The first two you can certainly do together. (railway station: [St. Michaels](#))

The third is a little further out. [Calderstones Park](#), with its thousand-year old oak tree, Japanese Garden, and the "calderstones" - six small neolithic stones, older than Stonehenge. John Lennon's boyhood home "*Mendips*", his school "*Quarry Bank*" and the iconic "*Strawberry Field(s)*" are all near the edge of this park. Penny Lane, and the "*shelter in the middle of a roundabout*", is not far either !

You could easily combine this with the Cultural Quarter [see above] and take a short train ride from [Lime Street](#) station to [Mossley Hill](#) station [on the [City Line](#)]

6. Mathew Street / Beatles (!) -

The Cavern Club, statues to "*four lads who shook the world*", etc. "*Our Cilla*" is there too... (railway station: [Moorfields](#) or [James Street](#))

7. Ferry 'cross the Mersey

For one *thousand* years ferries have crossed this river, and there is no better way to take in the jaw-dropping vista of the Liverpool waterfront, and "*the most splendid setting of any English city*" [Nikolaus Pevsner]. You will understand why this city was known as "*the New York of Europe*"... An all-areas daily "Saveaway" rail ticket will get you rides on the ferry at no extra cost, although the "*Explorer*" cruise may be worth the extra?

<https://www.merseyferries.co.uk/tickets-and-pricing/>

Crosby

The town has a Sainsburys, an Aldi (in Thornton), a Co-Op and two Tescos. There's a very nice independent food shop/delicatessen, "**Gillions**" on College Road, opposite Marine Football Club <https://gillionsofcrosby.com/>

[don't go in the daytime, parking is horrendous! Try after five, when it's easier; they close at 7pm on weekdays, 6pm Sat, 4pm Sun]

Pubs, etc. The nicest, oldest in Crosby is the charming, safe, oldie-worldie "**Crows Nest**" on Victoria Road, little changed in 120 years. Good conversation, good beer, small and intimate. The road is quite narrow there, so you might want to park near the duck-pond, or in Sainsburys car-park, opposite the modern St. Helen's church, or get a taxi, although it's a safe 15 minute walk back to Blundellsands. Use the short underpass at Blundellsands & Crosby station to get to the other side of the railway line, if walking. Alternatively, Wine bars and a couple of restaurants are found on Coronation Road, near the Tescos.

Cheapest Fuel. Best bet is **Asda** at Aintree, on your way home, near the M57/M58 island. Take the A59 (Liverpool) turnoff, and it's a few hundred yards from the island.

Taxi: **Delta** 0151 924 7373 [local-based, but covers all of Liverpool]

Chemist: **Short's**, 159 College Road, Crosby 0151 924 3449 [College Road parking is mad, perhaps try parking in Eshe Road instead, and walk a couple of hundred yards]

(chemist also in **Asda** at Aintree [see above])

Doctor: **Blundellsands Surgery**, 1 Warren Road, Blundellsands. Crosby 0151 924 6464

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.

If I can be of any assistance, or for further information, don't hesitate to call.

Best Wishes

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