

Leeds & Liverpool Wellbeing Walk

Burnley Mitre Bridge to Thompson Park

walk time 45-55 minutes
distance 2.5km / 1½ miles



WALKING TIPS

- Walking times are approx, measured on an average pace of two miles an hour.
- Follow the water and enjoy walking at your own pace... but allow time to simply sit and stare on the way.
- Walk one way, hop on a bus for your return, or turn round to walk back discovering a different view.

	towpath
	access point
	aqueduct
	café
	pub
	food & drink
	toilets
	shopping
	bench/picnic area
	point of interest
	visitor centre
	parking
	bus stop
	railway station

The Walk - Step by Step

Burnley was once cotton-weaving capital of the world, and you can almost imagine the clickety-clack of a staggering 79,000 looms in what is now called the Weavers' Triangle. This walk treads in the footsteps of the Industrial Revolution in one of its best surviving industrial landscapes. Historic buildings wrap around the canal – weaving sheds, spinning mills, engine houses, warehouses and workers' homes – reminders of Burnley's magnificent weaving heritage. And to top off this lock-free stretch of the Leeds & Liverpool Canal, you'll walk along Burnley Embankment, one of the wonders of the waterways.

-  Come down to the canal from Mitre Bridge and turn left to follow the towpath under the bridge.
-  Former warehouses, chimneys, weaving sheds, 'north light' roofs, engine houses & spinning mills line the banks of the canal. Victoria Mill is now part of the Burnley Campus of the University of Central Lancashire.
-  A contemporary rust-clad and glass footbridge across the canal marks your arrival at the modern development around Sandygate Square. Looking down Wiseman Street is the tallest mill chimney still standing in Burnley at Oakmount Mill, which was still producing cotton up to 1979.
-  Across the canal is the beautifully restored chimney and row of terraced houses called Slater Terrace, now Grade II-listed. George Slater owned and ran three mills in the 1800s, employing over 300 people, and built Slater Terrace for his workers.
-  As you walk under Sandygate Bridge, the views open up across the mill chimneys and rooftops towards the hills beyond. By the edge of the towpath sits a '½'-mile milepost. Canal companies charged working boats on a ton and mile basis, and the Leeds & Liverpool Canal Company marked every ¼, ½, ¾ and mile along the canal, or the distance from both Leeds and Liverpool.

-  The canal is enclosed by warehouses as you approach Burnley Wharf. A canopy, supported by cast-iron beams and columns, overhangs the canal and would have provided shelter for boats loading and unloading here.
-  The Visitor Centre and museum is in the former wharf master's house and toll office, where working boats would have paid tolls for transporting goods such as cotton and coal along the Leeds & Liverpool Canal here.
-  Finsley Gate Wharf is on the bend in the canal as it turns sharply into the Burnley Embankment. Dating from 1784, and once busy with blacksmiths, forgers, boat builders, farriers and carpenters, the Wharf's now Grade II-listed buildings have been restored into a canalside heritage hub including a forge and café.
-  One of the engineering wonders of the waterways, Burnley Embankment carries the canal over the rooftops of Burnley. Known as the 'straight mile', it is ¾ mile long and its construction in 1795 meant boats could cross the valley without the need for a set of locks at either end.
-  Thompson Park makes the perfect spot for a break before retrace your steps along the towpath to Mitre Bridge, enjoying this walk from a different perspective.

CANAL: Leeds & Liverpool

START: Mitre Bridge
OS Grid ref: SD832327 Postcode: BB11 1SD

FINISH: Godley Bridge
OS Grid ref: SD846331 Postcode: BB11 3QW

DISTANCE: 2.5km / 1½ miles

APPROX TIME: 45-55 minutes

PUB/CAFÉ: Café, bar & restaurant at Finsley Gate Wharf, Boathouse Café in Thompson Park, various in Burnley

PARKING: Nearest car park - Curzon Square (postcode: BB11 1PX)

TRAIN: Nearest train stations – Burnley Barracks, Central & Manchester Road
National Rail Enquiries
Tel: 03457 484950 www.nationalrail.co.uk

BUS: Traveline
Tel: 0871 2002233 www.traveline.info

