

Episode 178 - Liverpool Travel Guide for First-Time Visitors: Beatles, Football and Top Things To Do

Tracy Collins [00:00:00]:

Love music, history or football, Then you'll love Liverpool. In this episode, we're sharing everything you need to know to plan a visit to this lively northern city. From must see beetles, sights and waterfront landmarks to our favourite local spots to eat, stay and explore. Let's head to Liverpool.

Intro [00:00:16]:

Welcome to the UK Travel Planning podcast. Your host is the founder of the UK travel planning website, Tracey Collins. Each week, Tracey shares destination guides, travel tips and itinerary ideas, as well as interviews with a variety of guests who share their knowledge and experience of UK travel to help you plan your perfect UK vacation. Join us as we explore the uk from cosmopolitan cities to quaint villages, from historic castles to beautiful islands, and from the picturesque countryside to seaside towns.

Tracy Collins [00:00:50]:

Hi everyone and welcome to this week's episode of the UK Travel Planner podcast. Now this week we are heading to Liverpool, a northern city famous for music, of course, course, the Beatles, maritime history, football, and of course it's very friendly northern people. I'm a northerner and I can attest to that.

Doug [00:01:06]:

And the best football team in the world.

Tracy Collins [00:01:09]:

Yeah, Doug is here as well because he can't. We can't do an episode about Liverpool without Doug being here. Talk all about his favorite football team.

Doug [00:01:17]:

Not just my favorite, the most successful British football team ever.

Tracy Collins [00:01:22]:

Right, well, if you're still listening after that, we're gonna chat all about Liverpool. Look at the top sites. Obviously we're going to talk about Beatles, we're going to talk about where to stay, some of the places to eat, basically how to get there, how to get there.

Doug [00:01:37]:

It's a lot more to live well than just football. I asked, I have to say.

Tracy Collins [00:01:40]:

Yeah, absolutely. And we do really want to encourage you to include it in if you're doing a train trip around the uk. In fact, my Best of Britain two week itinerary by train, Liverpool is included in that as well. And it's a great destination if you're doing a road trip around the UK as well.

Doug [00:01:57]:

It is. It's also a gateway if you want to go across to Ireland as well.

Tracy Collins [00:02:01]:

Yeah. And also it's great. It's actually doable as a day trip from London, but we will talk about that in a bit as well. But as you can hear, Doug's here.

Doug [00:02:08]:

Hello.

Tracy Collins [00:02:09]:

Doug was actually in Liverpool not very long ago.

Doug [00:02:12]:

I was man of a few weeks ago actually.

Tracy Collins [00:02:14]:

Yes. Yeah.

Doug [00:02:15]:

Fantastic day there.

Tracy Collins [00:02:17]:

Yeah. So he's got some very recent stay in time in Liverpool. It's a destination that we've both visited numerous times. I do enjoy Bill's music and Music, music. I do enjoy Beatles music and we've had some really good stays and some really fun times in Liverpool, haven't we?

Doug [00:02:37]:

I have and I enjoy visiting there. The. The people are lovely. Yeah, people are great.

Tracy Collins [00:02:41]:

Okay, so let's talk a little bit about getting around. So first of all, when you arrive in Liverpool, Liverpool is a very. It's a walkable city.

Doug [00:02:49]:

Yeah, it is the main train station, Liverpool Lime street, which is in the middle of the city.

Tracy Collins [00:02:53]:

Yeah. And. But it's walkable from the, from the train stations.

Doug [00:02:56]:

Oh, yes, very easy.

Tracy Collins [00:02:58]:

There are ferries. So.

Doug [00:03:00]:

Yeah. The famous river Mersey runs through the middle of Liverpool. On one side you've got Liverpool, on the other side you've got Birkenhead. So it's very regular ferries across the Mersey as well.

Tracy Collins [00:03:10]:

Yeah, well, there's a famous song and I'm not going to sing it. Yeah. Ferry across the Mersey. I'm sure most of you can.

Doug [00:03:16]:

Jerry Martin.

Tracy Collins [00:03:16]:

Yeah, yeah, you'll. You'll know that song. There's also hop and hop, hop on and hop off buses that you can catch to get around. And there's our favorite magical mystery tour. But I'm going to talk a bit more about it. Yes.

Doug [00:03:27]:

Also we're getting around Liverpool. The Mersey Rail, which is the local rail network, is. Has great coverage as well.

Tracy Collins [00:03:35]:

Okay. So. So it's an easy city to get around, basically. It is especially the center. And we tend to stay in the very center of Liverpool.

Doug [00:03:42]:

I didn't on my last visit.

Tracy Collins [00:03:44]:

Well, we. I said we. So where did you stay in your last visit?

Doug [00:03:48]:

I managed to catch the bus away from Liverpool Lime Street Station. I went to Anfield for a stadium tour of Liverpool Football Club.

Tracy Collins [00:03:56]:

But you didn't stay at Anfield.

Doug [00:03:58]:

No, no, no, no. I was staying in London.

Tracy Collins [00:04:01]:

Exactly. So you did on day trip. But when we stay in London, when we stay in Liverpool, we usually stay in the center.

Doug [00:04:06]:

Yeah, we do.

Tracy Collins [00:04:07]:

Yeah. Okay, so let's talk a little bit about the top sites and things to do in Liverpool. And I will mention that on the website I have got numerous guides Liverpool. I've got Liverpool travel guide. I've got a guide to the top things to do and see in Liverpool. I've also got two Beatles articles as well, an itinerary and top, top things to do in Liverpool. For Beatles fans. I've got an article about where to stay in Liverpool.

Tracy Collins [00:04:32]:

So there's lots of stuff on the website and I would ask you, please, please, please, if you enjoy this podcast, just to go on over and have a look on the website, have a look at a bit more in depth at some of those articles. It does help us to keep the podcast going, supporting us looking at the website and as I hope there's just a massive amount of information on the website.

Doug [00:04:49]:

There is, yeah. It's very in depth.

Tracy Collins [00:04:51]:

Yeah. So we really appreciate your support with that. Definitely. Right, so should we start with music and the Beatles because.

Doug [00:04:56]:

Or I could start with how to get to Liverpool if you're coming in by train.

Tracy Collins [00:05:00]:

Okay, well if you want to do.

Doug [00:05:01]:

That, go for it seems logical order really.

Tracy Collins [00:05:03]:

That's all right, you do that.

Doug [00:05:05]:

Okay. So I what I did probably a good way to, to talk about this is I took the day trip from London. I travel up on the west coast main line from London Houghton. I traveled with the Avanti west coast train service. I took the fastest train which is 2 hours 20 minutes. And what a lovely journey it was too. I really, really enjoyed that. Today was bright, lovely.

Doug [00:05:28]:

So when you arrive into Liverpool, that main train station is Liverpool Lime street. And from there, as I said, you take the Mersey Rail. Great coverage. You can walk into the city. There's also a left luggage at Liverpool Lime street should you need it. If you're just spending the day there, I'll just have a small backpack. So I didn't need it. But it's.

Doug [00:05:45]:

You can't miss it. It's a terminus station. It's right in front of you. From Liverpool itself, you've got direct train services from London, Manchester, Birmingham, across the other side of the country as well, you've got Norwich, Nottingham and just below Liverpool you've got Chester

as well. So from where Liverpool is situated in Lancashire on the left hand side of the uk, you've got easy access to North Wales. In two hours, two and a half hours you can be in the Lake District and then just over three and a half hours you can be in Edinburgh itself. So that's just an overview of Liverpool.

Tracy Collins [00:06:27]:

I honestly didn't know you could get from Norwich to Liverpool.

Doug [00:06:29]:

Yes, it's a direct train. So across the country I have done that.

Tracy Collins [00:06:34]:

Okay, well I didn't know that. See, I learned things as well.

Doug [00:06:36]:

Yes, yes.

Tracy Collins [00:06:37]:

So it's easy to get to Liverpool and we actually have got an article about how to get from London to Liverpool on a day trip. If you want to do it on a day trip. We do encourage you to leave London, not just stay in London. If you're going to be visiting the UK and have maybe, you know, a week or or 10 days to at least do a couple of day trips and certainly consider Liverpool, that is.

Doug [00:06:55]:

Actually, you mentioned that train journey from Norwich to Liverpool, you come straight across the Hope Valley is absolutely lovely. I really enjoyed that.

Tracy Collins [00:07:02]:

Well, I might have to add that into an itinerary in the future. But anyway, let's go back to Liverpool and the Beatles because we know we've. I've done so many trip reports with. With many podcast listeners who absolutely have to go to Liverpool because they're Beatles fans. And we. The first time that we went with kind of Beatles Focus was probably maybe about five years ago, I think, and we wanted to kind of do experience kind of the. Just to learn a bit more of the history of Beatles in Liverpool, because obviously that's where they're from. John Lennon, George Harrison and the story.

Doug [00:07:38]:

Behind some of the songs.

Tracy Collins [00:07:40]:

Yeah. Paul McCartney. Yes. And a lot of the places that. That, you know, mentioned Wingrove Star as well. So obviously they're all from that area. They grew up together and they practiced in each other's homes. So that was something I was really interested to see about as well.

Tracy Collins [00:07:54]:

So let's talk about some of the Beatles things that you can do. The first thing on my list is the Magical Mystery Tour.

Doug [00:07:59]:

Yes. And we thoroughly enjoy that. It's fun, isn't it?

Tracy Collins [00:08:02]:

Yeah.

Doug [00:08:03]:

Whether even if you're only a sort of half a Beatles fan, if such a thing exists. It's actually great fun.

Tracy Collins [00:08:08]:

Oh, it's fantastic fun. So the Magical Mystery is a bus tour. It's a coach to you. It's not a hop on a hop off. You go on the coach and you're taken around by a tour guide. You do get off and have a look at the different places and you can have your photo opportunities, you know, at Strawberry Fields, at different homes as well. You can get off and have a look. So you do all that and you kind of learn the history of like, where they met and how they, you know, where they used to practice and just like things like Eleanor Rigby like Penny Lane, you just kind of learn all that.

Tracy Collins [00:08:38]:

But it's so much fun. And it was actually my second cousin that had gone on, Kevin Napoleon, who came on and talked about the Portsmouth. They did the Portsmouth episode because they lived down that way and they had done it and they said it was so much fun. And I don't particularly like singing in public. I'm not the best singer in the world. But honestly, it was in. Everybody's singing the songs and the music was going in the bus only Thing I'd say is, if you want to do that, and I really would recommend it, is that you do book ahead for that, because it. But we both thoroughly, thoroughly enjoyed it.

Tracy Collins [00:09:08]:

Yeah. And other terms and other Beatles things to do. You've got the Beatles Story, which is a bit of like a museum all about the Beatles. You can go and get your picture at the Beatles statue, which is. I mean, we have so many photos there. There's obviously the Cavern Club.

Doug [00:09:24]:

Yeah, yeah, that's right. On Matthew Street.

Tracy Collins [00:09:26]:

Yep.

Doug [00:09:27]:

The. The Liver Building, this. The Beetle statues, right in front of that. The famous Liver Building with the Liver Birds, mythical lava birds on top.

Tracy Collins [00:09:37]:

Yeah, yeah. They've got names, haven't they? You just found that out this morning?

Doug [00:09:40]:

I did.

Tracy Collins [00:09:41]:

I couldn't remember what they were.

Doug [00:09:42]:

No, Bertie was one of them.

Tracy Collins [00:09:43]:

All right. Okay. Well, anyway, the Liver Birds have got names, which Doug was amazed to find out.

Doug [00:09:48]:

I didn't know that.

Tracy Collins [00:09:50]:

So, yeah, go and have your photo. It's obviously free to get. Take a picture taken of the Beetle statue. Got the Beatle story. Take the Magical Mystery Tour. Go and see the home. So you can go and see Mendips, where John Lennon grew up, which is his Aunt Mimi's home. You can go to 24thland Road, which is where Paul McCartney grew up.

Tracy Collins [00:10:11]:

They both belong to the National Trust now, so if you want to get tickets for that, you'll have to go through the National Trust. I will put a link in the show notes, but to buy the tickets for that. But you can spend an entire day, an entire day kind of playing homage to the Beatles.

Doug [00:10:23]:

You really can. You really can't. I mean that. Matthew. Matthew street, where the Cavern Club is. I spent hours walking up and down that street because every time I walked up and down, it's in it from a different perspective. I just kept missing things. This was a few weeks ago.

Tracy Collins [00:10:37]:

Oh, yes, yes.

Doug [00:10:38]:

So I walked up and I got a photo with. With Silac and then John Lennon.

Tracy Collins [00:10:42]:

Yeah, the statues, by the way.

Doug [00:10:43]:

Yeah. Not the real people. Then you find another shop that you missed. And how many times, if anybody been watching me walking up and down that street, how many times. I don't know what they would have thought.

Tracy Collins [00:10:54]:

Well, you took lots of video, lots of photos for YouTube. But we actually went to Liverpool. The last time we went together was a couple years ago when we actually went to a wedding, which is at the beginning of January, and went to the Cavern Club. So we stayed around the corner in the. Hard nights. Hard nights.

Doug [00:11:10]:

Hard days.

Tracy Collins [00:11:12]:

Hard days. Night hotel which is literally around the corner, which is where we stay. And that's again lots of Beatles memorabilia. It's a fabulous place to stay literally around the corner at the Cabin Club. We had a fantastic night in the Cabin Club, didn't we?

Doug [00:11:25]:

And that's one of the perfect examples what I said every time I walked up. Because above the hard days now on the corners you've got Ringer, then you've got Paul and each corner the tiny little statues. But it's way off street level. I had to cross the road because it was the old. I'm walking up the street and I see somebody else looking up and then somebody else stopped to look at what they were looking at.

Tracy Collins [00:11:46]:

Oh wow.

Doug [00:11:47]:

And so everybody's taking photos of these little statues on the wall in the corners.

Tracy Collins [00:11:52]:

Oh I don't know. That's really cool as well. And before that I think we were there Christmas cuz there lots of Christmas decorations as well. So. And then in the summer we. We've been. Definitely been at Liverpool plenty of times now also Royal Albert Dock was somewhere that we used to when we lived in the uk. We used to go a lot.

Tracy Collins [00:12:10]:

Nice cafes there, nice restaurants and have a walk around. Now that whole area used to be a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Unfortunately it, it was, it lost that status in 2021 which has been quite controversial. Lots of developments in the area which is what they said it had impacted the historical, cultural.

Doug [00:12:29]:

That's right. But there's still, there's still plenty of statues and plaques to sort of celebrate Liverpool's long history.

Tracy Collins [00:12:37]:

Yeah, the maritime history. So there's a lot of history, maritime history around that area, obviously Liverpool. So there's some museums you can go to. There's a Maritime Museum, there's a Museum of Liverpool. There's the Tate Liverpool which went into that you weren't as keen on.

Doug [00:12:53]:

No, no, I was not. Not particularly a big fan of them, but it's not my scene.

Tracy Collins [00:12:57]:

Yeah. Art. Yeah. Doug's not massively in art so that's dragged him into the tea.

Doug [00:13:02]:

Liverpool in all honesty, it's wasted on me because I don't see what others see, I think.

Tracy Collins [00:13:07]:

Yeah. So anyway, so there's plenty of museums that you can learn about the history. Obviously the Maritime Museum, Museum of Liverpool, you can go in and explore.

Doug [00:13:14]:

Yeah. A more recent history. I went with your brother. We went to the Western Approaches Museum which was absolutely fascinating. The Western Approaches, it's all about the Second World War, the Atlantic convoys.

Tracy Collins [00:13:26]:

Yeah, yeah. I remember when you went a couple years ago. That you did that you guys went to see that. So there's plenty of. If you're interested in museums, there's plenty of museums. Interested in the Beatles. Plenty of Beatles, certainly lots of Beatles. History at sea.

Tracy Collins [00:13:37]:

In terms of history and architecture. There's Liverpool Cathedral which is the largest Anglican cathedral in Britain, I believe it is. And you've been in that? I have, yeah. The St. George's hall which is I think where our friends got married.

Doug [00:13:51]:

That's. It is. And that's literally across the road from Liverpool Line street and the gardens behind it are lovely as well.

Tracy Collins [00:13:56]:

So yeah, there's some, you know, great neighborhoods to visit like was mentioned. Albert Dock, there's a Baltic triangle where you'll find street art bars and lots of, you know, food and restaurants, places to eat there. Markets. That's a popular area.

Doug [00:14:11]:

Yeah, yeah. And the. Again back to the transport links across between St. George's hall and the Liverpool line Street. There's a bus station there as well. So if you don't want to use the train network, you've got a good bus network as well. It could take you out direct to the airport from there as well. The John Lennon airport, named after John Lennon obviously.

Doug [00:14:33]:

So yeah, the transport links around Liverpool are actually pretty good to be fair.

Tracy Collins [00:14:36]:

Yeah. And I know that we've. We've got friends that have been and taken lots of pictures of the. The. We've taken lots of pictures of the different. There's lots of statues around. I say we mentioned Cilla Black, John Lennon. There's lots of statues that you can.

Doug [00:14:48]:

Get your pictures with around there. But dock area and all that front area there, there's quite a few different statues.

Tracy Collins [00:14:53]:

Yeah, absolutely. So it's a lovely area to go and visit. Lovely to go and sit in a cafe and enjoy, you know, a drink and just in enjoying the kind of atmosphere. I think Liverpool's also got a great atmosphere.

Doug [00:15:04]:

I did find somewhere. Did a very nice Victoria sponge question, but that's me.

Tracy Collins [00:15:09]:

Now let's talk about a little bit about. So when we go to Liverpool we always go for two things. I guess we kind of go just the history and the be stuff and all that sort of stuff. But Doug is a massive Liverpool fan.

Doug [00:15:20]:

Oh, I've mentioned that.

Tracy Collins [00:15:21]:

Yeah, I haven't mentioned that. So we always end up in the Liverpool shop.

Doug [00:15:25]:

There's multiple ones, quite a few of them.

Tracy Collins [00:15:27]:

Okay. I just think of that very big one in that square. Yeah, that's the one that.

Doug [00:15:30]:

Near the radio tower.

Tracy Collins [00:15:31]:

Yeah. Right. Okay so talk a little bit about your last trip because you specifically went for the football.

Doug [00:15:38]:

Yes, I did. I bought myself a stadium tour because as much as a Liverpool fan, I have been for many, many, many, many years, 50 years or more. I had never been on a ground tour to Anfield. So I rectified that and I had the most fantastic day. Caught the bus from. Like I said, the bus station across the road from the station takes about 20 minutes walk to the ground. Book the tour in advance. Marvelous.

Doug [00:16:02]:

Takes two hours. Then obviously lots of photos and videos. And then.

Tracy Collins [00:16:08]:

Did you cry? Did you cry when you walked onto the pitch?

Doug [00:16:12]:

You're not allowed to walk on the pitch. That is hallowed ground.

Tracy Collins [00:16:15]:

Okay.

Doug [00:16:16]:

I did get a bit emotional when they. I'm getting emotional now.

Tracy Collins [00:16:19]:

You're getting emotional.

Doug [00:16:20]:

It's really strange when they play. You'll never walk alone.

Tracy Collins [00:16:25]:

All right. Okay. It's getting a bit teary. You can't see this, but it's actually a bit teary. So there it shows you. So if you're a football fan. Well. And obviously going to book to see the.

Tracy Collins [00:16:34]:

The state. Any stadium show. There are other stadium shows throughout the uk different stadiums.

Doug [00:16:39]:

There is. Yeah. Book it through.

Tracy Collins [00:16:41]:

Yeah. Well we. We will put links into some of the stadium chairs that you can book.

Obviously Doug tends to not want to go to other places.

Doug [00:16:48]:

No, I. I am told the Emirates Stadium Foster Football Club in London is particularly one of the good ones to visit. Also in Liverpool. I should also mention I have to because there is another football team in Liverpool. There's more than two. Obviously there's other ones. But the big other big team is Everton who have a new football ground. And I did see the ground.

Doug [00:17:06]:

It looks very impressive. It's called the Hill Dickinson Stadium. Named after a Liverpool law firm. But that looks very impressive as well. I know there's plenty of passionate Everton fans as well.

Tracy Collins [00:17:16]:

So there's lots of potential things that you can include.

Doug [00:17:19]:

Yes.

Tracy Collins [00:17:19]:

In a visit to Liverpool. Yes. So if you're gonna go out, you can. As I mentioned, you can do it on a day trip from London. But if you want to stay there and I would recommend if you're gonna go to the Cavern Club that you need to stay.

Doug [00:17:30]:

Yeah.

Tracy Collins [00:17:31]:

And our favorite place to stay in the center of Liverpool is the hard days night. Get it right this time. Hard his nice hotel.

Doug [00:17:37]:

I did actually have a walk in there as well. Because you walk in and it just continues that massive, massive Beatles tone. The playing music as you walk through. There's memorabilia all around the lobby area. When we stay there it's. Each room's different.

Tracy Collins [00:17:52]:

Yes, yes. They all had different, I think different themes and different. Yeah, different photos and obviously different. Yeah, different themes in them. Which is, which is really good.

Doug [00:18:01]:

It's worth stepping into the lobby just as a Beatles.

Tracy Collins [00:18:03]:

Yeah. And it's literally around the corner from the Cavern Club as well. So you can say the Cavern Club at early hours and then kind of go back to your hotel and so if you're a Beatles fan, I would recommend that the other option actually is if you listen to episode 29 of the podcast podcast to Ken Lambert. Ken Lambert actually purchased the child childhood home of George Harrison and Upton Green. And we've had a number of again number of people actually who've sent me emails and come on the podcast and said that they have actually booked to stay at Upton Green because they are the husbands or family member as a massive fan of the Beatles and they said how magical it is to actually stay in and know and, and I know that Ken shares photos of the Beatles in their rooms downstairs practicing. You know, it must be absolutely magical to imagine that the bills were in that room practice. And I know he's decorated it kind of in sympathetic to exactly how it was when, when George grew up there. And we can.

Tracy Collins [00:18:59]:

We've got a. Booked a link to book that as well. So I'd really appreciate if you do go into the show notes because you can email Ken and organize to. To reserve a stay in that Airbnb. It's slightly out of the center of Liverpool but honestly if you're a Beatles fan, what better way to kind of pay homage to. To the Fab Four by staying in one of their childhood homes and

being able to imagine what it was like when those guys were coming up with their fabulous songs.

Doug [00:19:27]:

It'd be a must say if you're an avid fan, you really would want to see that, wouldn't you?

Tracy Collins [00:19:31]:

Absolutely. So I mean there's just so much to do and see in Liverpool. There's lots of fantastic restaurants. We have friends that go and love the Mowgli restaurant. We actually haven't tried it in Liverpool but we have friends that go up to Liverpool to enjoy it and that's like Indian street food and that's very, very popular. But again you've got lots of options for cafes, restaurants. There's some, you know, really excellent choices in Liverpool. I'm trying to think of anything else that we need because I really want to give you a taste in this episode I really would like to have a look at the articles where they've got more details about the things to do and see.

Tracy Collins [00:20:04]:

But you can easily spend a couple of days in Liverpool.

Doug [00:20:06]:

You really can. And I mentioned it already. I love the people from Liverpool, I love the accent, I love the characters because they are such passionate people.

Tracy Collins [00:20:15]:

I have to say as well, it's really funny. So when I was at school, so I grew up in Southern Africa apart between the Northeast Northumberland and Southern Africa and I had. My best friend was actually from Liverpool and we, we, when we finished school we flew back and she went to stay with her family. I went to stay with my family in the northeast so she came up to stay with me for a few, a few days. Had no understanding whatsoever. No clue what my grandfather was saying. He had a very, very strong Geordie accent. It was really funny.

Tracy Collins [00:20:41]:

And then I went to stay with her in Liverpool and we went into Birkenhead for the day and I remember this cafe and not having a clue, not having a clue when I was asked if I wanted to. I can't even pronounce it properly so. So I shall apologize to any, anybody from Liverpool but I just couldn't understand. Oh so she was asking for. Wanted a Coke. So it just shows you even, even us Brits going from one region to the other can't necessarily understand the accent.

Doug [00:21:06]:

Because there's so many regional accents.

Tracy Collins [00:21:08]:

Yeah, absolutely. But it always sticks in my memory because it was so funny. My friend couldn't understand my granddad and I was really struggling to understand in this cafe what this, this poor waitress was asking if I wanted to order. But it's really funny. So yes, you will hear the accent is very different.

Doug [00:21:22]:
It is, it's strong.

Tracy Collins [00:21:23]:
If you're going to be. Yeah, in Liverpool you'll hear a deaf definite. If you're going from London up to Liverpool you're going to hear a very different accent. So bear that in mind. And that's all part of the, I don't know the magic of visiting I think.

Doug [00:21:34]:
So I think it's magical part to visit in the UK full stop.

Tracy Collins [00:21:37]:
Absolutely. And go to the North. Go, go and visit the north as well. So that's good. We actually have. Also if you're going to be in London and you're a Beatles fan, we actually do also have an article about things to do in London for Beatles fans as well. That's a very popular article because there's some, some good walks that you can do, some great sites that can visit actually you just went to the Beatles shop.

Doug [00:21:56]:
I went to the Beetle Shop near Mary Lebone. Yeah, on Maryborone and right next door to the Sherlock Holmes Museum, which you.

Tracy Collins [00:22:03]:
Always go to Anyway, Sherlock Holmes is dog. But yeah, so there's so much to do and see in Liverpool so definitely worth visiting. So I'm just thinking of tips that we could kind of share with you if you're considering a visit. So the first thing I would say is be careful when you visit. If you're going to go and there's a football match on because it'll be busy.

Doug [00:22:23]:
Yeah. As I've already said, there's multiple sports football teams and other sports, rugby league teams as well nearby. They are avid sports fans. So when the sports fixtures on. Yes, it will be busy.

Tracy Collins [00:22:36]:
Yeah, it does get busy and the trains can get busy until the trains.

Doug [00:22:39]:
Can get very busy.

Tracy Collins [00:22:40]:
So that's worth thinking about as well. And also book an accommodation will be more difficult. So it is worth planning not to go on a Saturday or Sunday or check in in case there's a midweek fixture.

Doug [00:22:49]:
That's right. It's also Liverpool University as well. So at certain times a year and certain days accommodation can be in short supply as well. So it can get very busy then.

Tracy Collins [00:22:59]:

Yeah. And I do always kind of stress this with the trains as well because I do. I know we had feedback from a few people who visit this summer and traveled on Saturdays and they didn't realize that not there was any trouble on the trains. I should just say no problem, it was just fans on the trains but. But it was very, very, very busy. So again, it kind of underlines the need to book a seat.

Doug [00:23:15]:

Yeah, book a seat. Yeah, yeah.

Tracy Collins [00:23:17]:

So the other thing, I guess and also just mentioned, we're talking about train stations. There's more than the one, isn't there? Because you get into Liverpool Lime Street.

Doug [00:23:24]:

Yeah, that's the main station. As I say Mersey Rail have multiple stations but Liverpool Central as well. If you go into, you know, other locations as well, it's not just Liverpool Lime street, that's just the main station, but James street for example for the Western Approaches and that's closer to the Albert Docks as well.

Tracy Collins [00:23:42]:

Yeah.

Doug [00:23:43]:

But the, you know, there's good maps out there. They use National Rail Inquiries because Merseyville comes under that as well. So all the information will be on the website.

Tracy Collins [00:23:50]:

National Rail Inquiries and also just in Liverpool is a great, also great destination that you can get to other places easily from. So it's very easy if you want to go to Chester to North Wales, the Lake District.

Doug [00:24:02]:

Yeah, yeah. Just turn off hours. You can be up towards the Lake District. It's not a direct service because obviously you've got to change Wigan or Oxen Home for Windermere. But yeah, it's that gateway. I mean, you're not far from heading across, you know that into. Towards Manchester as well, you know, then you've got obviously links across towards the Pennines as well. So.

Tracy Collins [00:24:24]:

So, and I know we've done. We've actually helped lots of people with their train itinerary. So we have got a Best of Britain by, by, by rail two week itinerary, which were a few years ago, which is incredibly popular and we've had a lot of people who've actually done that itinerary. And you've got some different options with that. We've put kind of either or. You can do either or. And that kind of will take you on a kind of circuit around and you. In that itinerary, you get to go to England, Wales and Scotland to start in London and back in London.

Tracy Collins [00:24:50]:

But also you've been helping a lot of people through the itinerary consults, particularly with train itineraries.

Doug [00:24:57]:

That's right, yeah. The people think, oh, is it staff question. I don't know how to do this and I explain and simplify things on consults and the feedback we've had is you've made that so much easier, more you put in perspective. You told us what is achievable, what's not achievable. I've explained tickets, I've explained passes. So yes, we simplify. And I do a specific train itinerary at train consult as well, don't we?

Tracy Collins [00:25:21]:

Yeah. Specific just for trains. Yeah, if that's what you want, which.

Doug [00:25:24]:

Is the feedback again, it makes a big difference.

Tracy Collins [00:25:27]:

Absolutely. And also if you actually want a bespoke itinerary, as in Doug will design the train itinerary for you. You can actually from January as well, chat to Doug about designing an itinerary around the UK by rail as well.

Doug [00:25:41]:

Yeah. Because let's face it, train travel in the UK is not cheap. So the last thing you want to be doing is having unnecessary journeys backwards and forwards across the country when I can streamline it and make it work in a more logical circular route. Because most people, you know, like a circular journey, don't they? Instead of back, forwards, backtracking.

Tracy Collins [00:26:00]:

Yeah. So that's all available and you can check on the website as well for links to that. And we've had some, we've just had. We've had some Wonderful, wonderful times. Helping people plan their trip and go through itinerary consults. And of course, we do a video consult as well. So if you want to send us your itinerary, you've done the itinerary yourself, but you want us to, you know, you do a bit of a Q and A, you, you want us to have a look at it and maybe tweak it, then we do that as a video consult. So you've got three different options if you want us to help you with your itinerary around the UK now, also, I will just.

Tracy Collins [00:26:29]:

I'm going to actually go back to one of my favorite subjects when I'm walking in a particular city is to make sure that you have comfortable footwear because they mentioned that Liverpool is a walkable city. So I'm going to take this back into Liverpool. Make sure that you, you are prepared for the day, you've got your comfortable shoes on. You plan your itinerary for the day. You make sure that you book your tickets for things in advance. For example, for the. The magical mystery Turk does get booked up.

Doug [00:26:53]:

Yeah. So does the Anfield tour.

Tracy Collins [00:26:54]:

Yeah. So you need to make sure that you book them in advance. Don't leave it until the last minute. And I know this is very popular, we hear this quite often about. I just want to go and kind of wing it and book things at the last minute. Sometimes you can book things kind of last minute. It depends on the season. Like if you're going in February, probably get away with it.

Tracy Collins [00:27:11]:

But when it comes to lots of different places and popular places, you can't wait until the last minute.

Doug [00:27:18]:

That's right. Because, yeah, Liverpool is a popular city with British people to visit as well.

Tracy Collins [00:27:23]:

Yeah, absolutely. Because the history, culture and obviously the. Builds connection. Yeah. So I think that's just about everything that I can think of to share in a kind of quick podcast episode.

Doug [00:27:34]:

Yeah, I'm just going to add there, I mentioned you can catch a ferry from Liverpool to Belfast.

Tracy Collins [00:27:41]:

Yes.

Doug [00:27:42]:

And also you can catch a ferry from Birkenhead to the Isle of Man.

Tracy Collins [00:27:45]:

Isle of Man. Well, you know, we have had a few people in the Facebook group who have mentioned on the Isle of Man. Now the last time I was at the Isle of man, I was 11, so it's a few years ago. But it certainly would be somewhere I'd be interested to go back to.

Doug [00:27:57]:

Most certainly. I've never been.

Tracy Collins [00:27:58]:

No, you haven't been there. Or. And I know another talk about islands, actually, because we have got a podcast all about the Isle of White that you did. We haven't got anything on the Alaman yet and we've been requested actually to do a podcast about visiting the Channel Islands, which I know you're really keen to do.

Doug [00:28:13]:

Yeah. The other end of the uk. Yeah. Out in the English Channel, Guernsey. I've visited many, many, many, many, many, many times up to a certain age and then I've not been for the last 20 years.

Tracy Collins [00:28:23]:

Yeah. And I was in Jersey last year, so I think we will do so we love it when we get requests, so do don't want to speak pipe. Leave us a message, leave us a question, say there's something in particular you'd love to hear about the podcast. And you never know. Next year, 2026, you could hear your name mentioned. You could also hear the episode that you requested.

Doug [00:28:43]:
Most definitely. Yes.

Tracy Collins [00:28:44]:
So as always, you can find links to different things that we talked about in the show notes, which will be @uktravelplanet.com Episode 178. It's nearly Christmas, which is unbelievable. Can't believe it. Near the end of another year. So we got, we have got another few episodes left for this year. We've got our Christmas message, which we always do every year from ourselves and our, and our partners and then we just have a wrap up of 2025 at the very end of the year, the end of this month and then we're heading 2026. So I say if there's anything in particular you want here at the podcast 2026, let us know. But I guess that just leaves us to say for this week, Doug, Happy UK Travel Planning.

Tracy Collins [00:29:25]:
Thank you for tuning in to this week's episode of the UK Travel Planning podcast. As always, show notes can be found @uktravelplanning.com if you've enjoyed the show, why not leave us feedback via text or a review on your favorite podcast app? We love to hear from you. And you never know, you may receive a shout out in a future episode, but as always, that just leaves me to say, until next week, Happy UK Travel Planning. It.