



Victoria Baths
Tours & Open days



Victoria Baths Group Tour Information 2016

Victoria Baths is widely recognised as Britain's finest historic municipal swimming pool. In 2003 it was voted as the building BBC2 viewers most wanted to see restored. As a result, the front block of the building was restored externally and visitors can view its many decorative features – **stained glass windows, mosaic floors, glass block paving and the Turkish Baths suite, as well as the three pool halls.**

The *Discover Victoria Baths* tour is led by an **experienced guide**, who will relate something of the **history of the building, including personal memories**, the restoration process and the campaign to bring the building back into use for swimming and use of the Turkish Baths. We can run tours at most times on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays between 10am – 4pm.

An additional *Off-Limits* tour is also available, visiting behind the scenes areas including the undercroft of the pools, the boiler house and water treatment room.

The Baths is open for group visits from **April to October**, with tours tailored to suit any age group. We can also provide specialist tours on request, such as *Architectural Splendours* or *The Wonders of Stained Glass*. Ask us if you would like more information about these.

Charges

	Per Person
• <i>Discover Victoria Baths</i> main tour (1 hour) *The Minimum charge is £100 per group	£5.00*
• <i>Off Limits</i> tour	£3.50
• Tea/Coffee and Biscuits	£2.00
• Soup and Sandwich Lunch	£5.00

We open our **Gift Shop** for groups so that you can purchase postcards, pamphlets, books and other Victoria Baths related items.

Manchester has a great range of smaller heritage attractions as well as the main galleries and museums. We have listed overleaf information and contact details for several heritage attractions in Manchester which you might like to visit on the same day as coming to Victoria Baths.

Accessibility

There is ramped access to the ground floor of the building and a fully accessible toilet. Although there is no lift, most of the building can be appreciated from the ground floor, which is fairly level.

Please let us know if members of your group have restricted mobility as we can adjust tours to suit your needs.

Parking and Entrance

There is dedicated coach parking at the front of Victoria Baths and ample parking for cars at the rear. The car park is reached down the left-hand side of the building, then turn right into the enclosed yard. The main entrance for group visits is the door marked FEMALES at the front of the building.

Planning your Itinerary

Elizabeth Gaskell's House is just around the corner from Victoria Baths at 84 Plymouth Grove. This beautifully restored home opened for visitors in October 2014. The famous author lived there with her family and wrote novels including Mary Barton, Cranford, North and South, Ruth and Wives and Daughters. The house has spectacular period rooms and garden and a tea room for visitors to enjoy. Public opening times are 11am – 4.30pm (last entry 4pm), Wednesday, Thursday and Sunday. Ticket prices: Adults £4.95; Concessions £3.95. Children under 16: Free (must be accompanied by an adult). Private tours by arrangement on Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays.

More details: www.elizabethgaskellhouse.co.uk/visit-us or call 0161 273 2215.

The Pankhurst Centre is close to Victoria Baths, on Nelson Street off Oxford Road. This houses a heritage centre which tells the story of the Suffragette movement. The centre welcome visits and can take groups up to 15 people at a time. Admission is free and donations to the Pankhurst Centre are welcome. There is a souvenir/gift shop.

For more information Tel: 0161 273 5673 / admin@thepankhurstcentre.org.uk

Manchester Jewish Museum is housed in a stunning Victorian Synagogue just north of Manchester City Centre. It tells the story of Manchester's Jewish community from the 1740s to present day and welcomes group visits. Open Sunday-Thursday 10am-4pm and Friday 10am-1pm. Admission includes guided tour (on the hour): £4.50/£3.50 concessions.

More details: www.manchesterjewishmuseum.com or call 0161 834 9879.

Greater Manchester's **Museum of Transport** is approximately 1.25 miles north of Manchester City Centre and welcomes group visits - party rate £2 per adult. Take a trip back in time with one of Britain's biggest collections of restored buses, coaches and trams.

More details: www.gmts.co.uk. email@gmts.co.uk or call 0161 205 2122

The **Working Class Movement Library** is about a mile west of Manchester City Centre (and just 25 minutes away by a direct bus link from Victoria Baths). The Library exists to tell the story of people's fight for a better world. The collection of books, archives, photographs, songs, banners, posters and more covers everything from working life to political life, to union life, to sporting life. The Library offers group tours by appointment at no charge; drop-in visitors are also welcome to browse our displays. Open Tuesday-Friday 10am-5pm and the first Saturday of most months.

For more information Tel: 0161 736 3601 / enquiries@wcml.org.uk