

HAT WORKS MUSEUM

INFORMATION PACK

Hat Works Museum of Hatting

Hat Works is an award winning, VAQAS accredited visitor attraction and is the UK's only museum dedicated to the hatting industry, hats and headwear. The team at Hat Works is of course very proud of these honours and is constantly working to ensure that visits to our museum are both informative and enjoyable, offering visitors professional museum tours led by experts and a diverse exhibition and events programme.

Our exhibits on the Ground Floor take you on a journey through the history of the once thriving hatting industry of Stockport from its days as a cottage craft, through the development of the factory system in the Industrial Revolution to the increasing mechanisation of the 19th and 20th centuries. Our Gallery on the 1st Floor has examples of hats from across the world and through time, our temporary exhibitions and opportunities for our younger visitors to try their hand at drawing, colouring and making paper hats. The 2nd Floor (A6 Entrance Level) offers a souvenir shop and café.

Opening hours

Tuesday to Saturday: 10am until 5pm

Sunday and Bank Holidays: 11am until 5pm

Closed Mondays except Bank Holiday Mondays. Last tour 3:30pm

For more information on our opening times, prices and parking just give us a call on 0161 474 2399

Our Tours

Your visit can be tailored to the specific requirements of your party. Our tours can be customised to the length of time you have to spend in the museum and to the size of your party.

Hat Works tours are led by expert demonstrators who will share their knowledge of the history of the hatting industry. The tour will give you an insight of the processes involved in producing a hat. You will learn about the cottage industry, visit a typical hatter's cottage, observe our original working Victorian machinery and much more.

Following the tour your party will be able to enjoy our large hat gallery with a collection of over 400 hats from around the world, including The Duke of Wellington's bicorn hat which dates from 1857 and a top hat reputed to be the world's tallest. In this gallery visitors will also find our temporary exhibition space which is always popular with visitors and has a wide-ranging exhibition programme.

Hat Works Museum is situated over three floors within the Wellington Mill, a Grade 2 listed building, which, fittingly, was indeed formerly a Hat Factory. The entrance to Hat Works is on the right hand side of A6, Wellington Road South, just a few minutes' walk up the hill from the town centre. The entrance is suitable for wheelchair users and pushchairs. There is a lift to all floors with toilets located on 2 levels. On the A6 Entrance Level there is a toilet for disabled visitors and baby changing facilities, and the toilets on our Gallery Level include further facilities for disabled visitors). Hat Works aims to be fully accessible, so if you require any extra assistance on your visit please contact the Booking Desk and we will endeavour to accommodate you.

Tour Package Costs

For all tours (which must be booked in advance) the charges are as follows:

Daytime Visits

Tuesday to Saturday
Sundays
Bank Holidays

Opening Times

10am until 5pm
11am until 5pm
11am until 5pm

Adults:

£5.00 per person

Concessions:

£3.75 per person

Daytime during daytime opening hours Under 16s Free

Single site

Adults £5/Concessions £3.75 per person

Multi-site visit

Adults £13/Concessions £10 per person

(visit each of our four museums once)

Hat Works, Air Raid Shelters, Staircase House and Bramall Hall

Annual Pass

Adults £25/Concessions £20 per person

(visit again and again with our annual multi-site pass)

Hat Works, Air Raid Shelters, Staircase House and Bramall Hall

Group Visits

We offer a range of group visits for parties of 15 people (or more) during normal opening hours from £4 per person.

Evening Visits **

Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday evenings, after 5pm

Latest time 7pm until 9pm

All Visitors Adults, Concessions & Children

£10 per person**

Please note that our **minimum number for an evening group tour is **15 people** and that only the A6 entrance will be open for use unless other arrangements have been made.

All prices quoted are not available in conjunction with any other offer.

Booking Conditions

All bookings can be made during Hat Works opening hours by telephoning the Bookings Desk on 0161 474 2399. Once booked a full 48 hours' notice is then required for any cancellation or reduction in numbers. Otherwise you will be liable for the FULL cost of the original number booked.

Our friendly and efficient team will take all your party details and requirements. A letter of confirmation and directions will be sent out to the organiser, detailing in full your visit to the museum. Payment for tour of Hat Works can be made in advance or on the day by cash, credit or debit cards or with a cheque made payable to: Stockport MBC (Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council).

Coach Parking

Hat Works offers free coach parking for groups that have pre-booked a guided tour. Please ask for further information.

Joint Visits

Thinking of visiting Stockport for the full day? Then why not combine a visit to Hat Works with a visit to one of our other Heritage sites:

Bramall Hall, Stockport Air Raid Shelters, Stockport Art Gallery, Staircase House and Stockport Story all offer the visitor a varied and interesting experience.

You could visit Stockport's Historic Town Market and Stockport Mersey Square shopping centre for some retail therapy! Or why not take a tour of Stockport's Plaza Cinema and indulge in light refreshments from their famous Tea Room Menu.

For more information on opening times, prices and parking just give us a call on 0161 474 2399.

Hat Works Directions

Hat Works is located in Stockport Town Centre and is easily accessible by major roads and public transport. The entrance to Hat Works is the right hand side of the A6, Wellington Road South, just a few minutes' walk up the hill from the Merseyway shops. The entrance is suitable for wheelchair users and for pushchairs.

From the M60

Coach companies

Come off the M60 at Junction 1. The Co-operative Bank's large blue pyramid building is an easily identifiable landmark. Take the 2nd turning into TRAVIS BROW, which runs into HEATON LANE, this is sign posted "Town Centre". Continue to the roundabout (under motorway) take the 3rd turning into KING STREET.

Continue along KING STREET to the traffic lights (CHESTERGATE) and turn left, which will take you into a bus lane then into Stockport Bus Station.

Important Information for Coach

Driver Please ask your driver to drop passengers off at our A6 entrance before parking in either bay 7 or 8.



Stockport Railway Station is just a few minutes' walk away. Come out of the station along the Station Approach. Turn left at McDonald's and continue down Wellington Road South. Hat Works is located about 300 yards ahead, on the left hand side of the road.

Parking

There is limited pay and display and disabled parking around the Museum. The nearest main car parks are Heaton Lane (opposite Debenhams) or Grand Central (near Stockport Railway Station).

The nearest designated disabled parking is located on Exchange Street, opposite the Main Central Library just off the A6 (just around the corner from Hat Works)

WE LOOK FORWARD TO WELCOMING YOU TO HAT WORKS