

Did you know

Walking can help you reduce your stress levels, improve your mood and keep your bones healthy and strong. For example, a 25 minute brisk walk every day can add up to seven years on your life, and walking for just 20 minutes can burn off around 100 calories.

Transport for Greater Manchester is committed to promoting walking, encouraging people of all age groups and fitness levels to get out and walk. Whether you are exploring your local area, walking as part of your daily commute or taking in some fresh air during your lunch break we are here to help!

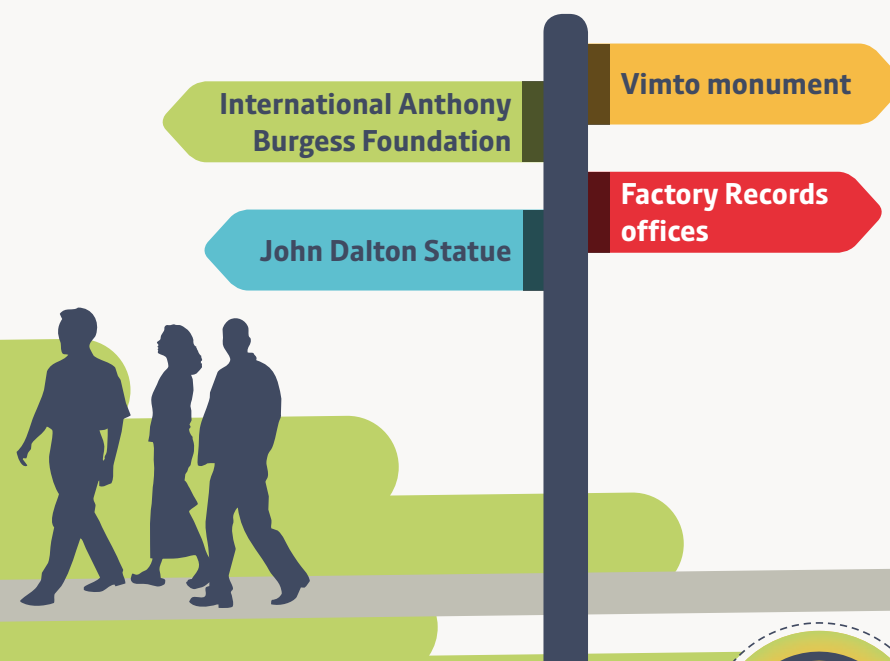
This self-led walk is part of a wider series of walks in and around Greater Manchester. For more information on the other walks in this series, or on how we can help you, head to our walking pages www.tfgm.com/walking



Transport for
Greater Manchester

All in your stride...

Oxford Road self-led walk



A step-by-step guide of discovery



Created for Transport for Greater Manchester by Pauline Lloyd, Manchester Tour Guide

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All in your stride... Oxford Road area

30-45
MINUTES
2KMS

START/FINISH 1 Outside Palace Hotel at corner of Oxford Road and Whitworth Street

The Palace Hotel was originally Refuge Assurance, who commissioned the building in the 1890s. A rooftop chase in the 1960 movie, *Hell is a City*, was filmed here. The architect Alfred Waterhouse also designed Manchester Town Hall, the original Manchester University building on Oxford Road, and the Natural History Museum in London.

2 Cross Oxford Road and the Oxford Road Station approach and walk along Whitworth Street West to Great Marlborough Street. Turn left (under the railway viaduct) and walk to Hulme Street.

Look for the red plaque on the BIMM building, on the right just before you reach Hulme Street. In the early 19th century this area was Little Ireland, a terrible slum populated by the poorest of Irish immigrants and often flooded by the nearby River Medlock. It was finally demolished to make way for Oxford Road railway station.

3 Turn right down Hulme Street and walk to Cambridge Street.

Most of the old brick buildings around you were early 19th-century mills and factories.

On your right is the International Anthony Burgess Foundation. Manchester-born Burgess, whose novels include *Clockwork Orange*, was educated in Manchester and particularly liked to study at Central Library. Visit the café and browse the books among furnishings which once graced Burgess' homes in France and Monaco.

Opposite you on Cambridge Street is the Macintosh & Co Ltd India Rubber Works, the first place to manufacture Charles Macintosh's patented waterproof cloth.

Very fitting for the rainy city!

4 Turn left along Cambridge Street and left again into Chester Street.

Halfway down on your right is a statue of scientist John Dalton, the 'father of atomic theory' and discoverer of colour blindness. He came to Manchester as a young man in the late 1700s to teach maths. One of his students was physicist James Prescott Joule.

Dalton lived in what is now Chinatown, was a president of Manchester Lit & Phil (Literary & Philosophical Society), kept meticulous daily weather records, taught chemistry to medical students of the Infirmary in Piccadilly, and wound the clock each day in the Portico Library! The plaque on the ground below the statue was brought here from his tomb at Ardwick Cemetery when that graveyard closed.

5 Continue along Chester Street to Oxford Road, turn left and walk to Hulme Street. Cross Oxford Road and walk straight on along Charles Street to Princess Street.

Behind buildings on the left you can see the railway viaduct that runs between Piccadilly and Oxford Road stations. This opened in 1849 to link London Road (now Piccadilly) with Altrincham. This was possibly the first railway commuter route in the country and it contributed to the growth of Sale and Altrincham as commuter suburbs.

The building on the right at the corner of Charles Street and Princess Street was once FAC251, the offices of Anthony Wilson's Factory Records. At the Lass O'Gowrie pub to your left, look for the (unofficial) blue plaque on the right-hand outside wall and guess what a 'pissotiere' is!

7 Continue along Sackville Street and cross Whitworth Street.

The park on your right is Sackville Gardens. The metal man on a bench in the centre commemorates mathematician Alan Turing. He helped break the German Enigma code at Bletchley Park during WW2 and was a key member of the Manchester University team that built the world's first programmable computer.

He was prosecuted for homosexual acts in 1952 and committed suicide in 1954. He received a posthumous Royal Pardon in 2013.

Continue along Sackville Street, turn left into Canal Street and walk to Princess Street. Turn left and walk to the corner of Princess Street and Whitworth Street.

Cross Princess Street and walk along Whitworth Street to the junction with Oxford Road/Oxford Street.

6 Cross Princess Street, continue along Charles Street, turn left and walk along Sackville Street.

On the grassed area to your right near Granby Row stands the Vimto monument by Kerry Morrison.

Vimto was first produced by John Joel Nichols from Blackburn in 1908 in a factory on the site of Granby Row. Nichols himself created the original recipe of fruit juices, herbs and spices.

He called it Vim Tonic and later shortened it to Vimto.

