



Crosby Beach - Antony Gormley's Another Place walk

Easy beach walk past Antony Gormley's public art installation "Another Place" with views of The Wirral Peninsula.



Length From 5.1 km (3.2 mi) to 7.2 km (4.5 mi), depending on tide and appetite for walking on sand.

Ascent: negligible.

Time: 1 1/4 hour or 1 3/4 hours walking time.

Transport Hall Road, Waterloo and Hightown stations are located on the Southport branch of the Merseyrail network's Northern Line, travelling north along the West Lancashire Coast.

Journey times from/to Liverpool Central are: Hightown 25 minutes, Hall Road 22 minutes, Waterloo 17 minutes.

Trains operate every 15 minutes throughout the day from Monday to Saturday and on summer Sundays. Winter Sunday services are every 30 minutes.

Walk Notes Fascinating, easy walk in Merseyside, from Hall Road to Waterloo stations and along Crosby Beach past Antony Gormley's world-renowned public art installation "Another Place" in its now permanent location, with views across the Mersey Estuary to The Wirral Peninsula and across Liverpool Bay to the North Wales mountains.

An **Alternative Start** from Hightown station along the Sefton Coastal Path, through dunes and along sandy tracks, is described and adds 3.2

km/2.0 mi to the route.

For an even longer walk, you can pick up the Sefton Coastal Path at several points further north along the trainline. Check the website [here](#) for more details.

Note: The statues are placed on Crosby Foreshore, a wide and shallow tidal beach on the River Mersey, which has the second highest tidal range in Britain. Therefore plenty of water channels with fast-moving water and large areas of very soft sand and mud exist. And while it is generally safe within 50m of the promenade, further out it is easy to get cut off by the incoming tide or to get stuck in soft sand or mud. There are also often nesting birds near the Low Water mark (as shown on the route map). In any case, study the tide times before embarking on this walk, and - if in doubt - stick to the High Water mark (as shown on the route map) or even to the tarmac promenade at the back of the beach.

Eat/Drink Plenty of options near Waterloo station, see text below for details.

Notes **River Alt**

The River Alt is Liverpool's second river and flows north west through Lancashire and Merseyside. It rises in Huyton at the Hag Plantation, and flows through Croxteth Park, West Derby and Maghull. It then flows out to the River Mersey at Hightown, between Crosby and Formby. St Helens Gutter, as the Alt is known between Aintree and Maghull, was once the name of the Milldam (water supply) of Sefton Mill. The river flows through a channel created around 14,000 years by glacial ice which crawled south from the Irish Sea basin. As the Alt flows towards the coast, it cuts through a plain of alluvium (river or wind deposited sand), mudstone and sandstone. At its mouth are the wide beaches and quicksand of the West Lancashire coast. For generations, people have had to fight against the Alt flooding. Today the Alt valley is a protected nature reserve. Thirty kilometres of embankments protect the farmland which lies either side.

Antony Gormley's "Another Place"

Crosby Beach, Merseyside now is the permanent home of Antony Gormley's art installation "Another Place". It consists of 100 figures of cast iron facing out to sea, "staring" at the horizon in "silent expectation". They are spread over a 3.2 km (2.0 mi) stretch of the beach between Waterloo and Blundellsands, and stretch out almost 1 km to the sea from the coast line. Each figure is 189 cm tall, weighs around 650 kg and stands on a metre-high foundation pile. The figures are cast replicas of Gormley's own body. As the tides ebb and flow, the figures are revealed and submerged by the sea, or - in the artists's words - "In this work, human life is tested

against planetary time.". As a result, regular maintenance is needed to check the changes wrought by heavy winter storms and shifting sands. The figures were cast at Hargreaves Foundry in Halifax, West Yorkshire and the Joseph and Jesse Siddons Foundry in West Bromwich. Over the years, the statues have been colonised by sessile intertidal organisms, such as invasive species of barnacles.

Another Place was first exhibited on the beach of Cuxhaven, Northern Germany, in 1997 followed by Stavanger, Norway and De Panne, Belgium and arrived in Merseyside in 2005. It was the subject of much controversy in Merseyside due to the naked statues, although many people considered the figures to be beautiful pieces of art, and tourism in the local area increased substantially. Originally, the statues were due to be relocated to New York in November 2006.

Art lovers and local businesses lobbied for the statues to stay, however. Gormley himself supported the proposal to keep the statues at Crosby Beach, saying the location was "ideal". On the other hand, users of the beach for watersports were among the most vocal in their resistance to the figures remaining, citing safety concerns. The coastguard feared that tourists could become stuck in soft sand or mud and get cut off by the tide. Conservationists, meanwhile, complained that bird-feeding areas had been compromised by the increased tourist traffic.

In October 2006, the local council refused to give permission for the statues to stay, prompting Gormley to criticise what he called Britain's "risk-averse culture." He stated, "When I have been down on the beach myself, the majority of people have been intrigued, amused, sometimes very moved." The company Another Place Ltd was established to campaign for the figures' permanent installation and appealed the council's decision. In March 2007, permission was granted for Another Place to remain at Crosby Beach permanently. The approved plan provided for 16 statues to be moved from contentious areas and decreased the installation's area from 232 to 195 hectares (from 570 to 480 acres).

[Another Place website](#)

Waterloo

Waterloo is a residential suburb of predominately Georgian, Edwardian and Victorian villas, mews and terraces, facing the sea. A series of public gardens - built as a job creation scheme during the 1930s Great Depression - run adjacent to the esplanade that abuts the marina leading to the coast and beach.

Waterloo was historically part of Lancashire and originally an area of Crosby, named Crosby Seabank. At that time it consisted mostly of cottages, the beach front, sand-hills and fields. The area grew in popularity with wealthy visitors from Liverpool prompting the planning and

construction of a large hotel in the Georgian style to be named the Crosby Seabank Hotel. The grand opening coincided with 18 June 1816, the first anniversary of the Battle of Waterloo, and it was named the Royal Waterloo Hotel in honour of the event. Gradually, as population increased and the area became an identifiable location it became known as Waterloo, with several streets taking names associated with the battle. Even now, some of the buildings in Waterloo, such as the Grade II listed Potters Barn park buildings, are replicas of those found in Waterloo, Belgium.

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By Car **Start** L23 8TU **Finish** L22 0LY

Help National Rail: 03457 48 49 50 • Traveline (bus times): 0871 200 22 33 (12p/min) • TFL (London) : 0343 222 1234

Version Mar-24 [Thomas G](#)

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Walk Directions

Hightown Start

Directions last checked: 06/03/2024

1. Arriving from Liverpool, leave the platform at the southerly end towards the back of the train, ignore the overbridge across the tracks to the station building and exit the station to the right along a tarmac path and in 20m continue along **Alt Road**, with The Hightown pub on the left.
2. In 15m *fork right* along **Lower Alt Road**, gently curving to the left with it. In 120m at a large roundabout with a War Memorial in the middle, cross over to the memorial and pass it to either side and continue in the previous direction, still along Lower Alt Road.
3. In 150m, where the road turns sharp left and continues as 'Riverside', you continue in the same direction along a tarmac cul-de-sac past a 'MOD Property - No Parking'-sign. In 50m you reach a T-junction with a the signed **England Coast Path** (ECP) on

the banks of the **River Alt** with the **Altcar MOD Ranges** beyond it. *Turn left* along the **Sefton Coastal Path**, initially on tarmac.

4. In 50m continue to the right of a fenced utility building along an earthen path, signed 'Hall Road Station 1 3/4 miles'; 'Waterloo Station 4 1/4 miles'. You have the river on your right and in 20m the fence turns to the left. In 40m you pass an info panel on 'Hightown and the Alt Estuary'.
5. In 50m the river turns away to the right and you get first views of **North Foyle Wind Farm**, the UK's first major offshore wind farm, as well as of the distant mountains of North Wales (weather permitting). You have trees and the houses of Hightown on the left and some reed beds on the right.
6. In 50m you pass the first of several ECP and footpath marker posts and in another 160m ignore a right fork towards the beach out of sight to the right, just before entering an area of dunes.
7. The now sandy path meanders through a grassy area between dunes on the right and gardens on the left, and in 120m you cross a path from a residential road away to the left. In 100m pass a marker post and in 120m another one. In another 40m you have views on the right out to sea, by another marker post.
8. You pass two more marker posts and in 130m reach a wide turning circle at a T-junction with a drive from the left, by **Blundellsands Sailing Club** on your right. At low tide, a path hard right back on yourself and signed 'Beach' and 'Submerged Forest' is worth exploring.
9. There is an info panel on 'Prehistoric Altmouth' on the right. Cross the turning circle and continue in the previous direction to the left of a footpath marker post along a broad sandy track, ignoring a signed path to the right into the dunes.
10. In 50m *fork right* with a marker post, keeping close to the dunes and beach, ignoring a left fork heading towards the last houses of Hightown, and in 100m *fork left* with a marker post, away from the dunes. In 35m *bear right* along a path joining from the left behind.
11. In 100m cross a path at a marker post and continue in the same direction, when level with the last houses away on the left. You are walking along an earthen path now for 160m where you re-enter sand dunes by a marker post. In 50m the path turns to the right with a marker posts and in another 60m it turns left again with another one.
12. In 15m *bear right* with a marker post and in 90m you get to a junction with a wide tarmac path at a bend. This is Route 810 of the National Cycle Network, also signed as the 'Sefton Circular' and a shared foot/cycle-path. *Turn right* along it, although there are walkable grassy margins on either side.
13. In 150m there is a clear footpath about 20m to the right in the grassy area close to the cliff face.

14. Soon you have the (fenced off) **West Lancashire Golf Club** away on the left and after 500m you pass a large red brick building on the left, presumably a pumping station for the underground drain emptying from inland marshland into the River Alt on the right, which bears right here from the cliff coast, away to join the Mersey.
15. The **Wirral Peninsula** has now come into view across the Mersey River, as well as some of **Liverpool's Docks** on this side of the Mersey (weather permitting). In 1.0 km you pass a two-way signpost for the King Charles III England Coast Path, go through a squeeze gate to the right of a metal car gate and pass a **Coastguard Station** on the left, while walking through a car park.
16. In 110m **Promenade** (road) joins from the left. This is a continuation of Hall Road and the main walk route from Hall Road station joins along it. On the right along **Crosby Beach** are the first of Antony Gormley's statues visible on the sandy foreshore. The **Wirral Peninsula** and some of **Liverpool's Docks** are visible to the half-right, and - on a good day - the mountains of North Wales in the distance beyond it.
17. *Turn right* towards a large info panel on **Another Place** and pick up the directions below at number [4].

Hall Road Start

Directions last checked: 06/03/2024

1. Arriving from Liverpool, leave the platform at the southerly end towards the back of the train and *turn right* along **Hall Road West**.
2. In 500m you continue in the same direction along **Promenade** where the main road turns to the left as Burbo Bank Road North, to a large car park ahead by a **Coastguard Station** on the right.
3. Where the tarmac lane ends, a wide tarmac path joins from the right, this is **Route 810** of the National Cycle Network and the Hightown Start joins along it. You have **Crosby Beach** in front of you, with the first of Antony Gormley's statues visible on the sandy foreshore. The **Wirral Peninsula** and some of **Liverpool's Docks** are visible to the left, and - on a good day - the mountains of North Wales in the distance. Walk towards a large info panel on **Another Place**.
4. *Turn left* from the info panel, go down a slipway onto the beach and find your way south past or through the 100 statues. The upper part of the beach should be safely walkable in all but the worst storms and the Mean High Water mark is marked on the route map as the main walk route. The alternative route follows the Mean Low Water mark and you should stay clear of that area - even at low tide - to protect the birdlife there.
5. The beach is 3.5 km long and Gormley's statues are placed all the way along it, but the recommended exit from the beach comes about 600m before its end. This is

- about level with a beacon out to the right on the Mean Low Water line and near the shipping lane of the River Mersey.
6. You leave the beach through some dunes onto the tarmac promenade at the back of the beach and (if you have picked the right spot to do so) come out at a signposted three-way junction of paths (although these may be part-blown over with sand from the surrounding dunes).
 7. Follow the **Sefton Coastal Footpath** turning away from the beach in a broadly easterly direction towards a body of water visible inland and in 140m you walk between two lakes: the narrower **Boating Lake** on the left, and the much larger **Marine Lake** on the right (both on the OS map).
 8. In 260m ignore a right fork and in another 90m a path joins from the left.
 9. In 150m - at a signposted multi-path junction - you *turn left* (signed 'South Road Shops 10 mins') between a row of low cafés and shops on the left and the walled **Waterloo Seafront Garden** on the right (the entrance is 50m ahead). You pass **Crosby Marina Kiosk** and the **Waterloo Sunset Café** and cross a main road (Marine Crescent/Terrace) to continue down **South Road**.
 10. It is 350m to Waterloo Station, and en route you pass: several restaurants, **Marine Bar & Kitchen**, **The Raven** Hotel, **The Old Bank**, **The Queen's Picture House** (Wetherspoon's), **The Alexandra** and **Parnell's**.
 11. If you were to continue down South Road for another 250m, you'd also find **Trap & Hatch** Micropub & Smoke House and **The Liver** (Hive Pubs/Greene King).

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