

Over 3 trails  
20 pubs  
Accommodation  
Outdoor Seating  
Beer Festivals  
Live Music  
Great Pub Food  
Real Ale



# TRAIL ALE STOCKPORT TOWN CENTRE

A free interpreting service is available if you would like help with this booklet/leaflet. Please call the Stockport English Language Service on 0161 477 9000. Email: eds.admin@stockport.gov.uk

如果此冊子對您有用，請致電 0161 477 9000 查詢詳情。我們亦提供免費的傳譯服務。

W przypadku gdybyś potrzebował pomocy odnośnie tej broszurki/ulotki, dostępne są usługi tłumaczeniowe. Prosimy dzwonić do Interpreting Unit pod numer 0161 477 9000.

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أنا بهذا الكتاب/الطيف لكي أستفيد من هذه النسخة. إذا كنت بحاجة إلى مساعدة، يرجى الاتصال بوحدة الترجمة على رقم الهاتف 0161 477 9000.

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This information can be made available in large print. Please call 0161 480 1774 for details. Email: eds.admin@stockport.gov.uk



Produced by Tourism Development, Environment & Economy, Stockport Council, September 2009. The help of John Sutcliffe, Stockport & South Manchester CAMRA with additional copy and trail concept is gratefully acknowledged.

Every effort has been made to ensure that information in this guide is correct and accurate. Stockport Council cannot accept responsibility for any errors or omissions. Pub details and opening times may change. Please check with them in advance.

## Places to visit in Stockport

Why not take time out from your Ale Trail and discover for yourself some of the interesting attractions in Stockport town centre.

### Staircase House

This beautiful Medieval town house in the Market Place has been furnished to show how it has been lived in for 500 years. Visitors can see the splendid parlour, the bustling kitchen, the grand dining room and the 1940s bedroom. There are no ropes or barriers - just the sounds and aromas of a magical journey through time accompanied by state-of-the-art audio technology. www.staircasehouse.org.uk



### Stockport Story

This local history museum follows Stockport's evolution from the Palaeolithic age to the present day. This free family-friendly attraction has interactive exhibits and activities. www.stockportstory.org.uk



### Hat Works

Hat Works is dedicated to the history of hats and headwear. Interactive exhibits take visitors on a tour of Stockport's once thriving hatting industry. Visitors can discover the people who made them, how they were manufactured and who still wears them! The museum is home to a recreated factory with 20 fully restored Victorian style machines and an unrivalled collection of over 400 hats from around the world. Entry is free. www.hatworks.org.uk

### Air Raid Shelters

Step back in time to 1940s Britain and experience life on the Home Front. Stockport's Air Raid Shelters are carved into natural sandstone cliffs. There is a WRVS tea station, nurses' quarters, sick bay and ARP store rooms. www.airraidshelters.org.uk

### Stockport Art Gallery

This grand building, with its imposing portico of 4 Corinthian columns was opened in 1925 and combines a magnificent marble hall with inspirational exhibition spaces. Visitors can enjoy a changing programme of contemporary art and craft exhibitions. For people with mobility difficulties, there is a newly fitted lift to allow access to the upper floors of the gallery. www.stockport.gov.uk/artgallery



### Stockport Town Hall

The base of local power over the last century has a magnificent marble staircase and ornate council chamber. Stockport's history is told through the beautiful stained glass windows. There is a programme of heritage tours, tea dances, concerts and Wurlitzer Organ recitals. www.stockporttownhall.org.uk

### St. Mary's Church

This is a Grade I listed building. The chancel dates from 1334, with the nave and 125 foot tower being rebuilt in 1814 after the original one was cracked by bell ringing in celebration of Nelson's victory at the battle of Trafalgar!



### Stockport Market

It was granted its charter in 1260, making it one of the oldest markets in the country - and rumoured to be the location of the last wife sale in England! Taking centre stage is the newly refurbished Victorian Covered Market Hall built in 1861 and constructed of cast iron and glass.

The restored Produce Hall offers fine local produce - including quality meats and traditional pies, cheeses and freshly baked breads.

No visit would be complete without experiencing the hustle and bustle of a market day on Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays.

### Stockport Plaza

This Super Cinema & Variety Theatre is an Art Deco jewel. (Re-opening in November 2009 to its former 1930's splendour). Its programme features cinema, classic black & white films, stage shows, musicals, comedy and dance performances. Its Compton organ with glass panels lit in a rainbow of colours rises from the floor and an organist plays music before shows, during silent movies and in between variety acts. Box Office: 0161 477 7779 or visit www.stockportplaza.co.uk

## Historic Market Place Trail

### Blue Route

#### 01 Arden Arms

23 Millgate, SK1 2LX, 0161 480 2185  
This Grade II listed building is a CAMRA award winning pub and Manchester Food & Drink Festival Pub of the Year 2008. It has a distinctive curved bar and hidden snug accessed through the bar. It serves excellent lunchtime meals, including an imaginative specials board. Look out for occasional Cheshire Gala evenings. They serve Robinson's Hatters, Unicorn, Double Hop, Old Tom and seasonal beers. There are real fireplaces in the lounge and a pleasant open and covered outdoor courtyard. Long case clocks, hardwood tables, period posters and chandeliers create a Victorian ambience. This is an unmissable gem.

Opening hours are 12noon to midnight.

#### 02 Boar's Head

2 Vernon Street, Market Place, SK1 1EW, 0161 480 3978  
This is a multi-roomed pub with a genuine town centre feel. Its owners Samuel Smith have restored the pub to its original state. The front room is divided into a public lounge and there is also a comfortably furnished room which is fitted out with cushioned pews, high back chairs and stools. Vernon Street was formerly a Pig Market and it is said that farmers would tie their pigs up here when popping in for a drink. There is an outside decked balcony and seating area. It sells Old Brewery Bitter and serves lunches from 12noon-2.30pm.

Opening hours are from 12noon to 11pm and until 6.30pm on Sunday.



#### 03 Baker's Vaults

Market Place, SK1 1ES, 0161 477 7312  
This excellent Market Place pub has a unique atmosphere, being both relaxed and vibrant. Although it is only a single large roomed pub, it is an architecturally impressive space. Its high ceilings, unusual artwork, twisted wrought metal mirrors and large candlesticks give it a truly gothic feel. Look out for Tuesday night jazz and live bands Thursday to Saturday providing a lively atmosphere from 9.30pm. Beer is Robinson's Hatters, Unicorn and seasonal beers.

Opening hours are from 11am to midnight and 5pm to midnight on Sunday.

#### 04 Calverts Court (JD Wetherspoons)

13 St Petersgate, SK1 1EB, 0161 474 6750  
This is named after the row of shops that formerly occupied the land. It has one large room with a bar on the right hand side and a seating patio at the front. Along one wall are a series of alcoves which give a degree of privacy to drinkers. A sofa populated area makes for a more comfortable relaxed drink. Its regular beers are Ruddles Bitter, Green King Abbot, Marstons Pedigree and there are a number of changing guest ales. Food is available from breakfast to early evening. There is an outdoor seated area to the rear also.

Opening hours are from 9am to midnight and until 1am on Fridays and Saturdays.



#### 05 Bull's Head

13 Market Place, SK1 1EW, 0161 480 0273  
This pub has been totally redecorated, since re-opening in Spring 2009 with new tenants. Remarkably, it now has seven hand pumps and serves Robinson's Dark Hatters Mild, Hatters, Unicorn, Old Stockport, three other seasonal and guest beers. It has good food at lunchtime and in the early evening, including Sundays. There is some outside seating at the front and rear where the smoking area is located. There is a first floor function room.

Opening hours are from 11am to midnight Monday to Thursday and until 3am on Fridays and Saturdays.

#### 06 Pack Horse

2 Market Place, SK1 1EW,  
This was mentioned as being a pub in the 1790s. It was probably rebuilt in the 19th Century where its mock Tudor façade faces St Mary's Church. The bar to the left front is the hub of activity with a public bar feel, whilst two rooms to the right are sparsely decorated. One has a pool table and TV and the other is a quieter snug used for lunches. It serves Tetley Bitter, Copper Dragon, Golden Pippin and changing guest beers.

Opening hours are from 12noon to 11pm and until 10.30pm on Sundays.

#### 07 Old Rectory

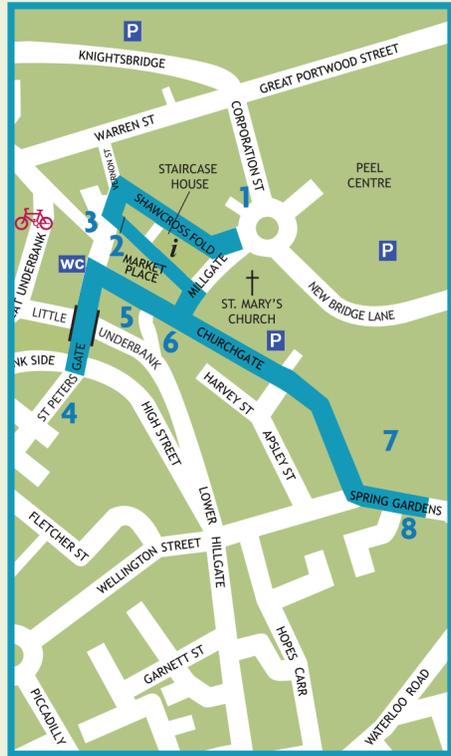
48 Churchgate, SK1 1YG, 0161 429 0060  
This was built as a Georgian Rectory for St. Mary's Parish Church. The building was used as the Bishop of Stockport's House from 1951 until 1965. It was converted and extended in 1991 to a multi-roomed pub and restaurant with accommodation in the Premier Inn at the rear. It still maintains a country house feel, with plenty of dark wood and plush decor. The front has a large beer garden with good views over Stockport. Theakston Best Bitter is sold and guest beers, often from micro-breweries. Food is available for most of the day in the conservatory extension. Lunches are served Monday to Friday from 11.45am to 2.45pm.

Opening hours are from 9am to 11pm and 4pm to 10.30pm on Sundays.

#### 08 Thatched House

74 Churchgate, SK1 1YJ, 0161 335 1910  
This is now a 19th Century building with half timbered upper floors. It was mentioned in 1744 as surgeon Dr Briscall's practice. It is now one of the town's premier venues for live music with mainly heavy rock, metal and punk bands playing on Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights. The beers are Black Sheep Bitter, Wychwood Hobgoblin and guest beers. There is a beer garden with regularly used barbeque. There are usually two changing guest beers and guest cider. Free juke box and pool is often on offer.

It is primarily an evening pub with opening hours Wednesday 8pm - 11pm, Thursday 8pm-1am, Friday 7pm-2am, Saturday 3pm-2am and Sunday 3pm to midnight.



# Welcome to Stockport's first Ale Trail.

This selection of 20 pubs in the town centre has been carefully chosen to reflect something which makes them worth a special visit.

This could be for their range of fine beers or a superb menu.

Some are traditional boozers with an historic setting and pride themselves on serving a quality pint, whilst others offer contemporary surroundings and a relaxed dining experience.

There are those with a small, busy bar or cosy snug whilst others are light and spacious with beautifully kept outdoor courtyards, family facilities and accommodation.

Choose from pubs with a simple juke box, pool table or darts board or others with a weekly programme of live music - rock, acoustic, rhythm & blues, heavy metal, punk or folk.

Some are managed by Stockport's own Brewing Family-Robinson's, are part of large national pub chains or are independent freehouses.

What they all offer is something a little bit different ...which is why we hope you'll find there's something on this Ale Trail for you.

To make it manageable, there are 3 mini Ale Trails which are distinct from each other. They can either be done separately or be joined together if you have more time.

...Remember though you can always come back another day to enjoy the wealth and variety of Stockport's town centre pubs.

The Ale Trails are clearly marked on the map as Red, Blue or Green routes, each one covering a different part of the town centre. These are;

- The Historic Market Place Trail
- The Underbanks & Hillgate Trail
- The Viaduct & Portwood Trail

## Stockport Tourist Information Centre

### Call in and visit us...

Based in Staircase House and located in the historic Market Place, Stockport Tourist Information Centre is worth a personal visit or a phone call to help you make the most of your time in Stockport.

Professional and friendly staff can help you with:

- Bookings for coach holidays and day trips
- Local and national holiday information
- Accommodation information
- Stockport branded souvenirs and gifts
- Local transport and travel information
- Guides, maps and local history books
- Information on places to visit - including heritage attractions, parks, canals and countryside walks
- Places to visit in the region and the North West
- Information on local and national events
- Tickets for local events

### Opening times

Monday to Saturday 9.30am-5.00pm  
Sunday 1.00pm-5.00pm

Stockport Tourist Information Centre  
Staircase House, 30 Market Place, Stockport, SK1 1ES

Telephone: 0161 474 4444  
Email: tourist.information@stockport.gov.uk  
Website: www.stockport.gov.uk/tourism

## Underbanks & Hillgate Trail

### Green Route

#### 09 Three Shires

32 Great Underbank, SK1 1NB, 07703 035 629

This was originally the town house of the Legh family of Adlington and probably dates back to 1637. The outside displays fine decorative timber framing. It has recently re-opened under new management and has been redecorated throughout. The pub is narrow, but is deceptively long. There are three main seating areas; a more formal dining area at the front by the large window and main entrance, an area with high stools adjacent to the bar and a larger one at the rear. It serves good pub food at lunchtimes and in the evenings. This pub does not serve real ale.

Opening hours are from 12noon to 11pm.

#### 10 Queen's Head

12 Little Underbank, SK1 1JT, 0161 480 0725

This is also known as the Turner's Vaults and is a much prized local hostelry dating back to the 1790s. It has a 3 room layout with the front narrow bar including alcoves and a grandfather clock; a small snug with wood burning stove tucked in the middle and a comfortable, quiet room at the back. The décor has wooden paneling and flooring, pictures of Victorian characters, old advertisements and mirrors. It does do lunchtime bar snacks but is primarily a popular drinkers' pub.

Opening hours are from 11am to 11pm and from 12noon to 7pm on Sundays.

#### 11 Winters

Little Underbank, SK1 1LA, 0161 968 1942

The former Winter's Jewellers was converted to a Holts pub some years ago. Its prominent position and shop window frontage with clock and painted figures which strike the hourly chimes make it stand out. It has one room downstairs with a raised area to the rear. A central stairway leads to the plush and comfortable first floor lounge and dining area. From here the internal workings of the splendid automaton clock can be viewed. It serves Holt's Bitter.

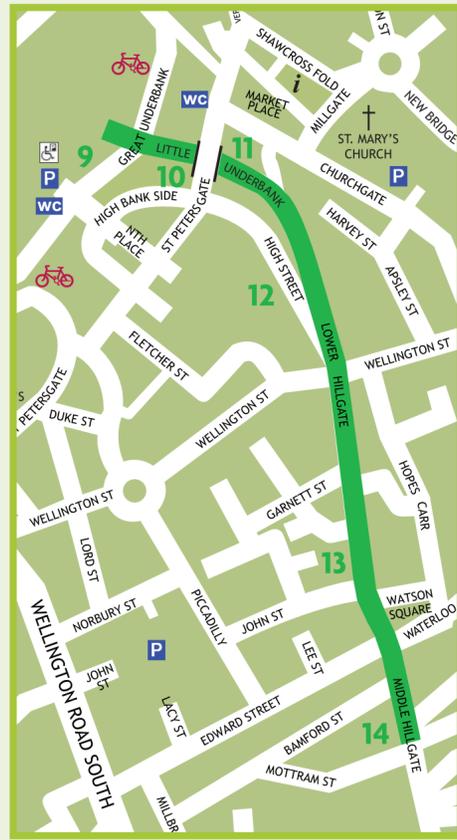
Opening hours are from 11am to midnight and until 6.30pm on Sunday.

#### 12 Royal Oak

11 High Street, SK1 1EG, 0161 477 9018

This whitewashed Robinson's Pub overlooks the Unicorn Brewery. The interior is compact with a front bar with flat screen TV, a pool table and machines to the right and towards the rear, a place with tables, chairs and darts board. The pub has been smartened up in recent times to give a clean, airy look. It serves Robinson's Hatters and Unicorn beer. A lunchtime menu has been introduced.

Opening hours are from 12noon to 11pm and until 10.30pm on Sundays.



#### 13 Red Bull

14 Middle Hillgate, SK1 3AY, 0161 480 1286

This imposing pub with its white exterior and well worn front steps has made it a favourite on the 'Hillgate Stagger'. Its substantial refurbishment in 2008 has thankfully made the outside toilets a thing of the past! The pub has six different eating areas including space in front of the long bar, a snug and an old cottage style lounge. The décor is light, airy and elegant and the furniture of various kinds is comfortable. There are open fires, stone flagged floors and pictures of rural Stockport adorn the walls. It has a modern, contemporary feel. There is an extensive menu providing both lunchtime and evening meals. Beers served include Robinson's Hatters, Unicorn and seasonal beers. There are also rooms furnished upstairs to provide overnight accommodation.

Opening hours are from 12noon to 11pm and until 9pm on Sundays.

#### 14 Sun & Castle

54 Middle Hillgate, SK1 3EH, 0161 476 0896

A narrow frontage hides a large pub interior. This is a good example of a Holt's traditional style of décor with a long vault, a large lounge and a snug. The attractive bar has lots of wood paneling and together with a fire gives this pub a warm, welcoming feel. It serves Holt's Mild, Bitter and Joey's. It is a clean and well upholstered house. Sing-a-longs are popular at weekends.

Opening hours are from 11am to 11pm and from 12noon to 10.30pm on Sundays.



## Viaduct & Portwood Trail

### Red Route



#### 15 Crown Inn

154 Heaton Lane, SK4 1AR, 0161 480 5850

This fine real ale pub nestles underneath the arches of Stockport's imposing viaduct. This was nominated in the Best Pub category in the Manchester Food & Drink Awards 2009. It was local CAMRA Pub of the Year 2008, a regional finalist and national runner up. There are 16 hand pumps offering a range of changing beers, including Pictish, Copper Dragon and a real Cider. There is live music on Friday, Saturday and Wednesday evenings, with the outside tented rear yard used to showcase larger acts such as rock, folk and acoustic bands. Four rooms radiate from the front bar, two comfortable compact snugs, a large rear lounge and the former pool room used to house extra beers at occasional festivals. This is a crowded, friendly and busy pub. There is nearby parking on Heaton Lane.

Opening hours are from 12noon to 11pm and until 10.30pm on Sundays.



#### 16 Pineapple

159 Heaton Lane, SK4 1AQ, 0161 480 3221

This is another hostelry in the shadow of Stockport's impressive red brick viaduct. This is a cosy pub serving Robinson's Hatters, Unicorn, Cumbria Way and seasonal beers. There are two interlinked rooms at the front, with white rendered walls and decorated with coloured china plates, many of which have been brought back by customers from their foreign travels. There is a games room at the back with a pool table and darts board.

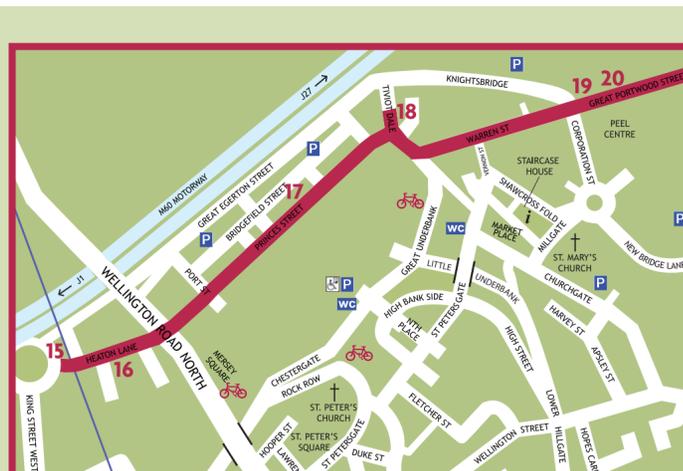
Opening hours are from 12noon to 11pm, with lunches served 12noon-2pm on Mondays to Saturdays.

#### 17 Swan with Two Necks

36 Princes Street, SK1 1RY, 0161 480 2341

This is a narrow mock Tudor half timbered front but is a deceptively deep Grade II listed building. The wood panelled interior dates from a refurbishment in 1926. A corridor leads past the front room, bar and middle skylighted room to a snug with fireplace and outdoor area. It serves Robinson's Hatters Mild, Dark Mild, Unicorn Bitter, guest beer and Old Tom in the winter. There is a large public car park at the rear.

There is good lunchtime food from 12noon-3pm with outside seating in summer. It can be quiet in the evening and may close at 8pm early in the week.



#### 18 Tiviot

8 Tiviot Dale, SK1 1TA, 0161 480 4109

This is a splendid traditional town centre pub serving Robinson's Hatters and Unicorn. There is a dining room at the rear and a cosy lounge at the front with a long room behind. It serves modestly priced food from 12noon-2pm Tuesday to Saturday. The Landlord has lived here since 1965 and has been licensee for the last 30 years - so you can ask him about the ghost in the cellar! It is one of the few pubs retaining a vault, with pictures of old aircraft which were donated when the RAF offices opposite, closed. There is a tiled entrance bearing the name of the pub on the floor. Pictures of steam engines decorate the walls.

Opening hours are from 12noon to 11pm and until 4pm on Sundays.

#### 19 Queens

11 Great Portwood Street, SK1 2DW, 0161 480 7144

This is a detached rendered building directly opposite the Peel Centre. It sells Robinson's Hatters Mild and Unicorn Bitter dispensed into oversized glasses in measured quantity. There is a bar along the rear wall which serves all areas of an open planned room. Low stained glass screens and bench seating create well furnished individual areas. This was redecorated in 2008 and pictures of old Stockport hang on the walls.

Opening hours are from 12noon to midnight each day of the week.

#### 20 Railway

1 Avenue Street, SK1 2BZ, 0161 429 6062

This CAMRA award winning pub is also opposite the Peel Centre and only a few yards up from the Queens. It is an ordinary pub from the outside but worth a visit for its impressive range of ales including Pennine Floral Dance, Hameldon Bitter, Railway Sleeper, Sunshine, Porter, seasonal beers, guest beers, real ciders and a stunning range of continental, Trappist beers and lagers - which can be served in beautifully shaped, authentic Belgian glasses if you ask. It is also one of the few pubs in the town where you can practice your bar billiards skills. Drinks are served from a single L shaped bar into a large lounge by enthusiastic and knowledgeable staff. There is a cider festival held each August.

Opening hours are from 12noon to 11pm and until 10.30pm on Sundays



## Local Breweries

### What's Brewing?

#### Robinson's, Stockport

When it comes to brewing a good pint, local brewers, Robinson's know a thing or two... well they have been doing it since 1838!

From small beginnings in Lower Hillgate, the Robinson Family has continued to expand their famous brewery in Stockport. Today that estate now numbers 400 pubs covering an area from Greater Manchester to North Wales and from the Midlands to the Lake District.

That tradition can be shared on regular tours of the brewery. As well as savouring the fresh taste of raw ingredients, experienced guides will explain unusual brewing terms like mashing, wort and rousing, whilst visitors can sample cask conditioned beers, buy a memento and see the magnificent shire horses and dray.

Robinson's best fine ales include Hatters, Dark Hatters, Old Stockport, Unicorn, Double Hop, Old Tom, Chocolate Tom and seasonal beers like Dizzy Blonde.

To arrange a tour, call 0161 480 6571 or email: [tours@frederic-robinson.co.uk](mailto:tours@frederic-robinson.co.uk)



#### 3 Rivers, Reddish

This is a welcome addition to the Stockport drinking scene. Their beers can be found in many local pubs and include GMT, Manchester IPA, Hillary Gold, Old Disreputable and Yummy Figgy Pudding. The brewery can handle tours, tastings and brewing courses.

#### Cellar Rat, Heaton Norris

Local brewer, Sarah Bergin, honed her skills at the Crown Inn on Heaton Lane. Her love of cask beer has helped her to develop a range of innovative beers under the Cellar Rat brand. She picked up the Stockport Beer & Cider Festival award for her pale, hoppy brew - Rosy Rat.

#### Hydes, Manchester

This is a traditional brewer and previous winner of the Cask Champion award. Favourite tipples are 1863, Owd Oak and Jekyll's Gold.

#### Holt's, Manchester

This brewery has a reputation for distinctive, full flavoured ales and a range of seasonal beers.

#### Beartown, Congleton

Many examples from this brewer's splendid range can be sampled across Stockport. Look out for Bear Ass, Bearnskinfl, Polar Eclipse and Black Bear.



### Safe drinking limits

Drink	Units
Pint of beer/lager/cider	3
Spirits - gin, rum, vodka, whisky	
Single	1
Double	2
Wine - red/white/rosé/sparkling	
Small	1
Standard	2
Large	3
Bottle	9
Fortified wine - port/sherry	
Standard	1

## Getting here & around

Stockport is easy to reach and to get around. It has excellent motorway access, direct trains and local rail routes, a comprehensive bus network and Manchester Airport is just 7 miles away.

#### Stockport by Road

Stockport town centre is off J1 of the M60 (Manchester Orbital Motorway), linking up with the M62 (east/west), M6 (north/south) and M56 (west). The motorways provide unrivalled access from all parts of Greater Manchester and have direct connections from Merseyside, the Midlands, the South, Wales, Scotland and Yorkshire.

#### Stockport by Rail

Stockport is well connected to main rail networks with frequent direct services from London, Birmingham, Manchester, Liverpool and Sheffield. Stockport station serves as the hub to many other local stations such as Bramhall and Cheadle. The £3.5 million refurbished railway station welcomes 300 trains every day. Situated just off the A6, it is only a 10 minute walk from town centre attractions and amenities.

#### Stockport by Bus

There are many private bus companies operating in Stockport and overseen by the Greater Manchester Passenger Transport Executive (GMPT). They have their own bus colours, fare systems and range of tickets. Visit [www.gmpte.com](http://www.gmpte.com)

#### Metroshuttle

Why not take advantage of Stockport town centre's FREE Metroshuttle. It runs every 12 minutes on Mondays to Saturdays from 8am to 6.30pm and on Sundays from 10.30am to 5.30pm. It will link up many of the pub locations on the Ale Trail including the historic Market Place, the Underbanks, Merseyway Shopping Centre and the Peel Centre.

## CAMRA

The Campaign for Real Ale is an independent, voluntary, organisation which campaigns for real ale, real pubs and consumers rights. It has 95,000 members nationally. There are 200 local branches covering the UK and many of them run beer festivals, publish newsletters or pub guides and run social events to pubs and breweries.

For details on how to join or to find out more about your local branch, call 01727 867201.



CAMPAIGN FOR REAL ALE

## Stockport Beer & Cider Festival

If you want to sample more unusual beers, ales, ciders and perries then check out the annual Stockport Beer & Cider Festival. This is held over the late May Bank Holiday. Its home for the past few years has been Edgeley Park, where Stockport County Football Club and Sale Sharks Rugby Club play.

Over the course of 3 days, there will be hundreds of ales to choose from; some brewed locally, others from breweries across the country including traditional Scottish ales. This year's favourites were Wild Swan, Cocoa Dance, Chocolate Cherry, Lomond Gold, Abbey Dore Mill and Broadoak...but expect new and different ones each time!

In the evenings and lunchtimes, there is live music featuring everything from Irish folk, to Soul to Manchester Blues. Look out for more details nearer the time.

[www.stockportfestival.com](http://www.stockportfestival.com) or call 0161 432 1816.