

Waterfront Weekends

Mersey Waterfront – Southport and Marshside

Southport's famous Grade II listed pier runs parallel to the new bridge. Revamped to the tune of £7m back in 2002, the country's oldest surviving iron pier is 3600ft long. Take a stroll or jump on the pier tram but make sure you leave time to explore Southport's award-winning beach.

Funland on Southport Pier is designated 'Family-Friendly', and offers up a multitude of ways to lose two pence pieces. Visit www.silcock-leisure.co.uk or call 01704 536733

For shopping don't miss Lord Street, from discount bookshops to high fashion. Don't forget to look up above the modern shop fronts and enjoy the turrets, gables and decoration of the buildings' upper floors. Designed in an age when craftsmen not concrete ruled, they make a stunning skyline.

Marshside is one the most important breeding grounds for wading birds in the UK. Enjoy the views of the wild salt marsh. Or pitch up with your field guide and binoculars and take a seat in one of the hides on the reserve. For more about Marshside visit www.rspb.org.uk/reserves/guide/m/marshside/about.asp

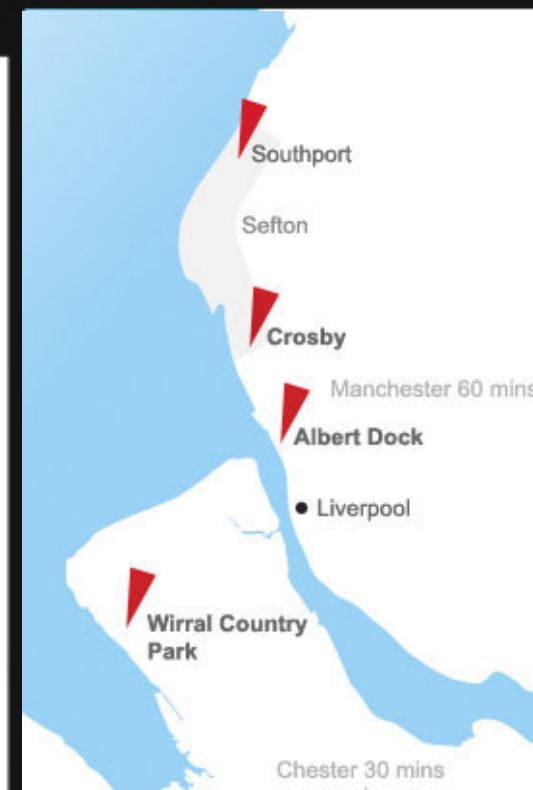
By car: From Liverpool take the A565, while from the M58 the A570 leads straight into the town centre.

By public transport: The nearest station is Southport Chapel Street, with direct trains from Liverpool and Manchester Piccadilly. To find out times call National Rail enquiries 08457 4849 50

To get to Marshside catch the number 4, 4A and 104 buses alongside the reserve on Marine Drive. For timetables contact Merseytravel 0151 236 7676

There's also a well-stocked Tourist Information Office on Lord Street, in Town Hall Gardens. 01704 533333

For further tourist information about Southport go to www.visitsouthport.com to find out more about the Sefton coast in general visit www.seftonnaturalcoast.com



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