



2005/2006 INFORMATION PACK FOR COACH & GROUP TOUR OPERATORS

Hat Works – The Museum of Hatting

Hat Works is the UK's only museum dedicated to the hatting industry, hats and headwear. This award winning visitor attraction offers 2 floors of interactive exhibits taking you on a journey through the history of the once thriving hatting industry.

Hat Works is a previous award winner of "Best Small Visitor Attraction in the North West 2002", Small Visitor Attraction of the Year' in Safeway's Excellence in England Awards and current holder of the "Manchester Tourism Awards Small Visitor Attraction of the Year 2004'.

The team at Hat Works are of course very proud of these honours and are constantly working to ensure that visits to our museum are both informative and enjoyable by offering visitors professional museum tours led by experts and a diverse exhibition and events programme.

Your Visit

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. The level 2 café offer a range of light refreshments and lunches that can be pre-ordered. Please discuss your requirements with our booking desk and we will ensure that your needs are accommodated to the best of our ability.

Hat Works tours are led by expert demonstrators who will share their knowledge of the history of the hatting industry. The tours will give you insight of the processes involved in producing a hat. You will learn about the cottage industry, pay a visit to 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 Bi-corne hat from 1857 and a top hat reputed to be the worlds 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.

The Facilities

Hat Works Museum is situated over three floors in the grade 2 listed Wellington Mill, which fittingly was once a local Hat Factory. The Museum has two entrances both with automatic doors, disabled access is recommended on the A6 entrance. There is a lift to every floor and there are two disabled toilets. The museum also offers an induction loop for those with impaired hearing at our receptionist desks and in the AV Rooms.

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.

Level 2 Café

The Level 2 Café is situated on the second floor of the museum. They offer a selection of coffees, pastries and light lunches, which can be pre-booked in advance of your visit. Please see the enclosed menu for full details.

Please note that if your group is travelling some distance to visit us, then it may be preferable to quote a price to your members that includes some refreshments e.g. - tea/coffee and biscuits on arrival.

To order refreshments for your party contact Hat Works Bookings on 0845 833 0991.

Please note that all orders must be placed 7 days prior to your booking. Hat Works require 48hours notice of any alterations to numbers or requirements. Otherwise the full charge of the original order will be liable. All payments for refreshments must be made separately by cash or cheque only on the day to: **Pure Innovations Ltd.**

Tour Package Costs

From the **28th March 2005** admission to Hat Works will be free of charge.

For all pre- booked tours the charges are as follows:

Please note that all prices quoted are not available in conjunction with any other offer.

Week Daytime Visits - 10.00am – 5.00pm
Saturdays, Sundays + Bank Holidays - 1.00pm – 5.00pm only

Adults: £2.00 per person

Concessions & Children: £2.00 per person

Evening Visits (After 5.00pm)



All Visitors: £4.95 per person*

*Please note that our **minimum** number for an evening group tour is **15** people.

Booking Conditions

All bookings can be made during Hat Works opening hours by telephoning the Booking Desk on 0845 833 0991. 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 entry to 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).

Payment for refreshments ordered from the Level 2 Café can be made on the day by cash or by cheque **ONLY**. Cheques made payable to: **Pure Innovations Ltd.**

Please note that the Level 2 Café do not have the facilities to accept credit/debit cards.

Hat Works Directions

Hat Works is located in Stockport Town Centre and is easily accessible by major roads and public transport.

From the M60

Come off motorway at junction 1. The Co-operative Building Society has a large blue pyramid building, which is an easy identifiable landmark. Take the 2nd turning into TRAVIS BROW, which runs into HEATON LANE, this is sign posted 'Town Centre'. Continue to 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. For safety reasons it is very important that you ask your driver to drop passengers off at stand 'C' before parking in either bay 7 or 8.

Stockport Bus Station is directly opposite Hat Works lower entrance on Daw Bank.

Stockport Train Station is a few minutes walk away. Coming out of the station along station approach, turn left at McDonalds continue down Wellington Road South, Hatworks is 300 metres on the left.

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 Train Station).

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

Hat Works Location Map



Hat Works Entrances

Hat Works has two entrances into the Museum. One is situated on the A6 – `Wellington Road South`, a few minutes walk up the hill on the right hand side from the town centre. This is our official entrance for wheelchair users.

The second is on `Daw Bank` opposite the Bus Station in the Town Centre, which is accessible to wheelchair users, However it does have a small step before a ramp and steps, therefore maybe difficult for motorised chairs.

Both entrances have a reception point, where we will be ready to welcome you.

(Please note that on evening bookings only the A6 entrance will be open for use, unless other arrangements have been made).

We look forward to welcoming your coach tour party to Hat Works!