The tour in brief....

Visit St Ann's Well & Old Hall Hotel on the Crescent

Divert to Poole's Cavern and Solomon's Temple - see Extra 2

Visit The Opera House

use the ramp at the Old Clubhouse to visit St John's Church

Visit The Dome and the Palace Hotel, on either side of Devonshire Road

Divert to Corbar Cross - see Extra 1

This leaflet provides a brief introduction to our town of Buxton.
It is a companion to the townscape mural made in the summer of 2016 by local student, Carys Walters and seen on **Platform 2 of Buxton Station**.
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It has been produced by the **Friends of Buxton Station** and we take responsibility for any errors within it - we hope there aren't any!

facebook.com/friendsofbuxtonstation
fobs.buxton@gmail.com

For a more detailed guide to Buxton and its many places of interest, pick up a copy of the **Town Guide** available from the Tourist Information Office within the Pavilion Gardens or download from **visitbuxton.co.uk**

The Buxton Mural Tour

Welcome to Buxton

Enjoy a short journey around our lovely town and bring to life some of its glorious history

Your tour begins at **Buxton Station**, one of two identical stations built in 1863 by John Smith under the guidance of world-renowned architect, Sir Joseph Paxton. A Director of two rival rail companies that entered town at the same time, Paxton made sure that both stations were architectural features incorporating cast iron radial fanlights.

The remaining station retaining the Grade II Listed fanlight window is the *London & North Western* that served Manchester. Sadly, Derby's *Midland Station* was closed after *The Beeching Axe* fell and was demolished in the late 1970s - only the lower part of the gable wall remains and this will be passed on ***Station Approach***.

Turn right out of the main station building, cross *Station Road* at the Pelican on your left. This is *Station Approach*, the top part on the left as you descend is the gable of the former *Midland Station*. Follow the pathway past the taxi rank and cross Terrace Road at the Pelican. The magnificent Grade I Listed *Crescent* is in front, on your right after the *Thermal Baths* & *Turner's Memorial*.

Now a shopping arcade, the *Baths* have many 1850s *Minton* tiles, an old plunge bath-chair and the largest stained glass window (barrel ceiling) in Britain. *Sam Turner* was a "native of Buxton" and, amongst other things, a "kind friend" to the town.

Continue forward onto ***The Crescent***, built in 1784 to rival the Royal Crescent at Bath. Unlike Bath, Buxton's version forms a perfect semi-circle. Originally having two hotels, five apartments, two exclusive shops and an *Assembly Room,* it was the "only fashionable place for any aspiring Victorian to be seen."

After taking a sip of natural thermal water from *St Ann's Well* on your left, carry on to reach the building at the far end of *The Crescent*. This is England's oldest hotel, ***The Old Hall***: the home of *Mary, Queen of Scots* when she stayed in Buxton taking the waters. several times between 1573 and 1584.

Turn right at the hotel onto *The Square* and note *The Opera House* on your left at the end of the *Pavilion Gardens*, a 23-acre garden complex with lakes, a miniature railway, river, café, restaurant, conservatory and shops.

The grandeur of Buxton's ***Opera House*** is only hinted-at from outside, the true beauty lies within. If you are not lucky enough to visit when tours are offered, you'll appreciate the ornate nature from a glimpse inside the entrance foyer. The annual *International Festival* welcomes world-class musicians and opera stars, with fine theatrical performances offered at other times. A parallel *Festival Fringe* is second only to *Edinburgh*, with many performers *warming-up* at Buxton before heading off to the Scottish capital.

There is a rare hexagonal *Penfold* post box opposite. Installed in 1867, the box is still used every day. Carefully cross the road in front of *The Opera House* and keep ***The Old Club House*** pub on your left as you ascend the short pathway towards *St John's Church*.

Built in 1811, ***St John's Church*** is an imposing, yet simple Regency-style building on the outside with an impressive ornately decorative Tuscan-style interior. It gives the impression of a huge space inside, often being thought "*more cathedral than church*."

Crossing the busy *Manchester Road* (with great care!) is the huge ***Devonshire Dome***. Follow the road and take the next left, *Devonshire Road* to the entrance on the left. Built in 1882 on a former 1789 stable block, it was the largest unsupported dome in the world at 145ft in diameter. Now a major part of the *University of Derby* it dominates the town offering many public facilities including café, restaurant, hair salon and spa treatments as well as a rare example of *Foucault pendulum* (indicates the spinning of the earth on an axis). *There is an audio tour available from the Dome library.*

Leaving the *Dome*, re-trace your route down *Devonshire Road* and then either go up the stairway on your immediate left or continue up the gradual pathway on the left into the grounds of *The Palace Hotel*. Built in 1868 it was one of the grandest of the spa-era hotels, designed to house the many visitors who flocked to Buxton to take the healing waters. It was requisitioned in November 1917 to form the *Granville Canadian Red Cross Special Hospital*, housing up to 1,000 convalescing soldiers – please note our centenary commemorative plaque on the front of the station building. Cross along the front of the building to see and return to the railway station directly in front.

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Diversions to SOLOMON'S TEMPLE and CORBAR CROSS

Please note: *neither route is suitable for wheelchair users or those with mobility issues. but Poole's Cavern and its café are wheelchair-friendly venues.*

Extra 1: Divert to Corbar Cross (1.4 km). Head up Palace Road on your right, then left onto Lascelles Road, up the steps at the end onto Sycamore Close until the left path. Go left onto Corbar Road, then first right onto Corbar Woods Lane. Follow the marked route to ***The Cross*** and steep uphill pathway.

Extra 2: Divert to Poole's Cavern (1.2 km) and (+ 0.9 km) to Solomon's Temple. Follow the tour to *The Old Hall Hotel*, but instead of turning right onto *The Square*, continue straight on along *Broad Walk*, with *Pavilion Gardens* on your right. At the end of *Broad Walk*, head for the Pelican crossing next to the *Buxton Medical Practice*. Cross the often busy *Macclesfield Road* and continue (in the direction of crossing) up *Temple Road.* Go up the gentle incline, passing a school on your left before turning left (continuation of Temple Road). At the end of this road, you will note *Poole's Cavern Visitor Centre* on the right. The path to *Solomon's Temple* exits the car park between the *Centre* and adjacent *Go Ape*.