



Visit Manchester Insider's Handbook



Welcome to Manchester

Welcome to Manchester.

Whether you know us for our history, our music, our football, or something else entirely, you'll have some idea of what Manchester is about.

It's not until you explore for yourself, however, that you start to understand what Manchester really stands for. This is a city that marches forward; a city that celebrates diversity; a city that lives and loves; a city that opens its arms to all.

Manchester is set against a backdrop of intriguing heritage and history, with innovation and invention its backbone. As a city of firsts Manchester is the birthplace of the first passenger railway, the first stored-memory computer and votes for women. Today, Manchester is one of Europe's most vibrant city break destinations and is the third most visited city in the UK, welcoming visitors from around the world looking to discover the thriving culture, energy and spirit of the city.

Over the following pages you will find some carefully curated ideas from people who live and breath both the city of Manchester, the wider Greater Manchester region and the North.

From much-loved coffee and brunch spots to our favourite neighbourhoods, towns full of character,

museums and galleries; this handbook has been compiled based on what we know first-timers enjoy most when they visit Manchester and Northern England.

And if your clients are return visitors, we can't wait to welcome them back! A lot has changed in recent years and there are plenty of new things to do and see, as well as many new developments to look forward to over the coming years.

Travelling to Manchester is easy by rail, air or road. There is excellent connectivity from across the UK and there are direct flights to Manchester Airport from across the globe. Upon arrival into the city there is a slick network of trams, free buses, boats and a hop-on hop-off bus to help explore the city region. Plus, Manchester is the perfect gateway to the North, with inspiring cities, quaint villages and stunning countryside just a stone's throw away. To discover excursions and day-trips available from Manchester turn to pages 39-43.

Energetic, diverse and individual, Manchester is a city with true character. Choose Manchester as the next destination for your clients, it will surprise, delight and embrace visitors in a way that only Mancunians know how.

The Worker Bee

Symbolising industry, work ethic and cooperation, the humble worker bee has been a symbol of Manchester since the 1800s. Today you can see the bee wherever you look - in our city crest, in our street art and mosaics, and on our lampposts and shop windows. It's a constant reminder of where this city's been, and what it stands for.

#bestofMCR
@visitmanchester
visit_mcr

Manchester

Energetic, diverse and individual, Manchester is a city with true character.

First finding global fame as the heart of the Industrial Revolution, Manchester has a proud history in science, politics, music, arts and sport.

This is the city where the atom was first split, where the world's first passenger railway was opened, and where the modern computer was invented.

It's where bands like the Smiths, Oasis, Joy Division, and the Stone Roses were inspired to write music that moved the world.

It's the birthplace of modern vegetarianism, atomic theory, women's suffrage and thermodynamics.

It's where Emmeline Pankhurst, Alan Turing, LS Lowry, and Anthony Burgess called home.

Exploring Manchester city centre you'll find it packed not only with remnants of this history but also with unique and independent restaurants, bars, shops, museums, galleries and hotels, all gathered in districts with their own distinct personalities.

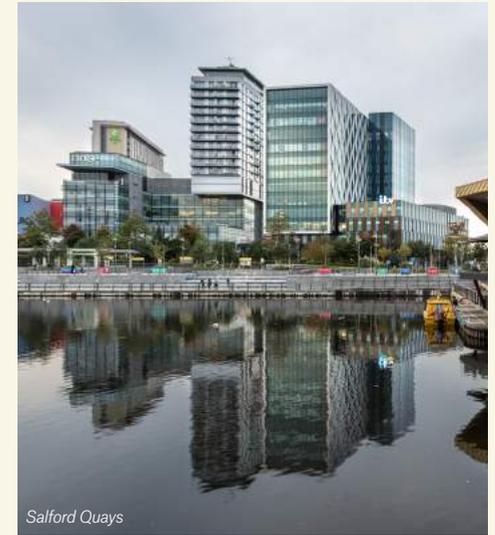
Further out from the city, the surrounding boroughs of Greater Manchester offer some entirely different experiences including charming market towns, traditional country pubs and beautiful green spaces and waterways.

All this doesn't scratch the surface of the modern Manchester experience. This city is what you make of it, so get out there, explore, and find the Manchester that speaks to you.

For more information see: visitmanchester.com



Neighbourhoods



Northern Quarter

The Northern Quarter is a hipster haven; a gritty area that's fiercely independent. It's overflowing with street art, galleries, cafés, bars, restaurants, boutiques and the unmissable Manchester Craft and Design Centre and Afflecks.

Ancoats

The world's first industrial suburb, Ancoats has slowly been rising, threatening to take the Northern Quarter's crown as the city's coolest neighbourhood. It features an impressive list of bars and restaurants including the city's only Michelin star at Mana.

Altrincham

A 20-minute tram ride from the city centre, Altrincham has an award-winning high street and is now a foodie hub thanks to spots such as Blanchflower, The Con Club, and the iconic Altrincham Market.

Castlefield

This is where the Roman's settled back in AD79 when they founded 'Mamucium'. Whilst the remnants of the fort can still be seen, this neighbourhood now makes for a picturesque walking spot, with winding canals, renovated industrial warehouses and waterside pubs like The Wharf.

Chorlton

A laid-back bohemian suburb, you'll find a medley of good pubs, independent bars, vegan delis, bakeries, and a strong foodie scene thanks to spots like The Creameries. Weekend strolls along Beech Road and around Chorlton Water Park make it difficult to want to leave.

Didsbury

Like Chorlton, the suburbs of Didsbury Village and West Didsbury have a hip, independent feel, full to the brim with restaurants including Volta, Hispi and vegetarian spot Greens, great shops and cafes, plus lush Fletcher Moss Park.

Green Quarter

A growing pocket of green residential space that includes Angel Meadow Park, the Green Quarter is sowing seeds as a neighbourhood to watch. Grub, the city's sell-out weekend food fair has set up permanent home here, joining existing independents under historic railway arches.

Levenshulme

Just one stop on the train out of town from Piccadilly station, Levenshulme has got plenty going on; from the community-run weekly market to the wonderful antiques village and plenty of independent foodie spots.

New Islington

Follow the canals into the marina and you'll find New Islington blending into its neighbourly Ancoats. You can spend the morning wandering the canals, watching wildlife or devouring goods from the locals' favourite artisan bakery Pollen.

Salford Central

There's been a huge amount of development within the area of Salford that meets the western edge of Manchester city centre, with great bars and restaurants popping up along Chapel Street as well as masses of green space in the form of The Meadow, Peel Park and Kersal Wetlands.

Salford Quays

A unique waterfront location adjacent to MediaCityUK, home to the BBC and ITV, Salford Quays is home to the Lowry arts centre with the visually striking Imperial War Museum North opposite.

Stockport

A ten-minute train out of the city, Stockport is full of independent businesses and food hotspots as well as some unique attractions, including 1930s art deco theatre Stockport Plaza; Robinsons Brewery Tours; the iconic Hatworks museum; and the Grade II listed 1460s Staircase house.

Museums

People's History Museum

@ phmmcr

Dedicated to telling the story of ordinary working people and ideas worth fighting for. It couldn't have a better home than Manchester, the birthplace of the trade union movement and universal suffrage.

National Football Museum

@ nationalfootballmuseum

Delve into the social history and culture of the much-loved sport, with fascinating objects and special exhibitions that showcase how football became our national obsession.

Manchester Museum

@ mcrcmuseum

Boasting six million pieces in its archive, an impressive Egyptology collection and discovery space The Study all in one gothic, Grade II*-listed building. The museum is adding several new galleries over the coming years.

IWM North

@ imperialwarmuseums

IWM North is about people and their stories; how lives have been, and still are, shaped by war and conflict. The award-winning building opposite Salford Quays is designed by international architect Daniel Libeskind.

Manchester Jewish Museum

@ mcrjewishmuseum

Committed to using Jewish stories to connect to the world and society, the museum - which is housed inside a former synagogue built in 1873 - has recently doubled in size with a new gallery.

Science and Industry Museum

@ scienceandindustrymuseum

Based on the site of the oldest passenger railway station the museum showcases how innovation is the city's lifeblood, featuring the pioneering inventions and work that started in Manchester then changed the world.



National Football Museum

Galleries



Manchester Art Gallery

The Whitworth

@ whitworthart

After a stunning re-development, this flagship gallery is now fully integrated into the park it calls home; blending modern architecture, glass structures and stunning gallery spaces with original features from 1889.

Bury Art Museum

@ bury_art_museum

A hidden gem, BAM houses the Wrigley Collection comprised of over 200 oil paintings, watercolours, prints and ceramics and a Sculpture Centre that includes some of the most prominent sculptors in contemporary art.

CfCCA

@ cfcca_uk

The small but perfectly formed Centre for Chinese Contemporary Art is the go-to place to discover new artists and explore relevant global issues from different international perspectives.

Castlefield Gallery

@ castlefieldgall

A lesser-known gem tucked away behind Deansgate Station, Castlefield Gallery has been a champion of Manchester's contemporary visual art landscape for over 35 years.

Manchester Art Gallery

@ mcrcartgallery

Packed with much-loved displays of British and European art and design, including world-famous Pre-Raphaelite paintings by Millais, Holman Hunt and Rossetti, the gallery is for and of the people of Manchester. A new dedicated fashion gallery will be added soon.

The Lowry

@ the_lowry

One of the region's top theatres and performance spaces, The Lowry is also home to the world's largest public collection of the paintings and drawings of its namesake, the enigmatic LS Lowry.

Theatres



Royal Exchange Theatre

@ rxtheatre

Resembling a lunar spacecraft set down amidst the glass domes and towering columns of a Grade II listed building and former commodities trading hall, the Royal Exchange is the largest theatre in the round in the country.

Octagon Bolton

@ octagontheatre

Originally opened in 1967, one of the region's best-loved theatres, Octagon Bolton, has undergone a major refurbishment to add new seating, a two-floor café/bar and improved accessibility to make the theatre open to all.

HOME

@ homemcr

Opened in 2015, this arts complex is a marvel of contemporary design; a cultural hub for the city that encompasses a theatre space, cinema, gallery and restaurant.

Hope Mill Theatre

@ hopemilltheatre

Also opened in 2015, Hope Mill Theatre has gradually become one of the most successful and reputable small producing venues in England with a string of five-star hit shows under its belt.

The Palace Theatre & Opera House

@ palaceandopera

The Palace Theatre and Manchester Opera House – two separate theatres but very much siblings, are amongst the oldest in Manchester. Expect world premieres and hit musicals such as The Lion King, Mamma Mia and The Book of Mormon in these grandiose Victorian auditoriums.

Contact

@ contactmcr

Following a complete transformation project, Contact, the UK's leading youth arts organisation features the country's first dedicated space for art, health and science, and hosts original works including at the popular LGBTQ+ festival, Queer Contact.

Music Venues

Band on the Wall

@ bandonthewall

The city's oldest music venue and arguably the most eclectic, with a keen mission to promote equality and diversity through music, welcoming trailblazing artists from all over the world.

The Bridgewater Hall

@ bridgewaterhall

Home of Manchester's renowned Hallé Orchestra as well as a performance base for distinguished ensembles, the BBC Philharmonic and Manchester Camerata, The Bridgewater Hall is Manchester's flagship international concert venue.

Albert Hall

@ alberthallmcr

A Grade II listed former Wesleyan chapel that sat closed and hidden for over 40 years, Albert Hall was restored into a stunning purpose-built music hall in 2013, becoming one of the UK's most atmospheric venues.

The Stoller Hall

@ stollerhall

Another fairly new venue that has made a name for itself as an intimate space with incredible acoustics, The Stoller Hall opened in 2017 and is based within Chetham's School of Music.

Night and Day Café

@ nightanddaycafe

A cornerstone of the Northern Quarter's music scene, Night and Day Café is where most Mancs will direct visitors when asked where they can see live music. The venue has been showcasing fresh musical talent daily since 1991.

RNCM

@ rncmlive

The Royal Northern College of Music is a leading UK music conservatoire. Home to over 900 students from more than 60 countries, it's a great spot to see emerging talent working alongside professional musicians and visiting artists.



Libraries and Literature



Chetham's Library

@ chethamslibrary

Housed in a beautiful sandstone building dating from 1421, Chetham's has been in continuous use as a public library for over 350 years, making it the oldest public library in the UK. Marx and Engels studied here, and visitors can take a seat at their desk.

Manchester Central Library

@ manclib_archives

The magnificently refurbished Central Library is known as both the city's study and its living room. Alongside an unrivalled hub of information and education, it's a great place to meet and socialise.

Elizabeth Gaskell's House

@ elizabeth_gaskells_house

The Grade II* listed property helps visitors discover how Manchester's novelist lived, where she wrote some of her most famous novels, and where she entertained guests, including Charlotte Brontë and Charles Dickens.

John Rylands Library

@ thejohnrylands

A masterpiece of Victorian Gothic architecture, it looks more like a castle or cathedral from the outside; however, inside you will be treated to one of the most spectacular library settings in the UK.

Anthony Burgess Foundation

@ misterenderby

The International Anthony Burgess Foundation is an educational charity which encourages public and scholarly interest in the life and work of Manchester's Anthony Burgess.

The Portico Library

@ porticolibrary

The third in Manchester's 'ancient' library trio (see Chetham's and John Rylands), The Portico Library first opened in 1806 and holds a unique collection of books, archives and illustrations spanning over 450 years.

Heritage sites

Victoria Baths

@ victoriabaths

No longer functioning as a 'water palace' and Turkish baths, this Grade II listed building hosts regular events and is a stunning visit for any photographer, with stained glass, terracotta tiles and mosaic floors.

Manchester Town Hall

This magnificent building, designed by Alfred Waterhouse is one of the finest examples of Victorian Gothic architecture in the UK and opened in 1877. Manchester Town Hall is currently undergoing refurbishment and will reopen to the public in 2024.

Manchester Cathedral

@ manchestercathedral

The cathedral is an essential visit in Manchester, featuring gorgeous interior housing the finest late medieval woodwork in the North of England, alongside stunning modern stained glass.

The Monastery

@ themonasterymcr

Once a Franciscan Church and Friary, and described as architect Edward Pugin's gothic masterpiece; the Grade II* listed Monastery was deconsecrated in 1989 and is now one of the most prized heritage sites in Greater Manchester.

Pankhurst Centre

@ thepankhurst

The birthplace of the Suffragette movement, The Pankhurst Centre is the restored Grade II listed former home of Emmeline Pankhurst and her daughters, and the only museum in the UK dedicated to telling the story of women's fight for the right to vote.

Rochdale Pioneers Museum

@ coopheritage

Widely regarded as the home of the worldwide Co-operative movement, this small museum is based within the site of the Rochdale Equitable Pioneers Society's first store which opened in 1844.





Stadium Tours

@ manchesterunited | mancify

Manchester United and Manchester City both offer behind-the-scenes tours of Old Trafford and the Etihad, giving guests an immersive experience with knowledgeable and passionate guides where the magic of these two teams comes to life.

Chill Factor®

@ chillfactor

Home to the UK's longest real snow slope, Chill Factor® offers plenty of activities from sledging and sliding to group ski lessons and private tuition.

National Cycling Centre

@ nationalcyclingcentre

Britain's first indoor Olympic cycling track and one of the World's fastest board tracks, Manchester's National Cycling Centre is open to athletes and novices alike. It's also home to a BMX arena and track and offers mountain bike trails in Clayton Vale park.

Whistle Punks Axe Throwing

@ whistlepunks

Unleash your inner Viking warrior as you compete to hurl hatchets at wooden targets. Sessions start with a tutorial on how to sling an axe, before letting you loose on a tournament.

Helly Hansen Watersports Centre

@ salfordwsc

Salford Quay's watersports and outdoor activities centre is the place to go for windsurfing, wakeboarding, sailing, kayaking, canoeing and climbing.

Emirates Old Trafford

@ emiratesOT

The home of Lancashire County Cricket Club, Emirates Old Trafford is an integral part of the North West sporting scene, hosting international Test, One Day and T20 cricket matches.

The Village

A beacon of celebration in the city, the Village is a welcoming community of bars, nightclubs, restaurants and businesses open to all. Centred around Canal Street, you can expect to find a flourishing queer scene with entertainment on any night of the week.

Alternative queer clubbing

Whilst the Village is the undisputed centre of Manchester's LGBTQ+ life, a thriving alternative club scene occupies safe spaces at nights like Kiss Me Again, Bollox, Pop Curious? and Homoelectric, and at venues such as Hidden and The White Hotel.

Manchester Pride

Held every August Bank Holiday Weekend, Manchester Pride is a four-day celebration featuring a festival-style programme of music with further events in and around the Gay Village including the famous parade, Youth Pride, Superbia and the poignant candlelit vigil.

Greater Manchester Pride events

For an intimate way to celebrate pride season, the individual boroughs across Greater Manchester host fantastic community events. From Salford's The Pink Picnic held in Peel Park to events in towns like Bolton and Wigan. Manchester also hosts The Sparkle Weekend, the world's largest free-to-attend celebration of gender diversity.

LGBTQ+ art and culture

Contact theatre's Queer Contact and Hope Mill Theatre's Turn On Fest are just two annual festivals dedicated to LGBTQ+ arts and performance, whilst the year-round programmes at spots like HOME and 53two feature plenty of queer culture.

Sport groups

As a major sporting city, it's no surprise there's a welcoming LGBTQ+ group for almost any sport you can think of. From the Rainy City roller derby club and Manchester Fronrunners, to the Village Spartan rugby club and GHAP badminton.



Coffee



Ancoats Coffee Co.

@ ancoatscoffeeco

Housed in former cotton warehouse Royal Mill, the team at Ancoats Coffee Co roast their speciality coffee on-site and supply to countless bars, cafes and restaurants across Greater Manchester.

Idle Hands

@ idlehandscoffee

Located within Dale House in the Northern Quarter, Idle Hands is a speciality coffee shop that also makes excellent dessert pies, great brunch and sells natural wines and craft beer to both drink in and takeaway.

Foundation Coffee

@ fdncoffee

With several locations popping up around town including spots on either side of the Village, Foundation boasts minimal design and provides the perfect setting for serious coffee enthusiasts.

Grindsmith

@ grindsmithcoffee

What started out as a Crowdfunder in 2013 now sees Grindsmith as one of Greater Manchester's leading purveyors of coffee with branches in the city centre and MediaCityUK, as well as the original 'Pod' which has now moved to Pollards Yard.

Takk

@ takkmcr

Nordic-inspired Takk is another growing indy chain with several outposts that aim to provide a welcoming space to work, meet, talk, and dream up some big ideas.

ManCoCo

@ mancocoltd

The very definition of a hidden gem, this roastery and café is tucked away under the arches on Hewitt Street, near Castlefield Gallery. ManCoCo specialises in hand roasting speciality coffees from around the world.

Brunch

Federal Café & Bar

@ federalcafebar

Federal is a small independent chain run by a team who are passionate about great coffee and amazing brunch. They've been providing Manchester with a bit of antipodean café culture since 2014.

The Creameries

@ hellocreameries

Located in hippy Chorlton, The Creameries is a neighbourhood bakery, bar and restaurant serving simple and delicious food from an open kitchen in a garden-like space.

Ezra & Gil

@ ezraandgil

Loosely translated as 'helper of happiness', Ezra & Gil do exactly that through an appreciation for all things coffee and food, all set within cool spaces with an industrial, stripped-back style.

Pot Kettle Black

@ pkbcoffee

With new branches popping up around town, the original located in Barton Arcade, is an example of beautifully restored Victorian architecture offering some of the city's best coffee and vibrant, easy-going food.

Trove

@ trove_foods

Once a husband and wife team, Trove now has two sites, one in Levenshulme and the other in Ancoats. The café makes the food from scratch, by hand, with a focus on organic and locally sourced produce.

Evelyn's Cafe

@ evelynscafebar

This shabby-chic bistro with a multitude of plants lining the bare brick walls is a sure-fire win on Instagram. Not only is it attractive to look at, the food is outstanding as well.



Restaurants

Peter Street Kitchen

@ peterstreetkitchen

Exquisitely presented and beautifully balanced, the menu at Peter Street Kitchen explores fine contemporary Japanese cuisine matched with the heat and zing from a selection of contemporary Mexican dishes.

Mana

@ restaurant.mana

Owned by chef Simon Martin, Mana is Manchester's first Michelin star restaurant since 1977. Serving a reservation-only, multiple course menu, the restaurant champions British produce whilst taking inspiration from other cultures.

The Bull & Bear

@ bullandbearmcr

Overseen by renowned British chef Tom Kerridge and set within the Stock Exchange Hotel, The Bull & Bear offers refined British comfort food served within the grand domed room of the former trading floor.



Dishoom

@ dishoommcr

Inspired by Bombay's Irani colonial café scene this award-winning Indian café group has become a firm Manchester favourite based at the stunning Manchester Hall on Bridge Street.

The Refuge by Volta

@ therefugemcr

Housed within the beautiful surrounds of the Kimpton Clocktower and fashioned by two former DJs turned restaurateurs, Refuge offers a range of small and large plates perfect for sharing as well as an extensive drinks menu.

Fazenda

@ fazenda.group

From sipping cocktails in the atmospheric bar, to enjoying the full rodizio experience, Fazenda – located in Spinningfields – is the perfect example of sophistication, where authenticity meets the modern gaucho.

Hawksmoor

@ hawksmoormanchester

Located in a late Victorian courthouse on Deansgate, put simply Hawksmoor serve the best steaks in Manchester and have a wonderful reputation for service and attention to detail.

El Gato Negro

@ elgatonegromanc

Set in the style of an opulent Spanish townhouse, chef patron Simon Shaw's El Gato Negro on King Street takes the best of modern and traditional Spanish flavours, while drawing on inspiration and ingredients from closer to home.

Kala

@ kala_bistro_manchester

From the team behind several fantastic bistros across the North West, Gary Usher's Kala offers humble British comfort food within a stunning space on King Street.

Casual dining

Bundobust

@ bundobust

Hidden away beneath an unassuming corner of Piccadilly Gardens, and with a second location on the way, Bundobust serves up a winning combination of all-vegetarian Indian street food and a mighty selection of craft beer.

Cocktail Beer Ramen + Bun

@ cbrb_mcr

This award-winning Northern Quarter late-night ramen joint specialises in tonkotsu ramen and steamed bao buns, with plenty of veggie and vegan options and an excellent cocktail menu. It's open until 2am five nights a week.

Porta Salford

@ porta_salford

Located on Bexley Square, off Chapel Street in Salford, this award-winning casual tapas spot is 'inspired by the tiniest independent tapas bars of Barcelona and Madrid'.

Richmond Tea Rooms

@ richmondtearooms

Set over two floors, this enchanting 'Alice in Wonderland' themed dining experience in the Village is everything you want from an afternoon tea spot and perfect for group celebrations.



The Spàrrows

@ sparrows_mcr

Here you'll find an intriguing combination of handmade dumplings, fresh egg pasta Spätzle, other European classics such as Russian Pelmeni, Polish Pierogi, Italian Ravioli, and Japanese Sake. It shouldn't work but food critics love it.

Erst

@ erst_mcr

A beautifully simple natural wine bar and restaurant, Erst has quickly established itself as one of the best neighbourhood dining spots in Ancoats; an area packed with talented kitchens.

Vertigo

@ vertigo_plantbased

This rapidly expanding independent vegan chain has outposts on Cross Street, First Street and at MediaCityUK, offering a wide range of hearty plates, snack foods as well as a great selection of desserts and cakes.

Rudy's

@ wearerudypizza

No Manchester casual dining list would be complete without a mention for Rudy's, the now iconic Neapolitan pizza joint – consistently ranked best pizza in the UK – that started in Ancoats and now has several locations across the North.

Food halls and street food



Escape to Freight Island

Mackie Mayor

@ mackiemayor

Overhauled and re-imagined by the team behind Altrincham Market House, Mackie Mayor is filled with artisan food traders in the stunning, made-for-photos surroundings of a former Victorian meat market.

Corn Exchange

@ cornexchangemcr

Filling the stunning Grade II listed Edwardian Corn Exchange, twelve restaurants offer convenient dining under one glass-domed roof, just moments' walk from Manchester Arndale and Victoria train station.

GRUB

@ grubmcr

Run by local street food champions, GRUB is Manchester's biggest street food event, featuring local traders rotating on a weekly basis at The Red Bank Project. Every Sunday is a dedicated plant-based day, offering sustainably sourced and vegan-friendly craft beer and food.

The Produce Hall

@ theproducehall

160 years of history have been preserved at Stockport's The Produce Hall, which leaves behind former lives as a library and market to bring a selection of independent food and drink to the heart of the Old Town square.

Stretford Foodhall

@ foodhalls_

Stretford Foodhall's independent kitchens offer short residencies for up-and-coming traders, attracting the best of street food, alongside a concept space that welcomes independent shops, DJ events, art and culture.

Escape to Freight Island

@ escapetofreightisland

Taking residence on the platform of the former Mayfield Railway station, Escape to Freight Island is a 600-seat open-air venue, bringing live music and events alongside street-style food and drink from ten independent traders.

Dessert spots

Pollen Bakery

@ pollenbakery

Name-checked in The Sunday Times '30 best bakeries in the UK', Pollen Bakery's sourdough is unquestionably the best bread in the city whilst their viennoiserie has people queuing around New Islington Marina.

Siop Shop

@ siopshop

Tucked away in the back streets of the Northern Quarter is Siop Shop who are famous for their doughnuts, but also do cakes, pancakes, brunch food and great coffee.

Black Milk

@ blackmilkcereal

Black Milk started life as Manchester's premier cereal and milk café and has evolved into one of the city's best spots for desserts – shakes, brownies, cookies, cakes; you name it and they will have an insane take on it.

Ginger's Comfort Emporium

@ gingerscomfort

Following the success of their 'ice cream van for grown-ups' which still tours food festivals and markets around Manchester, Ginger's also have a permanent shop in Afflecks to sample their ever-changing selection of ice creams.

Gooley

@ gooeyco

Causing queues wherever they pop up, the guys at Gooley specialise in big, bold cookies bursting with sticky, messy flavours that you won't find anywhere else.

Long Boi's Bakehouse

@ longboisbakes

This neighbourhood bakery is just another reason to visit Levenshulme. Created by bakers from Pollen and Siop Shop, there are plenty of experimental treats on offer as well as vegan versions of your favourites.



Black Milk

Bars

Albert's Schloss

@ albertsschloss

The city's most lively bar by a stretch. The lines can be long, but once inside you'll be treated to an eclectic Bavarian space clad in wood with great drinks and a variety of off-the-wall live performances.

The Jane Eyre

@ thejaneeyremcr

Run by two brothers, at this Ancoats bolthole you'll find cocktail classics with a twist, an eclectic range of keg and bottled beers and simple food that puts an emphasis on quality ingredients.

Cottonopolis

@ cottonopolis_manchester

The essence of Northern Quarter cool, Cottonopolis has a wonderfully moody interior and serves up a selection of interesting cocktails while sushi plates whizz past your shoulders.

20 Stories

@ 20storiesmcr

High above the city in Spinningfields, this prestigious rooftop cocktail bar and restaurant has become a regular haunt for Manchester's movers and shakers and is the ultimate special date location.

Ducie Street Warehouse

@ duciestreet

A hotspot for remote working, Ducie Street Warehouse also has a stunning bar space for relaxed drinks perhaps before catching a movie in the mini cinema, or a train from adjacent Piccadilly station.

No 1 Canal Street

@ no1canalstreet

The first of many stops on a Canal Street night out, No 1 Canal Street is an upmarket hangout for the LGBTQ+ community.



YES

@ yes_mcr

Sprawled over a compact four-floor warehouse, this indie music venue is one of the best spots to just kick back and listen to great music – live or otherwise. The rooftop bar area is a summer favourite.

Speak in Code

@ speak_in_code

Manchester's not short of tiny cocktail bars hidden in plain sight (see also The Washhouse, Wood & Company and Behind Closed Doors), but Speak in Code is one of the best, garnering awards for their forwarding thinking, sustainably focused cocktails.

The Blues Kitchen

@ theblueskitchenmcr

A new addition to the city, The Blues Kitchen's first outpost outside of London has restored a stunning venue to bring a heady mix of Blues and BBQ to Peter Street.

Pubs

Britons Protection

@ thebritonsprotection

This Edwardian hostelry was known for signing up soldiers and has an impressive set of murals inside commemorating the Peterloo Massacre of 1819. As well as serving real ale, The Britons Protection stocks over 300 whiskeys.

The Flying Horse

@ flyerrochdale

A pub worth a train or tram ride to, The Flying Horse next to Rochdale's iconic Town Hall first opened in 1691. It is the oldest free house in the town and has been named CAMRA's Greater Manchester Pub of the Year twice.

The Kings Arms

@ kingssalford

Described as Britain's most bohemian back-street boozier, The Kings Arms in Salford is not just any old pub. Revellers can expect a year-round programme of live theatre, spoken word, music, comedy and a resident cat!

The Marble Arch

@ themarblearchmcr

Built in 1888, The Marble Arch sits behind historic Angel Meadow Park, retaining original interiors including sloping mosaic floors and glazed tile ceiling. It is home to the Marble microbrewery.



The Wharf

@ wharfpub

Overlooking Castlefield Basin, The Wharf brings a slice of country pub to the city. Dogs and their walkers are welcome to enjoy the scenic Canalside seating and the pub's seasonal menu.

The Pilcrow

@ thepilcrowpub

Starting out as a community project; apart from the base, every single element of the pub has been crafted by hand by local volunteers using traditional techniques. Visually impressive with a Scandi feel, selling fantastic beers.

The Molly House

@ themollyhousemanchester

The Molly House is a cosy bar and tapas restaurant nestled behind the Village's Canal Street. It's adorned with a mural featuring gay icons such as Alan Turing and Quentin Crisp.

The Peveril of the Peak

Arguably Manchester's most distinctive pub, this Grade II listed building dates back to the 1820s and has a gloriously unique green tiled exterior, whilst inside the pub is cosy and unpretentious.



Breweries and gin making



Cloudwater Unit 9

@ cloudwaterunit9

Unit 9 is the award-winning Cloudwater's taproom. Situated next door to the brewery, the taproom includes 20 draft taps to showcase fresh releases, barrel-aged beers, and cans and bottles to take-away.

Runaway Brewery

@ runawaybrewery

A microbrewery focused on small-batch beer influenced by British taste, The Runaway Brewery offers tours and tastings at its working brewery, alongside a small railway arch taproom and shop.

Manchester Gin

@ manchester_gin

Starting life as a small-batch operation from a dining room, Manchester Gin now occupies an atmospheric space in the arches beneath Manchester Central, combining gin distillery tasting and making with a cocktail bar and restaurant Three Little Words.

Beer Nouveau

@ beernouveau

An experimental micro-brewery taking space under formal industrial arches, Beer Nouveau commits itself to environmentally friendly brewing and opens its brewery taproom every Friday and Saturday.

Seven Bro7hers

@ sevenbro7hers

Born out of seven actual brothers' love of beer, Seven Bro7hers operates two taprooms in Ancoats and Middlewood Locks as well brewery tours at their manufacturing base near MediaCityUK.

Three Rivers Gin

@ mcrthreeivers

Nestled under the railway arches in the Green Quarter, classes of up to 30 people can hear the story of Three Rivers Gin, learn how they distil and bottle each small batch on-site, and then produce a bottle to take home.

Markets and traders

Makers Markets

@ _makersmarket

A weekend highlight, The Makers Markets pop up on rotation across Greater Manchester including at Great Northern and in the Northern Quarter, bringing together independent traders with homemade crafts, food, drink and entertainment.

Levenshulme Market

@ levymarket

A community-run social enterprise, Levenshulme Market runs every weekend bringing an ever-changing mix of artisan goods, crafts, street food and local produce.

Pollard Yard

@ pollard_yard

Neighbouring Ancoats and New Islington, Pollard Yard is comprised of almost 100 former shipping containers now repurposed into small independent businesses, craft makers and arts spaces. It has ambitions to be Manchester's biggest creative co-op.

Altrincham Market

@ althymarket

The suburb town of Altrincham has hosted a market for over 700 years. Attached to the foodie hotspot of Altrincham Market House, expect to find everything from artisan food, to vintage, craft and design specialists.

Manchester Craft and Design Centre

@ manchestercraft

Buy something handmade, personal and bespoke at Manchester Craft and Design Centre. Explore two floors of contemporary studios within the unique surroundings of a Victorian market building.

Hatch

@ hatchmcr

Nestled under the iconic Mancunian Way flyover, Hatch is another spot made up of repurposed shipping containers packed with street food operators and artisan coffee alongside a host of independent and specialist shops.



Independent Shopping



Oklahoma



Afflecks

Afflecks

@ afflecks_manchester

Step into Afflecks, an Aladdin's cave of unique traders, offering an array of wonderful jewellery, clothing and craft stores. Spend hours getting lost in the labyrinth of treasures in one of the city's best-loved shopping emporiums.

Oi Polloi

@ oipolloi_of_cottonopolis

This iconic Northern Quarter store, much-loved by locals offers a comprehensive tour of the best classic and contemporary men's clothes and footwear.

Oklahoma

@ oklahomamcr

Showering colour and personality over red brick streets with eclectic, character-filled window displays, Oklahoma is a go-to place for gifts, showcasing independent artists and makers and celebrating handmade, fair trade and ethical goods.

Fred Aldous

@ fredaldous

Helping the people of Manchester make and create for over 130 years, Fred Aldous stocks a comprehensive range of arts and crafts materials, plus haberdashery and is somewhere you can quite easily while away a whole afternoon.

Rare Mags

@ rare_mags

Setting up shop alongside Stockport's growing independent scene, Rare Mags stocks a variety of hard to find niche magazines and books, perfect for collectors of design-led publications.

Form Lifestyle Store

@ formlifestylestore

Tucked away on a Northern Quarter side street, all of the pieces at Form have been carefully selected with a focus on design, function and simplicity. Their spiral staircase is one the most photographed in Manchester.

High Street shopping

Selfridges

@ theofficialselfridges

With two outposts – one at The Trafford Centre and a larger store in Exchange Square, shoppers can expect designer brands alongside in-store personal shopping, beauty experts and places to eat lunch.

Manchester Arndale

@ manchesterarndale

The city centre's main shopping mall, Manchester Arndale is where you'll find a huge selection of high street names spread over two floors, plus a third-floor food court.

King Street

@ kingstreetmanchester

Home to notable architecture from its life as the former banking district, King Street offers a range of shopping and eating options, from the impressive Tudor-style Boodles, to refined brands such as Castle Fine Art, Vivienne Westwood, and Diesel.

The Trafford Centre

@ thetraffordcentre

Known for its extravagant Rococo and Baroque design and high street favourites, The Trafford Centre is an impressive shopping centre like no other, with a food court modelled to look like a cruise liner.

Spinningfields

@ spinningfields

The city's commercial district, Spinningfields is a glass and steel collection of high-end retailers dotted amongst big business. The Avenue, the districts shopping street, is home to the flagship stores of Emporio Armani, Mulberry and Flannels.

Cheshire Oaks Designer Outlet

@ cheshireoaksdesigneroutlet

The UK's largest Designer Outlet, Cheshire Oaks is a 50-minute drive from Manchester, offering 145 boutiques, restaurants and cafés with labels including Burberry, Polo, and Hugo Boss at attractive prices.



Selfridges

Activities



Food Sorcery

@ foodsorcery

Make your way to Didsbury for a fun-filled session of hands-on cooking led by expert chefs. Choose classes focused on your favourite world cuisine or hone in on a specific skill such as bread baking or spice blending.

Breakout Manchester

@ breakoutmanchester

You know the drill – you get locked in a room with friends, family or work colleagues for an hour and have to solve a series of puzzles, riddles, and tasks to escape. This is a Manchester take on that much-loved concept.

Sightseeing Manchester

Manchester's open-top bus tour takes you round some of the city's key sights. The pre-recorded tour has 12 stops and you can hop-on hop-off as much as you like on tickets that are valid for 48 hours.

East Lancashire Railway

@ eastlancsrly

A ride on the East Lancashire Railway offers glorious countryside, chocolate box villages, brilliant pubs, and plenty of fascinating history. With a storied history stretching back to the beginning of the Industrial Revolution, it's the steam powered heart of the Irwell Valley.

Manchester River Cruises

Hop aboard the Princess Katherine for a return sightseeing trip to Salford Quays via the history packed Manchester Ship Canal, enjoy a live music cruise, or experience the ultimate alternative to match day travel to Old Trafford.

Chester Zoo

@ chesterzoo

The most visited zoo in the UK is just a 50-minute drive from Manchester and makes a great day out when combined with Cheshire Oaks Designer Outlet. The zoo features 35,000 animals to visit over 128 acres of zoological gardens.

Tours

Professional walking tours

There's no better way to find your feet in a city than on a professional walking tour. Manchester Guided Tours, New Manchester Walks and Free Manchester Walking Tours all run great introductory tours covering Manchester's history and heritage, including the regular Discover Manchester tour; however individual guides such as Emma Fox, Jonathan Schofield and Pauline Lloyd also run specialist tours on niche topics and in multiple languages.

Scranchester tours

@ scranchestertours

Run by friendly local Rob Kelly, Scranchester tours take you on a multi-stop food tour around the city, revealing fascinating facts about Manchester and England's food history.

Invisible Manchester

@ invisiblemanchester

All of Invisible City's experienced tour guides have been affected by homelessness. Often holding no punches, they offer their own personal insight into Manchester's past, present and future.

Manchester Taxi Tours

@ manchestertaxitours

For those wanting to cover a lot of ground in a short time, hail a taxi tour with John Consterdine. John's fun and flexible style allows you to visit anywhere based on your interests – whether that's football, music, or Corrie!

Skyliner Tours

@ skylinermcr

Join Hayley Flynn as she shares vast knowledge about the Northern Quarter, the names behind some of the area's best street art, and lesser known heritage sites that you won't find on other tours.

Craft Beer Tour Manchester

@ craftbeertourmcr

If you're into beer, you'll want to join Craft Beer Tour Manchester on their three-hour romp around one of the UK's best craft brewing cities. Look out for their new wine and brunch tour coming soon.



Parks & Countryside

Etherow Country Park

Covering the site of an old cotton mill, Etherow Country Park is home to over 100 species of birds and offers a haven for birdwatching, rambling, sailing, and angling.

Healey Dell

Take in the views from a 100-foot high disused 1800's railway viaduct or enjoy the wildlife sanctuary with delightful scenery and spectacular waterfalls just two miles from Rochdale town centre.

Burrs Country Park

Located just outside of Bury, Burrs Country Park is the ideal spot for riverside walks, fishing, and birdwatching. You can also follow the Irwell Sculpture Trail, which will lead you to the quaint town of Ramsbottom.

Werneth Low

Only 9.5 miles from the city centre, Werneth Low Country Park extends over 200 acres, providing panoramic views of Manchester, beyond to Liverpool, and on a clear day the mountains of Wales.



Healey Dell

Peel Park

The first public park in the UK funded entirely by the people's subscription, Peel Park has been bringing Salford residents together since 1846. The neighbouring Meadows and Kersal Wetlands are excellent add-ons for walking and wildlife spotting.

Haigh Woodland Park

Set over 250 acres of parkland, Haigh Woodland Park is ideal for families – as well as beautiful scenery, the park offers mini-golf, a miniature railway, and aerial climbing activities.

Dove Stone Reservoir

Situated on the edge of Oldham and the Peak District, Dove Stone offers dramatic landscape surrounded by hills, with woodland walks and tracks surrounding the four main reservoirs.

Rivington Pike

Offering stunning views as far as the Isle of Man and Cumbrian Fells, Rivington Pike and its tower on Winter Hill can be seen from miles around and is a popular destination for walkers.



Dove Stone Reservoir

Historic Halls

Ordsall Hall

Dating back over 820 years, Ordsall Hall in Salford is a stunning Manor House with beautiful Tudor-style gardens. Legend has it the infamous Gunpowder Plot was conjured up here by Guy Fawkes.

Wythenshaw Hall

Following a devastating fire in 2016 the spectacular Wythenshaw Hall has been painstakingly restored to its former glory, ready to welcome a new generation of visitors.

Dunham Massey

This National Trust run Georgian house, a short journey from Altrincham town centre, features a garden for all seasons, an ancient deer park and 300 acres of beautiful parkland to explore.

Lyme Park

Located in Disley, just south of Stockport, Lyme Park consists of a mansion, gardens and deer park and was famously used as Pemberley, the seat of Mr Darcy, in the 1995 BBC adaptation of Pride and Prejudice.

Bramhall Hall

The magnificent wall paintings, striking Elizabethan plaster ceiling, and Victorian Kitchens and Servants' Quarters give this timber-framed Tudor Manor House a unique charm.

Smithalls Hall

One of Bolton's original family homes dating back to medieval times, Smithalls Hall is set in over 2,000 acres of grounds and gardens and is one of the best-preserved manor houses in the region.

Heaton Hall

The Grade I listed Heaton Hall houses staterooms and a rare Etruscan room. It is located in Heaton Park which offers plenty to do including an animal centre, Tram Museum, large boating lake, and horse riding.

Chatsworth House

Located a short drive from Manchester, in the heart of the Peak District, Chatsworth features over 30 rooms to explore, including the magnificent Painted Hall as well as 105 acres of gardens.



Chatsworth House

What's new



RHS Garden Bridgewater

@ rhsbridgewater

The RHS's new 154-acre garden, set within the lost historic grounds at Worsley New Hall in Salford, features one of the UK's biggest Walled Gardens, a Kitchen Garden, orchards, and Chinese Garden amongst other spaces.

Napoleon's Casino

@ napoleons_casinos

Napoleon's Casino and Restaurant on Portland Street features a range of gaming tables, a stunning restaurant overlooking the gaming area and a striking cocktail bar.

I'm A Celebrity... Jungle Challenge

@ iacjunglechallenge

A new family entertainment attraction celebrating ITV's popular show, I'm A Celebrity... Jungle Challenge offers an exciting mix of tasks and trials including jungle zip lines, treetop rope courses and climbing walls.

Northern Roots

@ northernrootsoldham

Five minutes from Oldham town centre lies Northern Roots, a 160-acre site with plans to become the UK's largest urban farm and eco-park that offers lush urban green space where you can walk, run, bike or ride.

Manchester Poetry Library

@ mcrpoetrylibrary

Building on Manchester's UNESCO City of Literature status, this new library – part of Manchester Metropolitan University – aims to widen public access to poetry and foster new creative writing.

Circle Square and St. John's

@ circlesquaremcr | stjohismcr

Two significant city-centre developments – Circle Square off Oxford Road and St. John's on the former Granada Studios site – are creating vast new neighbourhoods packed with residential, office and leisure spaces as well 5.7 and 13 acres worth of public realm respectively.

Coming soon

The Factory

Designed by Rem Koolhaas' OMA, the 13,300sqm and highly flexible Factory will be the new world-class arts and cultural centre for the north of England. Anticipated to open in late 2022 in St. John's neighbourhood, it will be the permanent home of Manchester International Festival.

Therme Manchester

Plans to open the UK's first city-based wellbeing resort in 2023 are underway. Therme Manchester will combine water-based activities with wellbeing treatments, art, nature, and technology to create a unique experience not seen before in the UK.

Modern Surf

Early plans for the region's first surfing lagoon include interactive attractions for visitors and surfers such as a pump track and fitness zone, a halfpipe/boarding area and exercise areas including bouldering and balancing zones.

Mayfield Park

Manchester's first city-centre park in over 100 years, Mayfield Park is due in 2023 and is part of the new development of former railway station Mayfield. It will span 6.5 acres of open green spaces, floodable meadows, and a rich biodiversity for wildlife to thrive in.

Co-op Live

The UK's first purpose-driven arena, Co-op Live is a state-of-the-art venue that is aiming to host music, sport, charity, and business events by 2023. It will be sustainable and socially responsible, creating zero waste and generating funds for community causes.

Hotel pipeline

Greater Manchester looks set to add thousands of additional rooms to its bed stock in the coming years. Highlights include Brewdog's 18 room Doghouse beer hotel concept, a 275 bedroom 'Jenga style' build from Leonardo Hotels, and Mollies Motel & Diner designed by the team at Soho House.



Greater Manchester

Don't limit yourself to the city centre. The region of Greater Manchester is comprised of ten boroughs, including Manchester, each packed with everything from quintessential English countryside and quiet post-industrial towns, to striking architecture and stirring cultural offerings. All boroughs are accessible by either tram, bus, train, or taxi.

Bolton

Considered one of England's friendliest towns, Bolton offers a fantastic calendar of events throughout the year including the brilliant Bolton Food Festival, as well as captivating museums and film-set streetscapes such as Le Mans Crescent.

Bury

Take a trip out to Bury and hop on a steam train along the East Lancashire Railway then wander the surrounding countryside. Visit a local brewery, check out the excellent Fusilier Museum or explore the famous Bury Markets.

Oldham

Oldham retains many features of its proud history as a powerhouse of the Industrial Revolution, as well as modern attractions such as Gallery Oldham. Nearby Dove Stone Reservoir, with its natural beauty, is a stunning gateway to the Peak District National Park.



Le Mans Crescent, Bolton

Rochdale

Greater Manchester's greenest borough, Rochdale has an abundance of award-winning parks and open spaces such as Healey Dell. It's also the birthplace of the Co-operative movement and its magnificent town hall is one of the regions' greatest architectural gems.

Salford

With world-class entertainment, leisure and cultural facilities, Salford offers enough arts, sport, shopping and heritage to fill a week. Head to The Quays, a stunning waterfront destination for spectacular architecture, award-winning theatres, galleries and museums, outlet shopping, cruises and sport. For postcard perfect snaps also check out Worsley Village and the brand new RHS Garden Bridgewater.



The Lowry, Salford Quays

Greater Manchester



Bramall Hall, Stockport

Stockport

Discover an array of hidden treasures in Stockport, from bustling modern shopping areas to quaint cobbled streets as well as heritage attractions such as Stockport Air Raid Shelters, Bramall Hall, Staircase House, Stockport Plaza, and the iconic Hat Works Museum. In recent years Stockport has also become something of a foodie hub, home to experimental restaurant Where The Light Gets In.

Tameside

Tameside stretches eastward from Manchester to the fringes of the Peak District National Park. Its landscape encompasses urban centres like Portland Basin, moorland and the spectacular vistas of Werneth Low Country Park.

Trafford

A borough of contrasts, where the urban, cultural and waterfront offer in the north meets the fashionable suburbs and picturesque countryside in the south. Trafford is home to Manchester United, Lancashire County Cricket Club, IWM North, Altrincham Market and Dunham Massey Hall and Gardens.

Wigan

Halfway between Manchester and Liverpool, Wigan is full of variety. As the home of Wigan Pier, it offers a fascinating slice of industrial heritage as well as sprawling country parks such as Haigh Hall, charming pubs and a diverse events programme throughout the year.

72 Hours in Manchester

Manchester offers so much to see and do whether you're creating an itinerary for a day, weekend or longer. Here are some ideas of how to get the most out of your time in the city. All bookable products are marked with *, otherwise attraction is free to enter.

DAY 1 Morning

Get to know the city on your first morning in Manchester with a walking tour. Choose from:

Discover Manchester Walking Tour*

A fascinating look at the city's history, heritage and culture.

Skyliner Street Art Tour*

Delve into the hidden history of the Northern Quarter through its street art.

Scranchester*

'Eat The City' or 'Explore Ancoats' Tours. Discover hidden gems and fantastic food along the way.

New Manchester Walks*

Tour around the great sights and historic sites of Manchester, a range of themes available.



Manchester Walking Tour



National Football Museum

Afternoon

National Football Museum*

Uncover the social history of football through interactive activities and amazing exhibits.

Embrace the city's favourite past-time and choose your team;

Manchester City Football Club Stadium & Club Tour*

See where the magic happens at the Etihad Stadium. Watch the stadium come alive with unique VR experiences.

Manchester United Football Club Museum & Stadium Tour*

An immersive behind-the-scenes look at Old Trafford with knowledgeable and passionate guides.

Food Sorcery*

Unleash your inner chef with a place on one of the many cookery classes

Evening

Check out the Northern Quarter and Ancoats for restaurants and nightlife.

Highlight: Band On The Wall

DAY 2 Morning

Head out of the city centre to explore Greater Manchester; choose from:

East Lancashire Railway*

A captivating journey on a vintage steam train, taking in viaducts, historic towns and picturesque villages.

RHS Garden Bridgewater*

A magnificent garden at the heart of Salford to be enjoyed all year round. Guided tours available.

Elizabeth Gaskell's House*

Explore this Grade II listed property that was the home of celebrated author Elizabeth Gaskell

The Trafford Centre

An impressive shopping centre with more than just retail on offer. Find family fun at Sea Life and Legoland Discovery Centre.

72 Hours in Manchester

Afternoon

Head back to the city centre to indulge; choose from:

Afternoon Tea Taxi Tour*

Explore the city from the road with your local driver-guide. Enjoy afternoon tea from local family bakery and chocolatier, Slattery's.

Craft Beer Tour Manchester*

Be introduced to breweries and beer houses off the beaten path, making it the perfect experience for beer lovers.

Treasure Hunt Manchester*

Have fun and see Manchester a different way

Evening

Check out the Civic Quarter, the Central Retail District and the Medieval Quarter for restaurants and nightlife.

Highlight: Royal Exchange Theatre



Royal Exchange Theatre



Science & Industry Museum

DAY 3 Morning

Head to Salford Quays by boat or by road; choose from:

Manchester River Cruise*

Discover the history of the Manchester Ship Canal. Journey from the city centre to Salford Quays.

Sightseeing Manchester Bus Tour*

Hop-on hop-off open top bus tour. Commentary in 6 languages. Explore the city's waterfront destination, Salford Quays; choose from;

The Lowry

One of the largest collections of work by L.S. Lowry in the world, plus changing exhibitions.

BBC Tours at MediaCityUK*

Behind the scenes tour of TV and Radio studios. Learn about the world of broadcasting. Interactive tours for children available.

Afternoon

Head back to the city centre; choose from:

Manchester Art Gallery

Outstanding pre-Raphaelite paintings and early 20th century British art. New costume gallery opening 2021.

John Rylands Library

A masterpiece of Victorian Gothic architecture with a world-class collection of rare and antique manuscripts.

Science & Industry Museum

Explore the city's rich history of innovation, whilst discovering amazing objects and revolutionary ideas.

Breakout*

Great for small groups up to 5 people, try and escape from different themed rooms.

Evening

Check out Petersfield, Spinningfields and Castlefield for restaurants and nightlife.

Highlight: The Spirit of Manchester Distillery, offers Guided Tour & Tastings, plus dinner



Sightseeing Manchester Bus Tour

Events calendar

January

Manchester Beer and Cider Festival
Push Festival
Turn On Fest

February

Chinese New Year
Queer Contact
LGBTQ+ History Month
International Mother Tongue Language Day Festival

March

International Women's Day
Manchester Irish Festival

April

Greater Manchester Marathon
Bury Pride

May

Sounds from the Other City
Great Manchester Run
East Lancashire Railway's 1940's weekend
Pride in Trafford

June

The Pink Picnic
King Street Festival
Parklife
Manchester Day Parade
Rochdale Folk Festival



July

Manchester International Festival (biennial)
Sparkle Weekend
Bluedot
Wigan International Jazz Festival
RHS Flower Show Tatton Park
Greater Manchester Fringe Festival
Oldham Pride
Manchester Jazz Festival
Sounds of the City Manchester
Tameside Pride
Ironman UK
Stockport Pride

August

Rochdale Feel Good Festival
Wigan Pride
Bolton Food and Drink Festival
Manchester Pride
Manchester Caribbean Carnival

September

Manchester Food and Drink Festival
Bolton Pride
Head for the Hills
Warehouse Project (3 months)

October

Black History Month
Manchester Literature Festival
Indy Man Beer Con
Halloween in the City
Manchester Folk Festival
Manchester Science Festival

November

Homobloc
Rochdale in Rainbows
Manchester Christmas Markets

December

Bolton Winter Festival



Manchester: Gateway to The North



Manchester is ideally located to explore the North of England and North Wales. Start a Northern tour in Manchester, add the city and surrounding areas to an existing UK tour, or use Manchester as a hub and spoke destination, staying in one place, but adding in day trips to fully explore the region.

From historic castles, coastal towns and villages, and dramatic landscapes of North Wales and Lancashire, to the Roman and medieval cities of Chester, York and Durham. Explore the metropolitan cities of Leeds, Liverpool and Newcastle. Enjoy a slower pace of life in exploring the idyllic countryside and picturesque villages

of the Yorkshire Dales, the Peak District and Northumberland, or head to the Lake District National Park for outdoor thrills and adventure. Whatever your clients are looking for in their UK trip you can find it here in Northern England & Wales.

Chester & Cheshire
visitcheshire.com

Lake District & Cumbria
visitlakedistrict.com

Lancashire
visitlancashire.com

Leeds & Yorkshire Dales
visitleeds.co.uk

Liverpool
visitliverpool.com

North Wales
visitwales.com

North East England
visitnortheastengland.com

Peak District & Derbyshire
visitpeakdistrict.com

York & North York Moors
visityork.org

Please note that the above listings show the month that each event usually takes place and should be used as general guidance only. Please check directly with the event for further information.

Day Trips

Enjoy a range of day trips and excursions from Manchester. By combining three days in Manchester with a few day trips around the region, you can create the perfect Northern England and Wales itinerary. Most tours last between 8 and 11 hours.

BusyBus

Established in 2003, BusyBus offers a range of daily departures from Manchester. Each of BusyBus' daytrips have been designed with your client's leisure in mind, ensuring everyone has a full window view to marvel at spectacular countryside whilst onboard their luxury minibuses. Their award-winning off the beaten track itineraries are not accessible to full-size coaches, and their friendly drivers and knowledgeable escorts will make sure your clients get the most out of their trip.

W: www.busybus.co.uk
Contact: info@busybus.co.uk
T: +44 (0) 844 585 4444
Pricing: £5 - £49pp

Lake District Adventure

Discover the landscape that has inspired many literature greats including Beatrix Potter, John Ruskin and William Wordsworth. Explore ancient sights, picturesque towns and villages, and breath-taking scenery.

Departs Manchester Airport at 9.15am



North Wales Adventure

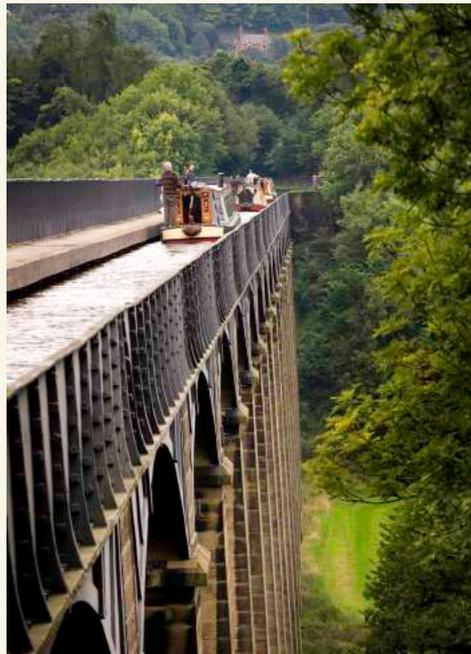
Explore the quaint coastal towns, castles and magnificent mountainous landscapes of North Wales. Plus, your clients will discover quaint bustling villages and the Pontcysyllte Aqueduct, a marvel in 18th century engineering.

Departs Manchester Airport at 8.45am

Yorkshire Adventure

Delve into the life of the Bronte Sisters and discover the landscapes that inspired them. Explore the rolling hills of the Yorkshire Dales, be astounded by masterpieces of 19th century engineering, plus discover spectacular natural wonders.

Departs Manchester Airport at 9.15am



Day Trips



Manchester Sightseeing

Manchester Sightseeing offer unescorted trips by rail from Manchester Piccadilly train station, for clients who like to explore at their own pace. Day trips available include to the ancient cities of York or Chester, to seaside towns such as Blackpool, Conwy and Llandudno or to the stunning countryside of the Lake District or Peak District. They also offer packaged attraction entry to theme parks, historic country houses, football stadiums and the World of Wedgewood Pottery. Below, we have selected three highlights of Manchester Sightseeing's offer.

W: www.manchestersightseeingtours.com
Contact: sightseeing@greatdays.co.uk
T: +44 (0) 7733 528 476
Pricing: £23 - £151pp

Liverpool: The Beatles Story and River Cruise

A city with a rich culture and heritage, clients can explore the many museums, magnificent cathedrals and historic docks. Soak up the atmosphere in the Cavern Club, marvel at the city from the water and discover the city's rich history. Meet and greet at Manchester Piccadilly train station at 8.50am



Historic Chester

Clients can meander the cobbled streets, ancient City Walls, hidden cellars and quirky lanes of this historic city. Plus, they will enjoy lunch in the magnificent cathedral, discover secrets and local legends on a walking tour, relax on a river cruise and marvel at the city's sights from the hop-on hop-off bus.

Meet and greet at Manchester Piccadilly train station at 8.20am

Chatsworth House and Gardens, Peak District National Park and Bakewell Pudding

At their own pace your clients can explore a magnificent stately home at the heart of the Peak District, and the quaint streets of Bakewell, not forgetting to try the signature treat, Bakewell Pudding.

Meet and greet at Manchester Piccadilly train station at 8.15am

Day Trips



Hadrian's Wall, Cumbria

Mountain Goat

Since 1972 Mountain Goat have been carefully crafting itineraries to England's beauty spots. Your clients will be able to explore some of the most amazing national parks in the UK, on one of Mountain Goat's fully escorted day tours. Accompanied by a knowledgeable, local driver-guide your clients can relax in style on their journey from city to countryside.
W: www.mountain-goat.com
Contact: tours@mountain-goat.com
T: +44 (0) 15394 45161
Pricing: £37 – £49.50pp

The Lake District

A beautiful expanse of rocky fells, rivers and forests known for inspiring literature greats. Your clients can enjoy famous landscapes and beauty spots, plus time to explore charming villages and unwind on a lake cruise.
Departs Manchester city centre at 9.00am

The Yorkshire Dales

Rolling hills and stunning valleys famous for its cheese, history and local culture. Your clients will visit ancient rock formations, a medieval castle and wander the quaint cobbled streets of picturesque villages.
Departs Manchester city centre at 9.00am

The Peak District

England's first national park, home to fantastic landscapes and rich history and heritage. Your clients will visit historic villages, Ladybower Reservoir and Derwent Dam, and the grounds of Chatsworth House.
Departs Manchester city centre at 9.00am

Day Trips

Rabbie's

Learn from the best storytellers in the world on a fully escorted day trip with Rabbie's, an award-winning small-group experience provider. Driver-guides will share the stories, sights and secrets of Northern England & Wales with your clients. For those looking to explore further, Rabbie's also offer overnight trips from Manchester lasting 3 to 9 days.
W: www.rabbies.com
Contact: tours@rabbies.com
T: +44 (0) 131 226 3133
Day trip pricing: £36 - £45pp

Derbyshire, the Peak District & Poole's Cavern

Derbyshire is a region of rolling hills and rural towns. Clients will see the gently towering hillocks of the Peak District, experience the traditional streets and treats of Bakewell village, and journey into the natural wonder of Poole's Cavern.
Departs Manchester city centre at 9.30am

Snowdonia, North Wales & Chester

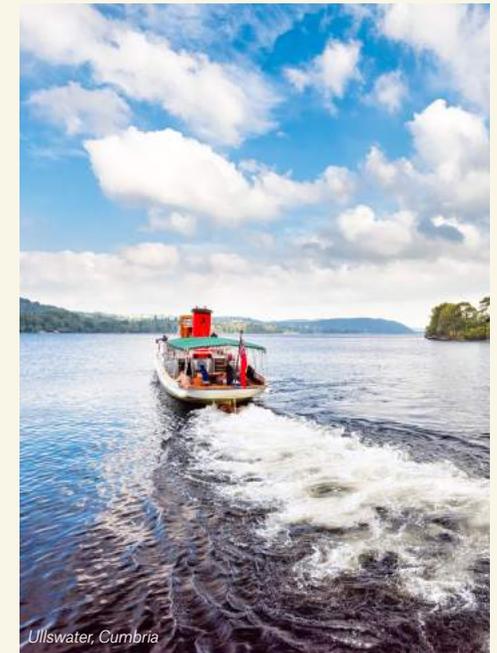
Your clients will explore Conwy where a castle watches over a bustling harbour tour. They'll visit Betws-Y-Coed, a quaint village nestling amongst the stunning mountains of Snowdonia, and finally explore Chester, a town that's blessed with one of the most stunning cathedrals in all of England.
Departs Manchester city centre at 8.30am

Windermere, Lancaster & the Lake District

This day trip offers the best locations of England's most famous National Park. They'll learn the tales from Windermere, the largest lake in England, admire Wordsworth's cosy Dove Cottage, and marvel at the medieval architecture of the ancient town of Lancaster.
Departs Manchester city centre at 8.30am



Bodnant, North Wales



Ullswater, Cumbria

Bookable Product

Sport

Belle Vue Speedway

bellevue-speedway.com

Contact: info@bellevue-speedway.com

T: +44 (0) 161 669 4554

Average length of visit: 2.5 hrs

Manchester City Stadium Tour

hospitality.mancity.com/tours

Contact: tours@mancity.com

T: +44 (0) 161 444 1894

Average length of visit: 1.5 hrs

Max group size: 10+

Manchester United Museum & Stadium Tour

manutd.com/museum

Contact: museum.enquiries@manutd.co.uk

T: +44 (0) 161 676 7770

Average length of visit: 1.5 hrs

Max group size: 15+

Manchester United Taxi Tour

manchestertaxitours.co.uk

Contact: T: +44 (0) 161 244 8483

Average length of visit: 3.5 hrs

Max group size: 5

National Football Museum

nationalfootballmuseum.com

Contact: info@nationalfootballmuseum.com

T: +44 (0) 161 605 8200

Average length of visit: 2.5 hrs

Max group size: 35

Manchester City Football Club

Matchday Hospitality

hospitality.mancity.com

Contact: hospitality@mancity.com

T: +44 (0) 161 444 1894 (Option1, Option 3)

Length of visit: 4 hrs +

Manchester United Football Club

Matchday Hospitality

manutd.com/executive-club

Contact: hospitality@manutd.co.uk

T: +44 (0) 161 676 7770

Length of visit: 4 hrs +

Food & Drink

Afternoon Tea Taxi Tour

manchestertaxitours.co.uk

Contact: T: +44 (0) 161 244 8483

Average length of visit: 3.5 hrs

Max group size: 5

Brunch Tour Manchester

craftbeertourmanchester.co.uk

Contact: info@craftbeertourmanchester.co.uk

T: +44 (0) 161 327 0644

Average length of visit: 3.5 hrs

Max group size: 20

Craft Beer Tour Manchester

craftbeertourmanchester.co.uk

Contact: info@craftbeertourmanchester.co.uk

T: +44 (0) 161 327 0644

Average length of visit: 3.5 hrs

Max group size: 20

Food Sorcery

foodsorcery.co.uk

Contact: lovetocook@foodsorcery.co.uk

T: +44 (0) 161 760 505

Average length of visit: 3hrs

Max group size: 60



Bookable Product

Tours & Guides

Chetham's Library and College House Tour

jonathanschofieldtours.com

Contact: event@jonathanschofieldtours.com

T: +44 (0) 7876 235 638

Average length of visit: 1.5 hrs

Max group size: 30

Discover Manchester Walking Tour

manchesterguidedtours.com

Contact: info@manchesterguidedtours.com

T: +44 (0) 7505 685 942

Average length of visit: 1.5 hrs

Max group size: 25

Emma Fox Tour Guide

@showmemcr

Contact: showmemanchester@yahoo.co.uk

T: +44 (0) 7500 774 200

Average length of visit: 1.5 hrs

Max group size: 25

Jonathan Schofield Tour Guide

jonathanschofieldtours.com

Contact: event@jonathanschofieldtours.com

T: +44 (0) 7876 235 638

Average length of visit: 1.5 hrs

Max group size: 30

Kimpton Clocktower Haunted Tour

jonathanschofieldtours.com

Contact: event@jonathanschofieldtours.com

T: +44 (0) 7876 235 638

Average length of visit: 1.5 hrs

Max group size: 30

Manchester River Cruises

manchesterrivercruises.com

Contact: info@manchesterrivercruises.com

T: +44 (0) 7906 301 222

Average length of visit: 1 hr

Max group size: 80

Manchester Taxi Tours

manchestertaxitours.co.uk

Contact: T: +44 (0) 161 244 8483

Average length of visit: 3.5 hrs



Manchester Gin Distillery Tour & Guided Tasting

manchestergin.co.uk

Contact: bookings@manchestergin.co.uk

T: +44 (0) 161 519 4380

Average length of visit: 45 mins

Max group size: 14

Manchester Gin-Making Experience

manchestergin.co.uk

Contact: bookings@manchestergin.co.uk

T: +44 (0) 161 519 4380

Average length of visit: 2.5 hrs

Max group size: 14

Scrancheater 'Explore Ancoats' Tour

scrancheatertours.com

Contact: scrancheatertours@gmail.com

T: +44 (0) 7824 617 650

Average length of visit: 3.5 hrs

Max group size: 6

Scrancheater 'Eat The City' Tour

scrancheatertours.com

Contact: scrancheatertours@gmail.com

T: +44 (0) 7824 617 650

Average length of visit: 3.5 hrs

Max group size: 6

Bookable Product



Treasure Hunt Manchester

treasurehuntmanchester.com
Contact: ahoy@treasurehuntmanchester.com
T: +44 (0) 161 375 1271
Average length of visit: 2.5 hrs
Max group size: 6+

Something different

Band On The Wall

bandonthewall.org
Contact: info@bandonthewall.org
T: +44 (0) 161 834 1786
Average length of visit: 2.5 hrs

BBC Tour at MediaCityUK

bbc.com/showsandtours
Contact: T: +44 (0) 370 901 1227
Average length of visit: 1.5 hrs
Max group size: 24

Bramall Hall

stockport.gov.uk/topic/bramall-hall
Contact: T: +44 (0) 370 901 1227
Average length of visit: 1.5 hrs
Max group size: 60

Breakout Manchester

breakoutmanchester.com
Contact: hello@breakoutmanchester.com
T: +44 (0) 161 839 8012
Average length of visit: 1hr
Max group size: 5

The Bridgewater Hall

bridgewater-hall.co.uk
Contact: supervisors@bridgewater-hall.co.uk
T: +44 (0) 161 907 9000
Average length of visit: 2.5 hrs

Chill Factor®

chillfactore.com
Contact: info@chillfactore.com
Average length of visit: 1.5 hrs
Max group size: 120

Max group size: 5

New Manchester Walks

newmanchesterwalks.com
Contact: info@newmanchesterwalks.com
T: +44 (0) 7769 298 068
Average length of visit: 1.5 hrs
Max group size: by arrangement on private tour

Pauline Lloyd Tour Guide

manchesterguidedtours.com
Contact: pauline.lloyd261@btinternet.com
T: +44 (0) 7723 503702
Average length of visit: 1.5 hrs
Max group size: 25

Sightseeing Manchester

sightseeingmanchester.com
Contact: sightseeingmanchester@gmail.com
Average length of visit: 1.5 hrs

Skyliner Tours

theskyliner.org
Contact: theskyliner.org@gmail.com
T: +44 (0) 7542 002 485
Average length of visit: 2 hrs
Max group size: 25

Bookable Product

Concorde Tour at Runway Visitor Park

runwayvisitorpark.co.uk
Contact: concorde.enquiries@manairport.co.uk
T: +44 (0) 161 489 3932
Average length of visit: 1 hr

Coronation Street Tour

itv.com/coronationstreettour/
Contact: via website
Average length of visit: 1.5 hrs

Didsbury Bicycle Hire

didsburybicyclehire.co.uk
Contact: contact_us@didsburybicyclehire.co.uk
Average length of visit: 5 hrs

East Lancashire Railway

eastlancsrailway.org.uk
Contact: enquiries@eastlancsrailway.co.uk
T: +44 (0) 333 320 2830
Average length of visit: 1.5 hrs

Hallé

halle.co.uk
Contact: info@halle.co.uk
T: +44 (0) 161 907 9000
Average length of visit: 2.5 hrs

Legoland Discovery Centre Manchester

legolanddiscoverycentre.com/manchester
Contact: via website

Palace Theatre & Opera House

atgtickets.com
Contact: T: +44 (0) 3330 096 690
Average length of visit: 2.5 hrs

RHS Garden Bridgewater

rhs.org.uk/bridgewater
Contact: bridgewaterfeedback@rhs.org.uk
T: +44 (0) 161 503 6100
Average length of visit: 2.5 hrs

Royal Exchange Theatre

royalexchange.co.uk
Contact: box.office@royalexchange.co.uk
T: +44 (0) 161 833 9833
Average length of visit: 2.5 hrs

SEA LIFE Manchester

www.visitsealife.com/manchester/
Contact: via website

Stockport Air Raid Shelters

stockport.gov.uk/topic/air-raid-shelters
Contact: airraid.shelters@stockport.gov.uk
T: +44 (0) 161 474 1940
Average length of visit: 1.5 hrs

The Fusilier Museum

fusiliermuseum.com
Contact: enquiries@fusiliermuseum.com
T: +44 (0) 161 763 8950
Average length of visit: 2.5 hrs

The Lowry

thelowry.com
Contact: info@thelowry.com
T: +44 (0) 343 208 6000
Average length of visit: 2.5 hrs

Treetop Adventure Golf

adventuregolf.com/manchester
Contact: infomanchester@adventuregolf.com
T: +44 (0) 161 832 9805
Average length of visit: 1 hr



Getting to Manchester

Manchester is one of the best-connected and accessible cities in the UK, and because of its central location, it can provide a superb hub for your travels.

By Train

There are three main inter-city stations in the city centre: Piccadilly, Oxford Road and Victoria. With direct rail services from across the country getting here is easy. Operators include: TransPennine Express, CrossCountry Trains, East Midlands Railway, Northern Rail and Avanti West Coast.

Train journey times from:

London	2hrs 7mins
Edinburgh	3hrs 15mins
Birmingham	1hr 28mins

By Road

Manchester is well connected to the rest of the UK via excellent motorway links. The M60 ring road connects the city to motorways north, south, east and west.

Car journey times from:

London	4hrs
Edinburgh	4hrs
Birmingham	1hr 45mins



Manchester Piccadilly

By Coach/Bus

National Express provide services from all over the country into Manchester Central Coach Station on Chorlton Street in the heart of the city centre. Shudehill Interchange has services to destinations across the north of England and is also a base for Megabus nationwide services.

By Plane

Manchester Airport is the third-largest airport in the UK. Pre-Covid it handled 27 million passengers each year and was home to more than 70 airlines offering direct flights to Manchester from over 210 destinations worldwide. It is connected to the wider transport network via its own train and Metrolink tram stations as well as excellent road infrastructure.

Services at Manchester Airport are expected to change significantly whilst in post-Covid recovery, therefore it is important to check for the latest information at manchesterairport.co.uk or on the Manchester Airport app.



Manchester Airport

Getting Around Manchester

Getting around the city and surrounding areas is easy once you're here thanks to the fleet of buses, trains, and trams. The compact nature of the city centre also makes walking easy and safe.



Metrolink, Exchange Square

Metrolink

Metrolink is Greater Manchester's tram network that can be used to travel across the city-region. There are 99 stops on the network and lines connecting north, south, east, and west. Please be sure to purchase a ticket from the on-stop ticket machines before boarding a tram or tap in using contactless payment on your mobile device – don't forget to tap out when you complete your journey.

tfgm.com/tram

Trains

In addition to the inter-city links, the rail network connects you to the neighbouring towns and districts of Greater Manchester from the three main stations as well as Deansgate station.

tfgm.com/train

Manchester on foot

Manchester is easily explored on foot, with a city centre that you can navigate within 20 minutes. City Hosts are dotted around the centre to guide you with directions, public transport information and details on events taking place.

gmwalking.co.uk

Tourist Information

Manchester's Visitor Information Centre in Central Library can provide you with everything you need to get the most out of the city, including maps, visitor guides, hotel information and even discounted tickets for various attractions across the whole region.

Journey Planning

Transport for Greater Manchester (TfGM) is the official public transport body for the city. Its website has a wealth of information and a number of journey planning tools to take the stress out of travelling.

tfgm.com

Free Bus

Within the city centre, Free Bus provides a free 'hop on, hop off' service linking all of the main rail stations, shopping districts and business areas. There are three Free Bus services which operate on circular routes.

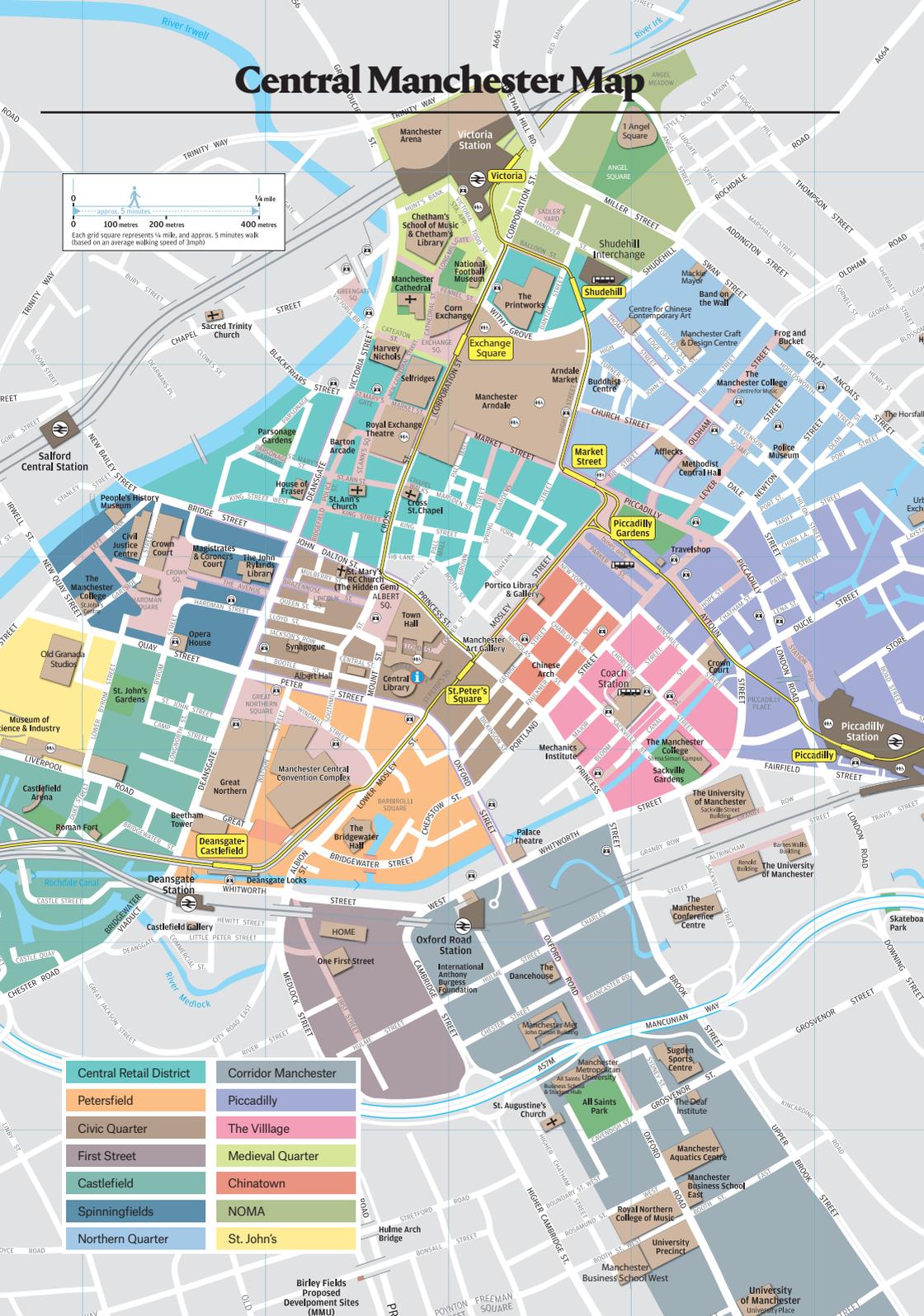
tfgm.com/freebus

Bus

Commercial bus services run right across Greater Manchester helping you get out and about.

tfgm.com/buses

Central Manchester Map



Greater Manchester Map





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Key Partners



[visitmanchester.com](https://www.visitmanchester.com)