



# Visit Manchester Insider's Handbook 2026





## 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**

# Welcome to Manchester

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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 – until you really get under the skin of the city – 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; and a city that opens its arms to all.

The aim of this handbook is simple: we want you to use it to explore, discover, and find the version of Manchester that speaks to you.

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

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 Greater Manchester.

And if you're a return visitor, welcome 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. Check out our opening pages to get up to speed.

We hope this handbook gives you the confidence and knowledge to take off and go

exploring beyond the obvious attractions; to seek out those hidden gems that even many locals struggle to uncover.

And when you've read this handbook, go speak to a local – whether that's a member of staff at one of our great pubs, an expert at the Visitor Information Centre, or a person in the street – to find out what they recommend; there are no better advocates for Manchester than the warm and friendly people who live here and who invariably love it.

I'd like to thank you for visiting us – and once you have, I'm confident you'll want to come back. Like many visitors you may even end up coming to live, study or work here. Manchester often has that effect on people these days.

Wherever you have travelled from and whoever you are, you are always welcome here.



Victoria Braddock  
Managing Director,  
Marketing Manchester



# Manchester

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## 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.

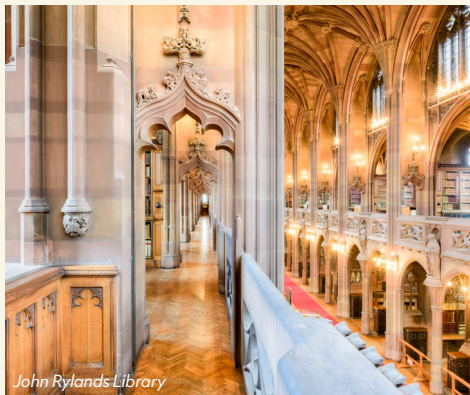
It's where Emmeline Pankhurst, Alan Turing, LS Lowry, and Anthony Burgess all called home.

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 neighbourhoods with their own distinct personalities.

Beyond Manchester, the surrounding nine 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](https://www.visitmanchester.com)**



John Rylands Library



Science and Industry Museum



# Manchester

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# What's New

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## Mollie's Manchester

@ mollies\_manchester

Set in the iconic Old Granada Studios, Mollie's has arrived in St John's merging style and comfort through their retro-inspired design. 106 high-spec rooms and suites, an American-style diner and stylish Studio IV Bar, complete what is the brand's third and largest UK hotel.

## Oldham Coliseum

@ oldhamcoliseum

Following a campaign by locals, the much-loved theatre reopens following a £10m grant from Oldham Council to refurbish it and futureproof the theatre.

## Scranchester's Chinatown Tour

@ scranchestertours

Experts in Manchester's food scene, Scranchester's new tour leads curious visitors through the city's Chinatown, the second largest in the UK, to explore the history and culture of the neighbourhood while discovering its rich culinary offer.

## Castlefield Viaduct

@ ntcastlefieldviaduct

The 125-year-old Victorian Grade II-listed former railway bridge, ran by the National Trust, is set to extend to over 350-meters featuring new sections 'The Garden' and 'The Broadwalk'. The urban park, reminiscent of New York's The High Line, is currently open to visitors.

## Campfield Market

@ campfieldmarket

Set within the historic walls of the Grade II listed Campfield, this new market runs every Saturday and offers a food hall and a rotating lineup of independent traders.

## Lennox

@ lennoxrestaurant

Stepping into the space previously home to Six by Nico, Lennox offers a menu rooted in familiar, nostalgic flavours within an intimate 56-cover restaurant, featuring a bar, six-seat Chef's Table, open kitchen and visible dry-age fridges.



# What's New

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## Manchester Town Hall

@ manchestertownhall

Manchester's impressive 19th Century Town Hall will reopen to the public in the next few years, following an extensive renovation project. Visitors will get access to previously unseen areas, including the Victorian police cells and clocktower with new guided tours on offer.

## Sister Moon

@ sistermoon.mcr

Looking out at Manchester's skyline from the 14th floor of Treehouse hotel, Sister Moon will feature a Southeast Asian-inspired menu by acclaimed chef Sam Grainger, alongside rooftop bar The Nest and intimate lounge The Hideout.

## Northern Roots

@ northernrootsoldham

Turning 160-acres of unused land into the UK's largest urban farm, Northern Roots will open its brand-new Visitor Centre in Summer of 2026, with a café and shop.

## The Medlock

@ manciny

A new 401-bedroom hotel within Etihad Campus arriving in 2026, The Medlock is a Radisson Blu property and part of Manchester City's entertainment district, which will see a new stadium rooftop walk experience, and museum.

## Chotto Matte

@ chottomattemcr

On the 10th floor of St Michael's, Chotto Matte is the largest restaurant in the city, with 450-covers, offering a blend of Japanese and Peruvian cuisine and a Mexican-inspired bar.

## RHS Garden Bridgewater

@ rhsbridgewater

Europe's largest gardening project expands with a new Music Pavilion paving the way for a new Scholar's Garden, which will showcase British and Chinese landscaping.



# Neighbourhoods

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Ancoats

## 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.

## 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 Romans 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 along the canals.

## Chorlton

In laid-back Chorlton, you'll find a medley of good pubs and bars, vegan delis, bakeries, and a strong foodie scene. Weekend strolls along Beech Road and around Chorlton Water Park make it difficult to leave.



Northern Quarter

## Didsbury

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

## Levenshulme

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

## 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.

## New Islington

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

# Neighbourhoods

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## Prestwich

This buzzing Bury town hosts independent and specialist retailers giving it a unique bohemian feel. You will also find plenty of green space including Prestwich Clough and nearby Heaton Park, Europe's largest municipal park.

## Sale

A plethora of local stores, canal side pubs, and Waterside Arts Centre can be found in Sale. From the town, it's a short distance to Walkden Gardens or Sale Water Park.

## Salford Quays

A unique waterfront location adjacent to MediaCity's tech and broadcasting hub, Salford Quays is home to the Lowry arts centre, the visually striking Imperial War Museum North, The Coronation Street Experience, and a cavernous food hall at Central Bay.

## Salford Central

The area of Salford that meets the western edge of Manchester city centre features great bars and restaurants along Chapel Street as well as masses of green space at Peel Park and The Meadow.



## St John's

The city centre's hottest new neighbourhood, in St John's you'll find a creative and social hub. It's home to cutting-edge arts venue Aviva Studios, a thriving food scene, and the stylish Mollie's hotel and diner.

## Stockport

A ten-minute train out of the city, Stockport is full of cool businesses, foodie hotspots and some unique attractions including 1930s art deco Stockport Plaza and Grade II listed 1460s Staircase House.

## Stretford

With a major regeneration plan in place, Stretford has become one of Greater Manchester's most sought-after neighbourhoods, with the historic King Street having reopened to the public after 60 years.

## Urmston

Having undergone a revamp in recent years, Urmston is emerging as a strong alternative to Manchester's leafy southern suburbs, with lots of great coffee shops, pubs, bars, and restaurants opening across the town.

# Museums

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## 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.

## Bolton Library and Museum

@ bolton\_library\_museum

Art, natural history, Egyptology, social history, archives, libraries, historic houses and an aquarium – there's something for everyone, all under one roof in Bolton.

## Manchester Museum

@ mcrcmuseum

Boasting 4.5 million pieces in its archive, an impressive Egyptology collection, and new South Asian and Chinese Culture galleries, all in one neo-gothic, Grade II\* listed building.

## Science and Industry Museum

@ scienceandindustrymuseum

Based on the site of the oldest surviving passenger railway station, the museum showcases pioneering inventions and work that started in Manchester then changed the world.



Science and Industry Museum

## 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.

## 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 museum building is designed by international architect Daniel Libeskind.

## Manchester Jewish Museum

@ mcrcjewishmuseum

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.

## Hat Works Museum

Following an extensive refurbishment, Stockport's Hat Works Museum showcases the history of the hatting industry in Stockport and its impact on the town during the Industrial Revolution.



Rochdale Pioneers Museum



# Galleries

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The Whitworth

## LOWRY

@ the\_lowry

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

## The Whitworth

@ whitworthart

The city's flagship gallery is fully integrated into Whitworth Park; blending modern architecture, glass structures and stunning gallery spaces with original features from 1889.

## Bury Art Museum

@ bury\_art\_museum

BAM houses the Wrigley Collection comprised of over 200 oil paintings, watercolours, prints and ceramics, whilst the adjoining Sculpture Centre features works by prominent contemporary sculptors.

## esea contemporary

@ eseacontemporary

esea contemporary presents and platforms artists and art practices that identify with and are informed by East and Southeast Asian cultural backgrounds.

## 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

@ mcrartgallery

Packed with much-loved displays of British and European art and design, including world-famous Pre-Raphaelite paintings, the gallery is for and of the people of Manchester.

## Salford Museum & Art Gallery

@ salford\_museum

This stunning Victorian building houses the biggest Pilkington collection in the UK, as well as a reconstructed Victorian street that transports you back to 19th-century Salford.

## Gallery Oldham

@ galleryoldham

Gallery Oldham features exhibits from Oldham's diverse collections alongside newly commissioned art, international work, touring exhibitions and work produced with local communities.

# Theatres

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Royal Exchange Theatre

## Royal Exchange Theatre

@ rxtheatre

Resembling a lunar spacecraft set down amidst a former Grade II listed trading hall, the Royal Exchange is the largest theatre in the round in the country.

## Octagon Bolton

@ octagonthatre

Originally opened in 1967, one of the region's best-loved theatres, Octagon Bolton, has undergone a major refurbishment in recent years to make the theatre open to all.

## Aviva Studios

@ factory\_international

Aviva Studios, home to Factory International, opened in October 2023 following a successful preview during the Manchester International Festival. The colossal space hosts new, cutting-edge work across art, theatre, live music, dance and more.

## Hope Mill Theatre

@ hopemilltheatre

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.

## HOME

@ homemcr

This arts complex is a marvel of contemporary design; a cultural hub for the city that encompasses theatre spaces, cinema, gallery, and restaurants.

## The Palace Theatre & Opera House

@ palaceandopera

Two separate theatres but very much siblings, the Palace and Opera House are amongst the city's oldest. Expect world premieres and hit musicals in these grandiose Victorian auditoriums.

## Contact

@ contactmcr

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 LGBTQ+ festival, Queer Contact.

## Z-arts

@ z.artsmcr

This incredible creative space based in Hulme is the UK's only arts centre focused on providing best practise in creative activities for children and young people.

## Waterside

@ watersidearts\_

Sitting in the heart of Sale, Waterside has built a strong reputation for delivering high-quality performance, live music, and high-profile visual arts exhibitions.

# Music venues

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## AO Arena

@ aoarena

AO Arena is one of the largest indoor arenas in Europe and has hosted some of the best names in entertainment such as Prince, Madonna, The Rolling Stones, and Manchester local Peter Kay.

## New Century

@ newcenturymcr

With its original sprung dance floor, disco ceiling and state-of-the-art sound system, New Century's rebirth brings a piece of the city's musical heritage to life for a new generation.

## 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 Bridgewater Hall is Manchester's flagship international concert venue.

## Albert Hall

@ alberthallmcr

A Grade II listed former Wesleyan chapel, Albert Hall has been restored into a stunning purpose-built music hall, becoming one of the UK's most atmospheric venues.

## The Stoller Hall

@ stollerhall

A venue that has made a name for itself as an intimate space with incredible acoustics, The Stoller Hall is based underground within Chetham's School of Music.

## Night and Day Café

@ nightanddaycafe

A much-loved cornerstone of the Northern Quarter's vibrant music scene, Night and Day Café has been showcasing fresh musical talent daily since 1991 and is still going strong.

## 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 and visiting artists.

## Co-op Live

@ thecooplive

With capacity to welcome up to 23,500 fans of music and sport, Co-op Live is positioning itself as one of the UK's top venues for live entertainment, with 32 onsite bars, restaurants and lounges to help fans make the most of their night out.





# Libraries and Literature

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## 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 one of the oldest libraries in the UK.

## Manchester Central Library

@ manclib\_archives

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

Mrs Gaskell's former home helps visitors to discover secrets and insights into some of her most famous novels, and her friendships with peers such as Charlotte Brontë and Charles Dickens.

## John Rylands Library

@ thejohnrylands

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

## Anthony Burgess Foundation

@ anthonyburgessfoundation

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



Chetham's Library

## Manchester Poetry Library

@ mcrpoetrylibrary

A new poetry research centre for Manchester – a UNESCO City of Literature – it holds an extensive collection of contemporary poetry from books to recordings, in multiple languages.

## Working Class Movement Library

@ wcmlibrary

One of the most unusual libraries in the world, The Working Class Movement Library is a treasure trove with records of over 200 years of organising and campaigning by ordinary men and women.

# Heritage sites

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## Victoria Baths

@ victoriabaths

No longer primarily functioning as a 'water palace' and Turkish baths, this Grade II listed building hosts regular events and features stunning stained glass, terracotta tiles and mosaic floors.

## Manchester Town Hall

@ manchestertownhall

Designed by Alfred Waterhouse, Manchester Town Hall is one of the finest examples of Victorian Gothic architecture in the UK. Currently undergoing refurbishment, it will reopen in the coming years.

## Rochdale Town Hall

@ rochdaletownhall

Considered one of Britain's finest civic buildings, the Grade I listed Town Hall is a symbol of Rochdale's industrial standing in the textile trade and welcomes the public to explore its secrets.



Victoria Baths

## Manchester Cathedral

@ manchestercathedral

The Cathedral is an essential place to visit when in Manchester, featuring the finest late medieval woodwork in the North of England, alongside stunning modern stained glass.

## The Monastery

@ themonasterymcr

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.

## The Pankhurst Centre

@ thepankhurst

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

## Fireground

@ firegroundrochdale

A must-visit hidden gem for kids and adults alike, Fireground is a place to explore the history of fire, fire engineering, and the fire and rescue services in the Greater Manchester region.

## Staircase House

Staircase House is a Grade II\* listed medieval building dating from around 1460 situated in Stockport and is famous for its rare Jacobean cage-newel staircase.

## Salford Lads' Club

@ salford\_ladsclub

Established in 1903 as a purpose-built club for boys, Salford Lads' Club has continued to provide this facility for over 100 years. It is also a must-visit spot for fans of The Smiths thanks to its use on the album *The Queen is Dead*.

# Sport



## Manchester United Museum and Stadium Tour

@ manchesterunited

Take a behind-the-scenes look at one of the most iconic stadiums in sport. Sit in the managers seat, walk through the players tunnel, and find out why it's called 'The Theatre of Dreams'.

## Manchester City Stadium Tour

@ mancify

Experience one of the most immersive tours in football. Using the latest technology, dreams come true with a behind the scenes look at one of the most modern stadiums in sport.

## The Snow Centre

@ thesnowcentremcr

Home to the UK's longest real snow slope, The Snow Centre offers plenty of activities from sledging and sliding to skiing and snowboarding lessons.

## 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.

## iFLY Manchester

@ ifly.manchester

Experience the rush of freefalling in Manchester's indoor skydiving centre. iFLY welcomes all ages and abilities in their fun, safe environment with experienced instructors to guide you through your flight.

## National Cycling Centre

@ nationalcyclingcentre

The UK's first indoor Olympic cycling track and one of the world's fastest board tracks, the National Cycling Centre is open to athletes and novices alike.

## Salford Watersports Centre

@ salfordwsc

Salford Quays 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.

## Summit Up Climbing

@ summitupclimbing

Featuring Northern England's highest and largest Clip 'n Climb, as well as rope climbing and bouldering facilities, Summit Up offers something for every level of climber.





# LGBTQ+

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## 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 with dedicated club nights like Homoelectric, and events at venues such as Hidden, The White Hotel, Firehouse, The Carlton Club and Derby Brewery Arms.

## 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 Village including the famous parade and the poignant candlelit vigil.



What She Said Club



## 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

The SCENE Film Festival is just one example of the annual events dedicated to celebrating LGBTQ+ arts and performance, whilst Sugar and Spice celebrates queer women through a series of workshops. A year-round programme at spots like HOME and 53two also 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 Village Manchester FC and Manchester Frontrunners, to the Village Spartan rugby club and GHAP badminton.

## Queer history

Integral to the Campaign for Homosexual Equality in 1964, Manchester has always been at the centre of queer activism in the UK. You can follow the city's queer history on the LGBTQ+ Heritage Trail which takes in locations including the Alan Turing statue, and the National Transgender Memorial Garden. LGBTQ+ walking tours are operated by Free Manchester Tours most Saturdays.

# Coffee



## Ancoats Coffee Co.

@ ancoatscoffeeco

Housed in a former cotton warehouse, 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

Started in 2014, this little coffee spot serves up fresh sweet pies, alongside a kitchen serving great brunch food, coffee, natural wine and craft beer.

## Morning Glory

@ morningglorymcr

Offering a bright atmosphere to start your morning right, in this small café in the Northern Quarter you'll find deliciously crafted drinks, grab-and-go breakfast options and Manchester Tarts.

## 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, and hand roasts their coffee onsite.



## Bold Street Coffee

@ boldstreetcoffee.mcr

An import courtesy of our neighbours in Liverpool, the award-winning Bold Street Coffee boasts three branches in the city centre, on Cross Street, Spinningfields and University Green.

## Mattina

@ mattina.club

MediaCity's chill Italian coffee shop and deli, Mattina is the perfect place to re-fuel whilst exploring The Quays.

## Procaffeinated

@ procaffeinatedmcr

Situated on a rapidly changing stretch of Salford's Chapel Street, Procaffeinated combines speciality coffee with brunch options, homemade bread, natural wine, beer, and cocktails.

## Federal Café & Bar

@ federalcafebar

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

# Brunch

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## Kallos

@ kallosmcr

Tucked away in Salford's Queen Street, Kallos offers brunch classics with a Mediterranean twist. In the evening, the space transforms into a cosy wine bar and meze.

## Ezra & Gil

@ ezraandgil

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

## Pot Kettle Black

@ pkb\_mcr

With several branches popping up around town, Pot Kettle Black offers vibrant, easy-going food and some of the city's best coffee served in their now-famous red cups.

## NŪR Café

@ nurcafemcr

NŪR has shaken up the food scene in Manchester, blending rich Middle-Eastern flavours with delicate French-inspired pastries through a fully halal menu.

## Evelyn's Cafe Bar

@ evelynscafebar

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

## Pollen Bakery

@ pollenbakery

Named by The Sunday Times as one of the 'best bakeries in the UK', Pollen Bakery undoubtedly has the best bread in the city, whilst their viennoiserie has people queuing out the door.

## Gooley

@ gooeeyco

Causing queues wherever they pop up, the guys at Gooley specialise in food – both sweet and savoury – bursting with sticky, messy flavours that you won't find anywhere else.

## Green Lab

@ thegreenlabnq

A healthy option for earlier risers, this sustainable-led salad bar, juice bar and health studio is the place to go for a hearty breakfast or brunch to start your day right.



Gooley



# Restaurants

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## Peter Street Kitchen

@ peterstreetkitchen

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

## Mana

@ restaurant.mana

Manchester's first Michelin star restaurant since 1977, it serves a multiple course menu that champions British produce whilst taking inspiration from other cultures.

## Dishoom

@ dishoommcr

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

## The Refuge

@ therefugemcr

Housed in a beautifully tiled room within the Kimpton Clocktower hotel, Refuge offers a range of small and large plates perfect for sharing as well as an extensive drinks menu.



The Refuge

## Skof

@ skof\_manchester

A first venture for Northern-born Tom Barnes, Skof is tucked away in the city's NOMA neighbourhood and was awarded its first Michelin star only nine months after opening.

## Hawksmoor

@ hawksmoormanchester

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

## El Gato Negro

@ elgatonegotapas

Set in the style of an opulent Spanish townhouse, El Gato Negro takes the best of modern and traditional Spanish flavours, while drawing on ingredients from closer to home.

## Fazenda

@ fazenda.group

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

## Sexy Fish

@ sexyfish\_manchester

Following closely in the footsteps of its London counterpart, this show-stopping 150-cover restaurant features striking pink interiors, giant sculptures of creatures from under the sea, and opulent Asian-inspired menu.

## Zouk

@ zoukteabar

Venture down Oxford Road to find Zouk, a vibrant restaurant known for its lively atmosphere and Indian and Pakistani halal menu. The all-weather heated terrace offers extensive seating in a beautiful backdrop.

# Restaurants

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## The Spärrrows

@ sparrows\_mcr

Here you'll find an intriguing combination of handmade dumplings, fresh egg pasta Spätzle, and other European classics, plus Japanese Sake. It shouldn't work but food critics love it.

## Erst

@ erst\_mcr

A beautifully simple natural wine bar and restaurant, Erst has established itself as one of the city's best neighbourhood spots and features in the National Restaurant Awards Top 100.

## The Ivy Spinningfields

@ the\_ivy\_collection

Spanning three floors in the heart of Spinningfields, The Ivy is a glamorous staple of the city's dining scene with a brasserie, rooftop garden and The Ivy Asia.

## Another Hand

@ another\_hand\_mcr

Tucked away on Deansgate Mews, this popular eatery now boasts inclusion in the prestigious Michelin Guide thanks to an array of sharing plates made with produce from ethical local growers.

## 10 Tib Lane

@ 10tiblane

Classic cocktails, natural wine, beer and seasonal food made with the best produce – the team at 10 Tib Lane have also garnered a reputation for one of the best Sunday Roasts in the city.

## SAMPA

@ sampa\_restaurant

An intimate chef's table restaurant, offering just 12 seats per night, this exclusive dining spot celebrates the vibrant flavours of Brazil with a changing tasting menu.

## Fenix

@ fenixrestaurants

Featuring a menu of modern Greek food from chefs who have graced some of Greece's finest restaurants, Fenix includes light technology to mimic the setting sun bringing 'Mykonos to Manchester'.

## Canto

@ cantomcr

From the team behind El Gato Negro, Canto's menu of small plates is designed for sharing and created from fresh seasonal ingredients, bringing Mediterranean-inspired cuisine to Ancoats.

## Higher Ground

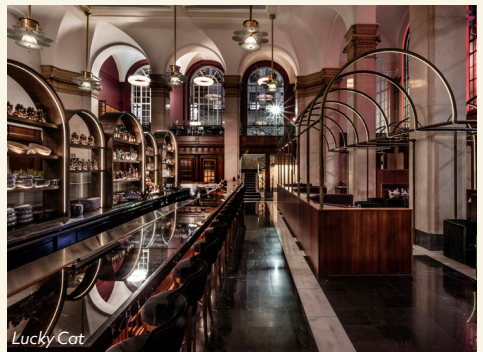
@ highergroundmcr

Listed in the top 100 restaurants in the UK, Higher Ground is the brainchild of three restaurant pros combining incredible food, wine, and service, with organic produce grown on their farm in Cheshire.

## Lucky Cat

@ luckycatbygordonramsay

Housed in a Grade II listed former bank in the King Street district of the city, Gordon Ramsay has brought his fine-dining pan-Asian Lucky Cat restaurant to the city.



# Casual dining

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## Porta Salford

@ porta\_salford

Located off Chapel Street in Salford, this award-winning casual tapas spot has branched out with three locations throughout Greater Manchester.

## 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.

## Tangerine

@ tangerinemcr

Combining a food hall, martini bar and live music space, Tangerine is new on the scene and offers eight different independent traders.

## Diecast

@ diecastmcr

Taking over a former metals factory, the spacious Diecast boasts a dedicated Beer Hall, year-round garden with repurposed caravans and incredible evening performances.



## Nell's

@ nellspizza

Known for its giant New York-style pizzas and casual vibe, with four sites across Greater Manchester, Nell's is a must visit for any foodie.

## Exhibition

@ exhibition.mcr

Three award-winning kitchens come together at Exhibition to offer a combined menu influenced by Italian, Chinese, and Scandinavian cuisine.

## Corn Exchange

@ cornexchangemcr

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

## Courts Club

@ courtsclubmcr

From a morning smoothie, brunch, signature cocktails and pop-up vendors, to basketball and tennis courts, you'll find it all at St John's social dining spot, complete with an open-air terrace.



# Food halls and street food

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## Mackie Mayor

@ mackiemayor

Mackie Mayor is filled with artisan food traders in the stunning surroundings of a former Victorian meat market. Also worth a visit is its sister venue, Altrincham Market House.

## House of Social

@ houseofsocial\_mcr

Bringing together five of Manchester's best independent kitchens in one stylish food hall, House of Social has something to satisfy your cravings, from lunch to dinner.

## Society

@ society.mcr

A foodie's favourite all-day destination, Society is Manchester's hub for culinary adventure, offering the freshest flavours from five independent kitchens.

## The Produce Hall

@ theproducehall

160 years of history have been preserved at Stockport's The Produce Hall, which has brought a selection of independent food and drink to the heart of the Old Town square.



Mackie Mayor

## Feast at the Mills

@ feastatthemills

Open every weekend within the iconic Eckersley Mill in Wigan, Feast at the Mills features a range of traders and a rotation of new, local live performers.

## Freight Island

@ freightislandmcr

Taking residence adjacent to the former Mayfield station, Freight Island is a 600-seat indoor/outdoor venue, bringing live music and events alongside street-style food and drink.

## Hello Oriental

@ hello\_oriental\_mcr

From its flagship at Circle Square, home to its unique Asian-inspired bakery, to its latest spot in The Trafford Centre, Hello Oriental offers a one-of-a-kind food hall experience featuring street food from across the continent.

## Kargo MKT at Central Bay

@ kargo.mkt

Located on the waterfront at Salford Quays, Central Bay is home to a microbrewery and gin distillery by Seven Bro7hers and a huge food hall boasting 20 independent kitchens.

## New Century Kitchen

@ newcenturykitchenmcr

The trendy food space under New Century's music venue features six vendors, with food ranging from posh butties to plant-based 'junk' food to fill up on before a gig.

## The Egyptian Room

@ the\_egyptianroom

Located in Oldham town centre, The Egyptian Room offers a delicious range of cuisines and live entertainment inside a striking Grade-II Egyptian-inspired listed building.

# Vegetarian and vegan

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## Bundobust

@ bundobust

With venues on both Oxford Road and in Piccadilly Gardens, Bundobust serves up a winning combination of all-vegetarian Indian street food and a mighty selection of home brewed craft beer.

## Maray

@ marayrestaurants

Inspired by the middle eastern flavours of the Le Marais district of Paris, Maray dishes up show-stopping favourites such as Disco Cauliflower and Turkish Tea Margarita.

## The Allotment Vegan Eatery

@ allotmenteatery

Offering a fresh and locally sourced menu of plant-based dishes, this award-winning restaurant also does a cracking Sunday Roast with all the trimmings.

## Purezza

@ purezza

A fully plant-based menu serves up tasty pizzas at Purezza, whose commitment to the best sustainably sourced ingredients is commendable.



## Otto Vegan Empire

@ otto\_veganempire

After working the street food circuit for years, the 'Ottoman' team now has a bricks and mortars spot in Bramhall to serve up flavour-packed plates of Middle Eastern and Mediterranean food.

## Ortica

@ ortica\_italianplantbased

Greater Manchester's first fully plant-based Italian restaurant – located in Urmston – is a family run affair offering pasta, pinsa, and cocktails.

## Sanskruti

@ sanskrutirestaurant

Offering a vegan and vegetarian menu that traverses the Indian sub-continent, Sanskruti is a hidden gem with Manchester's sprawling southern suburbs.

## Vegetarian Society Cooking School

@ the\_vegetarian\_society

Get hands on as you chop, slice, dice and knead your way to delicious veggie and vegan dishes, taught by experts in veggie food at the Vegetarian Society's Altrincham cookery school.

# Afternoon tea and sweet spots

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## 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.

## Siop Shop

@ siopshop

Tucked away in the back streets of the Northern Quarter, Siop Shop is famous for its quirky, themed doughnuts, as well as brunch food and great coffee.

## The Library at The Edwardian

@ edwardianmanchester

The Library joins 5-star The Edwardian hotel to create an interpretation of the afternoon tea, featuring handcrafted savoury and sweet treats served in the intimate library setting.

## Half Dozen Other

@ halfdozenother

In this artisan bakery's case, eat with your eyes first as their beautifully crafted bakes are pieces of edible art, and can be found in two locations across the city centre in Red Bank and Circle Square.

## The Flat Baker

@ theflatbaker

Starting as a small window kiosk, and now a colourful shop in Ancoats, artisan bakery The Flat Baker are local favourites. Discover their viral pistachio croissant and browse their impressive display of baked goods.

## The Tea Room at The Midland

@ themidlandmanchester

Offering traditional afternoon tea since 1903, The Tea Room at The Midland hotel is a sophisticated affair with delicious cakes, scones, and sandwiches, served alongside an in-house tea blend.

## Lazy Sundae

@ lazysundaeuk

Made popular by social-savvy visitors, Lazy Sundae serves up treats including travel-inspired ice cream, soufflé pancakes, and bubble tea from inside the iconic Arndale.

## Slattery

@ slattery\_cakes

Nestled between Manchester and Bury, and a short ride out of the city, you'll find Slattery's three-floor bakery, patisserie, and chocolate shop which has been a local favourite since 1967.

## Companio

@ companiobakery

Selling directly from their bakeries and at cafes across the city, Companio's pastries and sourdough are local favourites.





# Bars

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## Albert's Schloss

@ albertsschloss

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

## The Jane Eyre

@ thejaneeyremcr

Run by two brothers, at this Ancoats bolthole you'll find cocktail classics and simple food that puts an emphasis on quality ingredients. A new Chorlton branch has recently opened.

## Blinker

@ blinkerbar

Named after a long-forgotten classic cocktail, Blinker – now listed as one of the Top 50 Cocktail Bars in the country – is the perfect place to while away an afternoon in the city centre.

## 20 Stories

@ 20storiesmcr

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

## Red Light

@ redlightmcr

Adjacent to Manchester's famous LGBTQ+ Canal Street, Red Light is an LGBTQ+ friendly cocktail bar set inside a Victorian warehouse offering exposed brick and cosy corners.

## Stray

@ stray.bar

Rated one of the Top 50 Cocktail Bars in the UK, this small, sophisticated bar is tucked inside Mackie Mayor, offering innovative takes on classic drinks and a laid-back atmosphere.

## YES

@ yes\_mcr

Sprawled across a four-floor warehouse, this indie music venue is one of the best spots to 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, but Speak in Code is one of the best, garnering awards for their forward thinking, sustainably focused cocktails.

## Schofield's

@ schofields.bar

Channelling an era of grand, luxurious bars with meticulous attention to detail, the award-winning Schofield's is one of several bars in the city run by bartender brothers Joe and Daniel.

## The Daisy

@ thedaisynq

Set below Evelyn's Café Bar, this small and stylish bar is the perfect place to escape the crowds of the Northern Quarter with great cocktails and music.



# Pubs

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The Marble Arch

## 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. It stocks over 300 whiskeys.

## The Castle Hotel

@ thecastleman

Letting the good times roll since 1776, this iconic Northern Quarter pub and music venue is a great place to while away an afternoon.

## Mulligans

@ mulligansmcr

The city's oldest Irish pub can be found in the heart of Deansgate, and is well-known for its friendly atmosphere, live music, and arguably the best pint of Guinness outside of Ireland.

## The Kings Arms

@ kingsalford

One of the country's best back-street boozers, The Kings Arms is not just any 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 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.

## Sadler's Cat

@ sadlerscatpub

Previously The Pilcrow Pub, which was built by volunteers, it now operates as Sadler's Cat by Cloudwater brewery, offering Scandi vibes and fantastic local beers.

## The Circus Tavern

@ circustavernmcr

"The smallest bar in Europe, but the biggest welcome in the world" goes the saying at this tiny Portland Street institution which dates back to 1790.

## 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 Turning 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 tiled exterior, whilst inside the pub is cosy and unpretentious.

# Breweries and distilleries

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## Cloudwater Unit 9

@ cloudwatertaproom

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

## Runaway Brewery

@ runawaybrewery

A microbrewery focused on small-batch beer, The Runaway Brewery offers tours and tastings at its working brewery in Stockport, alongside a taproom and shop.

## Track Brewery Taproom

@ trackbrewingcotaproom

Located on an industrial estate behind Piccadilly Station (and opposite Cloudwater), the colourful Track Brewery Taproom features views of the brewing floor and a brilliant beer garden.

## North Westward Ho

@ northwestwardho

A pub from the team behind Pomona Island Brewery, expect up to 18 keg lines and 5 cask ale lines from the brewery alongside one of the cities widest selections of German lager, British cider, mixed fermentation beers, and Belgian ales.

## Salford Rum

@ salfordrum

Take part in a tour of The Dirty Old Town Distillery, hidden beneath the historic archways of the railway line, and learn how they create their award-winning craft rums.

## Stockport Gin

@ stockportgin

Based in the heart of Stockport, this independently run distillery started in the garage of the owner's home, and now offers distillery tours, tastings, and dedicated gin making classes.

## Seven Bro7hers

@ sevenbro7hers

Born out of seven actual brothers' love of beer, Seven Bro7hers operates four taphouses across Greater Manchester, as well as brewery tours at their manufacturing base near MediaCityUK.

## North Taproom

@ northbrewco

The award-winning North Brewing Co was one of the first craft bars in the UK back in 1997 and have recently jumped across the Pennines from Leeds to set up at Circle Square.

# Tours

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## City tours

There's no better way to find your feet in a city than on a professional walking tour. Manchester Guided Tours, Wiseguides, Free Manchester Walking Tours, and Free Walking Tour Manchester all run great introductory tours covering Manchester's history and heritage, whilst individual guides such as Emma Fox and Jonathan Schofield 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

@ invisible\_cities\_manchester

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.

## Skyliner Tours

@ skylinermcr

Join Hayley Flynn as she shares vast knowledge about the Northern Quarter, the area's best street art, gentrification, 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.

## The Locationist Film and TV Tour

@ thelocationisttour

Walk in the footsteps of your favourite actor or superhero and test your film knowledge with an expert guide as you discover Manchester locations used in film and TV.

## Sightseeing Manchester

f sightseeingmanchester

This open-top bus tour takes you on a 90-minute loop, covering some of Manchester, Salford, and Trafford's key sights, including the Science and Industry Museum, Old Trafford, and Salford Quays.

## Manchester Wine Tours

@ manchesterwinetours

Join food and drink writer Kelly Bishop for a leisurely stroll around some of Manchester's best wine bars, restaurants, and shops, sampling great wines with matched snacks.

## Rock and Goal Manchester

@ ultimate\_manchester

Whether you're visiting Manchester for its musical heritage or its footballing legacy, this walking tour with Joe Feeley will fill you in on all the juicy secrets the city has to share.





# Activities



Breakout Manchester

## Food Sorcery

@ foodsorcery

Enjoy 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.

## Race Across the World

@ raceacrosstheworld.experience

Based off the popular BBC TV show, this interactive game will take you across some of Manchester's most iconic landmarks to uncover their history through physical puzzles and challenges.

## The Deck 747

@ thedeck747

Take the captain's seat aboard a real Boeing 747 at this one-of-a-kind experience. With panoramic simulator views, you can fly all over the world, right from the ground at Barton Aerodrome.



Museum of Illusions

## Printworks

@ mcrprintworks

Having recently undergone a £22m refurbishment, Printworks is now home to a range of restaurants, bars, interactive experiences, and a 23 screen Vue Cinema.

## Treetop Adventure Golf

@ treetop\_golf

Step into Manchester's lushest rainforest – located within the Printworks – where you can play 18-hole indoor mini golf against a backdrop of crumbling temples and raging waterfalls.

## Museum of Illusions

@ museumofillusions\_manchester

The UK's first Museum of Illusions arrives in Manchester. Featuring exclusive installations and interactive exhibits, this unique attraction uses the art of optical illusion to challenge your perception—where nothing is quite as it seems...

## Treasure Hunt Manchester

@ treasurehuntmcr

Discover Manchester in a completely different way. Solve satisfying clues and follow beautiful digital maps to unearth hidden historic treasures in the city.

# Days Out

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## East Lancashire Railway

@ eastlancsrly

A ride on the East Lancashire Railway offers glorious countryside, chocolate box villages, brilliant pubs, and plenty of fascinating history.

## Chester Zoo

@ chesterzoo

The most visited zoo in the UK is just a 50-minute drive from Manchester and features 35,000 animals over 128 acres of zoological gardens.

## Blooms & Bicycles

@ bloomsbicycles

A unique bicycle picnic offering, this Instagrammable experience uses Pashley Cycles with add-ons including afternoon tea, fresh flowers, and picnic hampers for all special occasions.

## Jodrell Bank

@ jodrellbank

A UNESCO World Heritage Site just outside Manchester in Macclesfield, Jodrell Bank is a working deep-space observatory offering a planetarium show and interactive displays exploring space.

## The Coronation Street Experience

@ coronationstreetexperience

Explore the famous cobbles of the world's longest-running TV soap, giving visitors exclusive access to the actual set and studios used on TV in this 90-minute tour at Salford's MediaCity.

## Manchester River Cruises

@ manchesterrivercruises

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

## RHS Garden Bridgewater

@ rhsbridgewater

The RHS's 154-acre garden, set within the lost historic grounds at Worsley New Hall in Salford, features one of the UK's biggest Walled Garden and lots of other beautiful spaces to enjoy.

## Tatton Park

@ tattonpark

One of the UK's most complete historic estates, Tatton Park is home to a Tudor Old Hall, Neo-Classical Mansion, 50-acres of landscaped gardens, a heritage farm, and 1,000-acre deer park.

# Independent Shopping

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## 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.

## 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.

## Afflecks

@ afflecks\_manchester

An Aladdin's cave of unique traders, offering an array of wonderful jewellery, clothing, and craft stores. You can spend hours getting lost in the labyrinth of treasures at Afflecks.

## Suzy Loves Milo

@ suzylovesmilo

This cool streetwear and vintage store is packed with designer labels and big brands to add to your collection.

## Queer Lit

@ queerlituk

Europe's largest LGBTQ+ bookshop stands in Ancoats, home to over 5000 titles and sharing space with coffeehouse and bar Social Refuge.

## The Royal Exchange

@ royalexchangemanchester

Located under and around the theatre, The Royal Exchange offers everything from watches to whiskeys as well as international brands that you won't find anywhere else in the city such as Fjällräven and Anthropologie.

## 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.

## 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.

## The Sculpts

@ thesculpts

Specialising in decorative homeware and lifestyle accessories, The Sculpts creates surreal yet soulful designs that pay homage to the industrial spirit, cultural icons, and creative hedonism of Manchester and its surrounds.

# High Street shopping

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## Selfridges

@ theofficialselfridges

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

## 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

King Street offers a range of shopping and eating options, from the impressive Tudor-style Boodles to refined brands such as Castle Fine Art and Vivienne Westwood.

## Quayside MediaCityUK

@ quaysidemediacityuk

Home to a seven-screen cinema, 400-seat food hall, exciting independent traders and well-known brands, Quayside MediaCityUK is a unique waterfront destination.

## Harvey Nichols

@ harveynichols

The famous luxury department store is a Manchester icon, offering designer fashion and beauty as well as one of the city's best stocked food and wine halls.

## Trafford Centre

@ thetraffordcentre

Known for its extravagant Rococo and Baroque design and high street favourites, Trafford Centre also features The Orient, Europe's largest food court. It truly is a shopping centre like no other.

## Spinningfields

@ spinningfields

The city's commercial district, Spinningfields is a glass and steel collection of offices and big business, with high-end retailers such as Flannels along The Avenue.

## Cheshire Oaks Designer Outlet

@ cheshireoaksdesigneroutlet

The UK's largest Designer Outlet, Cheshire Oaks is a 50-minute drive from Manchester, offering 140 heavily discounted stores and boutiques, alongside 19 restaurants and cafes.





# Parks and countryside

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## 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.



Dove Stone Reservoir



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.

# Historic Halls

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## 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.

## Wythenshawe Hall

Following a devastating fire in 2016, the spectacular Wythenshawe 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.

## Bramall 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.

## Smithills Hall

One of Bolton's original family homes dating back to medieval times, Smithills 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.

## Lyme Park

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

## 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

# Greater Manchester

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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.

## 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 RHS Garden Bridgewater.





# Greater Manchester

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Haigh Hall, Wigan

## 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.



# Hotels and serviced apartments

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## The Edwardian Manchester

@ edwardianmanchester

Bringing five-star luxury to the city's beautiful Grade II\* listed Free Trade Hall, The Edwardian also features a stunning spa and award-winning dining.

## Kimpton Clocktower Hotel

@ kimptonclocktower

With its Victorian architecture and fresh approach to hospitality, Kimpton Clocktower is a one-of-a-kind hotel offering luxury with a dash of the unexpected.

## Native

@ nativeplacesuk

Housed within the upper floors of renovated Ducie Street Warehouse, Native aparthotel offers stylish and spacious self-catering digs.

## Stock Exchange Hotel

@ stockexhotel

Set within the former Manchester Stock Exchange, this five-star, 40-room property is the definition of luxury and home to Sterling bar and Tender by Niall Keating.

## The Manchester Deansgate

@ mcrcdeansgatehotel

Housed within Manchester's iconic Beetham Tower, it is also home to Cloud 23 cocktail bar and some of the city's best skyline views.



Kimpton Clocktower Hotel

## Radisson Manchester City Centre

@ radissonmanchester

This Net Zero hotel located a short distance from Manchester Victoria train station combines eco-credentials and comfort.

## voco Manchester

@ voco.mcr

voco Manchester boasts 189 stylish bedrooms with premium corporate hospitality that sits alongside versatile dining right in the heart of Manchester city centre.

## INNSiDE Manchester

@ inside\_by\_melia\_uk

Located within the First Street area of the city and next door to HOME arts centre, INNSiDE has bright, fresh, and modern interiors.

## Hotel Gotham

@ hotelgotham

Extravagant and bold, with 60 rooms, a stay at the award-winning Hotel Gotham promises to be one you won't forget easily.

## Oddfellows on The Park

@ oddfellowsonthepark

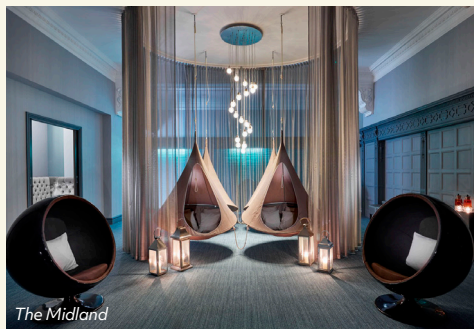
Set within a Victorian mansion near Manchester Airport, it houses 22 gorgeous bedrooms and a destination restaurant and bar.



The Edwardian Manchester

# Hotels and serviced apartments

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## Treehouse Manchester

@ staytreehouse

The 224-bedroom Treehouse Manchester combines playful rooms with attentive service and innovative dining, led by some of the city's best-known local food operators, and features a private cinema.

## Clayton Manchester

@ claytonhotelmanchestercity

Perfect for business or leisure Clayton Hotel Manchester City Centre is located within walking distance of all attractions and amenities.

## The Heathcote

@ heathcotehotelmcr

Timeless architecture meets modern Manchester comfort' in this boutique hotel which borrows its name from the historic building's original architect.

## The Alan

@ thealanmcr

With a design-led aesthetic, The Alan has 137 stylish rooms, plus an open-plan kitchen, bar, and restaurant.

## Dakota Manchester

@ dakotahotel\_mcr

With sophistication at its heart, Dakota Manchester combines style with impeccable service for a truly luxurious experience.

## Marriott Hotel Piccadilly

@ marriottmanchesterpiccadilly

Recently opened as the city's flagship Marriott hotel, the 338-room property, with its striking, contemporary curved glass façade, offers a modern destination for travellers.

## The Reach at Piccadilly

@ thereachmcr

Opened as a 215-bedroom hotel next to Manchester Piccadilly train station, rooms feature a natural design with materials inspired by the surrounding Pennine countryside.

## Yotel Manchester

@ yotel

Expect innovative design, eco-friendly credentials and time-saving technology at the Deansgate located Yotel.

## The Midland

@ themidlandmanchester

Manchester's 'Grand Dame' hotel has been serving the city with timeless elegance since 1903 and is home to both the long-standing The French restaurant and the iconic Tea Room.

## The Lowry Hotel

@ thelowryhotel

The city's first five-star hotel, the iconic Lowry Hotel is a polished, modern hotel named after the famous Salford artist, L.S Lowry.

## Hotel Indigo

@ hotelindigomcr

Located next to Victoria Station, Hotel Indigo Manchester combines industrialised architecture with contemporary, state-of-the-art design.

## Whitworth Locke

@ lockehotels

Stylish and unique, Whitworth Locke offers design-led apartments in a stunning 19<sup>th</sup> Century cotton factory.

# Hotels and serviced apartments

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## Hyatt Regency & Hyatt House

@ hyattmanchester

Offering two options within one building, Hyatt Regency is an elegant modern hotel whilst Hyatt House is an aparthotel with spacious suites.

## Marriott V&A

@ marriottvanda\_mcr

Perched on the banks of the River Irwell, Marriott Victoria & Albert is perfectly located for exploring the St. John's neighbourhood.

## King Street Townhouse

@ kingsttownhouse

Famous for its rooftop infinity pool and impeccable Afternoon Tea, the boutique King Street Townhouse is an urban retreat in the heart of the city.

## Doubletree by Hilton

@ doubletreemcr

Warm, friendly and with the famous cookie on arrival, Doubletree Manchester is perfectly located next to Piccadilly Station.

## Roomzzz

@ roomzzzuk

With two locations in the city, on Portland Street and at the Corn Exchange, Roomzzz offers comforts of home in a city living apartment.

## Wilde Aparthotels

@ wildeaparthotels

Located just off St Peter's Square, this new aparthotel by StayCity is inspired by the creativity and style of Oscar Wilde.

## Leonardo Manchester Piccadilly

@ leonardohotels

Leonardo Manchester Piccadilly has a 'jenga-esque' exterior with smart and stylish rooms within, and easy access to Co-op Live and Manchester City FC.

## Moxy Manchester

@ moxymcr

Playful and with plenty of social spaces, Moxy Manchester is the perfect spot for a fun weekend away with friends and family.

## Hilton Garden Inn Old Trafford

@ emiratesot

Enjoy a cricket match or enjoy a gig from the pitch-facing balconies at Hilton Garden Inn, located in the Emirates Old Trafford stadium.

## Maldron Manchester

@ maldron\_hotels

With two sites – one off Oxford Road and one across the River Irwell, Maldron hotels offers the perfect base to explore two cities – Manchester and Salford.



Marriott V&A



Maldron Deansgate

# Hotels and serviced apartments

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## LEVEN

@ live.leven

Artfully designed to make you feel instantly at home, LEVEN can be found in the heart of The Village.

## Mollie's

@ mollies\_manchester

Bringing new life to the original Granada TV studios, Mollie's opens its third UK site with 106 rooms and suites, a stylish cocktail bar, and Mollie's Diner.

## Hotel Football

@ hotelfootballuk

The place to stay for any football – and especially Manchester United – fan, located directly opposite Old Trafford stadium with football themed amenities.

## Crowne Plaza Manchester

@ crowneplazamanchester

Situated in the lively Northern Quarter, the Crowne Plaza Manchester City Centre boasts 228 individually designed rooms.

## Residence Inn Piccadilly

@ residenceinnmanchester

Enjoy the comfort of home from the apartment-style suites at Residence Inn Manchester Piccadilly, perfect for extended stays in the city.

## CitySuites

@ citysuitesuk

A luxury aparthotel, CitySuites has everything you need for a relaxing and comfortable break including a tranquil swimming pool and spa pool.

## Motel One

@ motel\_one

With three outposts located near Piccadilly Station, St Peter's Square, and the Royal Exchange, Motel One offers smart design hotels that don't cost the world.

## Malmaison Manchester

@ malmaisonhotels

Transformed from an elegant 19th century warehouse and perfectly located near Piccadilly Station, Malmaison Manchester has recently been joined by a second hotel adjacent to Albert Square.

## Mercure Manchester

@ mercuremanchester

The four-star Mercure Manchester Piccadilly Hotel is one of the most central hotels in Manchester, with panoramic views of Piccadilly Gardens and the city's skyline.

## Velvet

@ velvetmanchester

Located on Canal Street in The Village, each stunning bedroom and penthouse suite is individually designed to an exceptionally high standard.



# Getting to Greater Manchester

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Manchester is one of the best-connected and most 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, East Midlands Railway, Northern, Transport for Wales, 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 |

## 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 and Flixbus nationwide services.

## By Plane

Manchester Airport is the third-largest airport in the UK handling over 31 million passengers per year, and home to over 60 airlines offering direct flights to Manchester from over 200 destinations worldwide. It is connected to the wider transport network via its own train and Metrolink tram stations as well as excellent road infrastructure. Manchester Airport has started work on the next major phase of its £1.3bn Transformation Programme, with a new pier connecting Terminal 2.



# Getting Around Greater Manchester

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Getting around the city-region 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.

## Journey Planning

The Bee Network is the new name of Greater Manchester's integrated transport system. The Bee Network website and app have a wealth of information and several journey planning tools to take the stress out of travelling by bus, tram, train, walking, and cycling.

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

## Free Bus services

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

[beenetwork.com/free-bus](https://www.beenetwork.com/free-bus)

## Bus

Look out for the fleet of yellow Bee Network buses, running frequent services and early, late and night schedules to help you get out and about across the city centre and Greater Manchester.

[beenetwork.com/bus](https://www.beenetwork.com/bus)

## Metrolink

There are 99 stops on the Metrolink tram network, with lines connecting north, south, east, and west. Purchase a ticket from ticket machines or on the Bee Network app before boarding, or touch in using contactless smart readers – don't forget to touch out when you complete your journey using the same contactless device.

[beenetwork.com/tram](https://www.beenetwork.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 city centre's main stations.

[beenetwork.com/train](https://www.beenetwork.com/train)

## Cycling

The city's bike hire scheme utilises bright yellow pedal bikes and e-bikes that can be used within an expanding area covering parts of Manchester, Salford, and Trafford. Download the cycle hire app to find a Bee Network bike and start riding.

[beenetwork.com/cycling](https://www.beenetwork.com/cycling)

## 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.

[beenetwork.com/walking](https://www.beenetwork.com/walking)

## 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.



Metrolink, Exchange Square



| Central Retail District | Corridor Manchester |
|-------------------------|---------------------|
| Petersfield             | Piccadilly          |
| Civic Quarter           | The Village         |
| First Street            | Medieval Quarter    |
| Castlefield             | Chinatown           |
| Spinningfields          | NOMA                |
| Northern Quarter        | St. John's          |
| Mayfield                | Kampus              |

Birley Fields  
Proposed  
Development Sites  
(MMU)

# Greater Manchester Map





# 2026 major events calendar

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## January

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HYROX Manchester  
LUMINISCENCE (until 26 March)

## February

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Chinese New Year  
The SUPER DUPER Family Festival  
BRIT Awards

## March

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International Women's Day  
Northern Restaurant and Bar Show  
Manchester Film Festival  
Manchester Folk Festival  
World Snooker Tour Championship  
MOBO Awards

## April

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Manchester Marathon

## May

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Sounds from the Other City  
Great Manchester Run  
Manchester Flower Festival  
Manchester Jazz Festival  
South Manchester Food Festival

## June

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Women's Cricket World Cup  
We Invented the Weekend  
Parklife  
Sparkle Weekend  
The Pink Picnic  
Stock Party  
IRONMAN 70.3 Bolton

## July

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Rochdale Feel Good Festival  
Manchester Day  
Greater Manchester Fringe  
Bury Food & Drink Festival

## August

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Heaton Park Food & Drink Festival  
Manchester Caribbean Carnival  
SCENE Manchester LGBTQ+ Film & TV Festival  
Manchester Pride  
Bolton Food and Drink Festival  
Festa Italiana Manchester

## September

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The Warehouse Project (until 1 January 2027)

## October

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Black History Month  
Manchester Literature Festival  
Halloween in the City  
Bolton Film Festival

## November

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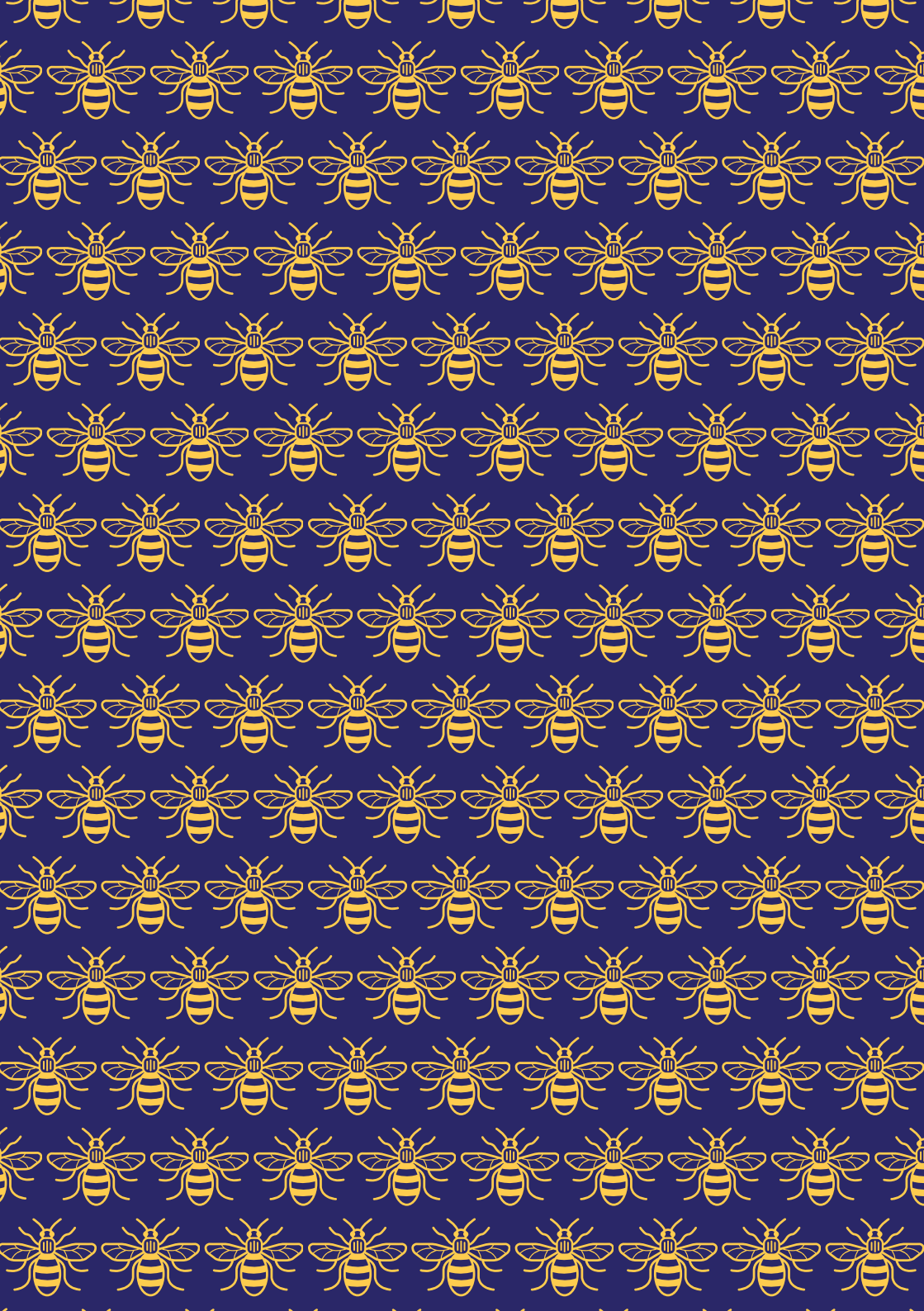
Manchester Coffee Festival  
Manchester Christmas Markets (until late December)

## December

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Manchester Christmas Parade







marketingManchester

### Key Partners



[visitmanchester.com](http://visitmanchester.com)