Travel Guide
Manchester
Football, art and red-brick magnificence

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Manchester: Football, art and red-brick magnificence

Hoisted upon the shoulders of an army of sporting legends, cultural big-hitters and musical icons, Manchester revels in its unofficial capacity as the capital of England’s north. This is the city that gave us capitalism and the Industrial Revolution, Emmeline Pankhurst and George Best, The Smiths and Oasis – it’s where Marx met Engels, where computer science first saw the light of day, and where the oldest public library in the English-speaking world opened its doors. No wonder George Orwell called it “the belly and guts of the nation”. Today, the city’s modern blend of style, regeneration and creativity still makes it a place apart.

United Kingdom
General knowledge

Country overview

Few places cram in as much scenery, history and culture as the United Kingdom. England’s southwest is dominated by a rugged shoreline and swathes of open national parkland, while its sprawling and vibrant capital London dominates the southeast. Hillwalkers can take some serious hikes in the Scottish Highlands or England’s Lake District. True British wilderness remains – stark, sometimes stunning and often inaccessible, particularly in the far North of Scotland.

Historic Edinburgh is a fascinating city to explore, while Glasgow explodes with nightlife options. Visitors to Wales can meander from the urban highlights of Cardiff to Snowdon’s jagged peaks in the north. Across the water, Belfast is reviving as a tourist destination, and Northern Ireland’s countryside is green and rolling.

Geography

The British landscape can be divided roughly into two kinds of terrain – highland and lowland. The highland area comprises the mountainous regions of Scotland, Northern Ireland, northern England and North Wales.

The English Lake District in the northwest contains lakes and fells. The lowland area is broken up by sandstone and limestone hills, long valleys and basins such as the Wash on the east coast. In the southeast, the North and South Downs culminate in the White Cliffs of Dover.

The coastline includes fjord-like inlets in the northwest of Scotland, spectacular cliffs and wild sandy beaches on the east coast and, further south, beaches of rock, shale and sand sometimes backed by dunes, and large areas of fenland in East Anglia.

Note: The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland consists of England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

Although they form one administrative unit (with regional exceptions), they have had separate cultures, languages and political histories.

General knowledge

Key facts

Population: 66,02 millions (estimate 2017)
Capital: London.

**Language**
English. Welsh is spoken in parts of Wales, and Gaelic in parts of Scotland.

**Currency**
Pound (GBP; symbol £) = 100 pence. Notes are in denominations of £50, 20, 10 and 5. Coins are in denominations of £2 and 1, and 50, 20, 10, 5, 2 and 1 pence.

**Electricity**
230 volts AC, 50Hz. Square three-pin plugs are standard.

**Public holidays**
Below are Public Holidays for the January 2019 – December 2020 period.

2019
- New Year’s Day: 1 January 2019
- Good Friday: 19 April 2019
- Early May Bank Holiday: 6 May 2019
- Spring Bank Holiday: 27 May 2019
- Christmas Day: 25 December 2019
- Boxing Day: 26 December 2019

2020
- New Year’s Day: 1 January 2020
- Good Friday: 10 April 2020
- Early May Bank Holiday: 4 May 2020
- Spring Bank Holiday: 25 May 2020
- Christmas Day: 25 December 2020
- Boxing Day: 26 December 2020

All information subject to change.

**Travel etiquette**

**How to fit in**

**Social Conventions**
The monarchy, though now only symbolic politically, is a powerful and often subconscious unifying force. Members of the Royal Family are the subject of unceasing fascination, with their every move avidly followed and reported by the popular press, both in the UK and abroad.

Handshaking is customary when introduced to someone for the first time. One kiss on the cheek is gaining popularity for close friends. Normal social courtesies should be observed when visiting someone’s home and a small present such as flowers or chocolates is appreciated. It is polite to wait until everyone has been served before eating.

**Clothing**
Some nightclubs and restaurants do not allow jeans and trainers, otherwise casual wear is widely acceptable. For business, a suit and tie should be worn, although in some workplaces an open neck is acceptable.

**Use of public places**
Topless sunbathing is allowed on certain beaches and tolerated in some parks. Smoking is banned in all enclosed public places, including stations, pubs and restaurants, throughout the UK.

**Health**

**Main emergency number:** 112

**Food & Drink**

Food within the UK is generally safe to eat, with health and safety standards monitored by various government agencies. Tap water is considered safe to drink but bottled water is widely available. If you’re camping, always boil, filter or purify water from streams.

**Other Risks**

The UK is not a risky destination but travellers should still take appropriate precautions. Summer temperatures in England rarely reach above 30°C but on hot days there is still risk of sunstroke and it’s advisable to wear sunscreen, as well as appropriate clothing. The same goes for winters, during which weather can be very changeable. Waterproofs (or at least a strong umbrella) are mandatory at any time of year. Those hiking in the mountains should come prepared, with appropriate gear and maps if needed but the biggest danger comes from those who disregard warning signs or poor weather.

Although the risk remains low, travellers are advised to ensure they are fully vaccinated against measles, as cases have risen in the past few years. Travellers visiting the UK during the winter may also wish to consider being vaccinated against flu.

If you’re planning to walk in wooded or heath areas such as in the Scottish Highlands, it’s worth taking precautions against tick bites: ensure you wear long-sleeved tops, tuck your socks into your trousers and wear insect repellent. Ticks are known to spread Lyme disease which, although fairly rare in the UK, can affect your skin, joints, heart and nervous system. Symptoms include: a pink or red circular rash which develops around the bite up to 30 days after a person is bitten; flu-like symptoms; headaches; and muscle or joint pain. If left untreated, symptoms can become more serious.

Midges are a hiker’s and camper’s nemesis, especially in the northwest Highlands during the summer. While they’ll do no worse than cause a multitude of unbearably itchy bites, it’s definitely worth covering up and dousing yourself in insect repellent to ward off these persistent beasties.

The weather in Scotland can change in an instant. If you’re walking, skiing or climbing in the hills, it’s vital to be prepared for all weathers. It’s not at all uncommon to go for a walk on a beautifully sunny day, only to find yourself surrounded by mist and drizzle with little warning. Make sure you’re equipped with a map, compass, extra food, layers and waterproofs, and always tell someone where you’re heading before you set out. Scots and visitors alike also find themselves unexpectedly caught out by the sun – you might not need it often, but pack some sunscreen.

**Contractual physician of Lufthansa**

Dr. Chande, Chetan
Ramsbottom Health Centre
Carr Street
Ramsbottom
Phone calls & Internet

Phone calls & Internet

Telephone
Country code: +44

Mobile telephony and Internet
Since June 2017, EU citizens traveling within the EU, and also in Iceland, Norway and Liechtenstein have been able to use their cell phones and surf the Net without incurring any extra charges: In other words, customers pay the same price for phone calls, text messages and data volume as they do at home. Restrictions do apply to the constant use of SIM cards abroad, however, and caps may be set on data packages. For full details, contact your mobile telephony provider in your country. Travelers using a SIM card from a non-EU state do not benefit from the new arrangement.

Free Internet access via Wi-Fi is possible in many busy tourist spots. When using public Wi-Fi networks, it is a wise precaution to ensure encryption of all passwords, credit card details and banking credentials entered. Use of a VPN app or security software to check the safety of a hotspot is recommended.

Getting around Manchester

Getting around

Public Transport
The city has easy-to-negotiate bus and tram networks connecting all the key points of interest. Free Metroshuttle buses cover three circular routes around the city centre, linking main rail stations and shopping areas, while the six-line Metrolink tram system connects central Manchester with places such as Bury, Rochdale and Ashton-under-Lyne.

Taxis
The city has two types of taxis for use. London-style black cabs can be flagged down, found at ranks or pre-booked. Private-hire vehicles are generally white or silver and must always be pre-booked. Black cabs can be ordered from Mantax (tel: (0161) 230 3333), while private hire cars can be booked from Street Cars (tel: (0161) 228 7878).

Top 10 sights

Top 10 sights in Manchester

Manchester Art Gallery
A grand, two-storey art gallery in a listed building, showcasing works from a range of different periods – the collection spans around six centuries, and its pre-Raphaelite paintings are particularly renowned.
**National Football Museum**

Home to ‘the world’s greatest football collection’, this large-scale attraction explores the beautiful game through the ages with tens of thousands of items of memorabilia. It reopened in its current form in 2012.

Urbis Building, Cathedral Gardens, Todd Street, M4 3BG Manchester, UK
Tel: (0161) 605 8200
www.nationalfootballmuseum.com

**Museum of Science & Industry**

Highlighting Manchester’s pioneering role in the fields of industry, science and technology, this huge museum has permanent galleries spread across five different historical buildings, spanning everything from textile machinery to X-ray equipment.

Liverpool Road, M3 4FP Manchester, UK
Tel: (0161) 832 2244
www.mosi.org.uk

**Manchester United Museum & Stadium Tour**

The Red Devils have had their share of ups and downs over the decades, so the club’s dedicated museum has some story to tell. On non-matchdays, you can also take a tour of the stadium itself.

Sir Matt Busby Way, Stretford, Old Trafford, M16 0RA Manchester, UK
Tel: (0161) 868 8000
www.manutd.com

**Chester Zoo**

Great Britain’s largest zoo is situated around 60 kilometers (40 miles) southwest of Manchester. It is home to some 21,000 animals of more than 500 mostly endangered species, and all are kept in near-natural habitats with no fences. The zoo is constantly being modernized and remodeled. In 2015, Islands at Chester Zoo became the most recent habitat to open. It provides insights into the nature conservation projects the zoo promotes, which include initiatives in Sumatra and Indonesia.

Upton-by-Chester, CH2 1LH Chester, UK
www.chesterzoo.org/
**Imperial War Museum North**

One of five Imperial War Museums in England, this free attraction retells evocative stories of wartime suffering. It’s housed in an eye-catching modernist structure designed by Daniel Libeskind.

Quay West, Trafford Wharf Road  
M17 1TZ Manchester  
UK  
Tel: (0161) 836 4000

Opening times:  
Daily 1000-1700

www.iwm.org.uk

**John Rylands Library**

A late-Victorian building with a spellbinding collection of old books and manuscripts, the famous library attracts a mixture of readers and curious visitors.

150 Deansgate  
M3 3EH Manchester  
UK  
Tel: (0161) 306 0555

Opening times:  
Tue-Sat 1000-1700  
Sun-Mon 1200-1700

www.library.manchester.ac.uk

**People’s History Museum**

The UK’s official national centre for materials relating to the history of working people in Britain, the museum harks back to the fact that Manchester hosted the first-ever trade union congress.

Left Bank, Spinningfields  
M3 3ER Manchester  
UK  
Tel: (0161) 838 9190

Opening times:  
Daily 1000-1700

www.phm.org.uk

**Heaton Park**

Four miles north of central Manchester, this large green park is a magnet for families, with an animal centre and a busy events roster.

The Farm Centre  
M25 2SW Manchester  
UK  
Tel: (0161) 773 1085

www.heatonpark.org.uk

**Chill Factore**

Home to the country’s longest indoor skiing and snowboarding slope, this is an option for those who fancy combining a city break with some downhill action.

7 Trafford Way, Urmston  
M4 7JA Manchester  
UK  
Tel: (0161) 749 2222

Opening times:  
Mon, Wed, Sat 0700-2300  
Tues, Thurs, Fri 0800-2300  
Sun 0630-2300

www.chillfactore.com
Shopping in Manchester

Key Areas
In terms of high-street shopping, Market Street, Cross Street and King Street all have large numbers of familiar brands, some of them luxury. Elsewhere, the Northern Quarter is still seen as the city’s creative heartland and plays home to a lively range of independent shops, fashion outlets and record stores.

Markets
Greater Manchester has plenty of regular street markets. The Church Street Market is a good central bet for clothes and well-priced items, while Tib Street Fashion Market and the Fruit & Flower Market (Piccadilly Gardens) both offer colourful browsing. The city centre’s Christmas markets also have a good reputation.

Shopping Centres
The most obvious – and most central – place to head is the colossal Arndale Centre (Market Street), which has more than 200 shops and department stores. If you’re heading slightly out of town, the Trafford Centre has a similar number of outlets, spread along granite and marble walkways.

Restaurants

Manchester House
A much-admired restaurant run by the youngest British chef to be awarded a Michelin star.

Tower 12, 18-22 Bridge Street
M3 3BZ Manchester
UK
Price: Expensive

James Martin
A celebrity chef restaurant worth the fuss, set in Manchester 235 Casino.

Great Northern, 2 Watson Street
M3 4LP Manchester
UK
Price: Moderate

Aumbry Restaurant
Occupying a small converted cottage in the Prestwich Village, it makes up in modern British fare what it lacks in size.

2 Church Lane, Prestwich
M25 1AJ Manchester
UK
Price: Moderate

San Carlo Cicchetti
One of the best Italian options in the city, specialising in small-plate dishes and seasonal menus.

House of Fraser ground floor, King Street West
M3 2QG Manchester
UK

**Price:** Moderate

**Common**

Long a late-night favourite with music fans, it’s somewhere to find everything from beef chilli to pulled pork tacos.

39-41 Edge Street
M4 1HW Manchester
UK

**Price:** Budget

**Nightlife**

**Nightlife in Manchester**

From hidden-away cocktail bars to alternative nightclubs, and from real ale pubs to Vegas-style casinos, Manchester’s celebrated nightlife is a multi-headed beast.

**Castle Hotel**

An ale house standing since 1776, with 10 cask hand pulls and a long heritage of live music.

66 Oldham Street
M4 1LE Manchester
UK

**Under New Management**

A hip alleyway bar serving up a creative range of cocktails.

6-8 Barlows Croft
M3 5DY Manchester
UK

**Factory 251**

Occupying what were once the offices of Factory Records, this club is run by New Order’s Peter Hook and plays different genres.

118 Princess Street
M1 7EN Manchester
UK

**Mint Lounge**

The city’s longest-running club night takes place here alongside various other nights, in the Northern Quarter district.
Manchester 235

With a casino and two late-night bars, this has become a big player on the city scene.

Great Northern, 2 Watson Street
M3 4LP Manchester
UK

Calendar of events

Chinese New Year
A carnival of colour with dragon dances followed by a firework display.
5 February 2019
Venue: Chinatown (around Faulkner Street)

Manchester Irish Festival
Celebrates all things Irish in Manchester during a two-week extravaganza featuring around 200 events staged throughout the city.
1 - 17 March 2019
www.manchesteririshfestival.co.uk
Venue: Various locations

BUPA Great Manchester Run
One of the UK’s most popular 10km (6 miles) races, now in its 11th year, and attracting around 33,000 runners. A great fund-raising event.
29 May 2019
www.greatrun.org/great-manchester-run
Venue: Throughout the city

Manchester Fashion Week
Manchester Fashion Week (MCRFW) will this year take place at The National Football Museum and will see 30 fashion shows take place over five days showcasing collections from graduates to high-end designers.
May 2019
www.manchesterfashionweek.com/
Venue: The Castlefield Rooms
**Manchester International Festival**

Biennial festival celebrating the city, its popular culture, music and the arts.

*4 - 21 July 2019*

www.mif.co.uk

Venue: Various locations

**Caribbean Carnival of Manchester**

Procession made up of steel bands, floats with DJs and colourful dance troupes, as well as stalls selling traditional Caribbean food, drink and handicrafts. Enjoy the infectious rhythms of song and dance as the carnival procession winds its way through the crowds featuring carnival queens and princesses, elaborate costumes and folklore characters.

*10 - 11 August 2019*

themanchestercarnival.com/

Venue: Alexandra Park, Moss Side

**Manchester Pride**

Usually lasting for a week over the August Bank Holiday weekend, Manchester Pride is an annual festival that celebrates lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender life. Centred around the city's thriving Gay Village, the party includes a carnival parade as well as live music, DJs, theatre and comedy, making it an event truly celebrating gay and lesbian influences in popular culture.

*August 2019*

www.manchesterpride.com

Venue: Gay Village

**Manchester European Christmas Markets**

Daily European markets selling a variety of unusual Christmas gifts and glühwein (hot mulled wine).

*November - December 2019*

Venue: Albert Square

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**Hotels in Manchester**

Manchester is a fashionable place these days, and it has the hotel portfolio to match, with some real gems among the usual sprinkling of business and chain properties.

**Lowry Hotel**

The city's first five-star hotel, it's part of the Rocco Forte group and sits in a class of its own.

50 Dearmans Place, Salford M3 5LH Manchester

Category: Expensive
Hilton Manchester Deansgate

Occupying 23 floors of the Beetham Tower skyscraper, this high-end hotel has an indoor pool and other amenities.

303 Deansgate
Manchester M3 4LQ
UK

Category: Expensive

ABode Manchester

A design hotel in a former Victorian cotton warehouse, taking modern British style as its ethos.

107 Piccadilly
M1 2DB Manchester
UK

Category: Moderate

Stay Inn Hotel

An affordable option sitting around 10 minutes’ walk from the city centre.

55 Blackfriars Road
M3 7DB Manchester
UK

Category: Budget