



POCKET ROUGH GUIDE

# SHEFFIELD

written and researched by  
**AUSTIN CLARK**

*Doug Banks*



# Sheffield

Sheffield is a city of contrasts, where industrial heritage meets vibrant creativity and outdoor adventure. Once known as the Steel City, it has transformed into a cultural and green urban hub. Whether you're in the market for cutting-edge street art or world-class music venues, Sheffield has something for everyone. Nestled on the edge of the Peak District, it's a magnet for outdoor lovers as well as foodies, music fans and history buffs. The city charms with independent shops, craft breweries and a thriving food scene, making it a fantastic destination for a weekend break. Sheffield is also home to a strong sporting heritage, with top-tier football teams and some of the UK's best climbing facilities. If you're looking to explore green spaces, enjoy live music or delve into industrial history, you've come to the right place: Sheffield has something for everyone. Find out more about travelling to Sheffield by **TransPennine Express**.

## Sheffield Winter Garden

90 Surrey St, Sheffield, S1 2LH

📍 [sheffield.gov.uk/winter-garden](https://www.sheffield.gov.uk/winter-garden). Free

One of the largest temperate glasshouses in the UK, Sheffield Winter Garden is a striking botanical retreat in the city centre. Home to over 2,500 exotic plants from across the world, it's a tranquil escape from the busy streets. The lush greenery, wooden arched architecture and peaceful atmosphere make it a popular hang-out for both locals and tourists. Nearby, the Millennium Gallery and Peace Gardens complement the experience, offering access to contemporary art and a serene outdoor space, right in the heart of the city.

## Crucible Theatre

55 Norfolk St, Sheffield, S1 1DA

📍 [sheffieldtheatres.co.uk](https://www.sheffieldtheatres.co.uk). Charge

A world-renowned theatre and the storied home of the World Snooker Championship, the Crucible Theatre is an iconic venue

in Sheffield's cultural landscape.

Known for its innovative stage design, the theatre puts on a diverse programme of performances, from Shakespearean classics to contemporary dramas. Visitors can take behind-the-scenes tours, experience cutting-edge productions or simply sit back and enjoy the electric atmosphere of a live show. Located in the city centre, it forms part of the Sheffield Theatres complex, which also includes the Lyceum and the Tanya Moiseiwitsch Playhouse.

## Kelham Island Quarter

Kelham Island, Sheffield, S3 8RY

📍 [welcometosheffield.co.uk](https://www.welcometosheffield.co.uk). Free

Once the heart of Sheffield's steel industry, Kelham Island has reinvented itself as one of the UK's coolest urban neighbourhoods. Independent breweries, award-winning restaurants and creative spaces have taken over repurposed warehouses, making it a major draw for foodies and culture lovers



alike. Enjoy a wander through vibrant street art-adorned spaces and consider a visit to one of the live music venues. Visitors can also explore Kelham Island Museum, sip locally brewed ales at the Kelham Island Brewery, or just enjoy the unique blend of industrial heritage and contemporary urban living that defines the area.

## Weston Park Museum

**Western Bank, Sheffield, S10 2TP**

📍 [museums-sheffield.org.uk](http://museums-sheffield.org.uk). Free

Sheffield's largest museum takes visitors on a journey through the city's past, from its prehistoric roots to its industrial heyday and beyond. Exhibits include archeological finds, social history displays and interactive exhibits on Sheffield's rich musical, sporting and cultural heritage. The museum's natural history section showcases local wildlife, while temporary exhibitions keep the experience fresh. Head to the delightful café to kick back and enjoy the scenic park setting, or seek out the activities put on for children. It's a fantastic destination for families and history buffs alike.

**Peace Gardens**  
*Marketing Sheffield*

## Sheffield Botanical Gardens

**Clarkehouse Rd, Sheffield, S10 2LN**

📍 [sbg.org.uk](http://sbg.org.uk). Free

Covering 19 acres, Sheffield Botanical Gardens is a beautiful green space and home to over 5,000 plant species. Opened in 1836, the gardens include themed areas, such as the Mediterranean, Asian and Himalayan collections. The stunning Victorian glass pavilions house exotic plants, while seasonal floral displays make every visit different. Meanwhile, the gardens host outdoor theatre performances, plant sales and guided walks, so there's always plenty to do at this nature-lovers' haven. The tranquil environment and historical significance make this an unmissable Sheffield attraction.

## Sidney & Matilda

**6 Leadmill Rd, Sheffield, S1 4SE**

📍 [leadmill.co.uk](http://leadmill.co.uk). Charge

Tucked away in a former paper mill, this creative hub blends underground music, art and late-night drinks to deliver a true





The Riverside pub in Kelham Island  
*Marketing Sheffield*

Sheffield vibe. With a packed programme of gigs, DJ sets and exhibitions, it's the kind of place where you might stumble upon the next big thing. The venue spills over multiple levels, from a moody basement stage to a courtyard beer garden, and its proud DIY spirit makes it a favourite among Sheffield's indie crowd.

## Abbeydale Industrial Hamlet

Abbeydale Rd South, Sheffield, S7 2QW  
[www.simt.co.uk/abbeydale-industrial-hamlet](http://www.simt.co.uk/abbeydale-industrial-hamlet).  
Charge

A fascinating open-air museum, Abbeydale Industrial Hamlet provides a glimpse into Sheffield's hugely important eighteenth-century steel-making industry. Visitors can explore traditional workshops, see working waterwheels and witness live blacksmithing demonstrations. The site includes a scythe-making works, cottages where workers once lived, and a steam-powered tilt hammer. With knowledgeable guides and interactive exhibits,

the hamlet really brings Sheffield's industrial past to life. Perfect for both history enthusiasts and families, it's a step back in time to an era when Sheffield's steel was shaping the world.

## Magna

Magna Way, Rotherham, S60 1FD  
[www.visitmagna.co.uk](http://www.visitmagna.co.uk). Charge

Housed in a former steelworks in Rotherham, a short train ride from Sheffield, Magna is the UK's best science adventure centre. The vast internal space comfortably holds four gadget-packed pavilions, themed by the elements of earth, air, fire and water. You're encouraged to get your hands on a huge variety of interactive exhibits, games and machines – operating a real JCB, filling diggers and barrows, blasting a rock face or investigating a twister, for example. On the hour, everyone decamps to the main hall for the Big Melt, when the original arc furnace is used in a bone-shaking light and sound show that has visitors gripping the railings.



# Restaurants

## Forum Kitchen + Bar

127–129 Devonshire St, S3 7SB

📞 [forumsheffield.co.uk](http://forumsheffield.co.uk)

A vibrant and recently refurbished mixture of bar, café, music venue and boutique mall, with a lively clientele who use it as a breakfast stop, lunch spot, after-work bar, dinner venue, comedy club and night club. Basically, it's a great spot to meet friends and family, whatever time of the day.

## Nonna's

535–541 Ecclesall Rd, S11 8PR

📞 [nonnas.co.uk](http://nonnas.co.uk)

This Italian bar and restaurant rightly has a top notch reputation. It has a real family feel that serves up generous portions of authentic Italian cuisine. The set Concert Dinner Menu offers decent value, while the Captain's Table provides the ideal setting for larger party gatherings of 10–14 people.

## Silversmiths

111 Arundel St, S1 2NT

📞 [silversmiths-restaurant.com](http://silversmiths-restaurant.com)

A "kitchen nightmare" turned around by Gordon Ramsay in his TV show, city-centre *Silversmiths* supplies top-notch Yorkshire food from local ingredients – from duck sausage roll to steak and ale pie – in a 200-year-old silversmith's workshop. A pre-theatre three-course menu is available and the Friday Development menu is worth exploring. Reservations are recommended.

# Pubs and bars

## BOX Sheffield

24–26 Carver St, S1 4FS 📞 [theboxbar.co.uk](http://theboxbar.co.uk)

With 30 large HD screens and the biggest indoor screen in the city, you won't miss a moment of the action. Beyond sports, enjoy live bands, private karaoke rooms

and a menu of above average bar favourites.

## Fat Cat

23 Alma St, S3 8SA 📞 [thefatcat.co.uk](http://thefatcat.co.uk)

Bought by real ale enthusiasts in 1981 after a brewery sell-off, the *Fat Cat* is now a Sheffield institution offering a wide range of bottled and draft beers, ciders and country wines, and a hearty pub-grub menu. With its open fires, polished mahogany bar and etched mirrors, and its total absence of flashing gaming machines and piped music, this is pub-going as it used to be.

## Old Queen's Head

40 Pond Hill, S1 2BG

📞 [theoldqueenshead.co.uk](http://theoldqueenshead.co.uk)

Ghosts are said to stalk the corridors of this half-timbered pub, and it's no surprise – this is Sheffield's oldest domestic building. Ghouls aside, it's an extremely atmospheric place to enjoy a few ales, which tend to be expertly stored and skilfully poured.

The Old Queen's Head

Peter G. Lawson/Shutterstock

