



POCKET ROUGH GUIDE
**CITIES IN THE NORTH
OF ENGLAND & SCOTLAND**

written and researched by
AUSTIN CLARK

Tony Miles



OUR PART OF THE WORLD





CONTENTS

Introduction 4

How to buy tickets 5

Places 6

Liverpool..... 6

Manchester..... 11

Sheffield 16

Leeds..... 20

York..... 25

Hull..... 30

Durham..... 33

Newcastle 36

Edinburgh..... 41

Glasgow 46

Small print..... 51



GET INSPIRED

The North of England and Scotland are packed with places that combine rich history, dynamic culture and breathtaking scenery. From historic streets and world-class museums to modern cultural hubs, buzzing nightlife, independent food hotspots and scenic escapes, there is something for everyone, as we showcase in this handy guide. Travelling by train with TransPennine Express is one of the easiest, most sustainable and value-for-money ways to explore these incredible cities. Read on to discover the best of these destinations and start planning your next trip.

York at Christmas
Visit York





Newcastle Quayside in summer
Courtesy of NewcastleGateshead Initiative

Thanks to its modern trains – look out for more seats, bigger tables, more plug sockets, complimentary wi-fi, bike storage, electronic seat reservations, plus much more – TransPennine Express transports you with convenient ease across its network from the majestic cities of Liverpool, Manchester and Leeds to Newcastle, Edinburgh and Glasgow. Along the way, discover ancient castles in Durham, thriving independent food scenes in Leeds and Hull, and the UNESCO-listed beauty of York’s medieval streets.

The cities featured in this guide offer something for everyone throughout the year. Edinburgh and York are especially magical during their famous Christmas markets, Hull and Leeds are buzzing in summer with festivals and waterfront events, while Newcastle’s famous Quayside is most vibrant when the sun shines through.

Spring is perfect for Durham’s riverside walks, Sheffield and the beautiful Peak District on its doorstep are a sight to behold in autumn and Manchester, Liverpool and Glasgow are year-round cultural hubs with ever-changing exhibitions, theatre and nightlife.

Frequent and direct TransPennine Express services connect travellers effortlessly between the destinations we delve into in this guide. Once you arrive, many of the cities are compact enough to explore on foot, with key sights and attractions within easy reach of the principal train station. Added to this, excellent metro and tram links in cities like Manchester, Sheffield, Newcastle, Glasgow and Edinburgh make getting around even easier.

Wherever you choose to go, TransPennine Express opens up a world of discovery, making travel affordable, enjoyable and environmentally friendly.

How to buy tickets

Advance booking through the TransPennine Express website or app ensures the best fares and live journey updates make planning stress-free. Visit tpexpress.co.uk for information on special offers or download the app to plan your journey and buy tickets for same-day or future travel. Tickets are available up to 3 months in advance (terms and conditions apply).

Liverpool

Liverpool is a city that moves to its own rhythm. Birthplace of The Beatles, a UNESCO City of Music and a cinematic backdrop for countless films, it's a place brimming with creativity and culture. Once a powerhouse of maritime trade, the city's historic docks now house world-class museums, cutting-edge galleries and waterfront restaurants. Whether you're discovering its musical roots, delving into its rich industrial past or simply enjoying a big night out with friends, Liverpool is a city that invites exploration with open arms. What's more, it's a great place to visit by train. While the main sights are scattered across the city, you can walk easily between most of them. With regular TransPennine Express services into Liverpool from Glasgow, Manchester, Yorkshire and the Northeast, getting here is a doddle. Find out more about travelling to Liverpool by **TransPennine Express**.

Liverpool Cathedral

Hope St, L1 7AZ liverpoolcathedral.org.uk.

Free, but donation requested

The Anglican Liverpool Cathedral looks much older than the Metropolitan Cathedral, but was actually completed eleven years later, in 1978, after 74 years under construction. The last of the great British neo-Gothic structures, Sir Giles Gilbert Scott's masterwork claims a smattering of superlatives: Britain's largest and the world's fifth-largest cathedral, the world's tallest Gothic arches, and possessor of the highest and heaviest bells. Inside, contemporary art adds to its unique feel, including a neon sign by Tracey Emin: "I Felt You And I Knew You Loved Me". On a clear day, a trip up the 330ft tower is rewarded with views out to the Welsh hills.

Royal Albert Dock

Liverpool, L3 4AA albertdock.com. Free

The Royal Albert Dock is a stunning example of Victorian dockland architecture. Once upon a time, this was a major

trading hub, but today it is home to cultural landmarks and buzzy restaurants. With its picturesque, revitalised waterfront, boutique shops and excellent eateries, it's the perfect place for a relaxed afternoon or evening stroll along the quayside. Look out for pop-up markets, dockside events and street performers that add to the area's lively, welcoming atmosphere.

The Beatles Story

Albert Dock, Liverpool, L3 4AD

beatlesstory.com. Charge

This award-winning immersive experience takes visitors through the rise of The Beatles, from their early days in Liverpool to their unprecedented worldwide success. Original instruments, rare memorabilia and personal insights from Paul McCartney and Ringo Starr bring their journey to life, and you can walk through a recreation of the Casbah Coffee Club, The Cavern and even Abbey Road Studios. The experience also delves into the Beatles' solo careers and their lasting cultural impact. With



engaging audio guides available in multiple languages, this is an essential visit for any music lover.

FACT Liverpool

88 Wood St, L1 4DQ fact.co.uk. Free

In the heart of the Ropewalks district, FACT is the UK's leading centre for new media and digital art. Its galleries showcase cutting-edge exhibitions that blend art, film and technology, often pushing the boundaries of interactive and immersive experiences. The on-site cinema screens a mix of independent, foreign and mainstream films, while the café and bar provide a relaxed spot to discuss the latest show. Regular workshops and events contribute to making FACT a truly dynamic hub for Liverpool's creative community.

Liverpool Film Locations Tour

Various locations across the city

visittliverpool.com/film. Free and chargeable options

Thanks to its stunning Georgian architecture, historic docks

Royal Albert Dock

Sergii Figurnyi/Shutterstock

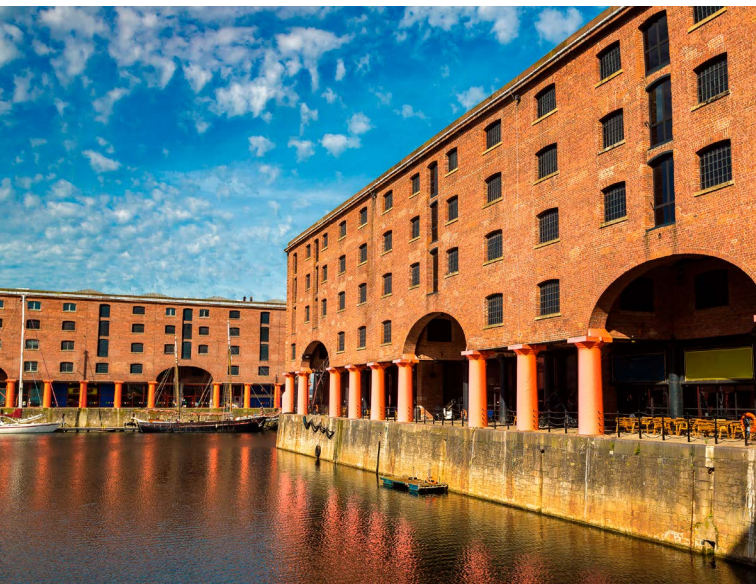
and lively streets, Liverpool has become a major filming location for movies and television shows. Fans of *Peaky Blinders*, *Fantastic Beasts*, *The Batman* and *The Crown* can take guided walking tours to visit iconic filming locations across the city. For those who prefer a self-guided experience, downloadable maps allow visitors to explore these cinematic backdrops at their own pace. Film lovers can marvel at the sheer versatility of Liverpool's streets, which have doubled for New York, London and even Gotham City.

Sefton Park and Palm House

Sefton Park, Liverpool, L17 1AP

seftonparkpalmhouse.co.uk. Free

A vast 235-acre green space, Sefton Park is one of the most beautiful parks in all of the UK, dotted with lakes, caves and statues. The highlight is the Palm House, a stunning Victorian glass conservatory filled with exotic plants from around the





The Palm House in Sefton Park
Circle Creative Studio/iStock

world. Throughout the year, it hosts concerts, yoga sessions and art exhibitions, making it both a cultural venue and a peaceful retreat. Families can enjoy the playgrounds, and walkers can take in the stunning natural scenery. Unsurprisingly, Sefton Park is a favourite spot for both locals and tourists.

The Baltic Triangle

Jamaica St, Liverpool, L1 0AF

📞 baltictriangle.co.uk. Free

Once a neglected industrial district, the Baltic Triangle is now Liverpool's creative quarter, buzzing with live music and independent businesses, and adorned with punchy street art. Home to legendary venues like Camp and Furnace and District, it's the go-to area for alternative nightlife and cutting-edge cultural events. The Baltic Market also offers some of the best street food you can sample in the city, while the area's ever-growing collection of murals provides the perfect

Instagram backdrop. No matter whether you're up for art galleries, enjoying live DJ sets or sampling craft beers, the Baltic Triangle is a top showcase of Liverpool's modern and vibrant cultural scene.

Anfield Stadium – Liverpool FC

Anfield Rd, Liverpool, L4 0TH

📞 liverpoolfc.com/tours. Charge

Anfield, home of Liverpool FC, is more than just a stadium – it's a symbol of footballing history. The stadium tour offers fans an exclusive behind-the-scenes look at the club's legendary past, including access to the dressing rooms, the players' tunnel and the pitch-side dugout. The LFC Museum features iconic trophies, memorabilia and interactive exhibits, and celebrates the club's many triumphs from its foundation in 1892 to the present day. Whether attending a match or taking a tour, visitors can truly feel the passion that makes Anfield one of the most iconic stadiums in the world.



Shops

Bluecoat Display Centre

College Lane, L1 3BZ

🌐 bluecoatdisplaycentre.com

Established in 1959, this contemporary crafts and design gallery curates, exhibits and promotes jewellery, textiles, ceramics and more. The jewellery exhibition is a real highlight in the calendar, with over 90 jewellers displaying intricate, extremely stylish designs for all tastes and budgets.

Utility

8 Paradise Place, L1 8BQ

🌐 utilitydesign.co.uk

Stylish, design-led Liverpool store with three outlets across the city, two of them on Bold Street. This one, on Manesty's Lane, has the longest hours. Make a beeline for the quality Scouse souvenirs, particularly the brilliant wheelie-bin desk tidy.

Restaurants

Cargo

Alexandra Tower, L3 1BD

🌐 cargoseafoodrestaurant.co.uk

Nestled on the iconic Albert Dock, highly-rated *Cargo* offers a contemporary twist on classic seafood dishes, while providing stunning waterfront views. With its chic maritime decor and relaxed atmosphere, it's an ideal spot for intimate dinners.

Delifonseca

Brunswick Way, L3 4BN

🌐 delifonseca.co.uk

The best bit about this dockside venue is the ever-changing menu of Italian and British delights, including Welsh black beef braised in local Wapping ale, and crayfish and chicken pie. Plus, if you come for breakfast or lunch, you can pick up gourmet treats to take home from their foodhall next door.

Egg

16–18 Newington, L1 4AD

🌐 theeggcafe.co.uk

Up on the third floor, this plant-strewn bohemian café serves excellent vegan and vegetarian food with good set-meal deals in a relaxed atmosphere. People travel from wide and far to sample the renowned garlic bread and cheese slices, while the flavour of the day quiches are also worth trying. Also a nice place for a chai or a freshly made juice.

Lunya

55 Hanover St, L1 3DS

🌐 lunya.co.uk

This gorgeous Catalan deli-restaurant in the heart of Liverpool ONE, is an award winner and it's easy to see why. The vast tapas selection and menus run the gamut from suckling pig banquet to vegan, all of a similarly tasty high standard. Estofado – ox cheek slow roasted in a rich orange and cinnamon infused gravy until falling apart – is a real highlight.

Lunya

VisitLiverpool





The Cavern Club
Benedetto RibaShutterstock

Madre

6 Atlantic Pavilion, Albert Dock, L3 4AE

📞 thisismadre.co.uk

A fun and lively joint right on the Albert Docks dedicated to bone fide Mexican food. Order zesty ceviche with radish and fennel, perfectly formed tacos piled high with punchy salsas and tear-off-the-bone ribs cooked over flame. Wash it all down with Mezcal margaritas.

Bars

Berry & Rye

48 Berry St, L1 4JQ 📞 berryandrye.uk

It's described as a secret drinking den and it lives up to its name – you'll have to hunt hard – or ask a local – to find this unmarked bar. Once you're in it's a real gem. An intimate, bare-brick gin and whiskey joint with knowledgeable bartenders, turn-of-the-twentieth-century music – often live – and well-crafted cocktails.

Camp and Furnace

67 Greenland St, L1 0BY

📞 campandfurnace.com

The city's most creative and exhilarating venue is located in the Baltic Triangle. Its huge warehouse spaces – one boasting the city's biggest public screen – hosts all sorts of parties and pop-ups, art installations, live performances, the lot. Do not miss it. It can become particularly lively when one of Liverpool's football teams are in action.

Cavern Club

10 Mathew St, L2 6RE

📞 cavernclub.org

The self-styled “most famous club in the world” has live bands, from Beatles tribute acts to indie pop and rock, at the weekends, plus occasional backstage tours and special events. The atmosphere is always high-spirited, and even though this is not *the* Cavern Club of the Beatles' days, there's a certain thrill to it all.

Kazimier Garden

4–5 Wolstenholme Square, L1 4BE

📞 invisiblewindfactory.com

Affectionately known as *The Kaz*, this super-creative, split-level place with a magical garden space (entrance at 32 Seel St) is *the* place to come for cabaret-style club nights, gigs and off-the-wall events. Acts performing here are eclectic, to say the least, so it could be best to check listings in advance before making the journey.

Philharmonic

36 Hope St, L1 9BX

📞 nicholsonspubs.co.uk

Liverpool's finest traditional watering hole, where the main attractions – beer aside – are the mosaic floors, tiling and gilded wrought-iron gates. The gents' toilets famously ornate. If you get lost finding this place, ask for directions to *The Phil*, as few locals know it by its full name.



Manchester

Manchester has had a global profile for more than 150 years, since the dawn of the industrial revolution. But today's elegant core of converted warehouses and glass skyscrapers is a far cry from the smoke-covered sprawl of yesteryear. Its renewed pre-eminence is expressed in its football, as home to some of the world's most famous and wealthiest clubs – Manchester United and Manchester City, respectively – but also in a thriving music scene that has given birth to world-beaters as diverse as the Hallé Orchestra and Oasis. Moreover, the city's celebrated concert halls, theatres, clubs and cafés feed off the cosmopolitan drive provided by a large student population and a high-profile LGBTQ+ community. With regular TransPennine Express services from across the north of England and Scotland, Manchester is easy to explore. Find out more about travelling to Manchester with **TransPennine Express**.

Manchester Art Gallery

Mosley St, M2 3JL

🌐 manchesterartgallery.org. Free

Manchester Art Gallery attracts big-name exhibitions by contemporary artists, but don't overlook its own holdings, an invigorating collection of eighteenth- and nineteenth-century art. Worth checking out is the new Fashion Gallery, featuring one of the largest British collections of fashion and clothing, dating from the early seventeenth century to the present day. Floor 2 features temporary exhibitions and crafts, while the Ground Floor's Manchester Gallery is devoted to a visual history of the city. If you're travelling with family, the Lion's Den is fun for kids.

world's oldest surviving passenger railway station, and interactive exhibits on textile production and the early development of computers. Temporary exhibitions keep it fresh and ensure there's

Manchester Art Gallery

Rich J Jones/Marketing Manchester

Science and Industry Museum

Liverpool Rd, Manchester, M3 4FP

🌐 scienceandindustrymuseum.org.uk. Free

This city centre museum explores Manchester's pivotal role in the industrial revolution and its continued legacy in science and innovation. Highlights include the



always something new to discover, in this fascinating look at how Manchester helped shape the modern world.

National Football Museum

Urbis Building, Cathedral Gardens, M4 3BG

📞 nationalfootballmuseum.com. Charge Manchester's National Football Museum, housed in a suitably spectacular structure – the sloping, six-storey glass Urbis building near Victoria train station – houses some true treasures of the world's most popular game. Here you can see the 1966 World Cup Final ball, Maradona's "Hand of God" shirt, and the only surviving version of the Jules Rimet world cup trophy. They also display the personal collection of Sir Stanley Matthews (1915–2000), considered one of the greatest English footballers of all time.

Victoria Baths

Hathersage Rd, Manchester, M13 0FE

📞 victoriabaths.org.uk. Charge

A stunning example of Edwardian architecture, Victoria Baths is a

beautifully restored former public bathhouse. Once considered "Manchester's Water Palace", it boasts intricate stained glass, rich mosaic tiling and grand, historic swimming pools. Guided tours tell the fascinating story of its past, and it now serves as a venue for exhibitions, vintage fairs and artistic events. Its distinctive character and historical significance make it a unique destination for lovers of Manchester's heritage.

Afflecks

52 Church St, Manchester, M4 1PW

📞 afflecks.com. Free

Afflecks is a haven for alternative culture and creativity, and a honeypot for independent shopping. Spanning multiple floors, it's home to stalls selling everything from vintage fashion and handmade jewellery to rare vinyl records and comic books. The building is covered in vibrant graffiti and murals, reflecting its place at the heart of Manchester's creative scene. Whether you're hunting for a one-of-a-kind

National Football Museum

Rich J Jones/Marketing Manchester





Lowry

SAKhanPhotography/Shutterstock

souvenir or just soaking up the eclectic atmosphere, Afflecks is an essential stop for visitors who love unique finds.

The Bridgewater Hall

Lower Mosley St, Manchester, M2 3WS

🌐 bridgewater-hall.co.uk. Charge

One of the finest concert venues in the UK, The Bridgewater Hall is home to the Hallé Orchestra and regularly hosts world-class performances of classical, jazz and contemporary music. Featuring a cutting-edge acoustic design, the hall provides an intimate yet powerful listening experience, if you bag tickets to a live performance. Guided tours offer a chance to learn about the space and an intriguing glimpse behind the scenes, showcasing the venue's history and architecture.

Co-op Live

Etihad Campus, Manchester, M11 3FF

🌐 cooplive.com. Charge

The UK's largest indoor entertainment venue, Co-op Live is revolutionising Manchester's live event scene. Designed with state-of-the-art acoustics and innovative audience experiences in mind, the

arena is now open for business, hosting major concerts, comedy acts and sporting events. Located close to the Etihad Stadium, home of Manchester City FC, it's already bringing some of the world's biggest names in entertainment to the city. Whether you're attending a concert or experiencing its cutting-edge facilities, Co-op Live is poised to become a must-visit destination in the city.

Lowry

Pier 8, Salford Quays, M50 3AZ

🌐 thelowry.com. Free

Perched on the water's edge, Lowry is the quays' shiny steel arts centre. The Galleries, which host sixteen different exhibitions each year, are largely devoted to the paintings of Lawrence Stephen Lowry (1887–1976), the artist most closely associated with Salford. The earlier paintings – those somewhat desolate, melancholic portrayals of Manchester mill workers – are the most familiar, while later works, repeating earlier paintings but changing the greys and sullen browns for lively reds and pinks, can come as a surprise.



Manchester Craft & Design Centre
Alastair Wallace/Shutterstock

Shops

Manchester Craft & Design Centre

17 Oak St, Northern Quarter, M4 5JD
craftanddesign.com

The city's best place to pick up ceramics, fabrics, earthenware, jewellery and decorative art, many an hour can be spent here exploring the myriad crafts on display. There's also a good little café that encourages you to stay even longer.

Piccadilly Records

53 Oldham St, Northern Quarter, M1 1JR
piccadillyrecords.com

The enthusiastic staff, many of them DJs themselves, are more than willing to help you navigate the shelves of collectibles and vinyl, whatever your taste.

Restaurants

Climat

8th Floor, Blackfriars House, M3 2JA
restaurantclimat.co.uk

The daily changing menu at this rooftop restaurant has garnered a loyal following, focusing on what head chef Luke Richardson dubs “Parisian expat cooking”. Expect perfectly executed dishes such as monkfish tail in a mussel velouté and aubergine with miso. The wine is excellent to boot, so plan in advance and book a table.

Mughli Charcoal Pit

30 Wilmslow Rd, M14 5TQ
mughli.com

Located by the Whitworth Art Gallery, this stylish Indian restaurant is a standout in the area traditionally known as “curry mile”. Mouthwatering meat, veggie and vegan dishes include butter paneer and charred lamb chops – there's even a mild “little mughal” for children.

Street Urchin

72 Great Ancoats Street, Manchester, M4 5BG
street-urchin.co.uk

Ancoats' culinary landscape is all the better for this space, strung with house plants and dishing up exceptional seafood and locally sourced dishes. The menu changes all the time, but one constant seems to be the crispy buttermilk grey squirrel, which attracts diners from across Manchester and beyond.

Bars and cafés

Band on the Wall

25 Swan St, Northern Quarter, M4 5JZ
bandonthewall.org

This legendary Northern Quarter joint remains true to its commitment to “real music”: it's one of the city's best venues to see live bands – from world and folk to jazz and reggae – and it hosts club nights to boot. Many a new Manchester band has gone on to fame and fortune after performing here, often alongside tried and tested top acts. The beer is good too.



The Deaf Institute

135 Grosvenor St, M1 7HE

📍 thedeafinstitute.co.uk

This rightly popular bar and music hall sits in a funky makeover of the elegant Victorian former deaf institute. Acts tend to focus mostly on folk, indie and r'n'b, with lots of up-and-coming talent, and a raft of great club nights. Sister venue *Gorilla* (📍 thisisgorilla.com) on Whitworth Street is also excellent.

Federal Café Bar

9 Nicholas Croft, Northern Quarter

📍 federalcafe.co.uk

The beauty of this Antipodean-themed coffee shop-cum-bar lies in its sustainable and ethically sourced ingredients which make up wildly popular all day brunch dishes. Try the smashed avocado on sourdough toast with bacon, or for something sweeter, the toasted banana bread topped with vanilla mascarpone.

Pot Kettle Black

Barton Arcade, M3 2BH

📍 potkettleblackltd.co.uk

Mixing antipodean coffee culture with a northern accent, this laidback café inside the beautiful Barton Arcade is a top pick for brunch lovers. Expect quality coffee, inventive takes on breakfast classics and a vibe that's effortlessly cool without trying too hard.

Richmond Tea Rooms

46 Sackville Street, M1 3WF

📍 richmondtearooms.com

Without question the most brilliantly conceived tearoom in Manchester, with an amazing Tim Burton-esque *Alice in Wonderland* theme. The sumptuous afternoon teas are the stuff of local legend, while the adjoining cocktail lounge is a super-stylish place to kick off an evening. It's a popular spot, so book early to guarantee a table, especially when the burlesque events are taking place.

Schofield's Bar

3 Little Quay St, M3 3JZ

📍 schofieldsbars.com

This might just be one of the best cocktail bars in the entire region, if not the UK, from two brothers who honed their craft in London before opening this sceney bar in the iconic Art Deco Sunlight House. It's the height of sophistication and a real example of Manchester's confidence, serving superb classic cocktails, alongside a choice selection of wines, beers and British tapas.

Stray

1 Eagle St, Northern Quarter, M4 5BU

📍 instagram.com/straybar

Low lighting, luxe interiors and a grown-up drinks menu – think tomato margaritas and rhubarb gimlets alongside more unusual creations, such as a vino colada – make this Northern Quarter bar a go-to for cocktail lovers. It's walk-in's only, but well worth chancing your arm.

Live music at Band on the Wall

ChrisJamesRyanPhotography/Shutterstock



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

W 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

W 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

W 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
📍 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
📍 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

W 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

W 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

W 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 W 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 W 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

W 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



Leeds

Often considered the unofficial capital of Yorkshire, Leeds is a city bursting with life, culture and creativity. Known for its skilfully revamped Victorian arcades, world-class theatres and a thriving independent food scene, it's a city at the heart of the action.

Whether you're catching a show at Leeds Grand Theatre, exploring the impressive Royal Armouries Museum or strolling along the waterfront at Leeds Dock, there's something to discover at every turn. Vibrant festivals such as Leeds West Indian Carnival and Light Night keep the city's energy high, alongside a packed calendar of live music and performance events, so whenever you visit, entertainment is never far away. Leeds is easy to reach by train thanks to the regular TransPennine Express services into the city from the north of England and from Liverpool and Manchester. Once there, the city is compact enough to explore on foot, with historic architecture, lively street art and hidden gems around every corner. Find out more about travelling to Leeds by **TransPennine Express**.

Leeds Corn Exchange

Call Ln, Leeds, LS1 7BR

📍 leedscornexchange.co.uk. Free

A true masterpiece of Victorian architecture, Leeds Corn Exchange is one of the most beautiful shopping destinations in the country. The striking domed roof and intricate ironwork provide a stunning backdrop for a range of independent boutiques, vintage shops and artisanal cafés. If you're looking for handmade jewellery, unique fashion or quirky gifts, you've come to the right place. Regular markets, craft fairs and live performances add to its vibrant atmosphere. As a hub for independent businesses, it fosters creativity and is a must-visit for anyone wanting an alternative shopping experience in Leeds.

Leeds Art Gallery

The Headrow, Leeds, LS1 3AA

📍 leeds.gov.uk/museumsandgalleries. Free

Sharing a recently restored Victorian building with the Central

Library, Leeds Art Gallery has an important collection of largely nineteenth- and twentieth-century paintings, prints, drawings and sculptures, some on permanent display, others rotated. There's an understandable bias towards pieces by Henry Moore and Barbara Hepworth, both former students at the Leeds School of Art; Moore's *Reclining Woman* lounges at the top of the steps at the gallery entrance – near where you'll also find the ornate Art Nouveau café with its grand marble columns.

Leeds Grand Theatre and Opera North

46 New Briggate, Leeds, LS1 6NU

📍 leedsgrandtheatre.com. Charge

One of the UK's leading theatre venues, Leeds Grand Theatre is home to Opera North and regularly stages West End productions, ballet and live music performances. Opened in 1878, this grand Victorian theatre is a



masterpiece of design, with an opulent auditorium and stunning decorative details. Behind-the-scenes tours offer a fascinating insight into its history, architecture and resident productions. The theatre's proximity to lively bars and restaurants makes it the perfect spot for an unforgettable night out in Leeds.

Royal Armouries Museum

Armouries Dr, Leeds, LS10 1LT

🌐 royalarmouries.org. Free

On the south side of the riverbank, the spectacular glass turret and gunmetal grey bulk of the Royal Armouries beckons, purpose-built to house the arms and armour collection from the Tower of London. One of the best museums of its type in the world, its five galleries hold beautifully displayed weapons and armour dating from Roman times onwards. Particularly spectacular are the reconstruction of a tiger hunt; the Indian elephant armour (the heaviest armour in the world) consisting of 8,500 iron plates; Samurai, Mongol and Indian armour and weapons; and many

ornate guns, from a reconstruction of an enormously long Essex punt gun to an exquisite Tiffany-decorated Magnum hand gun.

Roundhay Park and Tropical World

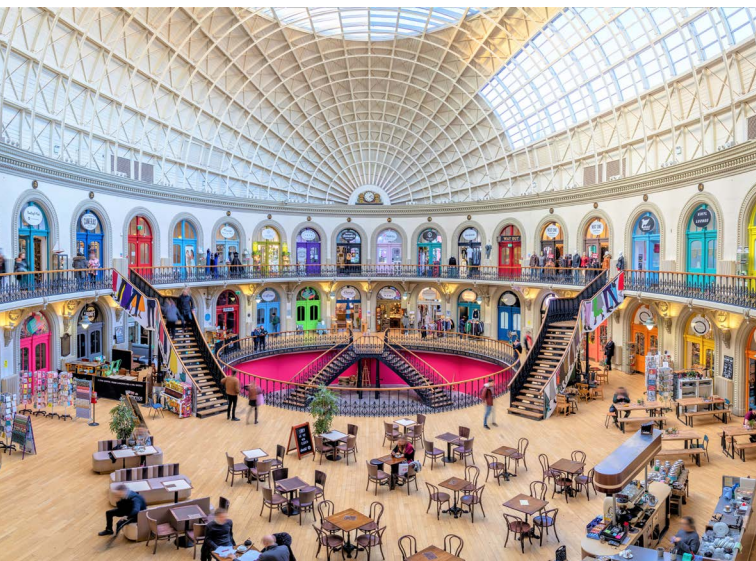
Mansion Ln, Leeds, LS8 2HH

🌐 visitleeds.co.uk. Free (Tropical World charge)

One of the largest urban parks in Europe, Roundhay Park boasts 700 acres of beautifully landscaped gardens, lakes and woodland. Visitors can set off on scenic walking trails, hire a boat for a spin on Waterloo Lake, or explore the stunning Canal Gardens. Within the park, Tropical World is home to exotic animals, free-flying butterflies and rare plants, and the indoor rainforest and desert zones offer an immersive experience for all ages. Frequent outdoor concerts and food festivals, plus seasonal light displays, make the park a year-round attraction. And with its multiple playgrounds, a lakeside café and dedicated events programme, Roundhay Park makes for a perfect day out for families.

Leeds Corn Exchange

Carl Milner Photography/Visit Leeds





Kirkstall Abbey

Abbey Rd, Leeds, LS5 3EH

📍 leeds.gov.uk/museumsandgalleries. Free

Nestled in scenic parkland along the River Aire, Kirkstall Abbey is one of the best-preserved Cistercian monasteries in the UK. Founded in 1152, its grand ruins provide a striking glimpse into medieval monastic life.

Visitors can wander through the atmospheric stone remains, learn about the abbey's history at the visitor centre, and enjoy riverside walks in the surrounding gardens. The abbey often puts on historical reenactments, outdoor theatre performances and craft fairs, keeping it a lively destination for history lovers. Photography enthusiasts will find endless inspiration in the abbey's Gothic arches and scenic setting.

Victoria Arcades and Trinity Leeds

Albion St, Leeds, LS1 5AT

📍 trinityleeds.com. Free

Leeds is a shopper's paradise, blending tantalising modern stores with stunning historic architecture. Trinity Leeds is the city's largest shopping centre, with a mix of high-street brands and independent boutiques, as well as a diverse food

court. Just a short walk away, the Victoria Quarter and Victoria Gate house designer brands in beautifully restored arcades with mosaic floors and elegant glass ceilings. These shopping destinations also host seasonal pop-up shops, luxury personal shopping services and gourmet dining options, making them more lifestyle destinations than mere retail spaces.

Leeds Festival

Bramham Park, Leeds, LS23 6ND

📍 leedsfestival.com. Charge

One of the UK's biggest and most anticipated music festivals, Leeds Festival attracts over 100,000 music lovers each year to experience performances from global superstars and rising talent. Spanning three days, the festival features multiple stages hosting a diverse mix of rock, indie, hip-hop and electronic acts. Beyond the music, attendees can enjoy comedy performances and immersive experiences, while soaking up the vibrant festival atmosphere. Held at Bramham Park, the festival is easily accessible from Leeds city centre, making it a must-visit for music fans seeking an unforgettable summer weekend.

Kirkstall Abbey

Zagni Photography



Shops

Colours May Vary

Leeds Corn Exchange, Call Ln, LS1 7BR

📍 colours-may-vary.com

This independent design store is a haven for creatives, packed with beautifully curated books, stationery, prints and homeware. Specialising in contemporary graphic design and photography, it's the go-to spot for unique gifts and inspiration. Regular collaborations with local artists and limited-edition stock mean there's always something new to discover.

Leeds Kirkgate Market

Vicar Lane, LS2 7HY 📍 leeds.gov.uk

Home to the original Marks & Spencer's stall, this elegant, historic market (built in 1875) is one of the largest and oldest in Europe. It has everything from haberdashery to fishmongers, as well as an amazing street food market with cuisines from all over the world.

Restaurants

Bundobust

6 Mill Hill, LS1 5DQ 📍 bundobust.com

Bundobust serves up bold flavours in a lively, canteen-style setting. The entirely vegetarian menu is packed with dishes like okra fries, paneer tikka and iconic vada pav, all paired perfectly with craft beers from their in-house brewery. The informal, communal dining space makes it an ideal spot for groups or a laid-back meal with friends. ££

Ox Club

Headrow House, 19a The Headrow, LS1 6PU

📍 oxclub.co.uk

Housed in the stylish Headrow House, *Ox Club* is known for its wood-fired cooking and locally sourced ingredients. The menu changes with the seasons, but signature dishes like coal-roasted meats, inventive vegetarian plates



Leeds Kirkgate Market

Henrykc/Shutterstock

and fresh seafood keep diners coming back. *Ox Club* is a standout on the Leeds dining scene. £££

Salvo's

115 Otley Rd, Headingley, LS6 3PX

📍 salvos.co.uk

Mention pizza to Leeds locals and they'll think of *Salvo's* in Headingley. This place is about more than just pizza though. There's a classy Italian menu as well, supported by a choice list of daily specials. It really is worth the trek out from the centre. ££

Sociable Folk

10 Wellington Place, LS1 4JP

📍 sociablefolk.co.uk

Think bare concrete walls, plenty of foliage and no end of filament light bulbs at this cool café-restaurant. Unlike some venues that can be more style over substance, expect to enjoy great salads, bagels and sandwiches here. ££

Wapentake

92 Kirkgate, LS2 7DJ

📍 wapentakeleeds.co.uk

Arrive early to bag a table for the best breakfast in town or, if visiting Leeds on a Sunday, enjoy a



Côte de boeuf at Ox Club
Kluens.Media/Ox Club

delicious roast at this unpretentious place. All ingredients are sourced daily from Leeds Kirkgate Market next door. ££

Bars

Bar Fibre

168 Lower Briggate, LS1 6LY

📞 barfibre.com

One of Leeds's finest gay-friendly bars comes with plenty of attitude. There's food during the day at *Café Mafiosa*, regular alfresco parties in the courtyard outside (summer) and roaring fires inside (winter). For a fun and friendly vibe, look no further.

Flight Club

1-2 S Parade, LS1 5QL

📞 flightclubdarts.com/leeds

The first rule of *Flight Club*? You don't talk about *Flight Club*. But we don't gatekeep here: this classic saloon-style watering hole is one of the most fun hangouts in Leeds. Pair a pint with a game of darts with your pals – it's not cheap, but it's worth it for a special occasion.

Mojo

18 Merrion St, LS1 6PQ 📞 mojobar.co.uk

A great bar with classic tunes ("music for the people" – an eclectic mix with a swerve towards soul), American food, and a classy drinks menu with lots of cocktails. Just 10 minutes from Leeds Railway Station, it's a great choice for meeting friends or grabbing a quick one before heading home.

North Bar

24 New Briggate, LS1 6NU 📞 northbar.com

The city's beer specialist has a massive selection of guest beers (more Belgian than bitter), plus cold meats and cheeses to nibble on. This place is part of the hugely successful North Bar group, with great pubs across the city.

Whitelocks

Turk's Head Yard, off Briggate, LS1 6HB

📞 whitelocksleeds.com

Leeds's oldest and most atmospheric pub retains its traditional Victorian decor and a good choice of beers. To step back in time at a pub where it feels like time has stood still, get yourself here.



York

Encircled by medieval walls, York's historic centre is home to narrow cobbled streets, stunning Gothic architecture and world-class attractions. With a rich Viking and Roman past, the city's heritage is woven into its modern-day appeal, from the grand York Minster to the immersive JORVIK Viking Centre. The city is also famous for its festivals, hosting events year-round that celebrate food, history and the arts. Whether you're exploring historic landmarks, indulging in the city's renowned chocolate-making tradition, or experiencing its famous ghost walks, York is a city of contrasts that blends tradition with contemporary flair. York is a city where ancient history and vibrant modern culture combine to create an unforgettable destination, easily reached by train thanks to regular TransPennine Express services into the city from Newcastle and the Northeast, Manchester and Liverpool. Find out more about travelling to York by **TransPennine Express**.

York Minster

Deangate, York, YO1 7HH

yorkminster.org. Charge

One of the most magnificent Gothic cathedrals in Europe, York Minster dominates the city skyline with its awe-inspiring towers and intricate stained-glass windows. Visitors can explore its vast nave, medieval chapter house and the Undercroft Museum, which reveals 2,000 years of York's history. Climbing the central tower is a must-do, and rewards visitors with panoramic views over the city. The cathedral also hosts concerts, special services and exhibitions, making it both a cultural and spiritual landmark. The Great East Window, the largest expanse of medieval stained glass in the country, is a breathtaking highlight.

York's City Walls

Various locations visityork.org. Free

Encircling the city for over 2,000 years, York's city walls offer a unique way to explore the historic

centre. Stretching for nearly three miles, they provide stunning views of York Minster and beyond.

Visitors can walk along the medieval stone pathways, passing through ancient gatehouses, known as 'bars', which once controlled access to the city. Informational plaques along the route tell the fascinating story of York's defensive past, making this an absorbing and scenic way to experience the city's history. Exploring the well-preserved walls is a great way to appreciate York's blend of medieval and modern charm.

York Castle Museum

Tower St, York, YO1 9RY


yorkcastlemuseum.org.uk. Charge

York has a lot of past to bring to life, and that's where York Castle Museum comes in. Here, you can take an immersive look at history through detailed period recreations and fascinating, evocative exhibits. Visitors can wander through a reconstructed Victorian street,

experience the eerie atmosphere of the city's original prison cells, and learn about life in wartime Britain. The museum regularly hosts interactive displays, seasonal exhibitions and living history events, making it a favourite with families and history enthusiasts alike. Its collection includes centuries-old clothing, furniture and everyday objects, allowing visitors to fully step into different eras of York's past.

Yorkshire Museum and Museum Gardens

Museum St, York, YO1 7FR

 yorkshireremuseum.org.uk. Charge

Set within beautiful botanical gardens, the Yorkshire Museum is home to an impressive collection of Roman, Viking and medieval artefacts. Highlights include the famous York Helmet, a 1,000-year-old Anglian relic, and the stunning Middleham Jewel. Outside, the tranquil Museum Gardens offer a picturesque escape, featuring the ruins of St Mary's Abbey, exotic

plants and a variety of wildlife. The museum regularly hosts archeology and natural history exhibitions, showcasing York's important role in England's past. The gardens are also a popular venue for outdoor theatre, music performances and family-friendly events.

JORVIK Viking Centre

19 Coppergate, York, YO1 9WT

 jorvikvikingcentre.co.uk. Charge

Excavations of Coppergate in 1976 uncovered York's original Viking settlement, now largely buried beneath a shopping centre. But at adjacent JORVIK, visitors are propelled in "time capsules" on a ride through a reconstructed version of the tenth-century Viking city, immersing you in the sights, sounds and even the smells of the times. You also get to see how artefacts unearthed from the original site were used, and watch live-action domestic scenes on actual Viking-age streets, with constipated villagers, axe-fighting and other singular attractions.

York Minster

Visit York



The National Railway Museum

Leeman Rd, YO26 4XJ www.nrm.org.uk. **Free**
The National Railway Museum is a must if you have even the slightest interest in railways, history, engineering or Victoriana. The Great Hall alone features some fifty restored locomotives dating from 1829 onwards, among them *Mallard*, at 126mph the fastest steam engine ever built. After a lengthy on-site £4.2 million restoration, the *Flying Scotsman* is back on the tracks as a working exhibit (www.flyingscotsman.org.uk); it returns to the museum in winter. Engines aside, you can't help but love the sheer Britishness of the Station Hall with its Royal carriages, railway memorabilia and real-life stories.

The Shambles

York, YO1 7LX www.visitork.org. **Free**
One of the best-preserved medieval streets in Europe, The Shambles is a must-visit for those looking to step into York's past. Originally a street of butchers' shops, its overhanging timber-framed buildings now house charming boutiques, sweet shops and cafés. Its beautifully-preserved cobbled lanes and atmospheric charm have inspired locations in popular culture, such as its resemblance to Diagon Alley in *Harry Potter*. The Shambles Market nearby is a great place to browse local produce, crafts and street food stalls, amplifying the area's USP as a lively shopping destination steeped in history.

York's Chocolate Story

King's Square, York, YO1 7LD
www.yorkschocolatestory.com. **Charge**
York's long history of chocolate-making is explored at this interactive attraction, where visitors can discover the secrets behind storied brands like Terry's and Rowntree's. Guided tours showcase the chocolate-making process from bean to bar – and luckily, there's



The Shambles
Visit York

plenty of opportunities to sample sweet treats. Hands-on workshops allow guests to craft their own chocolate creations, making this a deliciously fun experience for visitors of all ages. The experience also explores York's role in the development of the UK's chocolate industry, highlighting its legacy as the country's "chocolate city".

York Maze and York Festival of Food & Drink

Elvington Ln, York, YO19 5LT

www.yorkmaze.com. **Charge**

A seasonal favourite and a good bit of fun, York Maze is one of the largest mazes in Europe, featuring elaborate cornfield designs that change each year. Beyond the maze, visitors can enjoy adventure playgrounds, live entertainment and interactive farm experiences. Meanwhile, food lovers will relish the York Festival of Food & Drink, held in September each year. The festival showcases the best of Yorkshire's culinary scene, with tastings, demonstrations and markets celebrating the best of local produce.

Shops

The Imaginarium

7 Blake St, YO1 8QJ

🌐 [imaginariumyork.co.uk](http://www.imaginariumyork.co.uk)

Stepping into *The Imaginarium* feels like entering a whimsical world of curiosities. This beautifully designed boutique is packed with unique homeware, quirky gifts and handcrafted decorations, all with a touch of magic. Every corner is filled with treasures you won't find anywhere else. This shop is a York favourite for those who love the extraordinary.

The Yorkshire Soap Company

10 Blake St, YO1 8QG

🌐 [theyorkshiresoap.co.uk](http://www.theyorkshiresoap.co.uk)

A delight for the senses, The Yorkshire Soap Company is known for its beautifully crafted handmade soaps, bath bombs and luxury skincare. The shop's displays resemble a high-end patisserie, with colourful soaps shaped like cupcakes and delicately wrapped gift boxes. Everything is made

A Yorkshire fat rascal at Bettys
Diana Jarvis/Rough Guides

in Yorkshire using traditional techniques and natural ingredients.

Restaurants

Bettys

6–8 St Helen's Square, YO1 8QP

🌐 [bettys.co.uk](http://www.bettys.co.uk)

Famous across Yorkshire, *Bettys* specialises in cakes and pastries like granny used to make, apparently. Try a hot buttered pikelet or a Yorkshire fat rascal. In the basement there's a mirror with the signatures of the hundreds of Allied airmen who used *Bettys* as an unofficial mess during World War II. ££

Brew & Brownie

5 Museum St, YO1 7DT

🌐 [brewandbrownie.co.uk](http://www.brewandbrownie.co.uk)

This buzzing café is usually busy with students and thirty-somethings enjoying strong coffee and stupendous homemade cakes. Brunch and light lunches not to be missed either – a stack of American pancakes or the Eeh Bah Gum sharing plate. Yorkshire-sourced produce where possible. ££

Café Concerto

21 High Petergate, YO1 7EN

🌐 [cafeconcerto.biz](http://www.cafeconcerto.biz)

This relaxed, belle époque-style bistro is as much about the location as the food and drink. Situated facing the minster, with sheet-music-papered walls and waiting staff in robust aprons, it provides a touristy but enjoyable experience. Food is modern European; and there are papers to browse and encourage you to stay a little longer. ££

Partisan

112 Micklegate, YO1 6JX 🌐 [partisanuk.com](http://www.partisanuk.com)

This independent café and restaurant is a firm favourite for brunch, with an eclectic menu that spans shakshuka, fluffy pancakes and locally sourced full English breakfasts. In the evening, the cosy setting transforms into an intimate



dining space serving seasonal small plates and a fantastic selection of wines. With excellent coffee, house-made cakes, and a warm, artsy atmosphere, *Partisan* is the kind of place where visitors linger for hours, and often return the next day for more. ££

Roots York

68 Marygate, YO30 7BH www.rootsyork.com

Those lucky enough to get a reservation at this Michelin-starred delight in the heart of York can enjoy innovative tasting menus and Sunday feasts curated by top-rated chef, Tommy Banks. The menus change constantly to take advantage of the best seasonal produce, and while it's not cheap, the waiting list to grab a table says it all. ££££

Skosh

98 Micklegate, YO1 6JX www.skoshyork.com

A must-visit for food lovers, this highly recommended small-plate dining spot delivers big on flavour. *Skosh's* ever-changing menu blends British ingredients with global inspiration, from delicate dumplings to rich, flavour-packed curries. The stylish open kitchen means diners can watch the chefs at work, while the relaxed atmosphere makes it the perfect spot for everything from date night to a special treat. Book ahead as its reputation means tables get snapped up fast. £££

Pubs and bars

The Basement

13–17 Coney St, below City Screen cinema, YO1 9QL www.thebasementyork.co.uk

An intimate venue with a variety of nights – from music to comedy to arts events. The first Wed of every month is “Café Scientifique” – a free evening of discussion surrounding current issues in science. Live music events are scattered through the week, along with cabaret, burlesque and club nights.



The Blue Bell

Andy Sutherland/Shutterstock

Blue Bell

Fossgate, YO1 9TF [01904 654904](tel:01904654904)

Built in 1798, the *Blue Bell* is a tiny, friendly local with two rooms, oak-panelling and good real ales. When landlord John took over in 2015, he upheld the traditional pub values: no mobile phones or swearing, just good beer, wine and spirits.

House of the Trembling Madness

48 Stonegate, YO1 8AS

[facebook.com/TremblingMad](https://www.facebook.com/TremblingMad)

A wonderfully atmospheric attic pub (it's above their shop) with exposed beams and a medieval hall feel. Bar snacks are exceptional and so is the range of craft ales, lagers and ciders. Arrive early to avoid the queue.

Three-Legged Mare

15 High Petergate, YO1 7EN

[facebook.com/threeleggedmareyork](https://www.facebook.com/threeleggedmareyork)

A converted shop provides an airy outlet for York Brewery's own quality beer. No kids, no jukebox, no video games. It's named after a three-legged gallows – it's there on the pub sign, with a replica in the beer garden.

Hull

Historic Hull – officially Kingston upon Hull – maintains a firm grip on its maritime heritage with a number of superb visitor attractions, including the excellent Museums Quarter in the Old Town. The city's stint as UK City of Culture in 2017 saw a massive investment in arts and culture across the city; its revitalization is particularly noticeable in the burgeoning Fruit Market district between the Marina and river, where a number of new galleries and cool cafés have opened. This compact city is easily explored on foot and there are regular **TransPennine Express** services into Hull from Liverpool, Manchester and Yorkshire.

Hull Old Town

Hull HU1 visithull.org. **Free**

Hull Old Town is a treasure trove of history, with cobbled streets, historic pubs and hidden alleys that transport visitors back in time. The area is home to many of the city's top attractions, including the Museums Quarter and the impressive Hull Minster. Visitors can explore quaint independent shops, enjoy a drink in one of the city's oldest pubs, or follow in the footsteps of the maritime merchants who once thrived here. With its mix of medieval, Georgian and Victorian architecture and distinctive heritage, Hull Old Town is a must-visit for history lovers.

Free Museums

Hull HU1 hcandl.co.uk/museums. **Free**

Hull's impressive collection of free museums offers something for everyone. The Streetlife Museum showcases the history of transport through interactive exhibits and vintage vehicles. Wilberforce House, the birthplace of abolitionist William Wilberforce, explores the backstory of the transatlantic slave trade, and Hull's role in its abolition. The Hull and East Riding Museum, meanwhile, takes visitors back to prehistoric times with fascinating displays of Roman

mosaics and Viking artefacts – plus a life-size woolly mammoth. Together, these museums take you on an insightful journey through Hull's diverse and significant past.

Ferens Art Gallery

Queen Victoria Square, HU1 3RA

hcandl.co.uk/museums. **Free**

When it reopened in April 2017 after a multi-million-pound refurbishment, Ferens Art Gallery attracted more than 10,000 visitors in its first weekend. This world-class gallery is a proper gem, holding a permanent collection of paintings and sculpture with works by Frans Hals, David Hockney and Antonio Canaletto. Visiting exhibitions have included SKIN – major works by Lucian Freud, Ron Mueck and Spencer Tunick – and the prestigious Turner Prize.

Hull Marina and Maritime City

Hull HU1 visithull.org. **Free**

The vibrant Hull Marina is a waterfront destination filled with restaurants, cafés and bars offering scenic views of the River Humber. A centrepiece of Hull's ambitious Maritime City Project, the city is set to welcome refurbished museums and new maritime attractions once completed. Visitors will be able to



stroll along the waterfront, watch the boats, or explore the nearby Humber Street, a lively area known for its independent shops and art galleries. From enjoying a meal by the water to learning about Hull's seafaring legacy, the marina is a focal point of the city's transformation.

The Deep

Tower St, HU1 4DP 📍 thedeep.co.uk. **Charge**

Protruding from a promontory overlooking the River Humber, Hull's splendid aquarium, The Deep, is just ten minutes' walk from the old town. Its educational displays and videos wrap around an immense 30ft-deep, 2.3-million-gallon viewing tank filled with sharks, rays and octopuses. There's an underwater tunnel along the bottom of the tank, together with a magical glass lift in which you can ascend or descend through the water.

The Maritime Museum

Queen Victoria Square, HU1 3DX

📍 maritimehull.co.uk. **Free**

Hull's maritime legacy is comprehensively covered in the Maritime Museum, housed in the Neoclassical headquarters of the former Town Docks Offices. With displays on fishing, whaling and sailing, this provides a valuable record of centuries of skill and expertise, not to mention courage and fortitude, now fading into the past. The museum is currently under renovation as part of the Maritime City Project and once reopened will house new displays showcasing the city's rich maritime history, alongside an awesome 40ft North Atlantic right whale skeleton.

Hull Minster

South Church Side, Hull, HU1 1RR

📍 hullminster.org. **Free**

Dating back to the thirteenth century, Hull Minster is the largest parish church in England and a stunning example of medieval architecture. Inside, visitors can

admire its intricate stained-glass windows, historic tombs and soaring vaulted ceilings. The Minster regularly hosts concerts, exhibitions and community events, making it a lively hub in Hull's cultural scene. Its central location in the Old Town also means it's surrounded by the area's rich heritage, with charming streets and historic pubs just a stone's throw away.

Fruit Market

Humber St, Hull, HU1 📍 visithull.org. **Free**

The Fruit Market district has undergone a major transformation, evolving into one of Hull's most creative quarters. Once a hub for the city's fruit trade, it's now home to independent boutiques, quirky cafés, art galleries and live music venues. The area is also known for its vibrant street art and cultural events, drawing in the artists and entrepreneurs who contribute to Hull's dynamic energy. Whether grabbing a coffee at a local roastery or browsing unique handmade goods, the Fruit Market is the place to head to make the most of Hull's thriving independent scene.

The Fruit Market district

Ian Francis/Shutterstock





Ye Olde White Harte
David Hallam-Jones

Restaurants, food markets & cafés

Ambiente Tapas

5 Humber St HU1 1TG

📞 ambiente-tapas.co.uk

Set in the vibrant Fruit Market district, *Ambiente* brings a taste of Spain to Hull's waterfront. The open kitchen turns out sizzling tapas favourites alongside more inventive seasonal dishes, all designed for sharing. Outdoor seating is in high demand when the sun shines.

Pave Café-Bar

16–20 Princes Ave, HU5 3QA

📞 facebook.com/pavebar

Nice laidback atmosphere with lots going on – live jazz/blues and comedy nights and readings by the likes of Alexei Sayle, Will Self and Simon Armitage – and a comprehensive menu of home-cooked food served till 7pm.

Nibble

The Dock, HU1 1UU

📞 nibblehull.co.uk

A café with a real community feel, *Nibble* serves up excellent coffee alongside a creative menu of breakfasts, brunches and freshly made sweet treats. Expect colourful plates packed with flavour, from avocado toast loaded with toppings to generously filled sandwiches and indulgent cakes. Vegetarian, vegan and gluten-free options are plentiful.

Trinity Market

Trinity House Lane, HU1 2JH

📞 trinitymarkethull.co.uk

Once a traditional covered market, this attractive city-centre space has been reimagined as a lively street food hub. You'll find everything from Thai noodles and Neapolitan pizza to vegan bakes and Caribbean curries, all served with a side of local charm.

Thieving Harry's

73 Humber St, HU1 1UD

📞 thievingharrys.co.uk

A cornerstone of the Fruit Market regeneration, quirky *Thieving Harry's* "food + stuff" has mismatched chairs, gorgeous views and tasty food. The down-to-earth vibe makes it an ideal place to linger with friends while enjoying good coffee and a craft beer or two. The breakfasts are highly recommended.

Ye Olde White Harte

25 Silver St, HU1 1JG

📞 yeoldewhiteharte.co.uk

Hidden down a narrow alleyway in the city's Old Town, *Ye Olde White Harte* dates back to the sixteenth century. This historic pub is famous for its oak-panelled interiors, roaring fireplaces and the legendary "Plotting Parlour", where it's said the English Civil War was planned. The drink selection leans heavily towards well-kept local ales, plus some excellent malt whiskies.



Durham City

The handsome city of Durham is best known for its beautiful Norman cathedral – there's a tremendous view of it as you approach the city by train from the south – and for its world-renowned university, founded in 1832. Set on the banks of the River Wear, Durham is a city that invites exploration at every turn of its cobbled streets. The heart of the city is the marketplace, flanked by the Guildhall and St Nicholas Church. The cathedral and church sit on a wooded peninsula to the west, while southwards stretch narrow streets lined with shops and cafés. Durham's highlights are easily reached thanks to regular **TransPennine Express** services from the north of England.

Durham Castle

Durham, DH1 3RW

🌐 durhamworldheritagesite.com. **Charge** Durham Castle lost its medieval appearance long ago, as each successive Prince Bishop modernised the building according to the tastes of the time. The university was bequeathed the castle in the nineteenth century and subsequently renovated the old keep, which now serves as a hall of residence. It's only possible to visit the castle on a guided tour – often delivered by students – departing from outside Palace Green Library, highlights of which include the enormous hanging staircase and the underground Norman chapel, one of the few surviving interiors from the period. It's notable for its lively Romanesque carved capitals, including a green man, and what may be the earliest surviving depiction anywhere of a mermaid.

Durham Cathedral

Palace Green, Durham, DH1 3EH 🌐 durhamworldheritagesite.com. **Free entry to Cathedral; Castle guided tours chargeable** Dominating the skyline, Durham Cathedral is a masterpiece of Norman architecture. Home to the tomb of St Cuthbert, it

features awe-inspiring stained-glass windows, a medieval cloister and the stunning Galilee Chapel. The nave used pointed arches for the first time in England, raising the vaulted ceiling to new and dizzying heights. Massive pillars bear the weight of the stone, their heaviness relieved by striking Moorish-influenced geometric patterns. A door on the western side gives access to the tower, from where there are panoramic views of Durham's medieval streets and the River Wear. Guided tours provide a deeper insight into its heritage and associated pop culture – this iconic cathedral is also famous as a filming location for *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone*, *Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets* and *Avengers: Endgame*.

Crook Hall Gardens

Frankland Lane, Sidegate, DH1 5SZ

🌐 nationaltrust.org.uk. **Charge**

Crook Hall is a hidden gem less than a mile from Durham's train station. A rare mix of medieval, Jacobean and Georgian architecture with origins dating from the twelfth century, it is one of the city's most important medieval buildings. You can



The Cathedral and the River Wear
Diana Jarvis/Visit England

explore beautifully tended, themed gardens, including the ethereal Silver and White Garden, the Shakespeare Garden, planted with herbs used in Elizabethan times, and the delightful Secret Walled Garden. Afterwards, drop in at the Garden Gate Café and shop at the gatehouse.

The River Wear – walks and rowing boats

Durham DH1 thisisdurham.com. Free (Rowing boat hire chargeable)

The River Wear winds through Durham, offering one of the most picturesque ways to experience the city. Visitors can stroll along scenic riverside paths, passing beneath medieval bridges and enjoying views of the towering cathedral above. For a unique perspective, hire a traditional rowing boat and glide along the river, taking in the tranquil surroundings. This peaceful stretch of water is perfect for a relaxing afternoon exploring Durham's natural beauty at your own pace.

Durham Market Hall

Market Place, Durham, DH1 3NJ
durhammarkets.co.uk. Free

At the heart of the city, Durham Market Hall is a lively indoor market featuring over 40 independent traders selling fresh produce, handmade crafts and unique gifts. A blend of old and new, the market has been a staple of Durham life since 1851. From artisan foods to vintage finds, it's a great place to support local businesses and discover hidden gems. Regular themed events and markets ensure there's always something new to experience.

The Story

Mount Oswald, Durham, DH1 3TQ

durham.gov.uk/thestory. Charge

The Story is Durham City's latest attraction, offering a fascinating insight into the region's rich past. Located in the historic Mount Oswald Manor, it brings together ancient archives, archeological finds and records of life-changing events. Visitors can absorb exhibits covering Durham's social, political and industrial history, as well as discover personal stories from the people who have shaped the city. This immersive experience does a brilliant job of highlighting Durham's unique heritage in an engaging and interactive way.

Ushaw Historic House, Chapels and Gardens

Ushaw, Durham, DH7 9RH ushaw.org. Charge

Once a seminary, Ushaw Historic House is now a breathtaking attraction that showcases stunning Gothic architecture and beautifully landscaped gardens. The intricate chapels, grand halls and fascinating exhibitions tell the story of its religious and educational past, and visitors can explore the extensive grounds, enjoy afternoon tea in the café and take part in the cultural events hosted throughout the year. With its rich history and remarkable beauty, Ushaw offers a serene and inspiring escape, just outside the city centre.



Restaurants, cafés and pubs

Fabios

66 Sadler St, DH1 3NP

W fabiosdurham.com

Just above *La Spaghetтата* pizzeria, *Fabios* occupies a series of rooms filled with comfy, rug-draped sofas and chalked-up blackboards offering cheap-as-chips drinks. The atmosphere is cool and relaxed.

Flat White

21a Elvet Bridge, DH1 3AA

W flatwhitekitchen.com

Durham's hippest café, serving excellent coffee served on wooden boards and terrific brunches. The avocado on sourdough with chilli and feta and ham hock hash with poached eggs are the stand-out dishes. Sit outside in the sun, or inside at tables made from old sewing machines that are more comfortable than they sound.

Restaurant 17

17 Elvet Bridge, DH1 3AA

W restaurant17.co.uk

This elegant restaurant, warmed by a brick fireplace and dimly lit by chandeliers, serves a menu of considered European dishes such

as slow roast beef brisket ragu with papardelle, slow-cooked beef with red wine jus, and pan-fried duck breast with orange sauce and Lyonnaise potatoes. More exotic offerings, such as Korean glazed belly pork, are also available.

Swan & Three Cygnets

Elvet Bridge, DH1 3AF 0191 384 0242

Sitting proudly at the end of Elvet Bridge overlooking the River Wear, this loud and cheery pub serves cheap drinks and is filled with a mixed crowd of locals and students.

Vennel's

71 Saddler's Yard, Saddler St, DH1 3NP

W vennels.com

Named after the skinny alley or "vennel" where it stands – near the junction with Elvet Bridge – this café serves generous sandwiches, salads, quiche and tasty cakes in its sixteenth-century courtyard.

Victoria Inn

86 Hallgarth St, DH1 3AS

W victoriainn-durhamcity.co.uk

With its three open fires and rickety wooden stools, this cosy, traditional pub specializes in local ales – try the creamy Tyneside Blonde or the hoppy Centurion Bitter – and stocks more than thirty Irish whiskeys.

Restaurants on Elvet Bridge

Wangkun Jia/Shutterstock



Newcastle

Newcastle, the lively de facto capital of the Northeast (just don't expect those from Sunderland to agree), is a city packed with things to see and do. Its compact centre makes it easy to explore on foot or by metro, from the café-laden streets of Jesmond and Heaton to the vibrant Ouseburn cultural quarter. Famous for its fantastic foodie scene, Newcastle boasts an array of independent restaurants, street food markets and hidden gems serving global cuisine. The city is also home to legendary nightlife, with everything from historic pubs to stylish cocktail bars and music venues. Whether you're enjoying a riverside stroll along the Quayside, exploring cultural highlights, or discovering its dynamic bar scene, Newcastle offers a perfect blend of history, culture and entertainment. With regular TransPennine Express services into Newcastle from Edinburgh, Yorkshire, Manchester and Liverpool, the city is well-connected for visitors looking to explore this exciting city. Find out more about visiting Newcastle with TransPennine Express.

Newcastle Castle

Castle Garth, NE1 1RQ  newcastlecastle.co.uk. Charge (valid for 12 months)

Anyone arriving by train from the north will get a sneak preview of the Castle, as the rail line splits the keep from its gatehouse, the Black Gate, on St Nicholas Street. A wooden fort was built here over an Anglo-Saxon cemetery by Robert Curthose, illegitimate eldest son of William the Conqueror, but the present keep dates from the twelfth century. There's a great view from the rooftop over the river and city. Moreover, there are all kinds of events taking place year-round, including tours and talks, live theatre and film screenings; check the website.

Newcastle Cathedral

At the junction of St Nicholas St and Mosley St, NE1 1DF  newcastlecathedral.org.uk. Free, donation requested

Newcastle Cathedral – originally the parish church of St Nicholas and dating mainly from the

fourteenth and fifteenth centuries – is remarkable chiefly for its tower; erected in 1470, it is topped with a crown-like structure of turrets and arches supporting a lantern. Inside, behind the high altar, is one of England's largest funerary brasses, commissioned by Roger Thornton, the Dick Whittington of Newcastle, who arrived in the city penniless and died its richest merchant in 1429.

Quayside

By the Tyne. Free

From between the castle and the cathedral, a road known simply as The Side – formerly the main road out of the city and home to the excellent Side Gallery – descends to Newcastle's Quayside. The river is spanned by seven bridges in close proximity, the most prominent being the looming Tyne Bridge. Beyond the Tyne Bridge is an area of riverside apartments, landscaped promenades, public sculpture and



pedestrianized squares, along with a series of fashionable bars and restaurants centred on the graceful Gateshead Millennium Bridge, the world's first tilting span, which pivots to let ships pass.

BALTIC

By the Millennium Bridge, Gateshead Quays, NE8 3BA  baltic.art. Free

Fashioned from an old brick flourmill, BALTIC sits on the Gateshead riverbank, by the Millennium Bridge. Designed to be a huge visual “art factory”, it's second only in scale to London's Tate Modern. There's no permanent collection here – instead there's an ever-changing calendar of exhibitions and local community projects, as well as artists' studios, education workshops, an art performance space and cinema, plus a rooftop restaurant with uninterrupted views of the Newcastle skyline.

Grainger Market

Grainger St, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 5QQ  graingermarket.org.uk. Free

Housed in a stunning Grade II-listed Victorian building, Grainger Market is one of Newcastle's most treasured food destinations. Packed with independent traders, the market

offers everything from fresh local produce to international street food stalls, including award-winning Indian street food, dumplings and fresh seafood. A favourite among locals and visitors alike, it's the perfect place to grab a bite to eat and experience Newcastle's thriving foodie scene while soaking up the market's historic charm.

Ouseburn – Newcastle's Creative Quarter

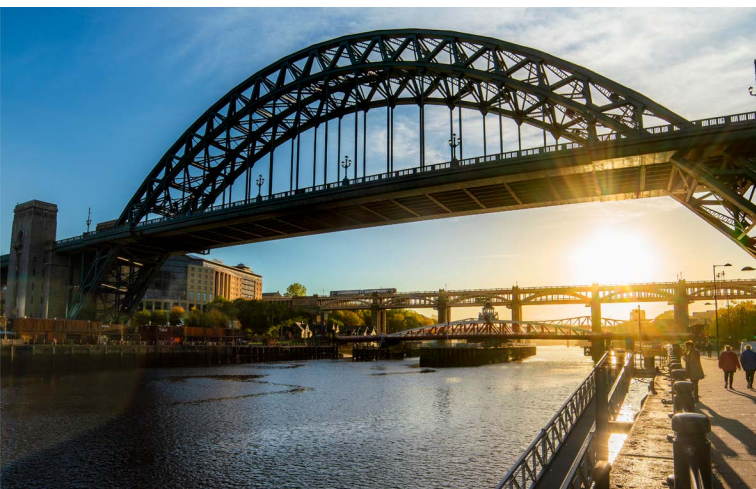
Ouseburn, Newcastle, NE1

 ouseburn.org.uk. Free

Just a short walk for those arriving in Newcastle by train, Ouseburn is Newcastle's coolest district, packed with independent galleries, live music venues and quirky bars. Once something of an industrial heartland, it's now home to cultural spaces such as The Biscuit Factory – the UK's largest independent contemporary art gallery – and Seven Stories, the National Centre for Children's Books. Visitors can also explore street art trails, enjoy craft beers in repurposed warehouses, or relax in scenic riverside spots. The district is also where you'll find the famous Ouseburn Farm. Here, visitors can meet friendly animals and learn about sustainable urban farming.

The Tyne Bridge

Courtesy of NewcastleGateshead Initiative





Heaton Road

Courtesy of NewcastleGateshead Initiative

Theatre Royal and Newcastle's live entertainment

100 Grey St, Newcastle, NE1 6BR

📞 theatreroyal.co.uk. Charge

Newcastle's Theatre Royal is an architectural gem and a premier venue for theatre, ballet and opera. Hosting visiting West End productions and touring performances, it provides a world-class experience for theatre lovers. The city also boasts a diverse live entertainment scene, with comedy clubs, independent cinemas and music venues putting on everything from classical concerts to cutting-edge performances. For a uniquely Geordie experience, visitors should also check out The Stand Comedy Club or Sage Gateshead, a world-renowned music venue on the banks of the Tyne.

Jesmond and Heaton – café culture and green spaces

Jesmond and Heaton, Newcastle, NE2

📞 newcastlegateshead.com. Free

Just a short distance from the city centre, the leafy suburbs of Jesmond and Heaton are known for their relaxed café culture and beautiful parks. Jesmond

Dene, a picturesque, wooded valley, provides a tranquil escape with waterfalls, wildlife and scenic walking trails. Heaton's bustling high street is lined with independent coffee shops, bakeries and vintage stores, making it a great spot to soak up Newcastle's local charm. The parks also host open-air events, including live theatre performances and seasonal food markets.

The Bigg Market and Newcastle's nightlife

Bigg Market, Newcastle, NE1

📞 newcastlegateshead.com. Free

Newcastle's nightlife is legendary, and the Bigg Market is at the centre of it all. There's something for every night owl, from traditional pubs housed in sixteenth-century buildings to trendy rooftop cocktail bars. The city also has unique venues such as bars in shipping containers and art deco former palaces. Whether you want to dance until dawn, sip craft ales, or enjoy live music, Newcastle's vibrant nightlife scene is hard to beat. For a different kind of night out, visitors can try late-night crazy golf or retro gaming bars.



Shops

The Biscuit Factory

16 Stoddard St, NE2 1AN

📍 thebiscuitfactory.com

Offering everything from bespoke jewellery, ceramics and homeware to greetings cards, you'll struggle to leave without picking up a treat at this shop located in the UK's largest independent contemporary art, craft and design gallery.

Fenwick

39 Northumberland St, NE1 7AS

📍 fenwick.co.uk

A Newcastle institution since 1882, *Fenwick* is the city's go-to department store. But it's the beauty hall that really steals the show – the largest outside of London, it's a glossy haven of big-name brands and niche discoveries. Add to that seasonal rooftop pop-ups, an excellent food hall and regular in-store events, and you've got far more than just a department store – this is a full day out.

Restaurants

21

Trinity Gardens, NE1 2HH

📍 21newcastle.co.uk

This Parisian-style bistro, with crisp white tablecloths and leather banquettes, offers a classic French menu and slick service. Expect dishes like confit of duck with Lyonnaise potatoes or smoked haddock with softly poached hen's egg, and delicious desserts – the Florentine doughnut with strawberry jam and crème Chantilly is particularly good.

Blackfriars

Friars St, NE1 4XN

📍 blackfriarsrestaurant.co.uk

Housed in a beautiful stone building dating to 1239, *Blackfriars* offers superb traditional British dishes made with local ingredients.

Mains could include pork loin with a bacon and cheese floddie (potato cakes, originating from Gateshead, and traditionally eaten for breakfast) or a Doddington cheese and onion Wellington with chive cream sauce. For afters, dig into sticky toffee pudding with green grape ice cream and Brown Ale caramel. Book ahead.

El Coto

21 Leazes Park Rd, NE1 4PF 📍 elcoto.co.uk

Cute and cosy, this great tapas place has an extensive, good-value menu featuring all the usuals. The *patatas bravas*, *chorizo frito* (sausage with garlic and white wine) and marinated sardines are the pick of the menu, but the food is so good you'll want to return and make your way through the lot.

Pani's

61–65 High Bridge St, NE1 6BX

📍 paniscafe.co.uk

On a side street below the Theatre Royal, this lively Sardinian restaurant has won a loyal clientele thanks to a long list of mouthwatering house specialities like *culurgiones rossi* (handmade pasta parcels filled with pecorino, mint and potato). Closed Sun.

Rebel

150 Heaton Park Rd, NE6 5NR

📍 restaurantrebel.co.uk

Rebel is as good as it gets when it comes to food in Newcastle. An easy-going spot in the somewhat incongruous surrounds of the student district, with a choice of five or ten-course tasting menus (including a vegan one, creditably) with plates like salsify, potato butter and black garlic, and halibut with fermented artichoke and pine butter to devour.

Quay Ingredient

4 Queen St, Quayside, NE1 3UG

📍 quayingredient.co.uk

Teeny tiny and popular, it's best to take the early train and beat the

crowds if you want to enjoy brunch at weekends. The full English is generous and the eggs benedict tasty, while the sandwiches, salads and cakes are all excellent. There's great coffee, too. Note that doors remain closed on Wednesdays.

Pubs and bars

As You Like It

Archbold Terrace, NE2 1DB

📞 asyoulikeitjesmond.com

Sitting incongruously beneath an ugly tower block, this funky bar/restaurant (actually four bars over three floors) has a relaxed vibe, exposed brick walls and a mishmash of furniture. The Supper Club, a club night on Fri & Sat features jazz, blues and soul.

Crown Posada

31 Side, NE1 3JE 📞 crownposada.co.uk

A proper old man's boozer: local beers and guest ales in this small wood-and-glass-panelled Victorian pub. You might fancy the dark, malty Hadrian's Gladiator or opt for the golden, hoppy Tyneside

Blackfriars

Courtesy of NewcastleGateshead Initiative

Blonde. Whatever, taking the train is a good idea as you'll no doubt want to try more than a pint or two.

Free Trade

St Lawrence Rd, NE6 1AP

📞 0191 265 5764

Walk along the Newcastle Quayside past the Millennium Bridge and look for the shabby pub on the hill, where you are invited to "drink beer and smoke tabs" with the city's pub cognoscenti. Cask beer from local microbreweries is a real treat, while a great free juke box and superb river views from the beer garden make the trip extra worthwhile.

Mother Mercy

Old George Yard, High Bridge, NE1 1EZ

📞 mothermercy.co.uk

Hidden away in a historic alley just off High Bridge, this low-lit cocktail den has fast become one of Newcastle's best-kept secrets. Expect expertly mixed drinks, plush interiors and a soundtrack that keeps the vibe just the right side of lively.





Edinburgh

Scotland's capital is a city of contrasts, where ancient history meets dynamic contemporary culture. From the medieval streets of the Old Town to the elegant Georgian New Town, Edinburgh is brimming with architectural wonders, world-class attractions and stunning green spaces. Famous for its vibrant festivals, including the Edinburgh Fringe, the city offers entertainment year-round, from theatre and comedy to live music and literary events. With dramatic views, winding closes and a thriving food scene, you'll find something to discover around every corner. Regular TransPennine Express services into Edinburgh from Manchester and the north and north-east of England make it an easy destination to travel to by train. Find out more about visiting Edinburgh by **TransPennine Express**.

Edinburgh Castle

Castlehill, Edinburgh, EH1 2NG

📍 edinburghcastle.scot. **Charge**

Perched on Castle Rock, Edinburgh Castle is Scotland's most famous fortress, offering breathtaking views over the city. Inside, visitors can explore the Crown Jewels of Scotland and St Margaret's Chapel, the oldest surviving building in Edinburgh. The castle's museums and exhibitions tell the story of Scotland's military history, while the daily firing of the One O'Clock Gun remains a beloved tradition. The Great Hall, dating back to the sixteenth century, showcases medieval weapons and suits of armour, giving visitors a glimpse into Scotland's royal and military past. Special events, including reenactments and seasonal celebrations, make each visit different to the last.

The Royal Mile

Edinburgh, EH1 📍 edinburgh.org. **Free**

Stretching from Edinburgh Castle to the Palace of Holyroodhouse, the Royal Mile is the city's historic heart. Lined with medieval buildings, historic landmarks and lively street performers, it offers a fascinating journey through

Scotland's past and present.

Underground vaults are there to be explored, while attractions such as St Giles' Cathedral and the Museum of Edinburgh are located here. The Mile is also home to traditional whisky bars, independent shops and bustling cafés, making it the perfect place to soak up Edinburgh's buzzy atmosphere. With regular markets and street performances, the Royal Mile is always full of energy and surprises.

Holyrood Park

Queen's Dr, Edinburgh, EH8 8HG

📍 historicenvironment.scot. **Free**

Comprising a dazzling array of landscapes – hills, crags, moorland, marshes, glens, lochs and fields – packed into 650 acres, Holyrood Park is Scotland in miniature. Once a royal hunting estate, it was given park status in the sixteenth century by King James V. While old photographs of the park show crops growing and sheep grazing, it's now used mostly by outdoor enthusiasts. A single tarred road, Queen's Drive, loops through the park, perfect for a circular cycle route. The park's information centre is a good starting point for a hike; as well as



Grassmarket view to Edinburgh Castle
Forever Edinburgh

details on the park's geology and flora, you can pick up a map of suggested routes up Arthur's Seat and Salisbury Crags.

National Galleries of Scotland: National

The Mound, Edinburgh, EH2 2EL

📍 nationalgalleries.org. Free

Art lovers will find plenty to admire in Scotland's national art museum, home to an impressive collection of European masterpieces. Works by Titian, Rembrandt and Van Gogh are displayed alongside Scottish artists such as Sir Henry Raeburn. The gallery regularly hosts temporary exhibitions (charge) and events, making it a dynamic cultural stop. Set in a neoclassical building on The Mound, it also offers spectacular views of Princes Street Gardens and the Old Town skyline. The café and shop provide the perfect place to relax and pick up unique souvenirs inspired by its world-class collection.

The Scotch Whisky Experience

354 Castlehill, Edinburgh, EH1 2NE

📍 scotchwhiskyexperience.co.uk. Charge

No visit to Edinburgh is complete without sampling Scotland's national drink. The Scotch Whisky Experience takes visitors on a guided journey through the whisky-making process, featuring sensory tasting sessions and one of the world's largest whisky collections. Whether you're a connoisseur or a curious beginner, expert guides provide insight into Scotland's diverse whisky regions and their distinctive flavours. Visitors can also learn about whisky pairing and the history of distillation, making this a must-visit attraction for anyone wanting to appreciate Scotland's famous spirit.

The Grassmarket and Victoria Street

Edinburgh, EH1 📍 edinburgh.org. Free

One of Edinburgh's most photogenic areas, the Grassmarket is a lively historic square lined with pubs, independent shops and restaurants. Nearby Victoria Street, with its colourful, curved façade, is said to have inspired Harry Potter's Diagon Alley. The area is a hub of



activity, with regular markets and live performances creating a lively atmosphere. Whether shopping for unique souvenirs or enjoying a traditional Scottish meal, the Grassmarket is a great place to experience Edinburgh's charm. Many historic pubs here also have fascinating pasts, offering visitors a taste of the city's storytelling tradition.

Dynamic Earth

112 Holyrood Rd, Edinburgh, EH8 8AS

🌐 dynamicearth.co.uk. Charge

Offering an interactive journey through the history of our planet, Dynamic Earth is one of Edinburgh's leading science attractions. Visitors can experience simulated earthquakes, journey through the ice age and explore space in the cutting-edge planetarium. As a sustainability-focused attraction, it does a great job of promoting environmental awareness and conservation through its exhibits. The centre's renewable energy initiatives and focus on climate science make it an inspiring visit for those passionate

about the future of the planet. A great choice for families as well as those interested in climate science, Dynamic Earth provides a fascinating and educational experience for all ages.

Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh

Arboretum Pl, Edinburgh, EH3 5NZ

🌐 rbge.org.uk. Free (glasshouses chargeable)

A green oasis just a short walk from the city centre, the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh is one of the world's leading botanical collections. Covering 70 acres, it features diverse plant species from across the globe, tranquil landscaped gardens and spectacular glasshouses. Visitors can enjoy a peaceful stroll through themed gardens, including the Rock Garden, the Chinese Hillside and the Woodland Garden. The Botanic Garden is also committed to conservation and sustainability, playing a key role in protecting endangered plant species worldwide. Regular events, workshops and exhibitions make it a vibrant and ever-evolving attraction.

Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh
Forever Edinburgh



Shops

W. Armstrong & Son

83 Grassmarket, EH1 2HJ

📞 armstrongsvintage.co.uk

A paradise for vintage lovers, Armstrong's is packed with retro fashion, from tweed jackets to 1970s dresses. As well as their Grassmarket store, they have stores on Cockburn Street, Teviot Place and Clerk Street. Whether looking for timeless classics or something quirky, this iconic shop is a must-visit for fashion enthusiasts.

The Scottish Textiles Showcase

20 St Mary's St, EH1 1SU

📞 scottishtextileshowcase.com

Celebrating Scotland's rich textile heritage, this boutique offers high-quality cashmere, tweed and wool pieces crafted by local designers. From cosy scarves to stylish accessories, everything is made using traditional techniques. A great place to pick up an authentic Scottish gift or a beautifully made keepsake from Edinburgh.

Restaurants and cafés

Amber

354 Castlehill, EH1 2NE

📞 scotchwhiskeyexperience.co.uk

Connected to The Scotch Whisky Experience, this restaurant offers national specialities on a "Taste of Scotland" menu, featuring a trio of starters and mains including haggis bonbons, and roast loin of venison with whisky sauce. There's also a whisky sommelier on hand to suggest accompanying drams for each course.

The Edinburgh Larder

15 Blackfriars St 📞 edinburghlarder.co.uk

Just off the Royal Mile, this popular café dishes up top-quality

breakfasts, cream teas and lunches if you can get a seat. Care is taken to ensure ingredients are in season and sourced from local producers. Begin with the veggie breakfast with vegetarian haggis, homemade beans, blistered tomatoes, roasted mushroom and egg and return later for a soup and sandwich combo.

Forage and Chatter

1A Alva St, EH2 4PH

📞 forageandchatter.com

Showcasing the best produce sourced within a 25-mile radius, this concept restaurant garners more accolades than any other in town. Be it foraged, farmed or fished, it's all about the ingredients; Scotland's larder brought to bear on Scots-French cuisine with accomplished plates like pumpkin croquette, goat-cheese curd and honey pumpkin puree, and lamb rump with Jerusalem artichoke and potato terrine.

Ostara

52 Coburg St, EH6 6HJ 📞 0131 261 5441

Brunch specialists serving some of the city's most vibrant plates of food. There are lots of healthy options, including smashed avocado on sourdough and fruity porridge, while anyone in need of an umami hit should target the potato bravas, mushroom salt, smoky ketchup, halloumi and fried egg.

Restaurant Martin Wishart

54 The Shore, EH6 6RA

📞 restaurantmartinwishart.co.uk

The eponymous chef is one of the leading lights of the Scottish culinary scene and was the first Michelin star holder in Edinburgh. Expect highly accomplished and exquisitely presented dishes featuring Scottish-sourced fish and meat, for example, roast saddle of rabbit, and Scrabster turbot with truffle jus. A handful of different menus, including a vegetarian and a market one.



W. Armstrong & Son
Peter G Lawson/Shutterstock

Wedgwood the Restaurant

267 Canongate, EH8 8BQ

📍 wedgwoodtherestaurant.co.uk

This small, award-winning fine-dining restaurant, complete with in-house forager, creatively plates all the best of Scotland's land, rivers and seas. There's so much choice on the à la carte menu that they offer "deciding time" – canapés and champagne – while you peruse the menu, which might include the likes of Avon valley roe deer loin. Seasonal freshness guaranteed.

Pubs and bars

Bow Bar

80 West Bow, EH12HH 📍 thebowbar.co.uk

Wonderful old wood-panelled bar that is one of the most pleasant, convivial drinking spots in the city centre. Choose from among nearly 150 whiskies or a changing selection of first-rate Scottish and English cask and keg beers.

Cumberland Bar

1–3 Cumberland St 📍 cumberlandbar.co.uk

This lovely old pub is just far enough off the beaten track to remain off the

radar of the weekend's pub-crawling masses – a bonus when you're after its Sunday roast. Its other great assets are its willow-shaded beer garden, fantastic assortment of cask ales and dog-friendly attitude.

Kays Bar

39 Jamaica St, EH3 6HF 📍 kaysbar.co.uk

Tucked away in a New Town side street, this former Georgian coaching house was remodelled in the Victorian era as a wine and spirit merchant. Thankfully, it has retained its Victorian charm and now operates as a cosy little pub serving real ale and plenty of whiskies.

Paradise Palms

41 Lothian St, EH1 1HB

📍 theparadisepalms.com

In a location that has seen countless bars come and go over the decades, *Paradise Palms* has firmly established itself as perhaps the capital's hippest outpost. In this tropical-thriftstore-cum-cabaret-lounge, vegan and veggie takes on Deep South soul food and even a vinyl store and electronica-oriented record label are all part of the appeal. DJs Fri & Sat evenings plus occasional live gigs.

Glasgow

Set on the banks of the mighty River Clyde, Glasgow is a city bursting with creativity, energy and cultural richness. Recognised as a UNESCO City of Music, Scotland's largest city offers legendary live music venues, renowned festivals and an electric atmosphere. Visitors can explore world-class museums, marvel at striking street art and admire the work of the city's most famous architect, Charles Rennie Mackintosh. Meanwhile, Glasgow's thriving food scene caters to all tastes, from Michelin-starred dining to independent brunch spots and cosy whisky bars. Glasgow is an ideal base from which to explore further afield and there are numerous wonderful day trips accessible from the city. With regular TransPennine Express services into Glasgow from Manchester and Liverpool, it's an easy city to get to by train. Find out more about travelling to Glasgow by **TransPennine Express**.

Glasgow's music scene

Various locations [visitglasgow.com](http://www.visitglasgow.com).

Charges vary

As the UK's first UNESCO City of Music, Glasgow is a haven for music lovers. Iconic venues such as King Tut's Wah Wah Hut, where Oasis was discovered, and the

The Barrowland Ballroom

Visit Scotland/Luigi Di Pasquale

legendary Barrowland Ballroom host world-class acts year-round. The OVO Hydro, frequently ranked among the world's top entertainment venues, welcomes global superstars. Visitors can take a music-themed walking tour to explore Glasgow's rich musical heritage, while festivals like Celtic Connections, TRNSMT and Piping Live ensure the city's music scene is always alive with energy.

Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum

Argyle St, Glasgow, G3 8AG

glasgowlife.org.uk/museums. Free

One of Scotland's most visited attractions, Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum houses an eclectic collection of art, history and natural science exhibits. Highlights include Salvador Dalí's *Christ of Saint John of the Cross*, a stunning display of Scottish Colourists and artefacts from ancient Egypt. The museum's grand central hall hosts daily organ recitals, adding to its cultural charm. Set within the picturesque Kelvingrove Park, it's the perfect





Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum

Glasgow Life

place to combine history with a relaxing outdoor stroll.

The Burrell Collection

Pollok Country Park, Glasgow, G43 1AT

📍 burrellcollection.com. Free

Winner of the Best Building in Scotland award, the Burrell Collection reopened in 2022 following a major refurbishment. This outstanding museum showcases over 9,000 objects, from medieval tapestries to Chinese ceramics, collected by shipping magnate Sir William Burrell. Nestled in the stunning Pollok Country Park, it stages world-class art in a serene setting. Visitors can explore immersive exhibitions, learn about the museum's commitment to sustainability and enjoy the scenic woodland trails nearby.

Glasgow's street art

Various locations

📍 citycentremuraltrail.co.uk. Free

Glasgow's dynamic street art scene has transformed the city into an open-air gallery. The City Centre Mural Trail takes visitors on a journey past colourful large-scale

murals, depicting everything from local legends to imaginative, thought-provoking works. The ever-evolving artwork brightens Glasgow's lanes and hidden corners, showcasing the talent of Scottish artists. Exploring the mural trail offers a fresh perspective on the city and its creative spirit, making it a must-do for visitors interested in contemporary urban culture.

The Mackintosh Trail

Various locations 📍 crmsociety.com.

Charges vary

Glasgow is the best place in the world to explore the work of Charles Rennie Mackintosh, Scotland's most celebrated architect and designer. Visitors can follow the Mackintosh Trail to admire his iconic buildings, including the Mackintosh at the Willow tearooms, the House for an Art Lover and The Lighthouse. The Mackintosh House at the Hunterian Art Gallery provides an intimate look at his distinctive interior designs, while the beautiful Mackintosh Queen's Cross is the only church he ever designed.

Glasgow's food and drink Scene

Various locations [visitglasgow.com](https://www.visitglasgow.com).

Charge

Glasgow is an eclectic haven for food lovers, with options ranging from fine dining to street food. Michelin-starred restaurants serve up innovative Scottish cuisine, while family-friendly eateries offer something for all tastes. The city's brunch scene is thriving, with stylish cafés serving up creative dishes in trendy surroundings. Whisky enthusiasts can explore cosy pubs and dedicated whisky bars, sampling drams from Scotland's finest distilleries. With a growing focus on local produce and sustainability, Glasgow's food scene is as diverse as it is delicious.

University of Glasgow

University Ave, Glasgow, G12 8QQ

[gla.ac.uk](https://www.gla.ac.uk). Free

Founded in 1451, the University of Glasgow is one of the UK's oldest and most prestigious institutions. Its stunning Gothic architecture makes it a popular visitor attraction, with buildings reminiscent of the Harry Potter films. The university's

cloisters and historic quadrangles provide a picturesque setting, while the Hunterian Museum and Art Gallery, located on campus, offer fascinating exhibitions on archeology, art and natural history. The university is a must-see for architecture lovers and those keen to explore Glasgow's academic and cultural legacy.

Day trips from Glasgow

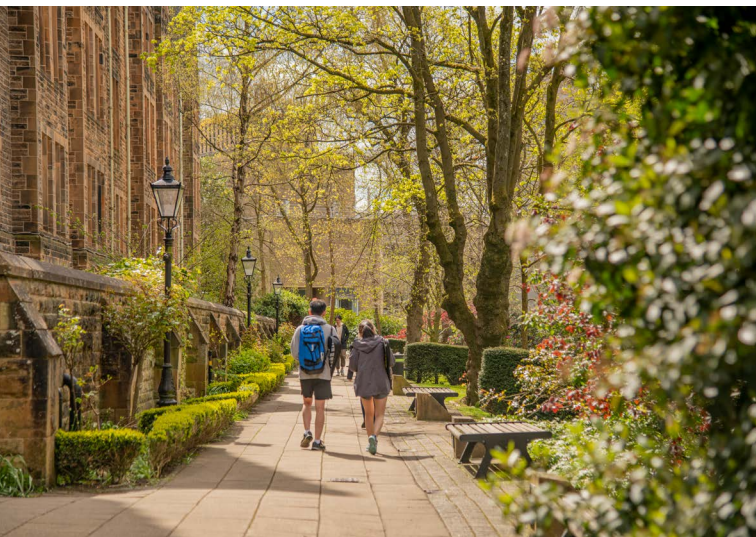
Various locations [visitscotland.com](https://www.visitscotland.com).

Charges vary

Glasgow's location makes it an ideal base for exploring Scotland's breathtaking landscapes. Within easy reach, visitors can explore Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park, known for its stunning scenery and outdoor adventures. Historic towns like Stirling, with its famous castle and the beautiful Ayrshire coast, home to Robert Burns' birthplace, are just a short journey away. The option of embarking on day trips to whisky distilleries, scenic train journeys through the Highlands and island-hopping adventures to places like Arran make Glasgow the perfect starting point for a wider Scottish adventure.

University of Glasgow

Glasgow Life / Paul Watt Photography



Shops

Duds

711 Great Western Rd, G12 8QX

📍 [instagram.com/duds_vintage.com](https://www.instagram.com/duds_vintage.com)

A must-visit for vintage lovers, this West End gem is packed with carefully curated fashion from the '50s to the '90s. From retro jackets to timeless accessories, every item is handpicked for style and quality. If you're hunting for a unique statement piece or a classic staple, this store should serve up something special.

The Good Spirits Co.

23 Bath St, G2 1HW, 📍 [thegoodspiritsco.com](https://www.thegoodspiritsco.com)

Whisky fans and cocktail lovers alike will enjoy browsing this specialist shop, which stocks a superb selection of Scotch, craft gins and fine rums. Knowledgeable staff are on hand to offer recommendations and regular tasting events make this a great stop for anyone keen to explore Glasgow's thriving drinks scene.

Restaurants and cafés

Laboratorio

93 West Nile St, G1 2SH 📞 0141 353 1111

The "Lab" is a terrific little bolthole with cement board walls and recycled wood panelling, staffed by super-friendly baristas who really do know their beans. There's typically a single-origin espresso and a guest espresso on the go at any one time. Sit-down and takeaway.

Cail Bruich

725 Great Western Rd 📍 [cailbruich.co.uk](https://www.cailbruich.co.uk)

This Michelin-starred restaurant is under the helm of Lorna McNee, a protégé of the late Andrew Fairlie, and currently the only female Scottish chef to hold a star. Five- and seven-course tasting menus dazzle with plates like Gigha



Laboratorio
Kirsty Anderson

halibut with Jerusalem artichoke and beurre noisette, and Orkney scallops with crème fraîche and sauce Albuféra. The restaurant itself looks gorgeous.

Gamba

225a West George St, G2 2ND 📍 [gamba.co.uk](https://www.gamba.co.uk)

Continental contemporary sophistication prevails in this super basement restaurant where fish is king: once you've devoured the signature fish soup (Portland crabmeat and prawn dumplings), perhaps try some crisp-fried red mullet and crayfish tails with melon and goat's cheese. A beautifully refined interior and outstanding service.

Paesano

94 Miller St, G1 1DT 📍 [paesanopizza.co.uk](https://www.paesanopizza.co.uk)

In a city bursting with great Italian restaurants, this authentic Neopolitan pizzeria is a real standout. Rustled up in wood-fired ovens made in Naples, there are eight different pizzas to choose from, each made using a hybrid yeast and sourdough recipe and with the freshest ingredients from Campania.

Trans Europe Café

25 Parnie St, G1 5RJ ☎ 0141 552 7999

Named after the legendary Kraftwerk album, this fun, railway-style diner – with 1980s-style bus seating – takes culinary inspiration from various European capitals. Thus, you will find gourmet sandwiches like the Madrid (chorizo sausage, pesto and mozzarella) and the Monte Carlo (tuna melt with cheddar and mayonnaise). On weekend evenings it serves bistro-style dishes.

The Ubiquitous Chip

12 Ashton Lane, G12 8SJ

☎ ubiquitouschip.co.uk

Opened in 1971, *The Chip* led the way in headlining upmarket Modern Scottish cuisine and it's still up there among the best restaurants in the city; expect mouthwatering plates such as Shetland plaice with wild garlic, gnocchi, clams and Vermouth sauce, and Newtonmore red deer celeriac and BBQ maitake, kale and pickled squash.

The Ubiquitous Chip

Visit Scotland/Luigi Di Pasquale



University Café

87 Byres Rd, G11 5HN ☎ 0141 339 5217

This institution dates back to the 1910s and has been adored by at least three generations of students and West End residents, with its Formica tables in snug booths, etched-glass partitions and cinema-style pull-down seating. The favourites are fish and chips or mince'n'tatties, rounded off with an ice-cream cone – you won't spend more than a tenner.

Bars

Drygate

85 Drygate, G4 OUT

☎ drygate.com

Injecting a welcome dollop of life into the East End, this small but progressive brewery has a ground-floor restaurant and bar, serving small plates and pub grub, plus an upstairs beer hall leading to a rooftop terrace. It offers five of its own craft beers on tap and a dozen or so guest ales, plus a regular programme of live music and comedy. Well worth the short trek from the city centre.

The Gate

251 Gallowgate, G4 0TP

☎ thegateglasgow.com

Opposite the Barrowland Ballroom, this cosy joint champions Scottish spirits with over 160 whiskies and a standout cocktail list. Toasties are a menu staple, while regular chef takeovers keep things fresh.

Òran Mór

Byres Rd, corner of Great Western Rd, G12 8QX ☎ oran-mor.co.uk

This capacious bar-club venue and performance space are all located within the tastefully restored Kelvinside parish church. However, perhaps the best reason to visit, is for the perennially popular *A Play, A Pie and A Pint* lunchtime theatre programme (☎ playpiepint.com).

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About the author

Austin Clark is a writer and editor. Born in Northumberland and bred in Cumbria, he's travelled widely but remains passionate about the North of England, and always keen to showcase its charms.