

TOURIST MAP

Manchester Tourist Map

11 top sights, hidden gems and a walking route through the centre. Numbers follow the walking order. Red numbers are worth a separate trip.



● Top sight on the route ● Worth the trip ● Hidden gem — Walking route 4.5 km · 55 min

1 Manchester Cathedral	Medieval Quarter	7 Science and Industry Museum	Castlefield
2 National Football Museum	Cathedral Gardens	8 Castlefield	Castlefield
3 Northern Quarter	Northern Quarter	9 Old Trafford	MetroLink Wharfside
4 Manchester Art Gallery	Mosley Street	10 Etihad Stadium	MetroLink Etihad Campus
5 St Ann's Square and the Royal Exchange	St Ann's Square	11 Imperial War Museum North	MetroLink Imperial War Museum
6 John Rylands Library	Deansgate		

Getting around

- The centre is walkable: the route on the map runs from the cathedral and the National Football Museum through the Northern Quarter, past Manchester Art Gallery and St Ann's Square, then down Deansgate to the John Rylands Library and Castlefield.
- MetroLink trams cross the centre: Victoria for the cathedral and the National Football Museum, Shudehill or Market Street for the Northern Quarter, St Peter's Square for the Art Gallery and the Central Library, Deansgate-Castlefield for Castlefield and the Science and Industry Museum. Manchester Piccadilly and Manchester Victoria are the main railway stations.
- Off the route: Old Trafford by MetroLink to Wharfside (Trafford Park line) or Old Trafford (Altrincham line); the Etihad Stadium by MetroLink to Etihad Campus; Imperial War Museum North by MetroLink to Imperial War Museum (Trafford Park line), or to MediaCityUK (Eccles line) and then across the footbridge over the Ship Canal.
- Paper maps and timetables: the official information points are listed on <https://touristoffice.org/manchester-tourist-office/>

About this map

The sights, photos and descriptions come from touristoffice.org/manchester/, where each sight has opening details, tickets and a longer guide. Addresses come from OpenStreetMap. The walking route was computed with the Valhalla pedestrian profile; its time excludes the visits. Hours and access change, check before you go. Edition: October 2026.

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The 11 top sights

In walking order, with the full address of each one. Red numbers are worth a separate trip: they sit outside the centre, so the line below each one gives the transport to use.



1 Manchester Cathedral Medieval Quarter

Manchester Cathedral has stood beside the River Irwell since the fifteenth century, its broad Gothic nave lined with carved choir stalls and stained glass. General admission is free every day, with an optional donation towards upkeep. A few steps away, the medieval Chetham's Library has occupied its sandstone buildings since 1653 as the oldest public library in the English-speaking world, though its reading rooms can only be seen on a pre-booked guided tour. Together they mark the historic heart of Manchester, a short walk from Victoria station and the Northern Quarter.

Address Victoria Street, Manchester M3 1SX

Free general admission; Chetham's Library by pre-booked tour



2 National Football Museum Cathedral Gardens

The National Football Museum fills the glass wedge of the Urbis building in Cathedral Gardens, telling the story of the game from its grassroots beginnings to the modern international stage. Shirts, trophies, historic footage and interactive galleries let visitors test their skills and trace football's roots in England. The museum moved to Manchester in 2012 and stands beside the cathedral and the Printworks, a short walk from Victoria station. Entry is free for residents of the city of Manchester, while other visitors buy a ticket, with the last admission in the late afternoon.

Address Urbis Building, Cathedral Gardens, Todd Street, Manchester M4 3BG

Ticketed; free for City of Manchester residents



3 Northern Quarter Northern Quarter

The Northern Quarter threads independent shops, record stores, cafes and street art through former Victorian warehouses on the north-eastern edge of the city centre. Afflecks, an indoor market of independent traders set in an old department store, has filled Church Street since 1982, and the walls around Stevenson Square carry some of the city's boldest murals, repainted regularly by visiting artists. Vintage clothing, small galleries and late-night bars give the district its creative character, and it all sits within a short walk of the cathedral and Piccadilly station. The streets are free to explore at any time.

Address Oldham Street and around, Northern Quarter, Manchester M4

Free to explore, open streets

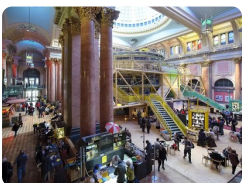


4 Manchester Art Gallery Mosley Street

Manchester Art Gallery displays three centuries of paintings, sculpture and design for free on Mosley Street, in grand neoclassical rooms designed by Charles Barry. Its collection is strongest in Pre-Raphaelite art, alongside Dutch masters, Victorian works and a growing body of contemporary pieces. The gallery traces its roots to the Royal Manchester Institution, founded in 1823 and handed to the city council in 1882. It stands in the heart of the city between St Peter's Square and Piccadilly Gardens, open through the week with no admission charge.

Address Mosley Street, Manchester M2 3JL

Free general admission



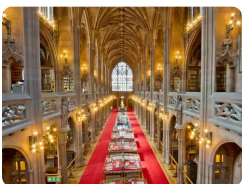
5 St Ann's Square and the Royal Exchange St Ann's Square

St Ann's Square is the pedestrianised heart of Georgian Manchester, a paved precinct of independent boutiques and cafe terraces laid out around the early eighteenth-century St Ann's Church. Along the eastern side of its northern end stands the Royal Exchange, the grand former Cotton Exchange whose glass-domed Great Hall now wraps a theatre staged in the round inside a futuristic steel-and-glass module. The square draws seasonal markets and street performers through the year, and it links the shopping streets around Deansgate with the cathedral quarter. The square is free to wander, with the Royal Exchange Theatre ticketed for performances.

Address St Ann's Square, Manchester M2 7DH

Photo: "Royal Exchange Manchester central hall" by University of Salford Press Office (CC BY 2.0).

Free public square; Royal Exchange Theatre ticketed



6 John Rylands Library Deansgate

The John Rylands Library turns heads on Deansgate with a neo-Gothic reading room that opened in 1900, built by Enriqueta Rylands in memory of her husband. Admission is free and no booking is needed to step inside, where the vaulted Historic Reading Room, carved stone and stained glass feel closer to a cathedral than a library. Its collections range from medieval illuminated manuscripts to one of the oldest surviving fragments of the New Testament. Now part of the University of Manchester, it sits halfway along Deansgate beside Spinningfields, an easy walk from St Ann's Square and Castlefield.

Address 150 Deansgate, Manchester M3 3EH

Free entry, no booking required



7 Science and Industry Museum Castlefield

The Science and Industry Museum fills the buildings of Liverpool Road station, which opened in 1830 as the Manchester end of the Liverpool and Manchester Railway and is the oldest surviving passenger railway station in the world. Its galleries trace Manchester's industrial story through working steam engines in the restored Power Hall, textile machinery and displays on science and computing. General admission is free, and reserving a free timed ticket online in advance is recommended. The museum stands in Castlefield at the western edge of the centre, where the historic station and warehouses are being restored as part of a long-term project.

Address Liverpool Road, Manchester M3 4FP

Free general admission; free timed ticket recommended



8 Castlefield Castlefield

Castlefield marks the spot where Manchester began, when Roman soldiers built the fort of Mamucium here around AD 79. A reconstructed gatehouse and ramparts stand near the canal basins, where the Duke of Bridgewater's canal, opened in 1761 to carry coal from Worsley and extended to Castlefield a few years later, is often called the first major canal of the Industrial Revolution. The basin anchored Britain's first Urban Heritage Park, designated in 1982, and its towpaths, iron bridges and converted warehouses are free to wander at any hour. Cafes and bars now line the water, and the Science and Industry Museum sits a few minutes away.

Address Castlefield Basin, off Liverpool Road, Manchester M3 4JR

Free, open-air conservation area



9 Old Trafford Old Trafford

Old Trafford has staged Manchester United's home games since the club's first match on the ground on 19 February 1910, and locals still call it the Theatre of Dreams. The stadium stands in Trafford beside the Bridgewater Canal, a short Metrolink tram ride from the city centre. Guided tours walk visitors down the players' tunnel, through the dressing rooms and out beside the pitch, while the museum charts the club's history through trophies, shirts and memorabilia. Tours run on non-matchday dates and pause when United play at home, so a slot is best booked in advance.

Address Sir Matt Busby Way, Old Trafford, Manchester M16 0RA

Worth a separate trip · 3.6 km SW of the centre · Metrolink Wharfside · Ticketed stadium tour and museum, advance booking recommended



10 Etihad Stadium Etihad Campus

The Etihad Stadium has been Manchester City's home since the summer of 2003, a year after it opened as the main venue of the 2002 Commonwealth Games. It rises on the Etihad Campus in east Manchester, where spiralling corner towers and cable-stayed masts carry the roof over the sky blue stands. Behind-the-scenes stadium tours open the ground to visitors, and the club's training ground and academy sit just across the road on the same campus. The Etihad Campus Metrolink stop, right beside the ground, is a short tram ride from Piccadilly.

Address Etihad Campus, Ashton New Road, Manchester M11 3FF

Worth a separate trip · 3.0 km E of the centre · Metrolink Etihad Campus · Ticketed stadium tour, advance booking recommended



11 Imperial War Museum North The Quays, Trafford Wharf

Imperial War Museum North occupies a striking aluminium building by Daniel Libeskind, its three jagged shards standing for conflict on land, water and in the air. Inside, galleries and a wraparound audiovisual show explore how war has shaped people's lives across the past century. The museum sits on the Trafford side of the Quays, facing MediaCityUK and The Lowry arts centre across the Manchester Ship Canal, linked by a footbridge. Entry is free and no booking is needed, and the Quays are a short Metrolink tram ride from the city centre.

Address The Quays, Trafford Wharf Road, Manchester M17 1TZ

Worth a separate trip · 3.7 km W of the centre · Metrolink Imperial War Museum · Free entry, no booking required

10 hidden gems

Smaller places from the same guide, each with its address. Those outside the map frame show their distance from the centre.

Central Library

Manchester's domed central library is open to anyone at no cost, with reading rooms, a cafe and free wifi under one roof.

St Peter's Square, Manchester M2 5PD

People's History Museum

Britain's national museum of democracy asks nothing at the door, though most visitors leave a donation to help keep it that way.

Left Bank, Spinningfields, Manchester M3 3ER

The Lowry Galleries

The Lowry's art galleries, including its collection of LS Lowry paintings, are free to enter with a free timed ticket booked...

Pier 8, Salford Quays, Salford M50 3AZ · 3.5 km W of the centre, outside the map

Manchester Museum

Every permanent gallery, including the dinosaur hall and the South Asia Gallery, is free to enter; only the main temporary...

Oxford Road, Manchester M13 9PL · 1.6 km SE of the centre, outside the map

The Whitworth

The University of Manchester's gallery in Whitworth Park is free and open to all, its textile and contemporary art collections...

Oxford Road, Manchester M15 6ER · 2.4 km SE of the centre, outside the map

Piccadilly Gardens

Central Manchester's busiest green space, with lawns, fountains and the Queen Victoria monument beside one of the city's main...

Piccadilly Gardens, Manchester M1 1RG

Albert Square

The civic square in front of the neo-Gothic Town Hall, centred on the canopied Albert Memorial and used for festivals and events...

Albert Square, Manchester M2 5DB

Canal Street

The heart of Manchester's Gay Village runs along the Rochdale Canal, lined with bars and clubs that fill up after dark.

Canal Street, Manchester M1 3HE

Neighbourhoods

Medieval Quarter and Cathedral Gardens

Manchester Cathedral (1) and Chetham's Library mark the oldest corner of the city, beside the River Irwell and Manchester Victoria station. Across Cathedral Gardens, the National Football Museum (2) fills the glass Urbis building, next to the shops of Exchange Square.

Albert Square and St Peter's Square

Albert Square spreads in front of the neo-Gothic Town Hall, and St Peter's Square next door holds the domed Central Library. Manchester Art Gallery (4) stands a block to the east on Mosley Street.

Castlefield

Castlefield (8), the site of the Roman fort, is a quarter of canal basins, railway viaducts and converted warehouses at the south-west end of Deansgate. The Science and Industry Museum (7) occupies the old Liverpool Road station on its northern side.

Etihad Campus

The Etihad Stadium (10), home of Manchester City, stands about 3 km east of the centre on the Etihad Campus, next to the Co-op Live arena and across the road from the club's academy and training ground.

Chinatown

Restaurants, supermarkets and bakeries cluster around the ornate Chinese arch on Faulkner Street, a few streets from Piccadilly...

Faulkner Street, Manchester M1 4EH

Heaton Park

More than 600 acres of parkland in north Manchester, with the Grade I listed Heaton Hall, a boating lake and the hilltop Temple.

Heaton Park, Middleton Road, Manchester M25 2SW · 6.1 km N of the centre, outside the map

St Ann's Square and Deansgate

St Ann's Square (5) opens beside the Royal Exchange, with King Street and its banks to the south. Deansgate runs south past the John Rylands Library (6) and the offices of Spinningfields, where the People's History Museum stands by the Irwell.

Northern Quarter and Piccadilly

The Northern Quarter (3) fills the old warehouse streets around Oldham Street with record shops, cafes and street art. Piccadilly Gardens lies at its southern edge, with Chinatown a few streets to the south-west and the Gay Village along Canal Street just to the south.

Salford Quays and Old Trafford

Imperial War Museum North (11) faces The Lowry and MediaCityUK across the Manchester Ship Canal, about 4 km west of the centre. Old Trafford (9), home of Manchester United, stands about 1 km south-east of the museum.