

Destination Pages x 6 Intros

Manchester - Go mad for it!

Manchester is full to bursting with character and culture, a city proud of its incomparable industrial past, music scene and football teams.

Visit Manchester Museum to meet popular resident 'Stan' the T-Rex skeleton, or indulge your artistic senses in the Whitworth Gallery. Unleash your inner shopper in the fabulous Arndale Centre, or discover the history of the 'beautiful game' at the National Football Museum.

And you won't be stuck for something to do when the sun goes down. Head to the northern quarter for its cool bohemian vibe - or enjoy exciting mainstream nightlife in the city's huge array of pubs, bars and legendary clubs.

Manchester Airport – Northern travel hub

Manchester airport is one of the UK's busiest airports, welcoming 26 million passengers last year. Perfectly sited just south of Manchester the airport provides extensive international, European and domestic flights from its three terminals. In fact, you can get to just about anywhere from here - with 200+ routes and counting.

There's plenty of opportunities to splash your pre-and post-flight cash, with everything from designer brands to familiar high street stores on offer. Enjoy anything from a snack to a full-blown meal in the airport's many bars and restaurants – or sip a drink whilst watching the planes take-off and land from the Airport Pub.

Blackpool – Star attractions and fun in the sun

Blackpool is true national treasure and much-loved holiday destination, with a huge range of year-round attractions. Head to the Pleasure Beach and ride the Pepsi Max Big One - at 235 feet, it's the UK's tallest, fastest rollercoaster, belting around at 87mph. When you've recovered descend the new Spanish Steps to Blackpool's glorious golden beaches for sandcastles, donkey rides and all-out seaside fun.

Trams are what Blackpool was famous for, so a vintage seafront ride along The Golden Mile is a must, and iconic Blackpool Tower is worth scaling for spectacular views - or a nervous tip-toe across the glass 'Skywalk' floor!

Lancaster – Small city with a big history

The strapline 'small city, big story' couldn't be more apt. There's enough attractions for a full day out here, not least 1000-year-old Lancaster Castle. This former prison's gruesome claim to fame is for hanging the greatest number of people outside London.

A visit to the Maritime Museum is a must, to uncover facts about Lancaster's past as one of the UK's busiest ports while Lancaster City Museum's fascinating artefacts make it a great rainy-day destination. The Coffee Quarter beckons for a caffeine buzz, and don't overlook a relaxing stroll along Lancaster Canal's towpath - views of the jaw-dropping Lune Aqueduct included.

Kendal – Charming historical market town

This picturesque market town is known as the gateway to the Southern Lake District. Boasting a sizeable number of attractions including two castles and two museums, Kendal also has many fine historical buildings and top notch eateries. Take the time to wander its charming cobbled lanes, or pop into a cosy tearoom for some famous Kendal Mint Cake

12th century Kendal Castle is worth the climb for superb views over the town, and for photo-opportunities aplenty. The Museum of Lakeland Life & Industry is a Kendal attraction worth a mention – it's realistic room-settings, traditional farming machinery and tools reveal what rural life was like 300 years ago.

Windermere – Top English beauty spot

Located at the very heart of the Lake District, Windermere is just a mile and a half from the lake- and it's *the* place to embark on a scenic Lakeland walk.

Follow in the footsteps of famous guide-book writer A Wainwright and ascend Orrest Head - or stroll the lakeside for stunning panoramic lake and mountain views. The lake is a hive of activity for sailing and water sports – you can hire a boat, or, if you're feeling less active, take a serene cruise.

Bustling Windermere town is full of gourmet pubs and fine dining establishments - the perfect relaxing retreat after a day's hike.