

Manchester - 2 day suggested itinerary

Being one of the most vibrant and cosmopolitan destinations in the UK, Manchester is a proud city attracting visitors from all over the globe. It is a city of firsts - the birthplace of the industrial revolution, where the first computer was invented, the atom was split and where votes for women and the first professional football league started.

With its award-winning attractions, diverse shopping, legendary nightlife and spectacular events programme, it is no wonder Manchester is the 3rd most visited city in the UK, offering an unforgettable city-break experience.

Manchester is an ideal gateway to the north of England, with Liverpool, Chester and the Lake District only an hour away. Manchester Airport is directly connected to over 200 destinations worldwide, including Europe, North America, the Middle East and Asia.

www.visitmanchester.com

DAY ONE

AM - Shopping in Manchester City Centre

The compact nature of Manchester means that the best way to explore the city is on foot. First time visitors should take a Discover Manchester guided tour, giving an overview of the city's history, key attractions and hidden gems. Tours can take around two hours. There are also a number of themed tours covering everything from architecture, music, literature, heritage and even real ale.

The gothic Manchester Town Hall on Albert Square is a Grade I listed, neoclassical landmark; guided tours can be taken through the Sculpture Hall, Ford Maddox Brown murals and clock tower.

www.manchester.gov.uk/townhall

Lunch

For traditional British food and real ale the Victorian Chop Houses – Albert Square, Sam's and Mr. Thomas' Chop Houses, each with its own personality, offer a seasonal menu that includes fish and chips, steak & kidney pudding and corned beef hash.

www.albertsquarechophouse.com

Afternoon Tea

Visitors can enjoy the traditional British pastime which can include champagne, English tea and a delicious selection of sandwiches, cakes and petit fours in a variety of settings. The Midland Hotel's Octagon Lounge, and the five star hotels Radisson Blu Edwardian's Opus One and The Lowry Hotel's River Restaurant all offer special packages. For a more unique and quirky experience go to Teacup, Sugar Junction or Richmond Tea Rooms.



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DAY ONE

PM

John Rylands Library once belonged to one of Manchester's most successful industrialists and is widely regarded as one of the most beautiful libraries in the world; both the building and its collections are of outstanding international significance.

www.library.manchester.ac.uk/rylands

Nearby, for high-end shopping, The Avenue at Spinningfields is home to exclusive luxury brands including Emporio Armani, Mulberry and DKNY, and is the city's newest retail quarter.

www.theavenuemanchester.com

National Football Museum encompasses three floors of football fable, including the display of the legendary exhibits such as the original 1966 World Cup ball, incredible stories and interactives as well as regular changing exhibitions showcasing football's links with popular culture.

www.nationalfootballmuseum.com

Dinner

Head to Yang Sing in the colourful Chinatown for the best Cantonese cuisine. Visitors can enjoy dim sum or special banquets, which can be tailored in advance depending on requirements.

www.yang-sing.com

Room Restaurant offers modern British cuisine – traditional dishes with a twist. The 2 AA Rosette establishment is one of the city's favourites set in a grand, gothic building.

www.roomrestaurants.com

For fine dining try Aumbry – north of the city centre or Simon Rogan's French at The Midland Hotel.

Evening

After dinner, visitors can experience a touring West-End show or musical at the Palace Theatre or Opera House.

www.atgtickets.com/manchester

From the bohemian Northern Quarter, bursting with unique independent bars and pubs such as The Castle Hotel, Kosmonaut or Blackdog Ballroom, to Deansgate Locks a stretch of trendy bars and clubs under railway arches, there is something for everyone.



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DAY TWO

AM

Only 15 minutes from the city centre, The Quays offers a wealth of things to do and see covering arts, culture, sport and shopping.

www.thequays.org.uk

Delve behind the scenes of one of the world's most famous football clubs, Manchester United, at Old Trafford – with tours available in a number of different languages including Chinese and Japanese. IWM North brings to life the reality of war, whilst the artist L.S. Lowry, best known for his distinctive style and depiction of everyday life can be discovered at The Lowry. Alternatively, discover the magic of television on a BBC Tour.



Manchester United Stadium & Museum Tour

Take a tour of the stadium to discover what happens behind the scenes and explore the club's fascinating history in the Manchester United museum.

www.manutd.com/museum

IWM North

IWM North is a spectacular aluminium-clad building, based around the idea of the world shattered into pieces by war

www.iwm.org.uk

The Lowry

The stunning steel and glass architecture at The Lowry consists of two theatres, a range of galleries and exhibitions, an interactive family attraction, plus cafés, bars, a restaurant and gift shops.

www.thelowry.com



Lunch

For award-winning modern British cuisine, Damson MediaCityUK overlooks the Piazza and BBC North. www.mediacity.damsonrestaurant.co.uk

Alternatively try more informal options such as Wagamama or Café Rouge.

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DAY TWO

PM:

BBC Tour at MediaCity UK

Join a tour of the BBC at MediaCityUK and walk in the footsteps of a whole host of celebrities. The well-informed tour producers will entertain and surprise with a fascinating insight into how TV and radio work.

www.bbc.co.uk/showsandtours/tours/salford

The Lowry Outlet Mall

The Lowry Outlet Mall open seven days a week offers top quality British high street names at up to 60% off. Whether you're looking for designer fashion or a high street bargain, shoes or unusual accessories – the mall has it all under one roof.

www.lowryoutlet.co.uk

Dinner

Vermilion

A stylish restaurant just outside of the city centre offering cuisine is Asian, predominantly Thai and Indian. Exclusivity has attracted celebrities and well known figureheads from across the globe, from the local footballers, to the world's powerful leaders such as David Cameron and Hollywood celebrities like Tim Burton.

www.vermilion.uk.com

Alternatively head back to the city centre for Ning (Malaysian), Zouk Tea Bar & Grill (Indian) or Chaophraya (Thai).

For cocktails overlooking a magnificent panoramic view across the city, Cloud 23 on the 23rd floor of Hilton Hotel is a must visit.