



Manchester is a city waiting to be discovered

Welcome

There is more to Manchester than meets the eye; it's a city just waiting to be discovered. From superb shopping areas and exciting nightlife to a vibrant history and contrasting vistas, Manchester really has everything. It is a modern city that is dynamic, welcoming and energetic with stunning architecture, fascinating museums, award winning attractions and a variety of bars & restaurants.

Manchester is also a hot-bed of cultural activity. From the thriving and dominant music scene which gave birth to sons as diverse as Oasis and the Halle Orchestra, to one of many world-class festivals and the rich sporting heritage. Throw into the mix an impressive range of galleries and museums (majority of which offer free entrance) and visitors are guaranteed to be stimulated and invigorated.

Manchester is a compact and accessible city centre. Most areas are within walking distance of each other and from everywhere else, or if you just want to save energy, hop onto the Metrolink tram or jump aboard the free Metroshuttle bus.

Just a couple of miles outside of the city are:

The Quays: Manchester's dynamic waterfront destination
Can be accessed directly from Piccadilly via Metrolink or ample car parking available

The Trafford Leisure Village: Offering activities as diverse as snowboarding to high ropes adventure, shopping to ski diving. Free car parking available and a direct bus link from Piccadilly Gardens.

We hope you have a wonderful visit.

Visit Manchester

Visitor Services

Making the most of your time - take a look at the visitmanchester.com website to find out what's going on in the city and what to see and do.

Explore the social programme recommendations and the What To See and Do pages in the Why Manchester section.

Alternatively when you arrive, pop into the Visitor Information Centre on Portland Street, where the team would be happy to give suggestion and answer any questions you may have about Manchester.

There is also the free Manchester Time Out App you can download on your iphone to get information and inspiration whilst on the go; plus you can follow [@mcr_conf](https://twitter.com/mcr_conf) on Twitter.

Tours and Trails

Guided Walking Tour

Book a guided walking tour of the city; or join one of the regular Discover Manchester tours departing at 11am everyday from Central Library. As well as seeing the major landmarks and attractions, you will learn about the city's secrets and discover hidden gems that visitors often miss. | manchesterguidedtours.com | newmanchesterwalks.com

Treasure Trails (themed) - Participants follow a series of directions taking them on a self-guided walk around the most interesting and historic sights. Along the way you must look for the answers to clues based on permanent features along the route which solve a Murder Mystery, find Hidden Treasure or crack a code on a Spy Mission. Trails can be personalised. | treasuretrails.co.uk

Self Guided Walks - Download this app to give you a heads-up experience: plug in your headphones, pop your mobile device in your pocket and simply follow our audio directions without ever having to look down at a screen. If you do want extra guidance there's an on-screen map available at all times showing your location, tour route and tour points. | [itunes/manchester-walking-tours](https://itunes.apple.com/uk/app/manchester-walking-tours/id1088888888)





Museums

People's History Museum

Left Bank, Spinningfields, M3 3ER | 0161 838 9190 | www.phm.org.uk

The People's History Museum tells the dramatic story of the British working class's struggle for democracy and social justice. The old and new buildings have been joined together by a spectacular glass walkway. The museum galleries, changing exhibitions, education service, Labour History Archive & Study Centre, Textile Conservation Studio, café and shop are all housed in a new fantastic building.

John Rylands Library

150 Deansgate, M3 3EH | 0161 306 0555 | www.library.manchester.ac.uk

For those who set eyes on John Rylands Library for the first time, 'library' might not be the first word that comes to mind. This masterpiece of Victorian Gothic architecture looks more like a castle or cathedral.

This world class collection includes the oldest known piece of the New Testament, the St John Fragment. Other treasures of the vast, varied collection include magnificent illuminated medieval manuscripts and a 1476 William Caxton edition of Chaucer's Canterbury Tales.

Manchester Museum

Oxford Road, M13 9PL | 0161 275 2648 | www.museum.manchester.ac.uk

Explore the world at the Manchester Museum with its four floors of displays and exhibitions in 15 galleries featuring collections from all over the world. See the famous Egyptology galleries; the world of nature featuring mammals, birds and live animals; ethology collections from South America and the Museum's own collections of fossils and minerals.

MOSI - The Museum of Science and Industry

Liverpool Road, Castlefield, M3 4FP | 0161 832 2244 | www.mosi.org.uk

The Museum is based on the site of the oldest passenger railway station in the world. The huge, 7½ acre site has five historic buildings packed with fascinating exhibitions, hands-on galleries, historic working machinery and superb special exhibitions.

National Football Museum

Urbis building, Cathedral Gardens, Manchester M4 3BG | 0161 605 8200 | www.nationalfootballmuseum.com

Opened July 2012, this museum provides a world-class home for the greatest collection of football memorabilia ever assembled. Across three floors, more than 140,000 objects, works of art and photographs.

Imperial War Museum North

Trafford Wharf Road, The Quays, M17 1TZ | 0161 836 4000 | www.iwm.org.uk/north

One of the most celebrated Museums in Britain today, Imperial War Museum North is about people and their stories, about how lives have been and still are shaped by war and conflict.

Theatre / Visual Arts

HOME

2 Tony Wilson Place, First Street, M15 4FN | 0161 228 7621 | www.homemcr.org

Formed by the merger of two of Manchester's best-loved arts organisations, Cornerhouse and the Library Theatre Company, our mission is to make a new HOME for curiosity seekers, for lovers of the dramatic, the digital and the deeply engaging; for radicals and reciprocators.

Our two new theatres will be a playful platform for new, commissioned work. Our five screens will light up with challenging, independent, provoking film work. The gallery space will be home to the very best in contemporary art. The food will, of course, be delicious.

The Great Northern

253 Deansgate, M3 4EN | 0870 7555657 | www.thegreatnorthern.com

The Grade 2* listed Great Northern Warehouse is now a lively leisure and shopping development with bustling bars, cafes and restaurants, casino and 16-screen cinema and an elegant landscaped public square. But it was once a neglected Victorian landmark and as the architects, planners and builders worked their magic, its fascinating history was uncovered . . .





The Palace Theatre and Opera House

0161 245 6666 | www.palaceandoperahouse.org.uk

The Palace Theatre, often referred to as 'The Grand Old Lady of Oxford Street' is now one of the best equipped and most popular theatres in the country, hosting many major touring musicals.

The Palace's sister theatre is the Opera House on Peter Street, which plays host to touring musicals, ballet and concerts.

The Royal Exchange Theatre

St Ann's Square, M2 7DH | 0161 833 9833 | www.royalexchange.co.uk

Housed in Manchester's historical Cotton Exchange building; a must see on your visit to Manchester. There is a varied programme of plays and other special events; the theatre also houses the Craft Shop and Craft Shop Gallery, recognised as a major focal point of contemporary craft work in the North West.

Theatre / Visual Arts

Manchester Art Gallery

Mosley Street, M2 3JL | 0161 235 8888 | www.manchestergalleries.org

One of the country's finest art collections in spectacular Victorian and contemporary surroundings. The gallery's recent £35 million transformation has enabled the collection to be presented to visitors in imaginative new ways.

Whitworth Art Gallery

Oxford Road, M15 6ER | 0161 275 7450 | www.whitworth.manchester.ac.uk

The Whitworth Art Gallery has an Edwardian facade, with a light and spacious modern interior. Home to a famous collection of British watercolours, modern and historic prints, drawings, paintings and sculptures, textiles and wallpapers.

Manchester Craft and Design Centre

17 Oak Street, Northern Quarter, M4 5JD | 0161 832 4274 | www.craftanddesign.com

Manchester Craft and Design Centre is a unique organisation home to 30 resident artists and makers who design, create and make a variety of handmade products. Also home to an excellent cafe and a rolling programme of exhibitions from leading national and international makers.

Lowry Arts Centre

Pier Eight Salford Quays, M50 3AZ | 0843 208 6000 | www.thelowry.com

The Lowry is a spectacular home to the arts and entertainment with a wealth of activity under one roof! Inside this magnificent building you will find two stunning theatres, The Lyric (the largest stage in England outside London) and the more intimate Quays, offering a variety of performance from ballet, drama, opera, comedy music and family entertainment. The Lowry Galleries showcase changing exhibitions by one of Britain's

best loved artists, LS Lowry, as well as paintings, sculpture and photography by artists of local, national and international renown.

Chinese Arts Centre

Market Building, Thomas Street, Northern Quarter M4 1EU | 0161 832 7271 | www.cfcca.org.uk

The Chinese Arts Centre offers changing contemporary arts exhibitions, workshops, education programme and information on Chinese art and culture. It also has a library and artist database.

Sport

Emirates Old Trafford - Lancashire County Cricket Club

Talbot Road, Old Trafford, M16 0PX | 0161 282 4000 | www.lccc.co.uk

Old Trafford, International cricket venue, home to Lancashire County Cricket Club, also known as Lancashire Lightning. A test venue since 1884, this famous ground has seen many changes. Call in and pay a visit to the superstore and maybe, take a photo of the famous Old Trafford pitch.

Manchester City Football Club

Etihad Stadium, Sportcity M11 3FF | 0161 444 1896 | www.mfc.co.uk

Manchester City's new home, the City of Manchester Stadium, is one of the spectacular sporting arenas in the country. It also doubles as a venue for a variety of uses. Take one of the Manchester City Experience Tour or indulge in some matchday hospitality.



Manchester Climbing Centre

St. Benedict's Church, Bennett Street, West Gorton, M12 5ND | 0161 230 7006 | www.manchesterclimbingcentre.com

Manchester Climbing Centre offers something here for all types of climber - from complete beginner to the seasoned professional. Staff are fully trained, and the centre is ABC and AALA accredited.

Manchester United Museum & Tour Centre

Sir Matt Busby Way, Old Trafford, M16 0RA | 0161 868 8000 | www.manutd.com

Re-live the clubs triumphs, tragedies and trophies at the Manchester United Museum. Follow the history of the club from 1878 to the present day, including the Hall of Fame and dazzling Trophy Room.

The National Cycling Centre

Stuart Street, Clayton M11 4DQ | 0161 223 2244 | www.nationalcyclingcentre.com

If you're looking for a completely unique and exhilarating activity to enjoy in your leisure time, the National Cycling Centre is the place for you. They provide one hour track "Taster" sessions for beginners with bikes and helmets provided.

Trafford Quays Leisure Village

Trafford Way, M41 7JA | www.peel.co.uk/activities/tqlv

Enjoy a day of activity and shopping at Trafford Quays Leisure Village.

- Chill factor – Manchester's Indoor Real Snow Centre
- Airkix - indoor skydiving tunnel emulating the freefall effect
- Aerial Extreme - an urban high rope adventure course
- Playgolf – spectacular golf facility with 64 driving bays and personal coaching
- Powerleague Soccer Dome – the largest five-a-side football centre in the world!
- Namco funscape - the unique entertainment centre with ten pin bowling, bumper cars, pool and much more.
- SEA LIFE - transport yourself into the amazing underwater world. Where you contrast between coming nose to nose with sharks and watching the graceful rays.
- LEGOLAND Manchester - over 2 million Lego Bricks under one roof!
- Trafford Centre - the largest shopping centre in the North West with over 1million square feet of shopping space.



Waterways

City Centre Cruises | www.citycentrecruises.co.uk

Leaving the city the luxurious restaurant boats 'LS Lowry' and 'Emmeline Pankhurst' travel along the Bridgewater Canal to Pomona and descends the lock onto the Manchester Ship Canal and the River Irwell. Take in views of the various waterside developments including The Lowry, IWMN and MediaCityUK at Salford Quays.

Wandering Duck | www.wanderingduck.co.uk

Wandering Duck is a hosted canal barge where guests may gain a taster experience of canal life. You can travel on a variety of tours, out of the city into the Peak District, Cheshire & Yorkshire. A great way to see Manchester from a completely different perspective.

Country Parks

Heaton Park

Prestwich, Manchester, M25 2SW | 0161 7731 085 | www.heatonpark.org.uk

More than just a walk in the park, Heaton Park is a historic area on the edge of Manchester with all the attractions offering a full day out for all ages. Visit the play areas, cafes, Animal Centre, Tram Museum, bowling greens, golf course, boating lake, and try your hand at segway.

Tatton Park

Knutsford, Cheshire WA16 6QN | 01625 374400 | www.tattonpark.org.uk

There are four impressive attractions within Tatton's magnificent 1000 acre deer park. The Mansion's art collection includes Van Dyck and Carracci, also furniture by Gillows of Lancaster, while the Victorian kitchens provide an interesting contrast. The 50 acre Gardens feature 250 years of garden design including the famous Japanese Garden. There is also the historic working farm, while the Tudor Old Hall tour covers 500 years of Tatton history. Visit England's Large Visitor Attraction of the Year 2014.





Shopping

When it comes to shopping, Manchester is hard to beat. Whatever style your heart is set on, you'll find it here. The good thing is that most of the shops and quarters are within walking distance from each other, so it comes as no surprise that high-end shopping is just around the corner from vintage chic.

To help you find your way around Manchester's retail heaven here are our top tips on where to go...

High Street Heaven on Market Street

In the heart of the city centre and car-free, Market Street couldn't be a better place for high street shopping. Besides the likes of American Apparel and Urban Outfitters there is also the

Manchester Arndale, a double layer of renovated loveliness stuffed to the rafters with big names including Topshop, Levis, Apple, Adidas and a huge Next.

Exchange Square and New Cathedral Street include Marks & Spencer, which sits stylishly amidst Selfridges, where you can find Jimmy Choo, Alexander McQueen, Kurt Geiger, Rock & Republic and across the street the super chic Harvey Nichols including designers such as Prada and Stella McCartney.

Vintage and Vinyl in the Northern Quarter

The Northern Quarter is packed with small and unusual shops and outlets, home to all sorts of oddities and quirky finds. Down the road you will find one of Manchester's iconic shopping outlets. Opened in 1982 and still occupying the brightly decorated corner of Church Street and Tib Street, the legendary Afflecks continues what it does best - providing affordable outlets for independent designers and traders.

While the Manchester Craft & Design Centre housed in the beautifully restored former Victorian Fish and Poultry Market, is home to an array of artist-run studios offering the best in local design, jewellery, bags and accessories.

There are also a handful of shop-cum-café places that are worth checking out, namely Café Pop, a vintage shop with a small downstairs café, and Oaklahoma, a bazaar of all things weird and wonderful including gifts and home ware and a quirky little eatery.

For those who are on the hunt for rare vinyl's and independent music, try the different record shops along Oldham Street such as Piccadilly Records and Vinyl Exchange.

Exclusive Shopping on King Street

Exclusive King Street has been a place for prestigious retail therapy since the 19th Century and is now home to designer shops including Thomas Pink and Jaeger Ladies wear. Vivienne Westwood's flagship store can be found at the top of King Street but it's also worth visiting her Anglomania Store on Bridge Street, the first of its kind to open in the UK. Just a short walk from here and you'll find upmarket shopping along New Cathedral Street leading to Harvey Nichols and Selfridges on Exchange Square.

Out of Town Shopping

Further out of town but easily accessible by public transport and car (with the benefits of free car parking), The Trafford Centre is the place to go for your fashion fix. It is home to a whopping 230 stores and 60 restaurants, bars and cafés. Check out Barton Square with its flagship home ware outlets including Next, M&S Home and British Home Stores.

Over at Salford Quays, the fashion conscious should head to the Lowry Outlet Mall, Manchester's only factory outlet shopping. Open seven days a week with prices up to 70% below the high street all year round, the Lowry Outlet Mall offers more than 260 brands at over 80 stores. These include a M&S Outlet, Flannels, Austin Reed as well as a choice of cafés and restaurants, entertainment, free shopper parking and a stunning Quayside location.





Music Scene

Music has always been an important part of life in Manchester. Over the years, every genre imaginable has drawn a crowd: from classic performances of the Halle Orchestra to the 60's 'British Invasion Band' Herman's Hermit's; Joy Divisions punk era; an 80's 'Madchester' scene; mid-90's Britpop from Oasis and even a viable attempt at hip-hop which carries on regardless from the ashes of a now deceased but never forgotten Grand Canal records. Today the city continues to build on its legacy with some world-class venues that play host to all kinds of musical styles.

Night & Day, Roadhouse and numerous bars in the city host up and coming artists, whilst the O2 Apollo, Manchester Academy and the Manchester Arena present more established acts.

If you're more of a classical fan, head to the Bridgewater Hall, a regular host to the BBC Philharmonic Orchestra and home of the Halle, or try and catch a free evening performance of Evensong at Manchester Cathedral.

Some Suggestions for Live Music Bars:

The Deaf Institute | New talent showcased regularly at this trendy bar
135 Grosvenor Street, Manchester, M1 7HE

Dry Bar | a great venue to listen to good music. Here you can sample great tunes from top DJs and even live bands.
28-30 Oldham Street, Manchester, M1 1JN

Matt and Phreds Jazz Club | This is a legendary Manchester jazz venue, showcasing new and established artists from across the board
64 Tib Street, Northern Quarter, Manchester, M4 1LW

Night and Day Café Bar | A number of top acoustic, indie and folk acts scheduled regularly at Night and Day.
26 Oldham Street, Northern Quarter, Manchester, M1 1JN

Odd Bar | Plenty of acoustic and live music nights at the eclectic Odd Bar.
30-32 Thomas Street, Manchester, M4 1ER

Ruby Lounge | The Ruby Lounge is a bespoke 375 capacity live music venue that nods from the 21st century to all those perfect 1950's Lounges...

28-34 High St Northern Quarter, Manchester M4 1QB

The Castle Hotel | The pub's now deeply cemented relationship with the city's music scene probably began when it was a stopping off point for to people on their way to Band on the Wall... So come along, pull up a stool, and become a part of our story.

66 Oldham Street, Manchester, M4 1LE

O'Sheas Irish Bar | At O'Sheas on Princess Street they like to entertain the patrons with regular music nights ranging from Irish to swing.

80 Princess Street, Manchester, M1 6NF

The Sandbar | Weekly live jazz guaranteed at this hugely popular bar on Grosvenor Street.

120-122 Grosvenor Street, Manchester, M1 7HL

Thirsty Scholar | The Thirsty Scholar deals in live music on Thursdays and Fridays with a healthy student following.

50 New Wakefield Street, Manchester, M1 5NP

Trof | During the day it's a laid back restaurant-cum-cafe perfect for recovering from the night before, and by night it turns out fantastic music from a variety of DJs and live acts.

8 Thomas Street, Manchester, M4 1EU





Restaurants

Manchester's restaurant scene offers an exciting selection of British favourites and authentic international flavours. From European and traditional Chinese to exotic Turkish dishes; there is hearty pub grub, affordable Indian curry houses, and genuine tastes from South East Asia. In fact, it's difficult to find a style of cooking or cuisine that isn't represented somewhere within the city.

Here's an overview of the city's foodie neighbourhoods:

Spinningfields / Castlefield

The newest quarter on the block, Spinningfields has quickly established itself as a hub of food, drink and social life. It's home to 31 popular bars and restaurants including Gourmet Burger Kitchen (Irwell Square, M3 3HF), Carluccios (Hardman Square M3 3EB) and Australasia (The Avenue, M3 3AP), to name but a few. A lively outdoor events programme entertains visitors with live music, festivals and Screenfields; the city's first open-air cinema.

In contrast, Castlefield is an historical area with cobbled streets and canal side dining. Dukes 92 (Castle Street, M3 4LZ) offers informal ambience with views over the canal. Whilst The Wharf is just across the basin offering a cosy pub environment with innumerable nooks and crannies, while Albert's Shed (Castle Street, M3 4LZ) brings a Mediterranean flair to the city by serving delicious Italian cuisine.

Chinatown

Take in the lights, sounds and tantalising smells of Chinatown. The Yang Sing (Princess Street, M1 4JY) is considered one of Europe's finest Cantonese restaurants, using only the freshest ingredients to create authentic dim sum and à la carte dishes. The popular and award-winning Pacific (George Street, M1 4HF) offers both Chinese and Thai food and has one of the best wine lists in town. For less formal food, stop by Ho's Bakery (Faulkner Street, M1 4FH) where you can pick up delicious soups and sweet and savoury Chinese pastries.

Northern Quarter

Considered the creative heart of the city, the Northern Quarter is home to many of Manchester's independent bars and restaurants. Home Sweet Home (Edge Street, M4 1HW) is a gourmet bake house & coffee bar born out of a love for good simple food and drink, home comforts and things that make you feel special. The Soup Kitchen

(Spear Street, M1 1DF) has a modern canteen feel and takes pride in its healthy menu, with daily soups and specials and a superb salad bar. In the evening, The Northern Quarter Restaurant (High Street, M4 1HQ) is a must, serving gutsy, fresh food and using prime, locally-sourced ingredients with added flavours of the Mediterranean and beyond while Blackdog Ballroom (Oldham Street, M1 1JG) offers a slice of NYC's secret downtown speakeasy style.

Piccadilly

Vibrant and cosmopolitan Piccadilly is conveniently situated for Piccadilly railway station, bus station and city centre shopping. The area has a range of quality places to eat and drink and there's always something to fit any budget. For lunch, the award-winning Barburrito serves fresh, tasty, healthy food: portions are huge with burritos, tacos and quesadillas. Adjacent, Rice Piccadilly is a lively restaurant where you can take front row seats to see your meal being cooked. The menu is excitingly eclectic, serving a range of dishes from Thai to Japanese to Moroccan specialities. Bryons Burgers is a great place for a post-shopping drink and is well-known for its delicious burgers. For something that little bit special, Michael Caines Restaurant at ABode (Piccadilly, M1 2DB) offers superb modern European cuisine, using the finest produce and ingredients sourced from the surrounding regions of Manchester, Lancashire and Cheshire.

Deansgate / King Street

For an indulgent treat, the exclusive areas of Deansgate and King Street are the places to go. It's a great place to finish your day after a spot of designer shopping. The food and drink offerings around King Street and Deansgate lives up to the standard set by the first class stores in the area. Room Restaurant (King Street, M2 4AH) fuses antique and retro for a stunning interior that once welcomed Kylie; the classic contemporary menu is fantastic value for money. Chaophraya (Chapel Walks, M2 1HN) provides the finest Thai cuisine in a luxuriously modern setting, whilst Café Istanbul offers a truly wonderful Turkish feast. And the five-star Lowry Hotel's River Restaurant (Chapel Wharf M3 5LH) offers a modern British menu and serves the finest Sunday roast in the city, with the added bonus of relaxing and peaceful views over the River Irwell.

For further details visit:
www.visitmanchester.com/what-to-do/eating-out





Bars and Pubs

Manchester also has a whole host of bars from the ultra trendy to the more traditional British style pub. Below is a brief summary of some of Manchester most popular bars:

Kosmonaut (Tariff Street) - is a convivial neighbourhood hangout firmly established in Manchester's Northern Quarter with stellar food and drinks, excellent coffee, super fast WIFI, ever-changing art exhibitions and a fierce ping pong league.

The Briton's Protection (Great Bridgewater Street) - winner of 'The Best Pub in Manchester' 2009, 2010 this traditional style pub is next to The Bridgewater Hall and is popular with musicians from the Halle & BBC Philharmonic orchestras and boasts over 200 whisky's, great ales, a beer garden and two roaring fires.

Cloud 23: Located on the 23rd floor of the landmark Hilton Beetham Tower, Manchester's sophisticated sky bar offers amazing views of the city. Table service and a fantastic cocktail menu, themed around Mancunian icons, add to the elegance.

Taps (Watson Street) - Manchester's only self-service beer venue, where queues are unheard of and every guest is a bar-tender! Our beer wall boasts a wide variety of Europe's best beers, stout and cider!

The Town Hall Tavern (Tib Lane) - traditional pub converted from Town House to pub sometime in the early nineteenth century and commemorates Manchester's original Town Hall which was at the junction of Cross Street and King Street where the Lloyds Bank is now.

Cask: Located opposite the Science & Industry Museum on Liverpool Road, you'd be forgiven for not noticing this friendly little bar with it's unassuming exterior. Squeeze through the tiny doors however and you'll find a lively place crammed with everybody from businessmen to unpretentious celebs. The beer list is without doubt the most comprehensive in town.

Sinclair's Oyster Bar (Exchange Square) - one of the oldest surviving buildings in central Manchester, sharing an outdoor seating area with the Old Wellington Inn, which was also moved to this new location following the 1996 IRA bomb.

Apotheca: (Thomas Street) - antique pharmacy cabinets and an almost gothic feel give this Northern Quarter cocktail bar plenty of character. A downstairs bar is also attached to Dough Pizza Kitchen next door by an underground tunnel.



Bakerie (Lever Street) - located in the Northern Quarter a European style bread and wine bar offers great traditional ales and an impressive wine list with over 70 bins to choose from. An ever changing wall of media art and design make it a friendly and unpretentious place to sit and enjoy delicious freshly baked bread and great wines.

The Alchemist: What is widely recognised as Manchester's best cocktail bar can be found in Spinningfields, just behind The Opera House. Cocktails are carefully crafted using a variety of molecular drinks-making techniques that are every bit as much about the presentation as their extraordinary taste.

Australasia: Located underneath the Georgio Armani store in Spinningfields, a block down from Peter Street on Deansgate, this beautiful Pacific Rim themed cocktail bar opened in May 2011 to widespread acclaim. From the same team behind The Alchemist, the cocktails are every bit as impressive whilst the DJ emulator is a real talking point!

Ape and Apple (John Dalton Street) - Listed in the Good Beer Guide and recently refurbished the new Ape and Apple is a haunt for cask ale lovers, whisky connoisseurs, pub grub junkies and those in search of a relaxing mecca within the hustle and bustle of Manchester City Centre.

Sams Chop House (Chapel Walks) - quite literally a Manchester institution having been first established in 1872! Specialising in Great British Cooking with a local influence, Sam's chop house serves up seasonal regional specialties in a delightful Victorian tile and timber setting.

Peveril of the Peak: The 'Pev' could arguably be Manchester's most famous pub. This distinctive looking traditional pub has also been a haven for many a celeb. Sat awkwardly on a triangular piece of land on the corner of Great Bridgewater Street, the amazing two tone green brick work and roof top washing line makes it one of Manchester's best loved landmarks.

The Old Grapes (Little Quay Street) - The Old Grapes is a traditional pub located just around the corner from the Opera House Theatre, Little Quay Street. The pub is part owned by Liz Dawn aka Vera Duckworth and the décor is enhanced by the signed photo's of stars from around the world.

Duttons (Albert Square) - opposite the Town Hall, this successful JW Lees is described as a "chameleon bar"; Duttons Manchester caters for all crowds - from afternoon shoppers to evening drinkers. Perfect for an after-work drink in Manchester or chatting with friends.

