

Things to do in Manchester

There is plenty to do for partners of conference delegates. Listed below are various options taken from the www.visitmanchester.com and www.marriott.co.uk websites. Please click on the blue links to see further information.

Partners are also most welcome to attend the FFLM conference gala dinner on Friday 7th May. Further details are available on the conference booking form.

Culture fix

For the culture vultures amongst you, head to [Manchester Art Gallery](#), [Castlefield Gallery](#) or the [Whitworth Art Gallery](#). The [Whitworth Art Gallery](#) houses many great modern pieces, as well as paintings by masters such as Constable and Turner. The Whitworth always hosts incredible and innovative exhibitions, while the [Cornerhouse](#), is well-known for its cutting-edge multi-media displays. Or, try the quirky Northern Quarter where you'll find the village-like [Manchester Craft and Design Centre](#). To find out more about Manchester's illustrious past, visit [The Science & Industry Museum](#). Then there's [Urbis](#), a high-tech space devoted to urban culture, the [People's History Museum](#), the [Museum of Transport](#), [Manchester Jewish Museum](#) and [Manchester Museum](#).

The superb, groundbreaking [The Lowry](#) at Salford Quays has the biggest collection of original paintings by LS Lowry in the country, and much more. [The Imperial War Museum North](#), a breathtaking building designed by Daniel Libeskind.

Theatres and Concerts

Manchester has a plethora of theatres to choose from. The [Palace Theatre](#), shows mostly musicals, while the [Opera House](#) presents opera and ballet. For the unusual and contemporary, the [Royal Exchange](#) and [Contact Theatre](#) are the places to go; they quite often have productions by local writers and performers.

Alternatively, maybe you would like to hear some music. [The Bridgewater Hall](#), built to house the Hallé Orchestra, is a breathtaking building with a spacious and modern bar. Manchester is also the home of the [Royal Northern College of Music](#) and the Northern Ballet, who regularly hold performances and recitals. However, if it's rock and pop that you're after, then the [Manchester Evening News Arena](#), the [Carling Apollo Manchester](#) or the [Manchester Academy](#) is where you're likely to end up, with people like Robbie Williams to entertain you.

Cinema

There are quite a few multiplexes in Manchester. The brand new [Printworks](#) has one of the few IMAX screens in the UK, while Virgin has an 8-screen complex in Salford. The [Showcase](#) in Belle Vue is extremely popular with its 14 gigantic screens, and the Arena 7 is located right in the middle of town. The [Odeon Film Centre](#) on Oxford Street is a more traditional, large cinema popular with students and families. If you want to see foreign or independent films, then the [Cornerhouse](#) with its popular café and bar is great, or try Ciné City in Withington.

Dance

The Dancehouse Theatre, blessed by being the home of the Northern Ballet School, is where you can see regular dance performances and musicals. Contemporary dance performances also take place at the [Green Room](#) and the Lowry throughout the year.

Shopping

These days it's hard to fit the whole of Manchester into just one afternoon shopping spree, so you may want to decide what you want and how much you want to spend in advance. The best places for alternative cheap clothes, gifts and records are to be found in the Northern Quarter at [Afflecks Palace](#) emporium. It is easy to get lost in the maze of shops that are contained within these buildings, but if you're looking for something different or retro, then these are a must.

For more mainstream offerings, you only have to walk around the corner to the [Arndale Centre](#) where you'll find the usual array of chain stores. If cosmetics are your thing, the [Boots](#) store on Market Street is the largest in Europe.

If you're looking for that special dress or present, then there are three places that you need to find. Firstly, [Triangle](#), which houses designer clothes and beauty shops including Giant and Molton Brown all under one roof. A stone's throw away is the St Ann's/Kings Street district, which is home to high fashion houses such as [Kookai](#) and Emporio Armani.

Lastly, if you want a shopping experience that has everything, then look no further than [Kendals](#) on Deansgate, which has whole floors dedicated to expensive clothes, food, cosmetics and electronic goods. Throughout the year, they also have major fashion shows, which come as a nice surprise if you aren't expecting it.

Dining

This is an extremely popular dining area near to the City Centre, as local people know that this is the place to come for real Chinese and pan-Asian cuisine. There are bakeries, grocers and fine restaurants like the [New Emperor](#). The food is excellent and the restaurant itself is close to many of the theatres. The well known [Yang Sing](#), offers some of the tastiest Cantonese food in the country. If you're not in the mood for Chinese, then try [Giulio's Terrazza Restaurant](#). They freshly prepare tasty Italian dishes. There's also [Nico Central](#) for a more sophisticated French cuisine.

You might want to try a wonderful Indian meal from one of the many restaurants along the middle section of Wilmslow Road, Rusholme. Curries can be as mild as you like and some restaurants serve English dishes, so the children can have something a little less exotic if they wish, while you savour the delights of vindaloo, madras, jal frezi and bhuna. There are plenty of buses that will take you from the City Centre to Rusholme, making it very easy to reach. Finally if they prefer pizza to poppadums then [Pizzeria Italia](#) in the middle of Deansgate is a great Italian restaurant; the owners are warm and the food is of a high standard.

Manchester's City Centre has plenty of café-bars and coffee shops to suit all budgets and palates. For a quick bite to eat American-style, you could try a Starbucks on Deansgate. For a more relaxing, leisurely lunch, head for the [Grinch](#) café-bar, which has live jazz performances during the week. If you're a vegetarian, then check out the [Earth Cafe](#) underneath the [Manchester Buddhist Centre](#), where your spirit and stomach can be refreshed at the same time

Drinks

If you've eaten and just want to have a drink, then Castlefield, Deansgate Locks or Gay Village have some of the best bars around. Castlefield is a soothing place for a walk on a late summer evening. [Dukes 92](#) and Barça are situated close to one another. Dukes 92 has two floors with tables outside, while on cold winter evenings, there is a roaring fire and it's a wonderful place to relax and chat with friends. Whereas Barça, owned by Mick Hucknall of Simply Red, is energetic and a pre-club favourite.

Deansgate Locks, under the railway arches at the back of G-Mex, with its row of bars including The Lock is now the place for beautiful people to be seen. Some of the bars have strict door policies and high drink prices. It also gets very busy at night, so if there's a large group of you, then it's worth arriving early. The development of Deansgate Locks means that Gay Village has now returned to how it used to be, both chilled out and devilishly hedonistic. Favourites such as [Manto](#) and [Via Fossa](#) are still going strong and it's nice to sit by the canal and watch the sun go down.

Transport

Public transportation (+44 161 205 2000/ <http://www.gmppte.com>) throughout Manchester is easy and reliable. Metrolink is Greater Manchester's Tram System that runs throughout the City Centre and surrounding areas. Tickets must be bought before boarding and are available on the station platforms. Greater Manchester also has an extensive bus and rail network.