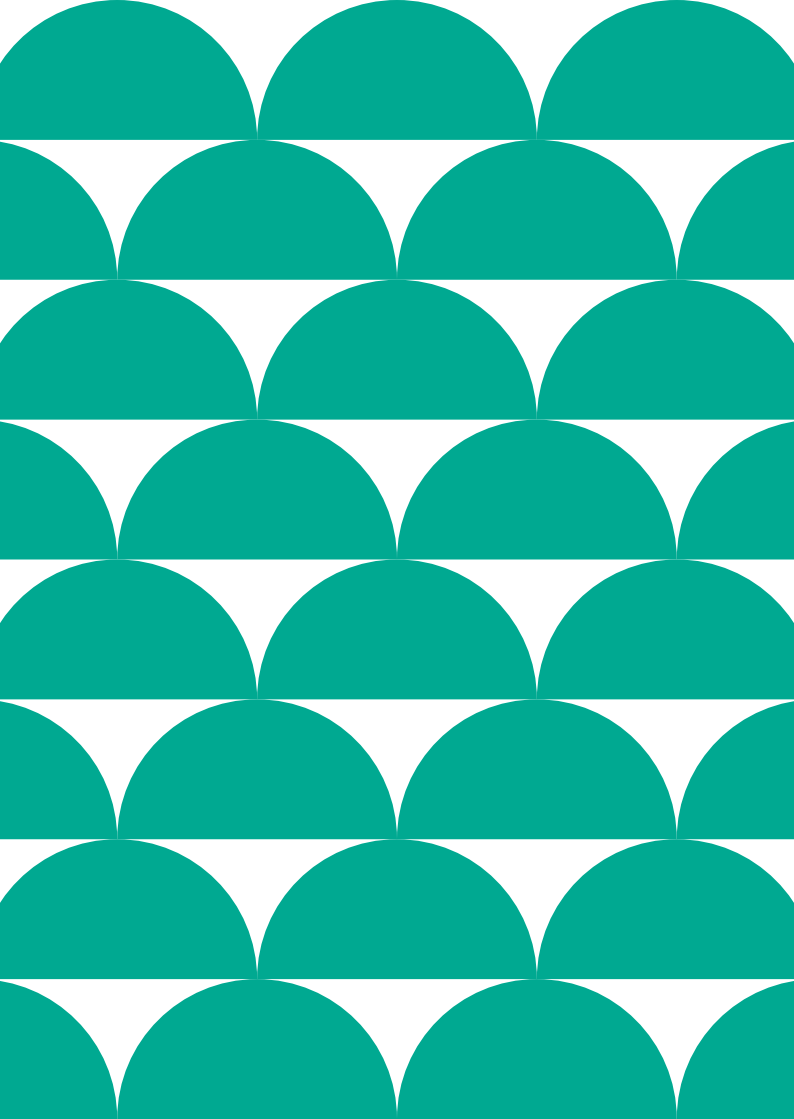


Best of MANCHESTER

WALKING GUIDE





**HISTORY
IS
EVERYWHERE**



This guide has been produced by the **Heart of Manchester Business Improvement District** (BID), on behalf of the city centre’s retailers, with the support of CityCo. Find out more at manchesterbid.com

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MANCHESTER THEN AND MANCHESTER NOW



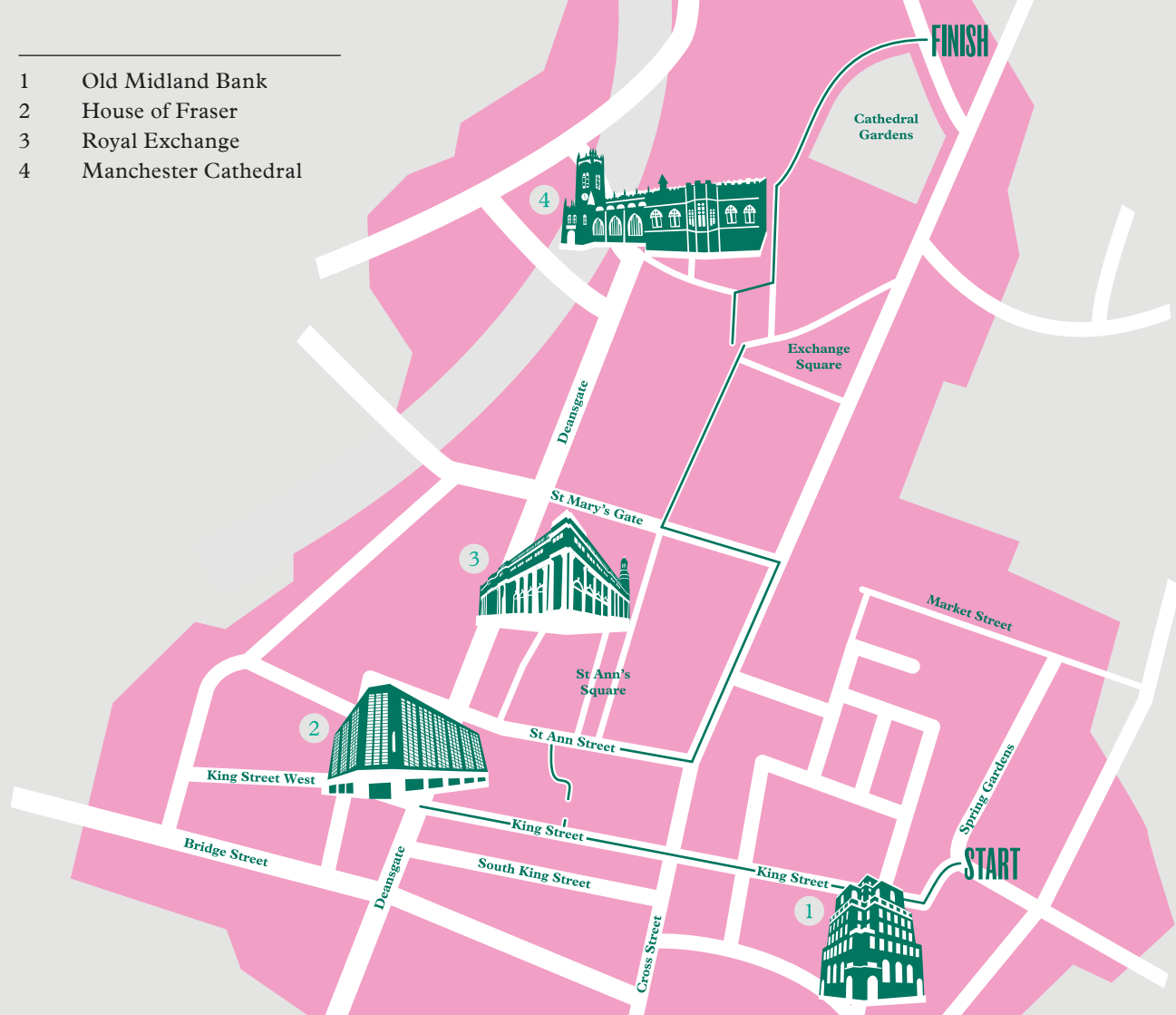
Introduction

Manchester is a city that wears its past with pride. Polished cars may purr up Deansgate and new-builds might impress passersby with all their glass and steel glory, but this is a city that has seen it all before. Shops and restaurants, even libraries and galleries, sit inside the monuments to Manchester's former lives - the once grand banks and grander homes, the old warehouses and civic spaces - while anyone who has ever walked the city's streets has done so in the shadow of its historic giants.

In Manchester, history is everywhere - if you know where to look. Which brings us to the purpose of this book: a whistle-stop tour of the city centre's past. At its heart is a walk that takes you from King Street to the Cathedral, passing buildings and landmarks you may well walk by, but whose stories you perhaps didn't fully appreciate until now.

Alongside the walk are some handpicked shops, bars and restaurants that have their own historic tales - a flavour of the ever-present past in a city that sometimes feels all about the now. Which means that your hour, your afternoon or even your evening in Manchester can be about more than the latest openings, eateries or fashions (no matter how delectably diverting they are). It can be about time spent discovering the bricks and mortar stories this city has to tell, old and new, from then and for now.

-
- 1 Old Midland Bank
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A THOUSAND YEARS OF HISTORY

!!

Walk: King Street to Chetham's

Historian and tour guide Jonathan Schofield takes us on a walk through the city centre that takes in a thousand years of history, and illustrates Manchester's elevation from a small town to a global player.

The walk starts with water, with Spring Gardens¹, at the top of King Street. With nearby Fountain Street, they mark where the town's fresh water supply sprung from the ground and was culverted to the Market Place and a public water trough.

1



The upper end of King Street was intended to be a square (similar to St Ann's) and named St James Square. In the end, it simply became an extension of King Street. It's hard to know which king it refers to, but it's probably George II. Originally the street here filled up with mansions, but these were cleared in the 19th century and replaced by the financial institutions that still grandly define it.

Closing off the street is the former *Lancashire and Yorkshire Bank* from 1888. The splendid main banking hall, with its internal domes, is now occupied by *Rosso* restaurant² and was the work of prolific local architect, Charles Heathcote. The entertaining red and white roses in stained glass just inside the door are a reminder, with these buildings, to look out for the gorgeous details.

2



On either side of the street are two heroic buildings. To the south side, in white Portland stone, is the former *Midland Bank*³ - now occupied by *Jamie's Italian*⁴ below and *Hotel Gotham* above. The architect was Sir Edwin Lutyens; his is imperial architecture, a blast of bombast in the dying days of the British Empire. Completed in 1935, the columns in Jamie's Italian feature Delhi bells, a unique Lutyens' motif and an echo of his work in designing the Indian capital city of New Delhi.

Across the road is the former *Reform Club*, whose stunning reading room is now occupied by the aptly titled *Grand Pacific*⁵. Downstairs is *Pretty Green*, owned by a certain Liam Gallagher. The club's architect was Manchester-born Edward Salomons; his 1871 building was intended as the city headquarters for the Liberal Party and was visited by political luminaries such as William Gladstone, Lloyd George and Winston Churchill.

3



4



5



Other fine buildings on King Street are *Ship Canal House*⁶, the former *Bank of England* and the former *Lloyds Bank*. *Ship Canal House*⁷, crowned by a statue of Neptune, marks the completion of the Manchester Ship Canal in 1894. The city, irked that the Port of Liverpool and the railway companies charged exorbitant tariffs on Manchester exports, decided to bring the sea to Manchester in what was the UK's largest single Victorian engineering project.

6



7



14

The *Bank of England*⁸, a lovely sandstone building, was designed by CR Cockerell and opened in 1846. Opposite is the 1969 black granite-faced former *National Westminster Bank* by Casson and Conder. It's black because all of Manchester was smoke-blackened from industry at the time, and the architects wanted their building to match. When neighbours such as the former *Lloyds Bank*⁹ were cleaned, it turned out to have been a short sighted decision.

8



9



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*Zizzi's*¹⁰ restaurant, inside, is decorated with a feast of bees and ships. Both appear on Manchester's coat of arms; it traditionally depicts a globe with seven bees to show that the city's influence extended across the seven seas. The bees, meanwhile, nod to the city's reputation as a place that is a 'hive of activity'. It is curious and welcome that national banks such as these indicated their willingness to contribute to the identity of the city by displaying its symbols.

10



16

The lower end of King Street has for 200 years had a different feel. Here, individual buildings are smaller and narrower, giving an idea of scale before the Industrial Revolution. For many decades its main focus was high-tone retail, but now the street is changing as restaurants such as *El Gato Negro*¹¹ and *Suri* sit alongside the shops and boutiques.

The last of the old residential houses holds *Jack Wills*. This is 35 King Street, a classic Georgian house dating from 1736 and built for doctor Peter Waring. In 1771 it became a bank and more recently turned to retail. Another key premises is number 15-17 by Maxwell Tuke; this 1902 building is a dream of half-timbered medievalism that wouldn't look out of place on Chester's famous Rows.

11



17

On the other side of Deansgate, at the western end of King Street, is *House of Fraser*¹². Once known as Kendal, Milne and Faulkner, it was originally opposite (where Waterstones now is). It opened in there in 1836 and had some claim to being Europe's first true 'department store'. The present House of Fraser is a striking example of 1930's Modernism.

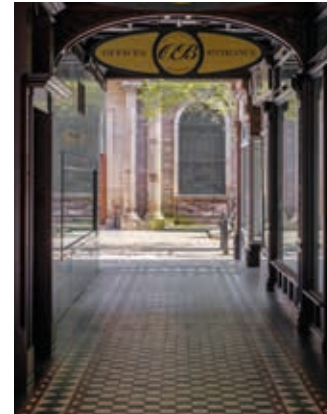
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18

Retrace your steps up King Street to find the small arcade on the left, called Old Exchange¹³, which leads to *St Ann's Church*. At the foot of the tower is a surveyors' arrow-like mark¹⁴. This indicates the true centre of the city. It was from here that distances were measured. If, when approaching the city, you see a sign saying Manchester is 20 miles away it refers to the distance to St Ann's.

13



14



19

The interior of the church is rewarding, light and airy, with beautiful stained glass windows¹⁵. When the building opened in 1712 it was the society church, the money for the building provided by the elegant Lady Ann Bland. There were some curious baptisms here, with children given abstract virtues as names: Abstinence, Experience, Silence and Lamentation don't make any lists of popular names in the 21st century.

15



20

At the rear of the church is *Thomas's Chop House*¹⁶, whose splendid Edwardian tiled interior and exterior date from 1901. Check the details on the outside¹⁷: an owl above a door seems to be hinting that the line, *In Vino Veritas* ('in wine, truth') might well be true.

16



17



21

Down St Ann's Street and over the tramlines on Cross Street¹⁸ is a modern office block containing *Cross Street Chapel*, a Unitarian institution of national importance. This is where Manchester-based novelist Elizabeth Gaskell, biographer of Charlotte Brontë and author of *Mary Barton* and *North and South*, worshipped. Chapelgoers here were principal sponsors of the *Manchester Guardian* (now The Guardian) when it was established in 1821. The graveyard of the older chapel here caused delays to the laying of the tramlines; 200 bodies had to be exhumed and laid to rest (again) in Southern Cemetery.

18



22

Continuing down Cross Street, we come to the *Royal Exchange*¹⁹. At ground level an arcade cuts through to St Ann's Square. The main attraction, however, lies up the stairs. The Royal Exchange²⁰ was the centre of the global trade in finished cotton for almost two centuries. In its heyday around 80% of all finished cotton was traded here; the vast room you see today dates from the last rebuilding during WWI.

It closed on the last day of 1968 – but actors took over from where the businessmen left off. In 1976 Sir Laurence Olivier declared the Royal Exchange Theatre open. It has been entertaining Manchester ever since. The contrast between the bombastic columns and domes of the 19th century and the expressed engineering of the hi-tech 1976 theatre is very rewarding.

19



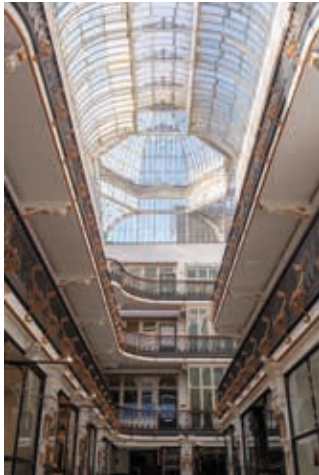
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23

Leaving the Exchange on the opposite side from which we entered, we could turn left and then right to the beautiful glass galleria of the Victorian *Barton Arcade*²¹. Instead, turn right and head straight between *Marks & Spencer* and *Zara* to the platform on New Cathedral Street between *Harvey Nichols* and *Selfridges* that overlooks Exchange Square²².

21



22



24

This part of the city was redesigned after an IRA bomb caused £700m-worth of damage in 1996, with the rebuilding focusing on creating open, pedestrianized spaces. Exchange Square today hosts events and provides a dining terrace along one side of the *Corn Exchange*²³. This building, with its lofty domed interior, dates from 1903 and is home to restaurants, bars and cafés. The strange beach windmill structures opposite were created because their artist, John Hyatt, thought that the Corn Exchange, reflected in Selfridge's windows, looked like a sandcastle. The eastern end of Exchange Square is dominated by *Manchester Arndale*, the largest city centre shopping mall in the UK.

23



25

The *Old Wellington*²⁴ pub nearby dates from the 1530s while, next door, *Sinclair's Oyster Bar*²⁵ is a relative youngster, having been built in the 1730s. These pubs do the pub-crawl for you; they were moved twice, first after wartime bomb damage and later, after the IRA bomb, to accommodate New Cathedral Street. Sinclair's was once owned by John Shaw, whose punch was so strong he would only allow punters to drink one pint alone or a quart if in company. Tradition has it that this is where the expression 'mind your Ps and Qs' originated (in other words, mind your pints and quarts).

24



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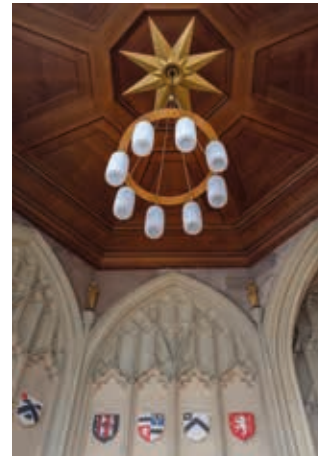


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The old Market Place of Manchester was once in this area. When Charles II returned to the throne in 1660, the celebrations included filling the conduit that ran all the way down from Spring Gardens with claret.

*Manchester Cathedral*²⁶ lies ahead between the *Mitre Hotel* and the Old Wellington. It reached its present size in 1421 when Thomas de la Warre gained a charter to expand it into a collegiate church, but there's been a church here for over 1,000 years. It was elevated to cathedral status in 1847. Perhaps its chief treasure is the woodwork, the medieval choir of angels in the nave ceiling, the exquisite quire with its carved churches and entertaining, often homely, scenes carved under the seats. Today, the Cathedral²⁷ is active in the city's social life, staging events as diverse as gigs from Alicia Keys and Elbow to wine tastings and vintage fairs.

26



27



27

Manchester Cathedral lies high above the River Irwell, and Victoria Bridge marks the spot where the twin cities of Manchester and Salford kiss. Behind the Cathedral is Cathedral Gardens, where the glass *National Football Museum*²⁸ dominates. It was in Manchester in 1888 that the first professional football league was ratified; it's thus apt that the museum, which attracts 450,000 visitors a year, calls the city its home.

28



28

The Printworks, opposite, was once the UK's largest city-centre printing press. Now, it hosts well-known entertainment and restaurant names such as the Hard Rock Café and Wagamama.

Left down Long Millgate are the 1421 buildings that form part of *Chetham's School of Music*²⁹. Originally priests' quarters for the expanded church, now the cathedral, they are the finest buildings of their date and type in the country and include the 1650s insertions of a school (now the music school) and a free, public library. These medieval buildings are enchanting and include the oldest cat-flap you'll ever see, plus original fixtures and fittings.

29



29

*Chetham's Library*³⁰ is astonishing, both in its books and in those who have graced its aisles: John Dee, the inspiration for Prospero in Shakespeare's *The Tempest*, Daniel Defoe, author of *Robinson Crusoe*, Benjamin Franklin, Benjamin Disraeli, Charles Dickens and modern pop star, Damon Albarn, have all spent time here - Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels, too, as they wrote the *Communist Manifesto*.

30



31



Manchester has long been a centre of radical thought, with many of the nation's thinkers and doers passing through this library³¹. The same goes for science and industry. In many respects, whether via its status as a city at the centre of the Industrial Revolution, its Free Trade philosophy or through Baby, the world's first programmable computer, Manchester has helped shape the world we presently inhabit. By finishing this trail at Chetham's we thus end our tour at the beginning.

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www.selfridges.com

SELFRIDGES&CO

SHOPS WITH A STORY



Shops with a story to tell

Manchester is known for many things. While some might visit for the beautiful game and others for business or a night out, many more pitch up here in order to get their retail kicks. It's hardly surprising.

The compact nature of the city centre means that you can browse the pocket-sized arcades off St. Ann's Square, lose yourself inside Manchester Arndale or dive into the departments of House of Fraser - all in a day. In between the retail cracks you might stumble upon the former homes of wealthy merchants, a florist who stands at the exact centre of the sprawling city, and get a sense as to why King Street was nicknamed the 'Bond Street of the North'. However you choose to spend your time, use our guide to explore the historic highs and lows; it's a list of shops with a story to tell.

Barton Arcade

A thing of tucked-away beauty, the Barton Arcade is sandwiched between Deansgate and St. Ann's Square - and thus easily overlooked. Persevere, though, for its glass domes, tiered balconies and intricate ironwork. Home today to Lunya, the handmade shoes of Jeffery-West and Pot Kettle Black, it's one of the best examples of a Victorian glass-topped arcade in the country.

51-63 Deansgate

Belstaff

Belstaff is a brand steeped in British history, which is handy as its Manchester base has a similarly illustrious past. This is a building designed by Victorian architect, Alfred Waterhouse, one of 27 he built for the Prudential Assurance Company. He used blood-red brick for all 27, and got the nickname Slaughterhouse Waterhouse as a result.

76-80 King Street, belstaff.co.uk

Boodles

This Liverpool-born and family-run jewellery store dates to 1798, yet while the half-timbered building it occupies may look as old, it was built in 1902. Boodles is part of a cluster of high-end jewellers that includes Mappin & Webb (St. Ann's Street) and Manchester's oldest, Hancocks (further up King Street).

13-15 King Street, boodles.com

Camper

This narrow slip of a shop, artfully filled with men's, women's and kids' shoes, is located on Acresfield - the site of Manchester's annual fair for over 400 years. And while the building it inhabits is modern, look up: its frontage is decorated with bees, the long-standing symbol of the city.

5A, Acresfield, St. Ann's Square, camper.com

DKNY

This deceptively large shop - also in 'Slaughterhouse Waterhouse's' building for the Pru - is one of only a handful of standalone DKNY stores. Indulge in beautifully constructed casualwear in a classic setting.

76-80 King Street, dkny.com

Harvey Nichols

Harvey Nichols is unalloyed shopping pleasure, with three floors of clothing and accessories, luxurious cosmetics, food and wine. From its second floor restaurant windows, gaze over a street and a square that tell tales of Manchester's more recent history: both were entirely rebuilt in the aftermath of the 1996 IRA bomb.

21 New Cathedral Street, harveynichols.com

Hervia Bazaar

Hervia may be found in a landmark new-build, but it began life as a Royal Exchange boutique, before the IRA bomb put paid to its trade. Its fashionable owners spent the next 18 years running a clutch of Vivienne Westwood stores before opening this, their own luxury fashion boutique. Choose from over 60 high-end brands, for men and women.

40 Spring Gardens, hervia.com

House of Fraser¹

No mention of Manchester's retail history is complete without reference to the city's oldest department store. It began trading as Kendal Milne and Faulkner in 1836 and has stubbornly stuck with its name ever since - it's still called Kendal's by longer-in-the-tooth locals, despite numerous attempts to rebrand it (including by its one-time owner, Harrod's). Whatever you call it, though, there's no denying that House of Fraser offers the best of the high street and those harder-to-find brands all under one roof. From fashion to homewares, via a comprehensive cosmetics hall and the moreish delights of San Carlo Cicchetti, House of Fraser combines old-world grandeur with contemporary shopping pleasure.

98-116 Deansgate, houseoffraser.co.uk

Jack Wills

Dr. Peter Waring's former home, in all its Georgian glory, is better known now as Jack Wills. It was once much grander (it had wings on either side), but even so, it remains something special. Head here for classic British clothing with a contemporary twist.

35 King Street, jackwills.com

Jigsaw

A King Street staple inside a Grade II-listed shop, whose tall, arched windows are put to good use: showcasing two floors of clothes, shoes and accessories for women and men. Check the third-floor keystones; the stonework details some befittingly stylish female and male heads.

19 King Street, jigsaw-online.com



Kiehl's

The heritage skincare specialist, which started life in 1851 as a New York apothecary, now occupies a standalone, vintage-styled store on King Street.

60 King Street, kiehls.co.uk

-

Manchester Arndale

When the IRA planted a bomb in Manchester in 1996, they left it in a van parked up on Cross Street, just outside today's M&S. Manchester Arndale thus bore the brunt of the blast; it was subsequently improved and extended and is home today to 240 stores spread across one of Europe's biggest shopping centres.

**Market Street,
manchesterarndale.com**

-

Marks and Spencer

Once the largest M&S in the world (until it sold half of its space to Selfridges), this store still packs a punch, from frocks, nicks and socks to homewares and a food hall. Check the iconic 'twisted' glass footbridge that spans Cross Street; it was designed by Manchester architect, Stephen Hodder, and replaced the unloved 1970s one shattered in 1996.

**7 Market Street,
marksandspencer.com**

-

Neal's Yard Remedies

The ultimate in nourishing, organic skincare, housed here in another building whose decorative stonework is worth a crane of the neck for.

**27 King Street,
nealsyardremedies.com**

-

Rapha

Tucked into a historic nook behind St. Ann's Church, this branch of Rapha is one of only three in the UK. As such, it's a mecca for lycra-clad cyclists who come here for events, a bike workshop and all manner of cycling kit - as well as a second floor café that overlooks King Street.

St. Ann's Alley, rapha.cc

-

Royal Exchange Arcade

Taking its name from the former trading exchange, this recently refurbished arcade is full of small jewellers, gift shops and the City Cobblers, whose mix of traditional Northamptonshire shoemakers includes Loake and Barker.

Cross Street

-

Selfridges

Selfridges has just four stores in Britain. Two of them are in Manchester. This flagship store takes pride of place in Exchange Square, the public square (complete with windmills and sort-of waterfalls) created in the wake of the 1996 bomb. Shop among four floors of the best brands in womenswear, menswear and skincare.

**1 Exchange Square,
selfridges.com**

-

St Ann's

St. Ann's is obviously not a shop. But one of our favourite florists can be found beneath its patched sandstone eaves (at the spot that marks the exact centre of the city). Head to Flourish for fresh cut flowers and potted plants.

**St. Ann's Square,
www.flourish.company**

-

Vivienne Westwood

Our Viv's city centre Manchester store comes complete with carved mahogany panelling and double-height ceilings, a luxe backdrop to her sharply crafted mens- and womenswear. The grandiose setting is the work of Alfred Waterhouse (again; see Belstaff and DKNY).

**47 Spring Gardens,
viviennewestwood.co.uk**

-

Watches of Switzerland

Hunkering beneath the same mock-Tudor eaves as Boodles, Watches of Switzerland sells some of the city's most luxurious watches. In the early 20th century, though, its building was the home of Goodall & Co. It sold craftsman-made furniture from the influential Century Guild of Artists (whose members went on to Arts & Crafts Movement fame).

**17 King Street,
watches-of-switzerland.co.uk**

-

Waterstones

The original location of Kendal's (until the 1970s, Kendals occupied both its current building and this one, the two connected via a tunnel beneath Deansgate), this branch of Waterstones takes some beating. It's Manchester's biggest specialist bookshop and stocks 100,000 titles.

Deansgate, waterstones.com

-

White Company

Like Jigsaw, this is a King Street staple found inside what was once a home; its elegant proportions today a backdrop to clothing, kit for kids and homewares, all in the shop's trademark bleached-clean hues.

**21-23 King Street,
thewhitecompany.com**

-

A BITE TO EAT



Food and drink with a back story

Fast moving, ever inventive, global or local (and quite often a bit of both): the food and drink scene in Manchester has in recent years upended the look and feel of the heart of the city. Where once the centre was dominated by retail, now it is a welcome mix of all sorts of eateries, ones where you can grab a cocktail or a craft beer, spend time with friends or family, try out tapas or go all-out for glamour. Many of this new breed of places to eat and drink have taken advantage of the historic real estate that clusters around King Street, the grandiose architecture or intimate former merchant's homes providing an atmospheric setting for both days and nights out. But history comes in many forms, as our selection of restaurants, cafés and bars with a back story illustrates.

Arcane

Slip down South King Street for a cocktail bar whose drinks list is nothing if not original. Inside, the Grade II-listed bar is all bare bricks and original tiles; outside the narrow alley and intricate stonework are a reminder of a time when the city was crisscrossed with lanes like this one.

**2 South King Street,
arcanebar.com**

-

Brown's Restaurant

The sumptuous banking hall of the former Parr's Bank is now the grandiose backdrop to great food and drink. Art Nouveau ironwork, green marble walls and columns, stained glass and ornate plasterwork: to sup a cocktail amid all this opulence is surely one of Manchester's finest treats.

**1 York Street,
browns-restaurants.co.uk**

-

Byron Burgers

Byron serves up 'proper' hamburgers; this branch overlooks Cathedral Gardens. The cathedral is to your left, creaky-old Chetham's Library across the way and, below, bodies underfoot (probably - the medieval great and the good were buried in and around the cathedral). But don't let that put you off your food.

**The Corn Exchange,
byronhamburgers.com**

-

Corn Exchange¹

This wedge-shaped building took 13 years to build (opening in stages between 1897 and 1903), its glass dome illuminating the market traders below. The Grade II-listed beauty has had its ups and downs since (hello, Luftwaffe!), but it is now home to 17 restaurants and bars, among them Wahaca, Mowgli and Salvi's.

**Exchange Square,
cornexchangemanchester.co.uk**

-

El Gato Negro

Three floors of some of the best Spanish tapas - chow down on charcuterie downstairs or on sunny days sup cocktails on the roof (which has a retractable roof, genius). Food is simple but expertly done; the interior a mix of bare brick and dark wood set off by more of King Street's trademark 19th-century arched windows.

**52 King Street,
elgatonegrotapas.com**

-

Grand Pacific

The colonial interior and pan-Asian menu fit perfectly with the sumptuousness of this Grade II-listed building: the 19th-century former Reform Club. Look up as you go in: among the stonework carvings are genteel figures from the arts and sciences, draped in dramatic floor-length gowns.

**50 Spring Gardens,
grandpacific.uk.com**

-

Harvey Nichols Brasserie

With an award-winning wine list and excellent views (including of the Old Wellington and Sinclair's Oyster Bar, both moved brick by brick after the bomb), this second-floor eatery offers fine dining in refined surroundings.

**21 New Cathedral Street,
harveynichols.com**

-

Jamie's Italian²

This restaurant is housed in arguably the most dramatic of King Street's former banks: the Midland Bank, once known as the 'king of King Street'. Try seafood bucatini or honeycomb cannelloni while admiring the marble-clad pillars of this Grade II-listed building.

100 King Street, jamieoliver.com

-

La Viña

The highly decorative stonework of this Grade II-listed building (check the bay window with its parapet quatrefoils, above the door) lends personality to this chain restaurant - and its traditional Spanish tapas and service are highly rated.

105-107 Deansgate, lavina.co.uk

-

Lunya

More authentic Spanish tapas, this time from a Liverpool-based independent. Housed inside the pretty Barton Arcade and with a deli attached, the small plates and wine list here hold their own against the rush and roar of Deansgate outside.

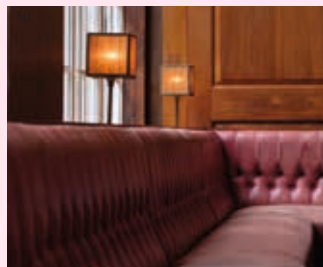
Barton Arcade, lunya.co.uk

-

1



2



Mowgli

The street food here - created by a self-styled 'curry evangelist' - gives a taste of real Indian home cooking. Mowgli overlooks the cobbles of Cathedral Street and the 700 year-old cathedral itself, a reminder of a much older Manchester.

**The Corn Exchange,
mowglistreetfood.com**

Sam's Chop House

This atmospheric Victorian pub stands on Back Pool Fold. The pool refers to the moat that once surrounded the Cross Street manor house, where miscreants were ducked for their misdemeanours. Sam's has its own story, too: L.S. Lowry was a regular (there's a statue of him propping up the bar).

**Back Pool Fold,
samschophouse.com**

3



Mr Thomas's Chop House

This is a splendidly preserved Victorian pub, whose glazed jade green and brown tile-work are a joy to behold. In keeping with its original decor, hearty, traditional Sunday roasts are served to appreciative diners. Like stepping back in time.

**52 Cross Street,
tomschophouse.com**

The Old Wellington Inn

This half-timbered real ale pub is a survivor. Dating to the 16th century, it has been moved twice: once in the 1970s and later, with its neighbour, it was shifted 300 metres down the road as part of the rebuilding of Exchange Square.

**Cathedral Gates,
nicholsonpubs.co.uk**

Pot Kettle Black³

Epic coffee, curious lattes and a cracking brunch menu make this gem of a café, set up by two Rugby League stars, worth hunting out. Its Barton Arcade setting is possibly the icing on the cake (or more likely the sweet berries on the sourdough bruschetta).

Barton Arcade, @PKBcoffee

Rosso

Rosso's marble pillars and domed dining room are another nod to Manchester's fiscal past. This Rio Ferdinand-owned restaurant is one of Charles Heathcote's 19th-century banks, although it is arguably glitzier now than in its money-handling heyday.

**43 Spring Gardens,
rossorestaurants.com**

San Carlo

Described as 'the football world's meeting room', there's barely a player who's not eaten at San Carlo.

The short-lived England manager, Sam Allardyce, was famously caught out by undercover reporters over dinner here, too. San Carlo opened in 2004, and can also be found at House of Fraser, Pizza Madre (across the road) and at Selfridges.

Feast on gourmet Italian eats wherever you end up.

**40-42 King Street West,
sancarlo.co.uk**

4



Stock

The Edwardian Baroque exterior of the former Northern Stock Exchange opens onto a pink-and-green marble entrance hall, which in turn leads to a domed dining room decked out with exuberant festoons and wreaths. It is opulence itself - and will reopen in 2018, if Gary Neville, Ryan Giggs and Michelin-starred chef, Michael O'Hare have their way.

Norfolk Street

Tampopo

Tampopo is a Manchester stalwart, serving up street-style food from across East Asia for 20 or so years.

It's also the only eatery in the Corn Exchange that was there prior to its most recent development.

**The Corn Exchange,
tampopo.co.uk**

Zizzi⁴

Charles Heathcote's bank, in all its pale Baroque splendour, is now a branch of Italian restaurant Zizzi; the original bank teller's counter now forms part of the bar. It stands on the site of Manchester's original town hall, before it shifted operations to Albert Square.

53 King Street, zizzi.co.uk

GO OUT AND EXPLORE

II

A little culture

No mention of Manchester's past would be complete without reference to some of its museums and galleries.

If it's a whiff of Victorian Manchester you're after, step inside *Manchester Art Gallery* (Mosley Street);

it was founded in 1835 by a group of wealthy industrialists and contains the city's finest collection of vintage paintings and sculpture. *The Royal Exchange Theatre* (St. Ann's Square), meanwhile, can be found inside one of Manchester's finest industrial buildings.

The *People's History Museum* (Bridge Street) tells the 200-year story of British democracy; the *National Football Museum* (Cathedral Gardens) the similarly lengthy story of the beautiful game; and the glorious neo-Gothic *John Rylands Library* (Deansgate) arguably every story ever told (its collection spans 5,000 years). Speaking of libraries, *Chetham's* (Long Millgate) is the oldest public one in the English speaking world, and *Central Library* (St. Peter's Square) is open to all, its neo-Classical architecture echoing the civic grandeur of the neighbouring *Town Hall* (Albert Square, itself worth a wander inside).

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