

MANCHESTER

Built on the River Mersey and fringed by the Cheshire Plain and the Pennines Manchester is a centre of the arts, media and commerce. It derived its name from Mamucium which was the Roman name for the 1st century fort built there. In the early 19th century Manchester became world famous as a manufacturing centre for wool, silk and cotton.

From the tidal River Mersey to Salford in Manchester the Ship Canal runs for 36 miles. Opened by Queen Victoria in May 1894 the Canal brought deep-sea shipping to the area. The canal roughly follows the original route of the rivers Mersey and Irwell and can accommodate a range of merchant, passenger and cargo vessels.

The Urbis Exhibition Centre has five floors of ever changing exhibits which offer an insight to the culture of this vibrant city. There is something new to see on each visit and Urbis runs a range of tours exploring the city's history, architecture, music and heritage.

Located on the historic site of the world's oldest surviving passenger railway station explore the Museum of Science and Industry. Travel back in time to when Rolls-Royce was founded in Manchester in 1904 when Charles Rolls agreed to sell cars designed and made by Henry Royce.

The Lowry Centre is set in at a waterside location in the heart of the redeveloped Salford Quays. See the world famous works of the artist L S Lowry along with exhibitions of modern and contemporary artists.

Experience the atmosphere of one of the country's most famous clubs, Manchester City. Begin at the museum and learn about the club's 130 year history. Have a go at commentating on some of the glorious goals or relive the greatest moments on the video jukebox. Take a look behind the scenes when your tour guide will give you an insight into the day to day activities of the club or walk in the footsteps of your football hero's.

Chinatown is one of the busiest and most colourful areas of city and is dominated by the Imperial Chinese Archway a gift to the City from the Chinese people. Visit the many shops which offer a wide range of products especially from Hong Kong and Peking. On a Sunday the area is vibrant and colourful when ethnic Chinese traders from all over the county come here to buy anything from food supplies to traditional herbs. Chinatown is filled with great many restaurants offering a real taste of the Orient.

Shopping in the city is an experience like no other from Funky Fashion to designer Chic. Seek out rare finds at Saturday's Tib Street fashion market or browse the vintage boutiques and explore the record shops in Manchester's Northern Quarter. Label-lovers or bargain-hunters Manchester has it all