

# Midlands & Northern England city hopping

**Recommended trip length: 5-7 days**

Explore five fascinating cities on this urban adventure, bursting with art, food and shopping.



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Discover extraordinary museums, superb shopping and legends galore – from the Titanic in Liverpool to Manchester’s football heroes. Travelling between Birmingham and York, this itinerary encompasses five major cities, each with their own unique sights and style.

## The route

- Birmingham • Liverpool • Manchester
- Leeds • York



## Getting around

- This itinerary covers a distance of around 200 miles (322km) and can be completed in either direction.
- While hiring a car gives the greatest flexibility, these cities are easily accessed by rail or intercity coaches (e.g. **National Express**).
- Intercity coaches (National Express and Megabus) also serve these routes, providing a cost-effective alternative.
- Set aside seven days for a leisurely pace, or longer for a more in-depth experience.

## Highlights

- Cadbury World
- Tate Liverpool
- The Maritime Museum
- National Football Museum
- Manchester Musical Walkabout Tour
- Leeds Playhouse
- York Minster
- JORVIK Viking Centre

### Stop 1



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## Birmingham

Stay in **Birmingham** tonight – and if time allows, extend your visit to two days.

- Morning: Shop and dine at Bullring & Grand Central.**  
 From trendy streetwear to high-end designer brands, find it all at Bullring & Grand Central – and stop for lunch in one of its many restaurants, such as **Selfridges' dining hall**.
- Afternoon: Revel in chocolate heaven.**  
 Indulge in chocolate at **Cadbury World** – tracing cocoa's journey from bean to bar, and witnessing a real-life chocolate factory in action!
- Evening: Balti, Beers and Bowling.**  
 Try a Balti bowl, Birmingham's signature dish, in the Balti Triangle before heading to the **Roxy Ball Room** for drinks, bowling and more. Stay at the historic **Grand Hotel Birmingham**.

## Liverpool

Travel to **Liverpool** early this morning (around 2 hours by car or train) and stay overnight.

- Morning: Get the best city view.**  
 Discover the ultimate panorama of Liverpool on the **Royal Liver Building 360 Tour**, packed with fascinating info and extraordinary views of this historic city.
- Afternoon: Follow in the Beatles' footsteps.**  
 Get to know one of the world's best-loved bands at **The Beatles Story Museum**, and catch a tribute gig at the **Cavern Club** – the very spot where they were discovered in 1961.
- Evening: Samba and cocktails.**  
 Enjoy Latin-inspired food and cocktails at **Alma de Cuba** – a Cuban restaurant and live venue housed within a converted church. Stay at **The Halyard**.



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### Stop 2

## Stop 3



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## Liverpool and Manchester

Spend this morning in Liverpool before heading east: it's only around 1 hour by car or train.



### Morning: Discover Liverpool's maritime heritage.

Be wowed by this thriving cultural quarter – with modern art at [Tate Liverpool](#), immersive group games at [Escape Hunt](#) and Titanic legends at the [Maritime Museum](#).



### Afternoon: Explore your perfect museum.

[Explore a museum for every interest](#), delving into everything from modern art to the Industrial Revolution.



### Evening: Discover Ducie Street Warehouse.

Stay at Manchester's [Ducie Street Warehouse](#) and enjoy fine dining and entertainment in this Grade II listed building housing a hotel, restaurant, bar, mini-cinema and night club.

## Manchester

Get up early for a full day of exploring Manchester – and stay another night.



### Morning: Marvel at the 'beautiful game'!

Meet sporting heroes at Manchester's [National Football Museum](#), before a [tour of Old Trafford or Etihad Stadium](#) – home to two of the world's greatest football teams.



### Afternoon: Explore musical history.

Stroll through the streets of Manchester and discover the venues and places that make up its musical legacy on a [Manchester Musical Walkabout Tour](#).



### Evening: A night at the opera.

From drag cabaret and blockbuster musicals to famous opera and ballet, [Manchester Opera House](#) caters to every taste.

## Stop 4



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## Stop 5



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## Leeds

From Manchester, [Leeds](#) is 1 hour by car or train – so head north whenever you're ready.



### Morning: Go shopping – Victorian style!

Revel in elegant architecture, stained-glass windows and top-quality boutiques on a shopping trip through Leeds' beautiful Victorian arcades.



### Afternoon: Catch a show.

Take a seat for stand-up comedy, musicals and drama at the [Leeds Playhouse](#) – with a choice of matinee (afternoon) and evening shows.



### Evening: Explore Leeds' nightlife.

Kick off the night at [Green Room](#), a social space with rooftop bar, restaurant and regular club nights, or try one of the buzzing bars and clubs in the centre. Stay at the [Park Plaza](#).

## Leeds and York

Spend this morning in Leeds before the journey to [York](#): less than 1 hour by road or rail.



### Morning: Be wowed by [Kirkstall Abbey](#).

Before the last part of the journey, explore the beautiful ruins and serene woodland walks at Kirkstall Abbey, a 12th-century abbey near Leeds.



### Afternoon: Climb York's mighty tower.

For a birds'-eye view of your final city, scale the 275-step spiral stone staircase to the top of [York Minster](#). Breathtaking, in every sense of the word!



### Evening: Experience 'comedy-horror theatre' on wheels.

Take a [Ghost Bus Tour](#) of York and explore the city's major haunts from the top deck of a double decker bus. Stay at [Impossible Motel](#), a boutique hotel with rooftop jacuzzi.

## Stop 6



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## Stop 7



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## York

Enjoy a full day in this historic city, or longer, if possible. There's plenty here to fill a few days.



### Morning: Travel back to Viking times.

Step back 1,000 years into a Viking city – complete with legendary warriors and authentic relics – at York's [JORVIK Viking Centre](#).



### Afternoon: Tuck into York's best bites.

Instead of lunch, book a [foodie walking tour](#) of the city – a feast of street eats, artisan cheeses, locally-brewed beer and irresistible desserts.



### Evening: Sample local brews.

If staying the night, head to [Brew York's](#) flagship bar in Walmgate boasting a Bavarian-style beer hall and a riverside beer garden serving Asian-inspired street food.

For more resources visit

[www.visitbritain.org/resources-travel-trade](http://www.visitbritain.org/resources-travel-trade)

