



48 hours in Manchester

Imagine a weekend in Manchester - the sights, the sounds, the shopping! We've done it all for you, by creating a one stop itinerary - leaving you to simply choose a date...

To make your journey around Manchester easier, we have provided a list of NCP car parks near the attractions listed on this guide. To find out more information, visit the Attractions section.

Friday

Arrive in Manchester and park your car in the nearest convenient NCP car park – make sure you ask your hotel about any special parking offers they may provide. Hotel check-in takes seconds; while your bags are on the way to the room...

12:30 St Peter's Square (Nearest NCP car park G-Mex)

Located next to the neo-gothic Town Hall, your first port of call is the Visitor Information Centre to find out what's on in the city. This is also a great place to dive on board a tram to get you straight to...

13:00 Imperial War Museum North / Manchester United Museum

The Imperial War Museum North, don't miss the audio-visual exhibitions within. In the distance, Manchester United's Football Ground is just a stone's throw away with its interactive museum and stimulating behind the scenes tour.

You can then stroll across the Lowry footbridge to...

15:00 Lowry Outlet Mall/ The Lowry Centre

The Lowry Outlet Mall - where many bargains labels can be found.

Next-door is The Lowry; this landmark building offers modern galleries, two theatres, bars and a restaurant, with magnificent views of the historic Manchester Ship Canal.

You dive back on the tram for the 15 minute ride back into the city, alighting at the G-Mex metro stop for...

18:00 Deansgate Locks (NCP G-Mex car park)

Under reclaimed railway arches, there are no shortages of café bars to choose from. If you're feeling peckish, they all offer a variety of quality food. Also on the locks are Loaf and Sugar Lounge. These glamorous venues are the best places for celebrity spotting.

19:00 Opera House / Palace Theatre / Royal Exchange Theatre / MEN Arena – (NCP Great Northern, Palace, Market Place and Arena car parks)

With the doors closing you've just made it into the hottest ticket in town. With transfers from the West End (and transfers TO the West End!) that includes ballet, opera, dance, comedy and the best in new theatre, you're pretty much spoiled for choice. In all, there are 13 theatres in the city.



48 hours in Manchester *continued...*

Saturday

09:00 **Awake in Hotel**

It's time to get up and roll into the restaurant for breakfast, then off to hit the shops.

09:45 **Exchange Square / Triangle (NCP Transport Interchange car park)**

The square contains the oldest pub in the city centre, modern public art and Triangle. Formerly the old Corn Exchange, which has been transformed into a swirl of glass escalators, coffee shops and boutiques.

10:35 **Stores Galore (NCP High Street car park)**

Here you'll find you've died and gone to shopaholics' heaven. Fashion superheroes include Harvey Nichols, Selfridges and Marks and Spencer. Directly opposite is the Arndale Centre discover hundreds more stores across two vast floors.

12:45 **King Street /Kendals (NCP King Street West car park)**

Just round the corner is the Art Deco monolith with 8 floors of designer wear. Adjacent is King Street, where Armani, Mulberry, Hermés, DKNY and Hugo Boss and Vivienne Westwood have set up shop. Losing track of time, it's going to be a late lunch or early afternoon tea at...

14:30 **Café Exchange / Mr Thomas's Chop House**

A quick pit stop inside the inspiring Royal Exchange Theatre, where you can sit under the stained glass dome, and admire the contrast between the Victorian architecture and the impressive enclosed theatre in the round, whilst enjoying coffee and cake.

For something more substantial Mr Thomas's Chop House will provide you with traditional English dishes. Once you've recharged head over to...

15:30 **Northern Quarter (NCP Church Street car park)**

With its alternative shopping centre, Affleck's Palace, and surrounded by record stores, designer clothes shops and the hippest bars in town, the Northern Quarter is the trendiest place to shop and be seen.

16:30 **The Trafford Centre / The Printworks (NCP Transport Interchange car park)**

After a short stroll through to Piccadilly Gardens, hop on a tram to Stretford where a shuttle bus awaits to take you to The Trafford Centre, with 280 stores and a vast entertainment complex.

Back over in Exchange Square, is The Printworks, a 21st century entertainment centre. Choose from the latest IMAX film, have a drink at Waxy O'Connor's, or simply carry on shopping, you can choose your weapon of relaxation before strolling across to...

19:30 **The Bridgewater Hall (NCP Bridgewater Hall car park)**

By the side of the canal, is the magnificent Bridgewater Hall, home of the Hallé Orchestra and the perfect place to enjoy a mix of classical and modern music all year round. You'll still be humming as you decide which of the selection of celebrity chefs in the city will be cooking dinner...

21:30 **Le Petit Blanc / Simply Heathcotes / Le Mont**

Raymond Blanc's stunning restaurant, perched just off King Street, offers a variety of menus. Simply Heathcote's culinary experience offers an energetic new twist on traditional northern cuisine. For impressive views of the cityscape accompanied by fine dining, Le Mont with Robert Kisby as resident chef is the place to be.

22:00 **Canal Street (NCP Chorlton Street car park)**

The home of the Gay Village provides a range of stylish bars that attract a friendly, mixed crowd. In summer the street is totally packed with many of the restaurants offering canal-side tables. With almost all bars possessing late licenses, it's the perfect place to either hang out and reflect on the day, or simply dance the night away.



48 hours in Manchester *continued...*

Sunday

09:00 Hotel

Gently awake with the Sunday newspaper and breakfast in bed. For those still wanting a further shopping fix, the shops are also open on Sundays. Alternatively, you stroll out of bed and visit...

10:00 Urbis (NCP Transport Interchange car park)

The world's only building dedicated to the celebration of urban living. With an exterior built entirely of glass this wonderful exhibition hurls you from Manchester to Tokyo to Rio. That said being able to travel on the unique, glass elevator is a good reason to visit in itself!

12:00 Chinatown (NCP Chinatown car park)

Head for Chinatown where Sundays are the perfect opportunity to join families in the park by the giant Arch. The third largest Chinese Community in Europe is home to some of the best Chinese cuisine in the UK, like Pacific or Harry Yeung's The Yang Sing. Shop in the Chinese supermarkets, before stopping for dim sum.

13:30 Museum of Science & Industry / Manchester Art Gallery (NCP Water Street car park)

Recharged, it's time to visit Manchester's action-packed Museum of Science & Industry. The exhibits here are very much on the large side, with planes, trains, automobiles and steam trains. Many free galleries are open throughout the day, including Manchester Art Gallery with its world-class collection of fine art and a year round exhibitions programmed. Another must see is the celebrated Whitworth Art Gallery located just outside the city centre.

15:00 Country Estates / Moors and Villages

Later than planned you head for home. Whichever way you're heading you're surrounded by the best of the region's historic houses. Tatton Hall, Lyme Park and Dunham Massey. If you prefer your landscape a little more rugged head off for the Pennines and the moorland villages of Delph in Saddleworth.

Things needn't end here. And let's face it, there's so much more that you wanted to do! If you can't bear to leave this fantastic city just yet, many of the hotels now offer Sunday night free when you stay Friday and Saturday.

Manchester weekends last longer...

because they have to!