WELCOME TO LEEDS

visitleeds.co.uk
Leeds is a haven for shoppers, lovers of culture, party animals and food buffs, whilst at the same time providing the perfect getaway to the Yorkshire countryside, which was recently voted the third best region in the world to visit in 2014 by Lonely Planet.

Leeds came into its own when the Victorians discovered the value of cloth and invested their wealth in buildings and parks for the good of the public. Bold new architecture now rubs shoulders with their legacy creating a fascinating mix of old and new, the ideal environment for exploration and adventure.

You are never more than a few steps away from a great shopping experience in Leeds. Fans of the high street can hit Trinity Leeds, or if you’re looking for luxury treats head to the Victoria Quarter. Vintage goods and boutique shops can be found a plenty in Leeds Corn Exchange, or stop by Leeds Kirkgate Market, one of Europe’s largest covered markets, to browse the vast array of independent stalls.

If culture is your thing, Leeds won’t disappoint. It has more than its fair share of stately homes, historic buildings, museums and galleries to keep you occupied – highlights include Harewood House, Temple Newsman, The Henry Moore Institute, Leeds City Museum and the Leeds Art Gallery.

Leeds’ heritage as a city of entertainment is a long and illustrious one and continues to flourish today. The city boasts both its own opera – Opera North – and ballet – Northern Ballet – companies. The new kid on the block is the first direct Arena, a 13,500 capacity venue which is the UK’s first purpose-built, fan-shaped ‘Super Theatre’ arena.

Leeds is bursting with top-quality places to eat and drink from all over the world. Salvo’s, a much-loved family-run institution in Headingley, was crowned the Best Local Italian Restaurant on Gordon Ramsay’s ‘The F Word’. Brasserie Forty 4 is situated in a converted grain warehouse by River Aire and Hansa’s is an essential destination for fans of vegetarian and vegan cuisine. Nestling on the edge of the city centre, Holbeck Urban Village presents good food and fine ales from the likes of The Engine House, Cross Keys Inn and the Midnight Bell, where you can enjoy a pint of Leeds Best from one of the city’s independent breweries.
BY RAIL AND BUS
Frequent, direct trains carry visitors from London to Leeds in just over two hours. There are also regular services from Scotland, the Northeast, the Midlands and across the Pennines.

East Coast operates an inter-city train service from Leeds to London’s Kings Cross, running half-hourly at peak times. CrossCountry trains also run a frequent service from many of Britain’s major cities such as Newcastle, Birmingham, Cardiff, Edinburgh and Glasgow. For more information go to www.nationalrail.co.uk or call +44 (0)8457 48 49 50.

For local bus and train times call Metroline - the regional transport authority - or use the Journey Planner website. Simply tap in your journey to receive all the information you need. For further details call +44 (0)113 245 7676 or visit www.wymetro.com

BY ROAD
Sitting at the crossroads of the M62 and M1 with the A1/M1 link, Leeds is easy to reach at speed from any direction; Leeds ring road connects motorists to all major routes into the city. And, with a great number of car parks strategically placed at convenient locations throughout Leeds, parking is seldom a problem.

BY COACH
Getting to Leeds has never been easier with regular National Express coaches leaving central London every hour. For more information about fares and journey details visit www.nationalexpress.com or call their dedicated booking line on +44 (0)871 781 8181 between 8am and 8pm.

BY TAXI
Leeds Bradford International Airport is approximately a 25 minute drive to the city centre. Arrow Cars is the official taxi provider at the airport. If you are flying into Leeds and require a taxi, you can either pre book online at www.arrowprivatehire.co.uk or you can pay on arrival at the Arrow office, immediately outside the terminal building. You can also call their 24/7 call centre on +44 (0)113 258 5888 and book your return journey.

BY AIR

A half-hourly Airlink Bus (no 757) zips between the airport and Leeds City Bus and Coach Station and the City Station. To find out more, call +44 (0)113 345 7676 or visit www.wymetro.com

TRAVELLING TO LEEDS

LOCATED AT THE VERY HEART OF THE UK, LEEDS IS ONE OF THE COUNTRY’S MOST ACCESSIBLE CITIES. ADD A GREAT TRAVEL INFRASTRUCTURE COVERING LAND, SEA AND AIR AND GETTING TO LEEDS FOR EVEN THE SHORTEST BREAK BECOMES TRULY REALISTIC.
LEEDS’ COMPACT CITY CENTRE IS HOME TO ALL THE STYLISH HIGH STREET STORES YOU COULD WISH FOR, ALL IN EASY WALKING DISTANCE OF EACH OTHER TO MAKE SHOPPING AN EVEN MORE ENJOYABLE EXPERIENCE.

SHOP TIL YOU DROP

Browse the beautiful shopping arcades which mix designer, high street and independent boutiques, and marvel at the stunning architecture of Victoria Quarter. But if it’s vintage one offs you’re looking for, you won’t be disappointed. Dig a little deeper and discover a host of hidden gems.

TRINITY LEEDS
Trinity Leeds is the city’s newest and largest retail and leisure destination and boasts over 120 shops, bars and restaurants. Stock up on new fashion trends from favourite high street brands from the likes of TopShop and Urban Outfitters and then treat yourself to a cocktail whilst admiring your new purchases.

VICTORIA QUARTER
Victoria Quarter is the place to go for luxury buys, as a designer destination bathed in Victorian splendour. The shopping arcade is home to some of the city’s most beautiful architecture, Europe’s largest stained glass window and designer brands, including Vivienne Westwood, Louis Vuitton and The Kooples.

LEEDS CORN EXCHANGE
If you want one off fashion pieces, vintage delights and quirky gifts then head to the Corn Exchange. The beautiful Grade I listed building is home to a wide range of choice independent retailers and tasty eateries and also regularly hosts vintage markets and record fairs.

LEEDS MARKET
No visit to Leeds is complete without a trip to the famous Kirkgate Market, one of the largest covered markets in Europe. The beautiful listed building hosts over 200 stalls selling everything from fresh food and flowers to fashion and electronics, it’s the perfect place to pick up a bargain whilst enjoying the hustle and bustle of shoppers bartering with characterful traders.
THIS IS A CITY THAT LIKES TO PARTY. WITH EVERYTHING FROM OLD FASHIONED DRINKING DENS TO HIP BARS AND LATE-NIGHT CLUBS, YOU WON’T HAVE TO GO FAR TO FIND SOMETHING THAT SUITS YOUR TASTE.

Nightlife in Leeds

Live music is the heart and soul of Leeds nightlife, and there are plenty of large scale and intimate venues where you can catch the latest bands. Leeds used to be famous for its club and late night dance venues – but these days it’s the independent bar scene that’s setting it apart.

Here’s a guide to take you through the evening...

Outlaws Yacht Club, 38 New York Street, Leeds
A cultural revolution, this is Leeds’ new social hangout, café bar and exhibition space. Enjoy DJs and ambient music throughout the day into the evening, as well as games nights, poetry events and even scalextric racing.

Beat Bar, Wade Lane, Leeds
If you want a night of eclectic music from the very best of the city’s emerging fresh talent, head down to Leeds’ newest hot spot The Beat Bar on Merrion Street. Celebrate a whole range of genres, from jazz, disco, acid house, drum & bass, hip-hop, dubstep, soul, reggae, garage and funk.

Sky Lounge, Doubletree Hilton, Granary Wharf, Leeds
The cocktail bar at the top of the new Double Tree Hilton offers superb views of Leeds and is great for people watching too. Dress in your finest gear to sip the finest cocktails served by fine-looking bar staff. Low lighting and moody hues create a glamorous atmosphere.

Friends of Ham, 4 New Station Street, Leeds
The Only Craft Beer Bar & Charcuterie in the UK (we think). Every single item on the food, beer and wine menus has been chosen because the team there hopes that you’ll enjoy it just as much as they do. They source air dried ham, charcuterie and cheese locally where possible, but aren’t afraid to ship in cheeses and meats such as authentic Iberico Ham from further afield if they really can’t be matched.

Angelica, Level 6, Trinity Leeds
D&D London chose Leeds for its first restaurant openings outside of the capital. One of two to open, Angelica features a bar bursting with an array of classic cocktails and contemporary creations full of fresh, sophisticated flavours. A wrap-around terrace offers views over the city; the perfect setting to enjoy a tipple or two.

Wardrobe, Quarry Hill, Leeds
The Wardrobe is slightly off the beaten track, which is exactly how they like it. If you want to pop in for a pint of Quarry Hill Blonde and a chin wag with the bar staff, they’ll pull up a stool for you. If you want to come down with your friend and share a nice bottle of Malbec, they’ll find you a comfy sofa. Or, if you’re all set for a night on the tiles, hit the dancefloor downstairs to some live music.
It’s a city of gastronomic stalwarts, with many of the same names being recognised year-after-year for their fine fodder. Names such as Sous le Nez, Hansa’s, Brasserie Forty 4 and the 4th Floor in Harvey Nichols would all feature on this list. However, it’s well worth looking a little harder for some of the city’s shiny new gems and independent delights.

TRINITY KITCHEN, TRINITY LEEDS, LS1 5A, TEL: 0113 394 2415
Located on the first floor of Trinity Leeds, Trinity Kitchen is a one-stop shop for food lovers. Following the latest trend in pop-up restaurants, five of the UK’s very best street food traders are lifted into the food hall each month. Genuine street food vans, carts, sheds and trucks take residency for one month before Trinity Kitchen lifts them back out and brings in another five, ensuring that there’s always something new to tantalise your taste buds.

KENDELLS BISTRO, 3 ST PETERS SQUARE, LEEDS TEL: 0113 243 6553
Unashamedly French and unmistakably Yorkshire, it is relaxed, eccentric and informal. No waiters topping up wine glasses after every sip, or sneaking up behind you with a six foot peppermill. There are cloth napkins, but not starched, blackboard menus, an open plan kitchen, and intimate cosy candles flickering friendly.

FAZENDA, WATERMAN’S PLACE, TEL: 0113 247 1182
An authentic steak house, bringing you all the tradition behind the original Brazilian way of serving meat. Top gaucho chefs expertly grill 15 cuts of meat, and offer customers continuous tableside service – diners have a green and red-sided card on their table. Show the green and the chef will bring out skewers of sizzling meats to the table; show the red side to indicate you need a rest. Fill up on the gourmet salad bar, traditional Brazilian side dishes and an excellent wine list – and remember to bring a good appetite.

CRAFTHOUSE, LEVEL 5 TRINITY, LS1 6HW, TEL: 0113 897 0444
Restaurant group D&D London – the owners behind Coq d’Argent, Launceston Place and Bluebird Café – chose Leeds for the location of its first restaurants outside the capital. Located on the fifth floor of Trinity Leeds, Crafthouse features an open kitchen with regularly changing seasonal menus created by Yorkshire-born executive head chef Lee Bennett.

RED’S BBQ RESTAURANT, CLOTH HALL STREET, LS1 2HD, TEL: 0113 834 5834
Red’s True Barbecue has fast become one of the most popular restaurants in the city since opening in 2012. With a menu that showcases the best of slow cooked BBQ from the USA, diners won’t be disappointed with flavours that pack a punch. Red’s has a relaxed atmosphere, friendly staff and fun details, like milkshakes served in milk bottles, perfect for an end of the day chilled dining experience.

FOODIE FAVOURITES
COMPACT AND COSMOPOLITAN, LEEDS CITY CENTRE BOASTS A HUGE SELECTION OF RESTAURANTS AND PLACES TO EAT, ALL WITHIN WALKING DISTANCE OF EACH OTHER.
Around the corner from every bustling street is a quaint café, independent bookshop or intriguing art gallery. It’s up to you as the curious wanderer to explore, but here are some suggestions...

Lose yourself in beautiful art, design, photography, film and music books and journals in this charming independent bookshop situated on the ground floor at Munro House. Full of treats, surprises and twists, wander up and down the shelves of books and examine the rows of fascinating magazines you’d struggle to source on the high street, or even in the region. Every item in this friendly and welcoming little shop has been carefully picked and suggests a limited edition and ‘exclusive’ feel.

**MRS ATHA’S TEA SHOP, 18 CENTRAL ROAD**
Take a break from your shopping spree on Briggate, the main high street in Leeds, and pay this new independent tea shop a visit.

Mrs Atha’s Tea Shop offers a perfect hub for reading a book, doing some work or gossiping with friends. The café’s style is reminiscent of an Edwardian gentleman’s club with its cool vintage décor and eclectic mix of furniture. The café serves a variety of specialty teas and coffees including a piccolo latte and don’t be afraid to ask the experts behind the counter for their recommendations.

**WHITE CLOTH GALLERY, 24 – 26 AIRE STREET**
This unique photography and film gallery which also acts as events space, is the first of its kind in the North of England. A place for emerging and established artists to showcase their challenging, stimulating and energetic work it also works to encourage creativity among Leeds’ artistic community. Look out for regular workshops, seminars, screenings and book signings, giving you the chance to meet the artists.

**TILED HALL CAFÉ, CENTRAL LIBRARY**
Originally a reading room for Leeds Central Library, this magnificent arched space serves as a walkway between the library and Leeds City Gallery as well as a café which visitors can pop in and out for coffee and cake. Marvell at the impressive ceiling made up of bright decorative tiles and gold detail and the huge marble columns and dramatic walkways, while enjoying the best food produce from the region.

**WHITELOCK’S ALE HOUSE, TURKS HEAD YARD**
Tucked away, just off Briggate lies one of the oldest and most established real ale houses in Leeds, Whitelock’s Ale House. It sells an impressive selection of real ale and craft beers – many sourced from Yorkshire breweries – alongside an extensive menu of home-cooked food available seven days a week. Offbeat, Goose Island, Anchor Stream and The Hop Studio are just some of the craft ales available as well as a selection of ciders and classic cocktails.
For lots more information on how to get the most out of your stay in the city, call in to Leeds Visitor Centre located in Leeds Art Gallery Shop on The Headrow or contact them on T: +44 113 242 5242.