THIS IS LEEDS
Leeds is a delight to explore and ripe for discovery. A compact and vibrant city centre, attracting visitors for its world class culture, heritage, live music, shopping and fabulous food and drink.
TOP 10 THINGS TO SEE AND DO IN LEEDS

1. MEET THE MARKET TRADERS
For a unique Leeds experience, head to Kirkgate Market the largest covered market in Europe. It’s the heart of the city’s retail heritage and home to the largest collection of independent businesses. Street food cafes and quality locally sourced fresh produce sit side by side in this majestic grade 1 listed building.

2. CATCH A SHOW
Leeds is home to four outstanding theatres, the first direct arena, and is one of three cities outside London to boast an Opera House and Ballet company: Opera North and Northern Ballet. Whether it’s a musical at Leeds Grand Theatre, ballet at West Yorkshire Playhouse, comedy at Carriageworks Theatre or the charming Leeds City Varieties Music Hall there’s a show to suit all tastes and ages.

3. RELAX WITH A BEER
Leeds was home to the Tetley brewery for almost 200 years and has a long tradition of beer production and has recently seen the increase of a number of impressive craft brewers. Try the city’s own ales Leeds Pale, Yorkshire Gold, Leeds Best and Midnight Bell from the Leeds Brewery. There are a number of fine watering holes to choose from, including the ornate Edwardian interiors of Whitelocks (the city’s oldest pub), and the trendy bars that pepper the city centre.

4. PICK UP SOME DESIGNER TREATS
Leeds city centre is easy to get around on foot, perfect for dedicated shoppers. The lavish Victoria Quarter, housed beneath stained-glass ceilings, is home to designer brands including Mulberry, Vivienne Westwood and Harvey Nichols. The stunning Victoria Gate is home to a flagship John Lewis with the exciting addition of two new rooftop restaurants in the summer of 2017.

5. SEARCH FOR OWLS
The Leeds Owl Trail, a self-guided walking tour to spot owls intricately carved into 25 city centre attractions, was created by a local artist to provide visitors with a fun way of learning about Leeds’ rich heritage. Trail guides can be found at www.visitleeds.co.uk.

6. CELEBRATE SCULPTURE
Celebrating the Leeds College of Art’s famous graduate, the Henry Moore Institute is one of the city’s cultural highlights, part of the Yorkshire Sculpture Triangle, boasting the largest sculpture collection in Europe. The Institute is housed in a modern extension adjacent to Leeds Art Gallery, which itself boasts a fine collection of work by 19th and 20th century British painters.

7. TAKE IN A SLICE OF BRITISH HISTORY
Kirkstall Abbey is one of the most complete 12th century Cistercian Abbeys in Britain. Enjoy the breathtaking architecture from the luscious green park that surrounds it, and take a trip to the onsite visitor centre to learn about the ruin’s history.

8. GO SWORD FIGHTING
Bringing 3,000 years of warfare to life, see demonstrations of everything from swordfighting to jousting, alongside a sprawling collection of ancient weaponry from the Tower of London at the world-class Royal Armouries Museum.

9. SPOT THE MEERKATS
Situated in the stunning Roundhay Park, one of the largest parks in Europe, Tropical World is one of the country’s most popular garden tourist attractions. There’s wildlife galore, including meerkats, crocodiles, terrapins, birds, butterflies, fish and exotic insects.

10. WANDER
Leeds is mainly a pedestrianised city centre, which makes meandering around the city one of the best things to do. Spend some time taking in the grand Victorian facades, the vibrant network of covered arcades and cobbled alleyways down by the canal.
LEEDS WELCOMES 26 MILLION DAY VISITORS AND NIGHT

WHO SPEND \(£1.5\) BILLION WHILE THEY'RE HERE

LEEDS IS ONE OF THE 2ND LARGEST METROPOLITAN DISTRICT IN THE UK EXTINGUISHING 15 MILES FROM EAST TO WEST, AND 13 MILES FROM NORTH TO SOUTH.

LEEDS HAS OVER 16 MUSEUMS AND GALLERIES

LEEDS HAS OVER 300 BARS AND RESTAURANTS

NATIVES OF LEEDS ARE KNOWN AS LOINERS

LEEDS IS ONE OF THE FASTEST GROWING CITIES IN THE UK

OVER 300

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Serviced accommodation in Leeds offers visitors a home from home experience with all the perks of hotel living. Leeds has a number of serviced apartments on offer, including Residence 6, the city’s first 5* accommodation.

Bed and Breakfasts offer the ultimate in warm welcomes for visitors, with comfortable surroundings, local hosts and wonderful home cooked meals. Leeds has a number of excellent B&Bs, as well as across the wider city region.

Leeds is one of the country’s most accessible cities. Frequent, direct trains carry visitors from London to Leeds in just over two hours, with all other UK cities easily reached by train. National Express coaches run from a host of UK destinations too.

Travelling by car? Leeds is at the crossroads of the M62 and M1 with the A1/M1 link, so it’s easy to reach from any direction. Leeds Bradford Airport lies just eight miles north of the city, with direct flights from seven UK destinations and 70 international destinations.

Leeds’ accommodation spans well-known hotel chains, independent boutiques, luxury serviced apartments and friendly B&Bs, with something to suit every taste and budget.

The New Ellington, 42 The Calls, The Queens Hotel and Malmaison all offer luxury accommodation, whilst budget options include the Premier Inn, Travelodge and Ibis.

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A rich industrial heritage, including historic markets and shopping arcades, is matched by a vibrant contemporary energy fuelled by fresh investment and some 250,000 students. The city’s great strengths are its welcoming residents, eclectic shops, independent bars and rave review restaurants, along with many free attractions that all combine to make Leeds the perfect short break destination.

ACCOMMODATION FACTS

• 2,141 4* hotel rooms
• 532 3* hotel rooms
• 1,208 budget hotel rooms
• 340 serviced apartment rooms
• 6,690 university accommodation rooms
• 10,911 Total bed stock
The city has a diverse range of restaurants, with an abundance of world cuisine on offer in all areas of the city, so there is something for every culinary palate.

If you like sampling world cuisine then head to Leeds Kirkgate Market or Trinity Kitchen and experience the delights of street food cafés offering tasty treats from Vietnam and India to traditional Yorkshire Pudding wraps! Trinity Leeds is also home to a number of restaurants including Crafthouse, The Alchemist and Angelica to name but a few offering delicious menus and fantastic views over the city’s skyline.

The picturesque old mills of The Calls along the city’s canal offers an wealth of modern bistro, with menus consisting of delicious fresh cuisine made from locally sourced ingredients. For visitors seeking a traditional take on bistro dining, Brasserie Blanc is the perfect choice, while those seeking to try something individual the Michelin starred, The Man Behind The Curtain offers a multi-course tasting menu that is pleasing to the eye and mouth in an environment intended for your enjoyment.

With a whole host of fantastic independents, Leeds has a café culture which can rival any leading European city. Visitors should head to Mrs Atha’s for delicious freshly baked treats, a cool urban vibe and fantastic coffee. Laynes Espresso is perfect for watching the world go by while enjoying a freshly made sandwich.

Leeds has a whole host of world cuisine on offer in all quarters of the city. From the award winning Café Moor in Kirkgate Market, serving bright platters of Middle Eastern food, to fresh Asian flavours at Zaap Thai and traditional Indian cuisine at family owned Akbars, there really is something for all tastes.

To complement the variety of food on offer Leeds has a well established independent craft brewery scene. Leeds Brewery, Northern Monk, North Brewing Co and Kirkstall Brewery – to name but a few - are following in the Leeds Brewing success of Joshua Tetley who founded Tetley’s Brewery in 1822.

Most restaurants in the city offer a varied menu, which includes a range of vegetarian, gluten free and vegan dishes and other specific dietary requirements can often be catered for on individual request.

www.visitleeds.co.uk/things-to-do/food-drink.aspx
Leeds has played host to a number of unforgettable international sporting events including BBC Sports Personality of the Year, the Grand Départ of the 2014 Tour de France, Rugby World Cup 2015 and the World Triathlon Series in June 2016.

Year on year Leeds has played host to a number of unforgettable international sporting events. In 2013 the city shone as it televised the star-studded 60th Anniversary of the BBC Sports Personality of the Year, in front of an audience of 12,000 at the first direct arena. It then went on to host the best ever Grand Départ of the Tour de France in 2014, the Rugby World Cup in 2015 and then the hugely successful World Triathlon Series in June 2016, where home-grown Leeds triathletes competed in front of their home crowd.

The legacy of the Yorkshire Grand Départ of the 2014 Tour de France gave birth to the Tour de Yorkshire which in 2017 covers 515 km over 3 stages with its finish line in Otley, just outside Leeds. Organised by Welcome to Yorkshire and the Amaury Sport Organisation, who also organised the Yorkshire stages of the 2014 Tour de France this annual event is a sporting success.

Leeds offers impressive sports grounds and stadiums, including the 40,000 capacity Elland Road Football Stadium and 22,000 capacity Headingley Stadium, regularly playing host to some of the world’s biggest sporting names. The city is also home to several highly regarded sports teams, including the Yorkshire County Cricket Club, Leeds Rhinos, Leeds Carnegie and Leeds United A.F.C.

June 2016 saw Leeds being host to the ITU World Triathlon Series. This was an opportunity to see Team GB triathletes swim, bike and run on home soil before competing in the Rio 2016 Olympic Games.

www.visitleeds.co.uk/things-to-do/Sport.aspx
With shops housed in beautiful arcades and listed buildings, and a centre that can be covered on foot in a few hours, Leeds offers a shopping experience like no other UK city. It’s why people travel for miles to shop here.

The city’s arcades offer a shopping experience within architectural splendour and none more so than the Victoria Quarter, home to the UK’s largest stained glass window and a host of designer brands including Mulberry and Vivienne Westwood, as well as luxurious beauty houses Jo Malone and Space NK. Leeds’ Harvey Nichols, the first outside London, also calls the stylish Victoria Quarter home.

Trinity Leeds opened its doors in 2014 and is home to over 120 shops, bars and restaurants, as well as the impressive 15 metre high horse sculpture ‘Equus’ designed by world renowned sculptor Andy Scott.

As one of Leeds’ main retail streets, Briggate is a wide pedestrianised shopping mecca with clothes stores, cafes and eateries. It was founded way back in 1207 and has since developed into the bustling area that we know today. Briggate is home to a large variety of chain stores and department stores so there’s something for all fashionistas.

Shopping in the city isn’t complete without a visit to Leeds’ historic Kirkgate Market, Europe’s largest covered market and home to the first ever Marks & Spencer trading stall. Today, the market hosts over 200 stalls selling everything from fresh food and flowers, to fashion and electronics.

Next door to Kirkgate Market is the architectural masterpiece of the Leeds Corn Exchange. Dating back to 1864, the Corn Exchange houses a fantastic range of independent businesses under a spectacular domed roof.

International visitors who are residents outside the UK are able to reclaim the VAT on items purchased while visiting the UK, which is a saving of 20%. To claim the tax back, visitors need to request a VAT form when purchasing the items in retailers who display a tax free shopping logo. It is worth bearing in mind that not all retailers showcase the logo but still offer tax free shopping.

If Leeds is the stop on the visitors’ trip to the UK, visitors will need to produce their completed VAT forms, goods and receipts to be stamped by a Customs Officer before moving through security. Once stamped, the form should be deposited in the relevant refund box.

www.visitleeds.co.uk/things-to-do/Shopping.aspx

Leeds has a wealth of new developments and has become a shopper’s paradise. With wonderfully diverse shopping combined with quirky boutiques, high-end luxury as well as the big name high street brands means there really is something for everyone.

SHOP ‘TIL YOU DROP
The Cultural Quarter is home to a great number of the city’s museums and galleries, including Leeds City Museum, Leeds Art Gallery and the Henry Moore Institute.

Leeds Art Gallery is home to an extensive collection of 20th Century British art, described by The Times as the best collection outside London, while the Henry Moore Institute is part of the Yorkshire Sculpture Triangle, Europe’s largest sculpture collection.

In addition, the Royal Armouries museum, based at Leeds Dock, is one of the country’s best museums for budding historians and fans of adventure. It is home to the UK’s largest collection of arms, armour and artillery, including Henry VIII’s original armour, as well as hosting a number of workshops and events including sword fighting and jousting.

The nearby White Cloth Gallery has a programme of modern photographic exhibitions, showcasing the works of emerging and established artists alike.

For a slice of British history the city has plenty to offer with a number of nearby historical houses, including Harewood House and Temple Newsam, as well as Kirkstall Abbey, one of the most complete Cistercian Abbeys in the whole of the UK. Harewood House, just fifteen minutes from the city centre, houses one of the best art collections including originals by Turner. As well as boasting connections with royalty, the intricate interior of the house is in immaculate condition.

The grounds boast an exotic bird garden, Himalayan garden and Capability Brown designed gardens. Temple Newsam, similarly offers a delightful combination of history and nature, with the historic house showcasing a fascinating costume gallery, while the grounds are home to a rare breed farm.

Leeds is home to four major theatres and is proud to be one of the only cities outside London to boast its own repertory theatre, ballet and opera companies. Leeds Grand Theatre, West Yorkshire Playhouse, City Varieties and Carriageworks all have extensive programmes year round, with shows including Strictly Ballroom, The Addams Family and Northern Ballet’s Wuthering Heights.

The wider county of Yorkshire, as well as the city of Leeds, has provided inspiration for a great many British literary icons, including the Brontë sisters and Leeds’ own Alan Bennett. The spectacular countryside inspired Emily Brontë’s Wuthering Heights and is easily discovered from the heart of the city. Similarly, Downton Abbey draws inspiration from the Yorkshire countryside, with the fictional estate set in the heart of the Yorkshire.

Leeds has more listed buildings than any other city outside London. The built heritage here is one to marvel at and enjoy when strolling through the centre.

www.visitleeds.co.uk/things-to-do/attractions.aspx
The city has continuously adapted and developed to become the vibrant business hub it is today. Following its industrial heritage of the 18th Century, Leeds is known for its strong presence in the medical and healthcare, financial and professional services, digital and manufacturing sectors and will deliver unique and compelling events through a city wide collaborative approach.

For delegates attending events in Leeds, the city is a wonderful place to explore during free time, with its compact and cosmopolitan centre, combined with close proximity to the natural surroundings of the Yorkshire Dales, North York Moors and Yorkshire coastline.

For further information and to book your conference or event in Leeds please visit www.conference-leeds.com or email info@conference-leeds.com

Leeds has placed itself centre stage and shown the world its talents as host of the Grand Départ of the Tour de France, the Rugby World Cup, World Triathlon Series and the national Teach First conference which returns in 2017. We look forward to welcoming many more, including the Columbia Threadneedle World Triathlon in 2017.

With a number of exciting venues working in partnership, including three major universities, the first direct arena and the Royal Armouries, it’s easy to see why Leeds’ conferencing city proposition puts the city in the top five conferencing destinations in the UK.

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Leeds is the UK’s second largest financial centre and has a central role in other key business sectors. In addition, the city has 20 AIM accredited venues, with an unprecedented four gold awards.
For more information about Leeds, please contact:

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