

THE URBAN PLAYGROUND

From a family boat party along the Ship Canal to street and break dance from the world's best dancers, from tales of the high seas to special film screenings, and from an Asian elephant with a Mancunian past to poetry postcards; this is your indispensable guide to a weekend in Manchester.

The
MANCHESTER
weekender
1—3 OCTOBER 2010





THROWING SOME MEAN SHAPES

SAT 2 OCTOBER

Our top tip for families on Saturday is a watery one: **Manchester by Boat**, a family boat party that connects the River Irwell with the Manchester Ship Canal, beginning at one of Manchester's most iconic drinking and dining venues, **The Mark Addy** (opposite the People's History Museum), and ending up at Salford Quays – all this, plus our on-board tour guide will keep kids entertained with tales of the city's fascinating industrial past en route and snacks will be supplied by chef Robert Owen Brown. The boat drops you off close to **Imperial War Museum North**, just in time for the frolics of **Shipshape Saturday**, a day-long session that includes drop-in craft workshops, performances of real-life tales of adventure on the high seas and *Animals Aboard*, a puppet-and-picture session that illustrates stories of naval animal bravery. You'll also have time to try out the museum's interactive family show, **All Aboard: Stories of War at Sea**, which, if nothing else, explains the origin of common phrases such as 'Pipe Down'

(a bit of naval lingo that many parents may be all too familiar with). If you need refreshments, try the museum's restaurant (for a good kids' selection) or hop across the Ship Canal for the eateries at the **Lowry Outlet Mall**, from Pizza Express to Café Rouge. Nearby is **The Lowry**, which, in partnership with the Eurocultured Festival, hosts **Throwing Shapes**, a programme of street and break dance competitions featuring some of the best dancers in Europe. Performances from local dance companies and groups, kids' workshops and advanced masterclasses make for an energetic afternoon. Throwing Shapes coincides with **Blaze**, a high-energy theatrical dance performance directed by West End director Anthony Van Laast (*Mamma Mia!*/Sister Act) that includes 16 of the world's top street dancers and breakers, plus sets by Es Devlin (set designer for Kanye West and the upcoming *Lady Gaga* tour). If, after all that, you're wondering how to get back to Manchester, fret not: hop on a return boat (it's a shorter journey back, at 12.30pm, 2.15pm and 4pm – the latter two trips include Manchester Science Festival's famous science buskers) or just hop on a tram (via the Media City stop behind The Lowry, metrolink.co.uk).

(Continues overleaf)



If you don't make it out to the Quays, there's plenty else on to keep kids entertained. The recently scrubbed-up **People's History Museum** is stuffed with hands-on exhibits, and although its focus is British political history, it handles its subject matter lightly. During the weekend, the museum hosts **CBBC's Relic: Guardians of the Museum Trail**, a CBBC TV series developed with the British Museum where kids race against time to uncover the secrets of different famous objects – if they overcome five challenges, your kids stand to become official Guardians of the Museum. Over at **The Manchester Museum** there's a similar amount of kid-friendly activity – our favourite is **Postcards from Manchester**. Here, the acclaimed and award-winning poets Mandy Coe and John Siddique are on hand to help families write poetry postcards, capturing your impressions of the sights, sounds and smells of the city. Mandy Coe has published poetry for

both adults and children and was the joint winner of the 2008 Manchester Poetry Prize. John Siddique's collections include the children's collection *Don't Wear it on Your Head*. The Museum is always a draw for families, with good reason. Its permanent exhibits include a full-size T.Rex (rargh), more Egyptian mummies than you can shake a scarab beetle at (woo) and the skeleton of Maharajah, an Asian elephant with a Mancunian past (aw...). Workshops on Saturday tell the story of **Maharajah**, where children can make their own elephant hats to take home. With this much on, plus a decent café with a solid kids' menu, it's possible to lose a whole afternoon here. Finally, there's a special sensory tour on offer at The Whitworth. The **Urban Wandering Family Picnic** enables you to taste, hear, smell, see and touch Manchester (though perhaps not the, er, grubby bits) before ending up with a picnic in the park.

AT A GLANCE

Manchester by Boat, Saturday 2 Oct, 11:30am, 1.15pm & 3pm (tours last 30-40 mins). Tour starts at The Mark Addy, Stanley Street, Salford M3 5E7. £3 per person (includes snacks). Organised by Manchester Food & Drink Festival, Manchester Tourist Guiding Agency and The Mark Addy, and brought to you by Modern History.

Shipshape Saturday, Saturday 2 Oct, 10am-6pm daily (10am-5pm from 1 Nov). Imperial War Museum North, The Quays, Trafford Wharf Road, Manchester M17 1TZ. Free.

All Aboard: Stories of War at Sea, until 25 April 2011, 10am-6pm daily. Imperial War Museum North. Free.

Throwing Shapes, Saturday 2 Oct, 1pm-7.30pm. The Lowry, Pier 8, Salford Quays M50 3AZ. Free. Presented by The Lowry and Eurocultured.

Blaze, Saturday 2 Oct, 2pm & 7.30pm. The Lowry. £12-£22.

CBBC's Relic: Guardians of the Museum Trail, Saturday 2 Oct, 10am-5pm. People's History Museum, Left Bank, Spinningfields M3 3ER. Free.

Postcards from Manchester, Saturday 2 Oct, 11am-4pm. The Manchester Museum, Oxford Road M13 9PL. Free. Part of Manchester Literature Festival.

Urban Wandering Family Picnic, Sat 2 Oct, 11am-12.30pm. Start and end at The Whitworth Art Gallery, Oxford Road M15 6ER. Free.



AWARD WINNING ARCHITECTURE



INTERACT

Image: *Pulse Room*, 2007, Rafael Lozano-Hemmer exhibited at LABoral, Gijón, Spain

SUN 3 OCTOBER

Start Sunday in the city with a trip to **Manchester Art Gallery**. Always family-friendly, its major autumn exhibition – featuring new and never-seen-before work by **Rafael Lozano-Hemmer** – will appeal to kids and grown-ups alike, particularly the seminal artwork *Pulse Room*. Here, hundreds of lights pulse in time to the heartbeat of visitors (you can add your own heartbeat to the mix). Lozano-Hemmer is one of the world's most respected electronic artists, his works combining custom-made technologies with audience interaction so that they literally see, hear and feel the actions of the people around them. Take *People on People* (a co-commission with the AND Festival). Here, surveillance cameras, face recognition software and 3D tracking monitor you as you move through the exhibition space. As you walk, you'll see your own shadow and, inside it, live and

recorded images of the other visitors to the show. Your own image, meanwhile, is simultaneously captured and will later find itself trapped inside someone else's shadow. Once you've exhausted the supply of digital art, head to the **Clore Interactive Gallery**, a space just for kids that's stuffed with interactive artworks and activities, or try the gallery's restaurant, whose menu features a decent children's selection, or its café for chunky, homemade cakes. Manchester Art Gallery is right in the centre of Manchester, close to the cute boutiques of the Northern Quarter (we recommend the **Craft & Design Centre**, craftanddesign.com, for both shopping and food), as well as the mainstream shopping in and around St. Ann's Square and the Arndale. You can stick with culture at **CUBE**, however, with **Interact**, an audio-visual installation based on videogames: here, inside various fantastical worlds, you can control characters and sounds, as well as interact with other 'players'. Close by you'll find **Cornerhouse**, an arthouse cinema and arts complex that also has an excellent café-bar – good for older kids who like to hang out in cool places and people watch, and also good for slabs of cake and top notch nibbles.

CUBE



AT A GLANCE

Recorders, until 30 January 2011,
10am-5pm Tue-Sun (Closed Mon).
Manchester Art Gallery, Mosley Street
M2 3JL. Free.

Interact, until 7 Oct, 12pm-5.30pm
Mon-Fri (12pm-5pm Sat & Sun – note:
CUBE is normally closed on Sundays but
is open on Sun 3 Oct). 113-115 Portland
Street M1 6DW. Free. Part of the AND
Festival and produced by Sancho Plan and
Full Circle Arts.

HOW TO GET HERE

Piccadilly Station is the main railway station; the Metroshuttle (gmpte.co.uk) operates a free bus service connecting this and other city railway stations (Oxford Road, Victoria, Deansgate) to the city centre. Buses run every 5-10 minutes.

The Metrolink tram (metrolink.co.uk) connects the city centre to many parts of Greater Manchester, including Salford Quays.

Visitor information: For the best deals on hotels, special offers and all tourist information, go to visitmanchester.com, email touristinformation@visitmanchester.com or call 0871 222 8223. In the city, visit the new Manchester Visitor Information Centre at Piccadilly Plaza, Portland Street M1 4BT (9.30am-5.30pm Mon-Sat, 10.30am-4.30pm Sun & Bank Hols).

Accommodation: Manchester's hotels and restaurants appeal to all tastes from traditional to glamorous, funky to boutique, and at prices to suit all pockets, whether you are looking for luxury, family value or downright budget. Book online with www.visitmanchester.com

Discover more about the Industrial Northwest at www.modernhistory.co.uk

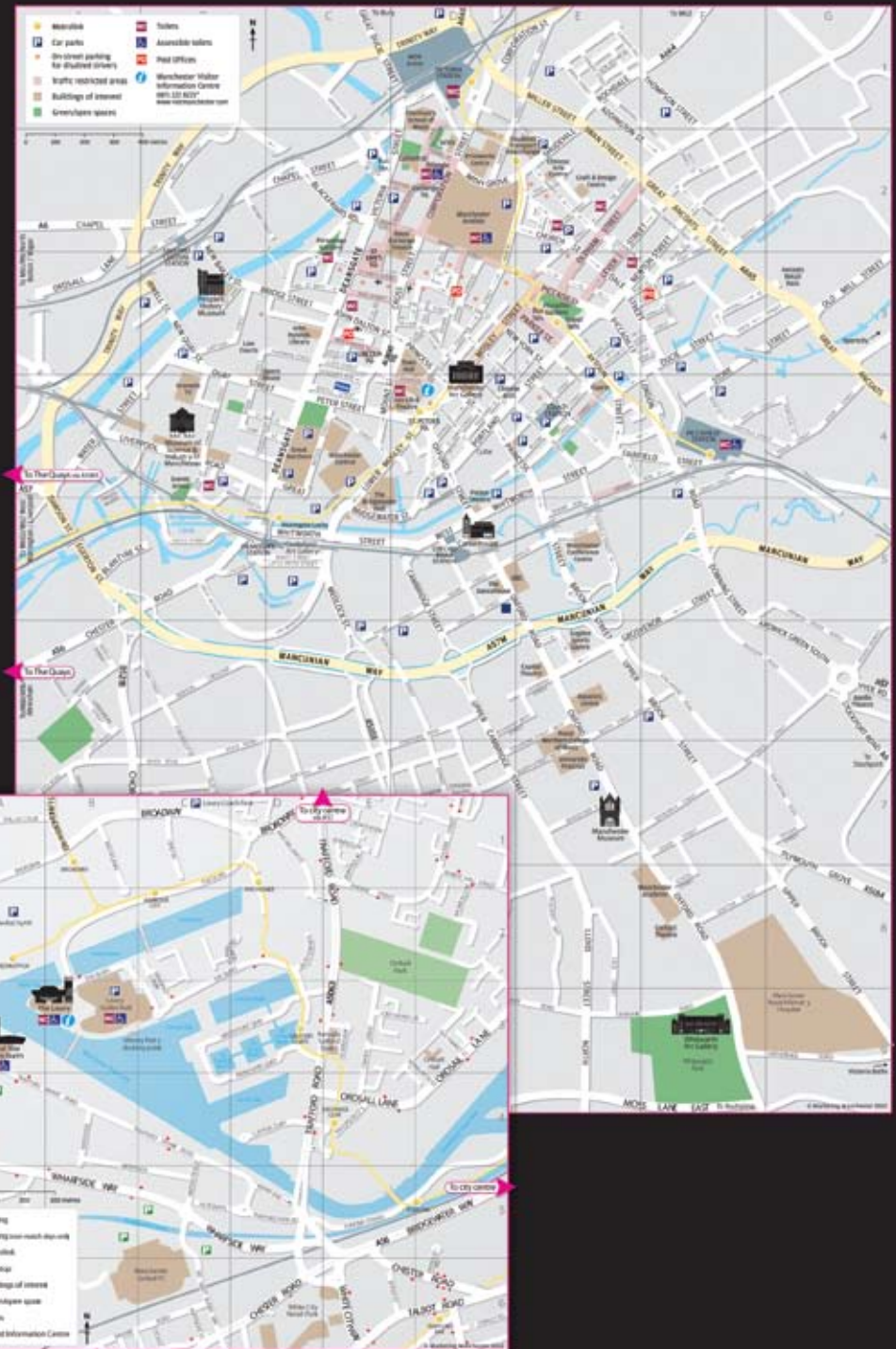
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Find your way through Manchester with Creative Tourist. Whether you're looking for inspiration about which of Manchester's cultural treats to try first, tips from locals on the best cafés and bars, fancy taking a walking tour with a mobile guide, or want to discover more about the city's fascinating past, Creative Tourist's new Manchester iPhone app will lead you there.

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SUPPORTERS

The Manchester Weekender is organised by Manchester Museums Consortium and Creative Tourist, with the help and support of Cornerhouse, Imperial War Museum North, Modern History, The Lowry, Manchester Art Gallery, The Manchester Museum, MOSI, the Museum of Science & Industry, People's History Museum, Urbis, Visit Manchester and The Whitworth Art Gallery.

We would like to thank all of our partners for taking part in The Manchester Weekender:



And:
Beating Wing Orchestra
Dave Haslam

The Manchester Weekender would not be possible without the support of:



The Manchester Weekender is supported by Modern History, a showcase for the best of the region's museums, mills, railways and waterways, bringing to life the rich industrial heritage of England's Northwest, highlighting inventions, achievements and unearthing the social stories that have shaped the modern world.

Visit the places where history defined the happening, where tradition became trend and where belief broke down boundaries, from awe inspiring architecture to engineering endeavour. Discovery lies around every corner and every visit tells a story. Discover more at www.modernhistory.co.uk

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