

Creativetourist.com is a monthly online magazine and series of city guides that have been put together by Manchester Museums Consortium. This group of nine museums and galleries in Manchester are separate venues that share a dual vision: the desire to stage intelligent, thought-provoking and outward looking exhibitions and events; and to celebrate the city in which they live, work and play. Twice a year, **Creativetourist.com** publishes insider guides to the city – uncovering not just galleries and museums but shops, bars, leftfield events, restaurants and nights out that are distinctly, uniquely Mancunian. This guide has been developed in association with World Class Service.

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IT'S SUMMERTIME IN MANCHESTER, AND THERE'S LOTS TO DO. FROM AL FRESCO FILM TO MUSICAL SHIPPING CONTAINERS, FROM A NEW LIVING WORLDS GALLERY TO A CELEBRATION OF FROGS, FROM TALES OF INDUSTRIAL LIFE TO BUILDING YOUR OWN STRAND OF DNA: THIS IS YOUR INDISPENSABLE GUIDE TO THE MUSEUMS AND GALLERIES, THE PARKS AND GARDENS, THE KID-FRIENDLY CAFES, SHOPS AND HOTELS OF MANCHESTER.

Manchester International Festival returns with an expanded children's programme for 2011 that should please parents and kids alike, finds Kate Feld.

You wouldn't know it from reading the broadsheets, but the most successful event of 2009's Manchester International Festival might have been *The Great Indoors*, its free children's programme. Just getting in the door proved a challenge, a reflection of the great demand for out-of-the-ordinary kids cultural fun. So expanding on things for kids to do at MIF was a priority for 2011 and this year they're running two projects: *Music Boxes*, an audio play area for children aged 6 months to 7 years, and *The Crash of The Elysium*, a Doctor Who-themed live theatre show from edgy company Punchdrunk. No face painting here, then.

There's not a whisper of the feeling you get with some festivals that the children's offering is an afterthought, something cobbled together as a sop to parents or to tick inclusiveness boxes. MIF General Director Simon Mellor is executive producer for both projects, and he's also a parent who's frustrated by the way a lot of kids' programming seems to involve sitting them down to be passively entertained. "We take our work for children as seriously as the rest of our work," Mellor says. "We want to get the best artists in the world to do

the most innovative and exciting work they can do. Children are as deserving of this approach as adults, and they respond to it."

Music Boxes will take place in a series of shipping containers on the shiny new piazza at MediaCityUK in Salford Quays. Each space will house a music experience created by a really impressive list of artists: Cornershop worked with Bolton students and design company Rude to make a music video kids can re-mix. Babies can explore Scottish Opera's singing garden, enjoy Oily Cart's multi-sensory show *Drum*, and play in *Aflutter*, a landscape of paper, wind and sound created by JoNny* and Stephen Stockbridge (whose *Simple Wonders* installation was the hit of 2009's Great Indoors). Toddlers and older kids can "conduct" a pre-recorded BBC Philharmonic, learn ukulele with Jake Rodrigues, and jam with CBeebies' Zingzillas.

While *Music Boxes* is designed for kids and their parents to enjoy together, *The Crash of the Elysium* most definitely isn't. To the great disappointment of many grown-ups, tickets to this live theatre show will only be issued to under 12s (kids under

9 must be accompanied by an adult, but those adults will be politely asked to butt out as much as possible.) Punchdrunk's spooky *It Felt Like a Kiss* was probably the most talked-about event of Manchester International Festival 2009, and doing something specifically for young audiences was right up their street, Mellor says. "Their work is very visceral and direct, it takes audiences back to being children and walking through tunnels to scare yourself."

Crash, produced in collaboration with BBC Wales at MediaCityUK, will be the closest you can get to living inside an episode of Doctor Who (barring the presence of Matt Smith or any of the other TV actors). Details are understandably hazy, but there will be a problem that the children will have to solve, working together in a race against the clock. Sound frightening? Yes, Mellor says, it will be every bit as scary as Doctor Who is, and why shouldn't it be? "I'm a great believer in the catharsis of the fairy story," Mellor says, "the idea that you face the scariness and you come out the other side and feel fantastic for it."

02 SMALL WONDERS

Music Boxes, 2 – 17 July.
MediaCityUK, Salford
Quays, M50 2EQ.
Free, but booking required.

*Punchdrunk: The Crash
of The Elysium*, 1 – 17 July,
MediaCityUK, Salford
Quays, M50 2EQ.
Tickets £17.50 – £20

Manchester International Festival 2011, *Music Boxes*,
draft visualisation of *Music Boxes* installation © BDP



Manchester International Festival 2011, *Punchdrunk: The Crash of Elysium*, photo Tim Sinclair



ANIMAL MAGIC 03

The Manchester Museum's glorious new Living Worlds gallery might be stylish, but it's been designed with kids firmly in mind, discovers **Matthew Hull**.

There has been significant buzz surrounding Manchester Museum's recently opened Living Worlds gallery, with plenty of column inches dedicated to the involvement of fashion show producers Villa Eugénie, the team behind catwalk shows for prestige brands like Dior and Hermès. But as Henry McGhie, head of the museum's Natural Environments team is keen to point out, the gallery's appeal certainly isn't limited to fashionistas: "Living Worlds is obviously very visually impressive, but honestly the real appeal, particularly to children, is the huge amount of exhibits on display – more than in the previous gallery."

Living Worlds replaces Animal Life 1, also known as the Mammals Gallery, which was a popular fixture of the museum. Many of that gallery's best-loved features have been maintained. The Victorian hall is still dominated by the enormous sperm whale skeleton and old favourites like the stuffed polar bear and tiger have returned. These familiar creatures have been joined by a variety of specimens from the museum's extensive collections and arranged in beautifully refurbished cases.

Despite their expertise in the area Villa Eugénie have done more than simply oversee a costume change at the gallery, however, and Living Worlds

Living Worlds, The Manchester Museum, Oxford Road, M13 9PL. Free entry.

The Museum Allotment runs July 25 – August 26, most activities free; some may need to be booked on the day and may cost up to £1.50.



The Living Worlds app



Living Worlds

is radically different from the original exhibition. It examines important ideas including the effect human beings have had on natural environments and the ways in which they can help to conserve what is left.

Rather than being separated into traditional displays according to species or habitat, the exhibits that make up Living Worlds are organised along broad themes, from 'bodies' to 'symbols', which are signposted by striking neon signs. For McGhie this is essential to the spirit of the gallery. "The exhibits are intended to promote questions and prompt discussion — to encourage people to think about their own interactions with the natural world around them."

"Some of the displays are more 'sciency', so to speak, while others are more playful, which can work really well in engaging young visitors," McGhie says. So while one case might look at the similarity of our skeletons to those of monkeys to explain evolution another will feature a goat in a woolly jumper or a honey-eating sun bear alongside a cartoon of Winnie the Pooh.

The new gallery is also complemented by an app, available free for use on smartphones and table computers. The Living Worlds app was developed to act as a changing guide to the displays, expanding on the content

of the gallery and directing visitors to related things they can take part in outside the museum. And for kids, **Museum of Mystery** is a web-based educational game with activities for kids based on the exhibits in Living Worlds that can be solved using Manchester Museum's collections and the expertise of its staff.

Living Worlds has also inspired a calendar of free activities for kids and families running throughout the summer at Manchester Museum. **Froglife** (July 9, 11 am – 4pm) is a daylong celebration of all things amphibian with arts and crafts tables, experts giving talks and live frogs. The newly opened **Museum Allotment** outside the front entrance gives kids an opportunity to get their hands dirty in the name of learning, with a host of drop-in activities based around planting and growing food, most of which are completely free.

The last Animal gallery remained unchanged for more than 25 years, and with the help of the app and activities like those being run over the next few months, McGhie sees no reason why Living Worlds shouldn't be around for just as long. "Living Worlds isn't a temporary exhibition; it's intended as a permanent feature of the museum. It's important, then, that it needs to speak to every visitor, however young they might be."

RUN OF THE MILL 04

Library Theatre Company's new production of *Hard Times* will take place right where the story might conceivably have happened, in a steam-powered Manchester cotton mill. **Kevin Bourke** gets a first look.

These days, it's a quiet neighbourhood on the fringes of the city centre. But a couple of hundred years ago, Ancoats was anything but quiet. Visitors from across Europe came to marvel at the huge number of steam-powered textile mills and their associated factories, workshops, canals and workers' housing, all built at an incredible rate during the late 18th and early 19th centuries. Perhaps most impressive of them all was Murrays' Mills, established in 1798. In just eight years Adam and George Murray had quadrupled the size of their premises to comprise four multi-storey factories, the largest complex of cotton-spinning mills in Manchester. It employed 1,000 people and remained in production for more than 150 years. But by the 1990s the buildings had been so severely neglected that it was possible they would have to be demolished before they collapsed.

Fast-forward 20 years, and Murrays' Mills is entering a new and intriguing phase in its history: stage set. The Library Theatre Company, itself in the middle of some remarkable developments after leaving its long-time home in the Central Library, stages its new production of Charles Dickens' *Hard Times* at the refurbished mills, now the centrepiece of a large-scale regeneration of the area.

Hard Times, Library Theatre Company at Murrays Mills



Hard Times, Library Theatre Company at Murrays Mills

Hard Times, 8 June – 2 July, Murrays' Mills, Murray Street (off Jersey Street), Ancoats, M4, £15 – £22.

NB Tickets are sold out but a small number of tickets will be available for sale on the day of the show. They will be sold from the Midland Hotel, Peter Street from 5.30pm to 6.30pm each day (opposite the theatre's old home by Central Library). They will be on sale from the reception. Should they sell out before 6.30pm, the desk will be closed. Arriving early is advised. All sales will be cash only. As the show is a promenade production sensible footwear is a must.

"We've known for a few years that we were going to be out of our old building and also that it would be a couple of years, maybe more, before we were in our new premises," says Chris Honer, *Hard Times* director and the Library Theatre Company's Artistic Director. "Instead of being negative about that, we thought it would give us a great opportunity to try something new. We wanted to have this arrangement with The Lowry, doing productions there three times a year but also to do stuff in the city, in places where plays aren't normally done."

"One of the first places we looked at was the Victorian Warehouse at the Museum Of Science and Industry. It had such a strong nineteenth century atmosphere that Charles Dickens' *Hard Times*, his story of Northwest industrial life, written in about the middle of the nineteenth century, just seemed perfect and Charles Way adapted it for us. In the end, MOSI didn't work out. But when we came across Murrays' Mills last September, we were just blown away. It is ideal."

Around eighty people at a time, staggered over the first half-hour of the promenade performance, will be taken first into a downstairs space which, Honer explains, "will be more like a live installation, if you like. We've constructed a walkway to allow the audience to go where they want to go and see what they want to see. After the first half-hour, they move upstairs."

In this extraordinary space overlooking the Rochdale Canal, where equipment still remains from the Mills' heyday, the major part of the performance will take place. "Because it is so fantastically large," Honer says, "it means that all the various locations of the story can be along here – Stephen Blackpool's modest dwelling, the bank that gets robbed, the hotel where James Harthouse stays with the audience moving from location to location."

The company is "on quite a steep learning curve, performing in a non-theatre space like this," Honer freely admits, but gamely describes it as "an adventure and a challenge we want to embrace." He says the company has already commissioned a play relating to public transport from Chorlton-based writer Jackie Kay. And audiences can expect more site-specific works from LTC: one such production a year until 2014, when they join Cornerhouse in a brand new purpose-built multi-arts space off Whitworth Street. We can't wait.

GENE GENIUS

An exhibition about genetics at MOSI has something for all ages, or if you prefer your entertainment with two or four wheels, there's also retro family fun on offer, **Matt Hull** finds.



Inside DNA: A Genomic Revolution

05

Inside DNA runs through November 13 at MOSI, Liverpool Road, M3 4FP. Free entry.

Transport Festival, 30 July – 7 August.

Retro Bicycle Picnic, 7 August, 12am – 3pm. Free.

There's a lot more to MOSI than pistons and flywheels, you know. While Manchester's Museum of Science and Industry is well known for its collections of early steam engines and vintage aeroplanes, its new science exhibition shows that what happens inside our own genes can be just as important and incredible as the inner workings of these giant mechanical wonders.

Inside DNA: A Genomic Revolution has been developed by leading science centre At-Bristol and includes contributions from some of the leading lights of genetic research including the University of Manchester's Nobel prize-winning scientist Sir John Sulston, head of the team which was responsible for sequencing large parts of the human genome. It is hoped that feedback from the project will help inform the work of the Human Genetics Committee, which advises on the social effects of new developments in genomic science.

"DNA is a tiny molecule but it has made such a big difference to us personally, to our families, our society and indeed our species," says *Inside DNA* Exhibitions Manager Emma Cook. "The exhibition is aimed primarily at Key Stage 3 students, but we have found that younger visitors enjoy it just as much. By breaking the subject down into sections, we were able to make learning about genes understandable and enjoyable for everyone."

These sections include 'health', which looks partly at DNA screenings, and 'evolution', where visitors can compare the skeletons of our nearest ancestors to see how changing DNA has affected humans in the past.

Inside DNA also explores important challenging questions, like whether genetic engineering could lead to discrimination. It's the interactive elements that will most excite young visitors though. Kids can build their own strand of DNA, and go on an animated journey inside their own skin cells. As part of its successful **Meet the Scientist** series the museum will welcome geneticists from NOWGEN (North-West Genetics Knowledge Park) who, through lively demonstrations and activities, will help young people to understand the science behind genomics.

Running alongside the main exhibition is a summer full of family events at the museum. The annual **Transport Festival** (30 July – 7 August) is more BMW than DNA but is hugely popular with families with activities featuring costumed storytellers and displays from the museum's huge range of vehicles. And it's a genes, not to mention jeans, free zone at the **Retro Bicycle Picnic** (7 August, 12am – 3pm, free) as MOSI dons its best tweed and indulges in some Victoriana – penny-farthing not required.

06

SUMMER SPECIALS ON THE HOOF

Short on time? Only got a couple of hours to spare in Manchester? Here's a few ideas to fill your time.

Screenfields, 23 July – 27 August. Spinningfields, 3 Hardman Boulevard, M3 3AQ. £2 each or season ticket £9.99.

Mini-Explorer boat trip, August.

Family Friendly Film Club Weekender, 4 – 7 August 2011. Venues across the North West.

Manchester Picnic, 5 – 7 August. Piccadilly Gardens.

Look out in museum shops, tourist information centres and hotels for the brand new **Manchester Mini-Explorer** bags. Launching in time for the August holidays these are self-guided tours and trails like no other, allowing your kids to lead you on a playful journey of Manchester, museum to museum, learning and doing all the way. You can buy one at participating museums and get exploring – anytime to suit you!

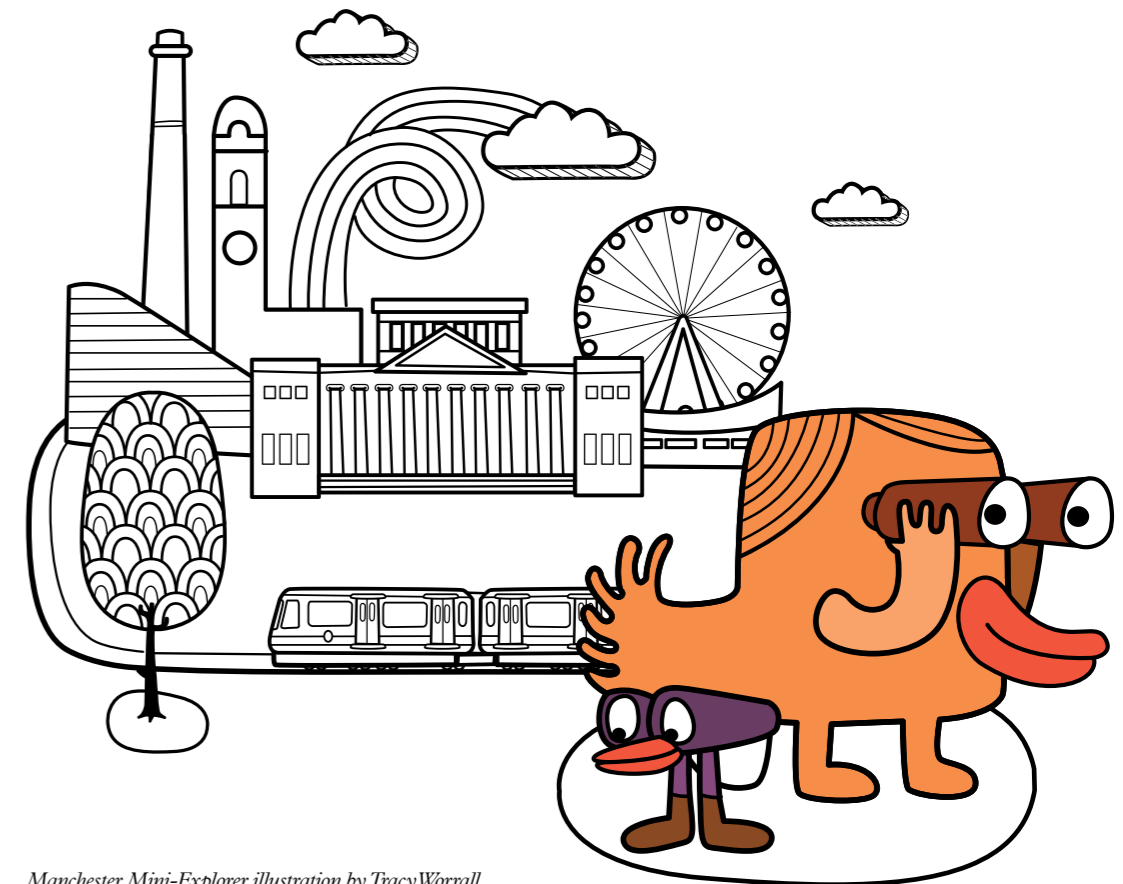
On Sundays in August you can join us on a **mini-Explorer boat trip** along Manchester's canals and waterways which are filled with a thousand stories. Allowing you take in 4 award-winning museums, sail 3 historic waterways, navigate 1 lock and lots more besides, these trips are a novel way to hop between the city centre and the Quays, with special family activities on board. Keep checking the website for more details.

Bring rugs, blankets and picnics to **Screenfields**, the annual outdoor cinema on the green at Spinningfields. The Family Film Club is on Saturday mornings with a series of children's screenings including classics such as *The Jungle Book* and *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang* as well as latest animated blockbusters like *Toy Story 3* and *Wall-E*. For older children check

out the Thursday evening programme including screenings of *Anchorman*, *Ghostbusters* and *The Breakfast Club* amongst others. For more information and the full film programme visit spinningfieldsonline.com

Carrying on the cinema theme is the **Family Friendly Film Club Weekender**. This summer, arts and cultural venues across the North West will host a fun-filled weekend of events including an exciting range of film screenings and activities providing fun for all the family. Please keep an eye on the Film Club webpage at goseethis.com/filmclub for updates and further information on times and locations.

During the **Manchester Picnic** Piccadilly Gardens will be transformed into a foodie family oasis for three days. With delicious food and drink stalls, large themed picnic area and bags of family entertainment, its the perfect picnic day out. Most importantly, small people and their cuddly friends are invited to a Teddy Bear's Picnic on Sunday 7th. Enjoy kids' workshops with Manchester Museum and dance along with Twinkle the Bear. Special goody bags for the first 100 best-dressed teddies are up for grabs (Ts & Cs apply – visit piccadillymanchester.com).



Manchester Mini-Explorer illustration by TracyWorrall



Manchester International Festival 2011, *1395 Days Without Red*, photo Milomir Kovacevic.

07 ART ON THE EDGE

Ok, we know this isn't strictly for families, but we can't leave out the 3rd Manchester International Festival. **Jessica Lack** takes us through 2011's engaging and audacious art programme.

The Life and Death of Marina Abramović runs 9 – 16 July at The Lowry, Salford Quays, M50 3AZ. Tickets £15 – £39.50 (limited concessions available for £10 off)

Šejla Kamerić & Anri Sala: *1395 Days without Red and Projections: Works from The Artangel Collection* run 2 – 17 July at Whitworth Art Gallery, Oxford Road, M15 6ER. Free entry.

11 Rooms runs 9 – 17 July at Manchester Art Gallery, Mosley Street, M2 3JL. Free entry.

'A festival of firsts' is how Director Alex Poots likes to describe the Manchester International Festival, and with 20 world premières opening this summer it is easy to see why. But this description doesn't do justice to the wealth of creative talent that has returned to participate in the festival for a second and a third time. Artists like Marina Abramović and Anri Sala, who have found the director's visionary approach to supporting ambitious, large-scale performance art very attractive.

"When we started the festival six years ago, the plan was that it would be artist-led, well resourced and sympathetic to their needs," says Poots. "As a result, artists felt able to tell us about other projects they were hoping to make."

Abramović is a good example of this. MIF veterans will remember *Marina Abramović Presents* from 2009, a critically-acclaimed (and very challenging) four-hour event. She now returns with avant-garde theatre director Robert Wilson for the pseudo-biographical staging of *The Life and Death of Marina Abramović*. Poots says the project has been in the works since 2007. "Marina sees her life as a performance, but having recently turned 60 she was thinking about her legacy and who would be in charge of documenting her death."

She asked Wilson, who agreed on the condition that he could also stage her life. "I was extremely keen for the work to première at MIF, but I was also aware that while Marina Abramović will go down in the history books as the godmother of performance art, she was still relatively unknown in Britain." His solution was to stage a mini retrospective in 2009 as a pre-cursor to the Abramović/Wilson collaboration.

It is not surprising that Abramović was attracted to Wilson. The theatre director is known for staging performances that often last up to 12 hours, and for a fascination with language and the breakdown in communication over time. *The Life and Death of Marina Abramović* opens on the 9th of July, featuring actor Willem Dafoe and music by Antony Hegarty of Antony and The Johnsons.

One key supporter of the festival is Michael Morris, co-director of Artangel, the cutting-edge arts body famous for organising Rachel Whiteread's *House*

and Michael Landy's *Breakdown*. "Artangel were like Mecca when I was first starting out, they had such a huge impact on the cultural landscape" says Poots. "I can look back and say unequivocally that they have been responsible for some dozen works that will remain in the canon of great art in this country." This year MIF celebrates 20 years of Artangel with a season of past film and video commissions that include Catharine Yass' *High Wire* and Tony Oursler's mesmerising son-et-lumière spectacle *The Influence Machine*, which will be projected onto the trees in Whitworth Park.

The festival will also première Artangel's new commission, Šejla Kamerić and Anri Sala's *1395 Days without Red*. The film is inspired by the siege of Sarajevo between 1992 and 1996 and *Y Tu Mamá También* actor Ana López Mercado is rumoured to be in the lead role. The film is still in the cutting room and I wonder if this is the kind of thing that keeps Poots up at night. "There are many artists keeping me up at night, but for all the right reasons," he says diplomatically. "Fortunately we have an incredibly proactive city council who cut through the red tape for me. It really is a team effort." In fact, so supportive is the council, Poots says, that the only criticism he received from the Lord Mayor in 2009 was that he didn't push health and safety regulations far enough.

No doubt the council will have their work cut out this year with the mysterious *11 Rooms* organised by uber curator Hans-Ulrich Obrist and MOMA New York's Klaus Biesenbach. The live performance installation at the Manchester Art Gallery boasts a heavyweight line up including the pioneering video artist John Baldessari (who has signed a manifesto promising not to make boring art, so it is unlikely that audiences will be disappointed.) He is joined by the controversial Spanish artist Santiago Sierra, who famously paid prostitutes to let him tattoo them, and the art actionist Tino Seghal, among others. Poots is naturally reticent on details, but it is clear that as always, the venture will be a risky business. This is the reason MIF is more than just a festival of firsts; it is an event committed to pushing the boundaries of what is creatively possible. And that is why artists just keep on coming back.

08

RAIN OR SHINE: CREATIVE TOURIST'S SUMMER FAMILY CALENDAR

No matter what time you visit Manchester, there's always family fun on offer. Whether it's getting messy, making noise or exploring the outdoors, you'll find something to keep the whole family occupied this summer.

Annual Transport Festival, MOSI



EVENTS

Highlights tours

Every Thursday, Saturday, Sunday and Bank holiday
Monday, 2 – 3pm
Manchester Art Gallery
Mosley Street M2 3J
Free, no need to book

Join a trained guide from Manchester Art Gallery Friends for a tour of the gallery.

Baby Loves Disco Sunday Summer Session

3 July, 2 – 5pm
Bijou
1 – 7 Chapel Street
£8 (non-walkers free)

A disco for kids 6 months to 7 years and their families, with a barbecue on the terrace.

Ordsall Hall Great Garden Party

3 July
Ordsall Hall Museum
322 Ordsall Lane
Salford M5 3AN
Free entry

Come celebrate the hall's re-opening with family activities, food and games.

Rossendale Puppet Festival

9 – 10 July
The Boo
Waterfoot
Rossendale BB4 7HB

Two days of shows featuring Spanish puppeteers Angelico Musgo, Squashbox Theatre and the resident company Horse+Bamboo, plus workshops and kids' activities indoors and out.

The Good, the Mad and the Funky

23 July
Cornerhouse
70 Oxford Street M1 5NH

Young people take over Cornerhouse's cinema 1 for screenings of movies selected by teens from the Creative Stars programme, special events and ticket offers. To sign up visit cornerhouse.org/livewire

Annual Transport Festival

30 July – 7 August
MOSI
Liverpool Road M3 4FP
Free entry

A classic car rally and retro bicycle picnic plus lots of vehicles to see during this week of fun family events to celebrate Manchester's history of transport innovations.

Family film club fairytale special

Thursday 4 & Friday 5 August,
12pm and 2pm
Manchester Art Gallery
Mosley Street M2 3J

A range of screenings and family activities will take place at several venues. Visit goseethis.com/filmclub for further information on times and locations.

Teddy Bear's Picnic

10 August
Ordsall Hall Museum
322 Ordsall Lane
Salford M5 3AN
Free entry

Bring teddy for family activities, food and games.

Rochdale Canal Festival

13 – 28 August
Rochdale Canal

Family events and celebrations along the Rochdale Canal.

Mr Tumble Live

27 August
BBC Media City Piazza
Salford Quays

The slapstick clown of CBeebies award-winning Something Special TV programme performs a one-off show at the new BBC Mediacity Piazza.

Musical tour with Black Jack Barnett

Saturday 24 September,
3 – 3:45pm
Manchester Art Gallery
Mosley Street M2 3J
Free, no need to book

Black Jack Barnett performs entertaining songs inspired by our collection.

WORKSHOPS AND ACTIVITIES



Baby Loves Disco, photo by Sophie Mithcell



MOSI

Toddlertastic

Every Monday 10:30 – 1:30am
or 11:30 – 12:30pm
Whitworth Art Gallery
Oxford Road M15 6ER
Free, but booking essential
on 0161 275 7450

Adventures in drama, art music
and dance for under-5s and their
grown-ups.

Colourful Sundays

Every Sunday, 1:30 – 3:30pm
Whitworth Art Gallery
Oxford Road M15 6ER
Free. All ages.

Drop-in creative workshops
for the whole family.

The Little People's History Museum: Under the Rainbow

21 June, 11am – 12pm
People's History Museum
Left Bank
Spinningfields M3 3ER
£1 per child, booking advised

Fun interactive story session with
puppets, song, dance and a craft
activity for under 5s and their
grown ups.

Arty Picnics

Wednesdays and Fridays during
school holidays, all 11 – 12:30pm
Whitworth Art Gallery
Oxford Road M15 6ER
Free. All ages.

Bring your family and some food,
and meet an artist for fun creative
activities. Picnics will take place
outside, or in the gallery if it rains.

Craft Sessions

Imperial War Museum North
The Quays
Trafford Wharf Road M17 1TZ
Free

Drop-in for 5+. Make a picture
frame (2 & 9 July). Hotspots (3 &
10 July). Make aeroplanes to take
home and keep (18 – 20 July).
Decorate 'plane spotter' binoculars
(21 – 23 July). Decorate a puppet
(25 – 27 July). Make a propeller
(28 – 30 July). All 1– 4pm.

Family Art Club

2 July & 6 August, 1 – 3pm,
Manchester Art Gallery
Mosley Street M2 3J
Free. For kids 6 – 11.

Spend quality time together
and learn new art skills.

Mini Art Club

8 July & 12 August,
10:15 – 11:15am and
11:30am – 12:30pm
Manchester Art Gallery
Mosley Street M2 3J
Free. Book one week in
advance on 0161 235 8888.

Make friends, make noise and
make a mess in this workshop
for under 5s and their grown-ups.

Big Saturday: Froglife

9 July 11am – 4pm
Manchester Museum
Oxford Road M13 9PL.
Most activities are free and
drop-in. Some activities may
need to be booked on the day
and may cost up to £1.50. All ages.

Come along and find out more
ways of helping this wildlife,
see some live animals, meet
and listen to talks from experts
and take part in art and craft.

Imagine Weekends

9–10 July, 13 – 14 August, 12 – 4pm
Manchester Art Gallery
Mosley Street, M2 3J
Free

Experiment and play with the
material of the month in these
drop-in activities.

Young Correspondents

All 1 – 4pm
Imperial War Museum North
The Quays
Trafford Wharf Road M17 1TZ
Free

Drop-in craft sessions for
ages 5+ linked to the War
Correspondent exhibition.
Decorate a journalist's jotter or
compose a newspaper front page
(15, 17, 31 July). Get the scoop
on an animal hero or an object
in the exhibition (16 and 24 July).

Alternative life drawing class with Dr Sketchy

16 July, 1:30 – 2:30pm
Manchester Museum
Oxford Road M13 9PL
Free, drop-in. All ages.

Dr Sketchy Manchester presents
a fun drawing class for all ages
and abilities featuring models
Bambi La Beau as the Egyptian
princess and Archie Greaves
as the Roman centurion. Expect
drawing games, sketching
challenges and plenty of silliness.
Part of the Not Part Of Festival.

The Ancients

16 – 17 July, 11am – 4pm
Manchester Museum,
Oxford Road M13 9PL
Free, drop-in. All ages.

Step back in time and meet
our ancient ancestors by cave
painting or by designing your own
stone circle. Linked to the BBC's
Hands On History: The Ancients
and the Stonehenge exhibition
and part of the Festival of British
Archaeology.

Storytelling Sessions

All 11:30am
Imperial War Museum North
The Quays
Trafford Wharf Road M17 1TZ
Free. For ages 4 – 10.

16, 20, 30 July – What Nancy
Did Next: Hear tales of life in
the Land Army

15, 19, 26 July – Animals Aboard -
Meet Simon the heroic ship's cat

17, 21, 24, 28, 31 July – Animals
and War: Puppet animals share
tales of bravery

18, 22, 25, 29 July – Oskar's
Journey: Puppets, objects and
multisensory storytelling

23 & 27 July – Billy's War –
A Salford boy's wartime
experiences

What a Performance: War Correspondent

Wednesdays & Saturdays
from 16 July – 27 August, four
sessions hourly 11:15 – 2:15
Imperial War Museum North
The Quays
Trafford Wharf Road M17 1TZ
Free

A family friendly performance
dramatising stories of wartime
adventure.

Art Angels

All 1:30 – 3:30pm
Whitworth Art Gallery
Oxford Road M15 6ER
Free. All ages.

Artist-led workshops on Tuesday
and Thursday afternoons
throughout the summer holidays.

26 & 28 July – Creative Costumes

2 & 4 August – Gigantic Gesture

9 & 11 August – Noisy Drawings

16 & 18 August – Mega Phonic

23 & 25 August – Watch Out!

30 August & 1 September –
Moving Mobiles

The Little People's History
Museum: Mr Ordinary's Prize
26 July, 11am – 12pm
People's History Museum
Left Bank

Spinningfields M3 3ER
£1 per child. Booking advised.

Fun interactive story session with
puppets, song, dance and a craft
activity for under 5s and their
grown ups.

Magic Carpet: Frogs

29 July, 11am – 12pm
Manchester Museum
Oxford Road M13 9PL
Book on 0161 275 2648
(from 22 Jul), £1 per child

Storytelling and activity session
for under 5s.

Far, Far Away

Tuesdays 2, 9, 16 & 12 August,
Wednesdays 3, 10, 17, 24 August,
Thursdays 4, 11, 18, 25 August,
Fridays 5, 12, 19, 26 August,
all 1 – 3pm
Manchester Art Gallery
Mosley Street M2 3J
Free

Build an imaginary world plus
dance workshop for under 5s.

Strike A Light! A Matchgirl's Story

2 August 1:30 – 2pm
People's History Museum
Left Bank
Spinningfields M3 3ER
Free

Meet Maggie McCallow, a
Victorian matchgirl, and find out
how she campaigned for better
rights for workers. A family friendly
activity for over 7s and adults.

Mini Art Club, Manchester Art Gallery





The Steadfast Tin Soldier, The Lowry

WORKSHOPS AND ACTIVITIES (CONTINUED)

Banner Attack!
10 August, 1:30 – 3:30pm
People's History Museum
Left Bank
Spinningfields M3 3ER
Free

Help build a huge banner in the Engine Hall using cloth and collage. Suitable for all ages.

The Little People's History Museum: Beeing Special
23 August, 11am – 12:30pm
People's History Museum
Left Bank
Spinningfields M3 3ER
£1 per child, booking advised

A fun interactive story session with puppets, song, dance and a craft activity for under 5s and their grown ups.

Magic Carpet
26 August, 1am – 12pm
Manchester Museum
Oxford Road M13 9PL
£1 per child, book on
0161 275 2648 (from 19 Aug)

Storytelling and activity session for under 5s.

Big Saturday: the Museum Allotment
6 August, 11am – 4pm
Manchester Museum
Oxford Road M13 9PL
All ages

Come along and learn what veg you can grow, take part in art and craft and get your hands dirty on our allotment. Most activities are free and drop-in. Some activities may need to be booked on the day and may cost up to £1.50.

PERFORMANCES

The Clock Master
26 June
The Lowry
Salford Quays M50 3AZ
£8.50

An eclectic show for kids 5 and up from Sparkle & Dark's Travelling Players.

Ruby Flew Too
10 July
Salford Arts Theatre
off Liverpool Street
Salford M5 4BS
£6/£5

Topsy Turvy Theatre's live version of the picture book for ages 3 – 7.

The Steadfast Tin Soldier
10 July
The Lowry
Salford Quays M50 3AZ
£8.50

Live theatre for kids 3 – 8 from Banyan Theatre Company.

The Frog Prince and Other Tales
16 July
The Lowry
Salford Quays M50 3AZ
£8.50

A one-woman performance for kids featuring masks, shadows and physical performance.

Mr. Stink
2 – 14 August
The Lowry
Salford Quays M50 3AZ
£16.50 – £18.50

David Walliams' smelliest book of all time adapted for a musical scratch 'n' sniff production bringing Mr Stink pongingly to life.

Pinocchio
August 9 – 10
Wythenshawe Park M23 OAB
£8.50 – 12.50

Heartbreak Productions perform the classic tale outdoors in the park.

Snow White
20 August
Heaton Park M25 2SW
£7 – 13

Chapterhouse Theatre Company's family production.

09 FIELD TRIPS

Festival Circus (part of Zircus Plus), Lakes Alive



We think Manchester's the greatest (of course) but sometimes even diehard Mancunians like us get wanderlust. Fortunately, we don't have far to go for fantastic family cultural adventures.

This summer, we'll be packing the kids into the car/bus/train and striking out for Leek, where the **Just So Festival**, a boutique weekend of creativity for kids and their families happens in an enchanted Staffordshire wood. This year's festival features theatre and puppetry, children's authors David Lucas and the Etherington Brothers, music for dancing from Polly and the Billets Doux and the Zen Hussies, plus lots of chances to get painty, muddy and inspired. It takes place between 19 – 21 August at Barnswood, Staffordshire. Weekend tickets including 3 nights camping cost £80 for adults and £35 for children (under 3s free).

We'll also be heading north for **Lakes Alive**, the summerlong programme of performance and arts events in the glorious setting of the Lake District. This year's highlights include Zircus Plus, the contemporary circus festival in Barrow (15 – 17 July), magical nighttime aerial shows above Whitehaven and Maryport harbours, a full-of-surprises family garden party to celebrate Lake District National Park's 60th birthday (13 August) and the always-excellent Mintfest, Kendal's International Festival of Street Arts (2 – 4 September).

Just So Festival



10 TOP FIVE TOP FIVES FOR SUMMER

We've selected some of our favourite insider tips to share with you, whether it's unusual days out or independent hot spots for tasty treats.



Photo copyright Jesse Boeijen, Delinus, Platform 4 Festival

THE OTHER MANCHESTER FESTIVALS

1

Not Part Of

This year's installment of the proudly small-time, grassroots MIF fringe festival spans more than 150 events with an emphasis on local talent. They're a real pick' n' mix: art exhibitions, Oscar Wilde dinner theatre, tap dancing, sock puppets, and street opera and more. *June 30 – July 16, venues across Manchester.*

2

Manchester Jazz Festival

New for 2011, the jazz fest will run two performance spaces in a pavilion on Albert Square as well as the usual nightclub and street performances from the likes of Norma Winstone, Cinematic Orchestra's Stuart McCallum, and Richard Iles. *July 22 – 30, venues across Manchester.*

3

Platform 4 Festival

A dynamic three day free outdoor event in the squares and spaces of Manchester City Centre featuring street theatre, music and dance from a host of exciting companies from the UK and Europe. *19 – 21 August.*

4

24-7 Theatre Festival

The eighth annual installment of this emerging theatre festival features 13 shiny new plays; it's always good value and a great place to get a first look at writers who will be making a stir in coming years. *21 – 24 July, venues across Manchester.*

5

Ramsbottom Festival

This new festival in the city's green Pennine borderlands is curated by the excellent Bury Met. It's a relaxed indie-folky affair featuring Badly Drawn Boy, Cherry Ghost, The Waterboys, and Mr Scruff's kids disco. *16 – 18 September, Ramsbottom Cricket Club. Early bird tickets £12 – 30 day, £55 weekend.*

WILD SWIMS

1

Hatchmere

Swimmers' rights are recognised at this lake near Delamere Forest. There's a small lawn at the roadside and a tiny sandy beach. Country pub The Carriers Inn is virtually on the doorstep. *Next to the Carriers Inn, Delamere Road, Hatchmere, Norley, Cheshire.*

2

Pickmere

This large lake has crystal clear water and a recreation area with lawns and picnic tables. The Parish Council don't condone swimming there but we have it on good authority they can't actually stop you. Stop off at Great Budworth Dairy Ice Cream Farm after. *Parking off Mere Lane, Pickmere, Knutsford, WA16.*

3

Lumb Falls

A scramble up a trail and down a bank wins you a bracing dip in the waters of this Hebden Bridge beauty spot. Can be tricky to find so bring a map. *Limited parking on Haworth Old Road.*

4

Gaddings Dam

Another hiker-friendly swimming spot, this disused reservoir on the moors near Walsden is said to be the highest beach in England, and on a windy day it certainly feels like it. It's owned by a collective determined to keep it open for swimming. *Access via Lumbutts Road, Todmorden; park opposite the Shepherds Rest Inn.*

5

Salford Watersports Centre

Yes, the Manchester Ship Canal is much, much cleaner than it used to be. The council runs this facility, so there are forms and fees to sort out before you can dive in for their open water training sessions. *15 The Quays, Salford M50 3SQ.*



Sugar Junction

SWEET SPOTS

1

Hey Little Cupcake!

Once a pop-up shop, now Manchester's permanent home of the high-end couture cupcake. They do afternoon tea on weekends and run decorating classes. Should you find yourself in a cupcake emergency (and who hasn't?), they deliver. *Little Quay Street, Spinningfields M3 3HF.*

2

Patisserie Valerie

It's hard to believe the city centre didn't have a proper patisserie before this one opened on Deansgate. It's baby friendly and very popular. Really hungry? They also do soup and sandwiches. Or you could just order more pastries. *2 - 4 St Ann Street, M3 2BW.*

3

Sugar Junction

This new Tib Street tea den is a cosy place for high tea with all the trimmings, or a sneaky scone if you happen to be in the mood. The retro feel makes it the perfect place to refuel after perusing the area's vintage shops. *60 Tib Street, M4 1LG.*

4

Sweet Tooth Cupcakery and Milk Bar

The second cupcake joint on our list is a tiny shop adjoining Pop Boutique in the Northern Quarter (a second location's in Chorlton). They also serve up malts, shakes and floats. *34 - 36 Oldham St, M1 1JN.*

5

MILK SHAKE

You will literally not believe what you can put into a milkshake these days. The menu of mix-ins at this Arndale kiosk runs from Aero to Viscount and hits all manner of confectionery in between. It's proven so popular their sweet empire now stretches to Bolton and Bury. *Arndale Food Market, 49 High Street, M4 2EA.*

AL-FRESCO EATS

1

Left Bank Café

The People's History Museum's café bar has a lovely terrace on the River Irwell, a real suntrap on days when the clouds deign to part. The menu's small but does the job, and it's a nice spot for an after-work beer on Thursdays and Fridays, when it's open late. *Left Bank, Bridge Street, M3 3ER.*

2

The Mark Addy

The hottest grill in town is actually across the River Irwell in Salford. Chef Robert Owen Brown's robust Northern cooking would be enough of a draw on its own, but the bucolic riverside setting clinches it: BBQ heaven. *Stanley Street, Salford M3 5EJ.*

3

Malmaison

This luxury hotel mainstay has a brand new covered terrace area which is cordoned off from Piccadilly so you don't feel like you're eating in the middle of a busy sidewalk. The menu features ace hot weather fare like grilled squid and chorizo. *Piccadilly, Manchester M1 3AQ.*

4

The Northern Quarter Restaurant High Street isn't exactly tranquil, but dining out here on a summer night is a great way to get a feel for the buzz of the eponymous, much-loved neighborhood. The food is rather stylish Modern Brit, and rather tasty, too. *108 High Street M4 1HQ.*

5

Albert's Shed

On a sunny day, everyone in Castlefield flocks to nearby pub Dukes 92, but if you're after more of a meal (and less of a crush), the shed is a pretty reliable choice with a lovely position on the canal basin. *20 Castle St M3 4LZ.*

HANDS-ON HERITAGE

1

Anderton Boat Lift

It's worth a trip into Cheshire to take a ride through this amazing Victorian boatlift that connects two canals. Pretty good visitor centre too, and the Cheshire Salt Mines are also nearby.

Anderton Boat Lift



2

Quarry Bank Mill

On the way back towards Manchester you'll find Quarry Bank Mill, a National Trust property that overflows with the atmosphere of the Industrial Revolution. Nice riverside walks, too.

3

East Lancashire Railway

North of the city, along the edge of the West Pennine Moors runs this delightful steam railway. Kids just love the Thomas the Tank Engine special weekends.

4

Helmshore Mills Textile Museum

Follow the waft of a good hot pot and you must be in Lancashire, where the rural landscape is dotted with Victorian mills. Here you will find the true story of the textile industry - with original working machinery and live demonstrations. Nearby is Queen Street Mill, the last steam-powered textile-weaving mill in the world.

5

Honister Slate Mine

High up on Honister Pass, remote, beautiful and windswept, is the last working slate mine in England. Go deep underground in a guided mine tour, or climb the highest mountain in England, as Scafell Pike isn't too far away.

For more about all of these visit modernhistory.co.uk. Follow the discovery trail and you could send off for a unique edition of Top Trumps. Not to be sniffed at.



Oaklahoma

FOR BABIES (AND THEIR PARENTS)

This is our guide to navigating the city with the littlest tourists.

Bottle, bottlewarmer, food, nappies, nappy cream, nappy bags, toys, change of clothes... got everything? Schleppling a baby, a buggy and all the accompanying gear around the city centre can sometimes feel like mounting an expedition into the rainforests of Borneo; add another child and the chaos multiplies by a factor of ten. But barring a few blips (who decided Oxford Road station didn't need a lift?) the city of Manchester is a baby-friendly zone. And most harried Mancunian parents have their safe houses: the places they know they can go where the sight of a pram in full regalia won't be greeted with hostile stares.

If you're out and about with a baby in the not-traditionally-baby-friendly Northern Quarter, Teacup on Thomas Street is a spacious cafe with plenty of room for prams round the table, highchairs, and a changing table in the bathroom. They serve kid-friendly fare (bagel sandwiches, dippy eggs) as well as stuff that mums and dads will appreciate (Pieminster Pies with gravy and mash). Be aware that it gets busy at lunchtime, so it's always good to have a backup plan. Nearby Oklahoma on High Street has baby changing and a cosy cafe adjoining a funky toy and gift shop with an old-school sweet selection that will surely delight any older children in your party. But remember, you're never too far away from a museum or gallery in Manchester, and virtually all of these have baby changing facilities near cafes for feeding; Manchester Art Gallery, Chinese Arts Centre, Whitworth Art Gallery and People's History Museum are all in the city centre and convenient to other attractions.

The recently-refurbished Arndale Centre is a godsend for families. It has baby changing and feeding rooms, and parent and child stalls in the women's rooms. If you're on your own with a pram, attendants will open a handicapped loo for you. On site cafes like Starbucks, Costa (in Waterstones) and Caffe Nero, with highchairs and couches, are handy places for a feed, and afterwards you can check out the sales on baby clothes at Pumpkin Patch and Next. Watch out for long lift queues at busy times, though. Just across Exchange Square, The Titchy Coffee Co. in the Triangle is a nice spot with plenty of space for prams and baby changing on site, and a few handy restaurants nearby (Zizzi, Pizza Express.)

Fancy a walk? Country houses and their accompanying parks are good places to combine culture with pram-pushing. We like Bramhall Hall, Lyme Park, Haigh Country Park and Tatton Park. After all, you're never too young to be a Creative Tourist!



Experiment! Gallery, MOSI

FOR TODDLERS

Manchester's a big city with plenty of love for the little people. If you're part of a toddler's support team, planning is your friend.

Of course, no matter how well-prepared you are there are no guarantees that your outing will go smoothly – life with the under-four set is always unpredictable. Manchester is a wonderful city for young children to explore. It's compact size and flat terrain makes it easy for kids to navigate under their own steam, and you're never too far from somewhere to stop for a play. Here we've collected some handy tips to help make your trip fun for everyone on days out with toddlers

Add Waterstones to your internal map. The two city centre branches are reliable refuges for the littlest explorers. The Deansgate branch has a dedicated children's area that regularly hosts readings from kids' authors. The branch inside the Arndale Centre has a Costa Coffee right next to a lovely play area in the children's section with a few well-loved toys, soft cushions and a big table that's always equipped with paper and crayons. Your child's art might even be used to decorate the shop (though mind they don't decorate any books.)

With it's great new (and free) hands-on Experiment! Gallery, MOSI is top for toddlers, and it has two cafes and an indoor picnic area where you can eat a packed lunch. If they still have some energy left, the kids might enjoy playing on the grass in nearby St. John's Gardens, or you could take a picnic to the canal and watch the narrowboats. Spinningfields, near Deansgate, is another good place to know about. With kid-friendly restaurants including Giraffe, it's also got a lovely big lawn for stretching little legs (look out for their classic kids' film screenings (Saturdays at 11am) and a nice place to stop for dessert in Hey Little Cupcake.

Manchester Art Gallery has activity packs, great for kids over 3 and the children's Clore Interactive Gallery to explore (a bit careworn these days but still worth a visit). The Cafe offers hot and cold children's specials, sells and warms baby food and has plenty of high chairs. In the Northern Quarter, funky Nexus Art Cafe is a nice place for a bite (note lift access is via the Methodist Central Buildings around the corner on Oldham Street). Pizza and pasta at Dough in the Northern Quarter is another excellent choice. And on hot days, the fountain at nearby Piccadilly Gardens is irresistible for water play. Bring a change of clothes!



The Manchester Museum

STUFF FOR KIDS

It's a city with a long and glorious history, but Manchester is still young at heart.

There's no denying that going places with a child forces you to look at things in a new way. You might find yourself slowing down to admire a carpet of pink blossoms, or waving to every passing bus. But cities aren't really a child's natural habitat, so finding places for your offspring to burn off some energy can be tricky.

*Bouncing off the walls? If you have budding skateboarders in tow, the indoor Central Skatepark and outdoor **Projects Manchester** skatepark are safe bets, and both offer beginner sessions and lessons. A short trip away in Trafford, Chill Factore offers snowboarding, airboarding, skiing and ice-skating year round in its jaw-droppingly cool indoor winter sports park. And bike trips are a good idea, whether indoor (Manchester Velodrome has kids' sessions, booking required) or out (ride from Chorlton to historic Dunham Massey on the flat and car-free Trans-Pennine Trail; hire bikes at Bicycle Boutique). If they're not into cycling, they might like exploring the city's secret underground tunnels or taking a cruise on the ship canal. Or they could combine a visit to one of the The Quays' cultural venues (The Lowry, Imperial War Museum North, Old Trafford) with a walk around the new Salford Quays Heritage Trail.*

Combining food and cultural nourishment is a great idea. The Whitworth Gallery has a tasty and healthy children's menu and kids' meals come with an art pack full of fun things to do. Outside, Whitworth Park is a good place for a post-lunch run around. Just down Oxford Road, the Manchester Museum has a cafe, but we love to bring a packed lunch and eat at the cool indoor picnic area on the third floor. And if your visit includes a trip to the historic Town Hall, there's a lovely and very reasonably priced cafe there too.

Off the cultural trail, Red Chilli is a great place for kids to eat; at the Oxford Road branch they can watch their own noodles being pulled while munching on their spring rolls. In Castlefield, Japanese grill Sapporo Teppanyaki is also a fantastic food-as-spectacle spot – the grill chefs are practised performers, and kids will love watching them clown around with their sauce bottles. A walk along the nearby canals to the ruins of Manchester's Roman fort is a nice post-lunch family activity (this year, there's an artificial outdoor beach, Castlesands, with a kids' play area there.)

You can't please everyone, but Pan-Asian Tampopo (branches in The Triangle, Albert Square and The Trafford Centre) has mastered the fine art of pleasing kids without consigning their parents to the fish finger ghetto. Their children's menu is heavy on finger foods like veggie tempura and chicken satay, and kids get activity sheets on arrival. The Triangle's outlet is right next to green Cathedral Gardens (and the soon-to-open National Football Museum) which is a handy place to get some fresh air.



Pop, Bubble, Rock!

UNDER 18s ONLY

Cool nightlife for young people? Yes, it exists in Manchester. Natalie Kols gives us an update on what the kids are doing after dark these days.

Until recently, the phrase 'under 18s only' brought to mind awkward boys-on-one side, girls-on-the-other events that were held in civic halls; all pick n' mixes and promises of 'fizzy drinks.' But in the last few years, good teen club nights have started popping up around Manchester. They're a huge step from sitting in a circle and rolling dice to see who gets to put on the hat and scarf and try and open the chocolate with a knife and fork. They are designed to be as close to the real thing as possible; the only thing that is not allowed at these nights is alcohol and all of them will turn anyone drunk (or over 18) away. But the lack of alcohol doesn't seem to bother anyone; these club nights are very popular.

There are two standout Under 18s club nights in Manchester. Relatively new club Sound Control, situated on New Wakefield Street just off Oxford Road, hosts the monthly U-18's Pop, Bubble, Rock! The DJ plays anything from Katy Perry and Jessie J to alexisonfire and My Chemical Romance. Pop, Bubble, Rock! has free sweets and giveaways, competitions for signed merchandise, and award-winning photographers.

Satan's Hollow on Princess Street is a well-known rock club and its satanically-themed interior hosts Pulp Party, the U-18 club night hosted by Pulp, the shop in the Arndale Centre. Pulp Party features t-shirt grabs, money off vouchers, competitions and photographers. The club night plays a wide range of rock music from emo and soft rock to alternative and metal, but the Pulp DJs are open to all the requests they get.

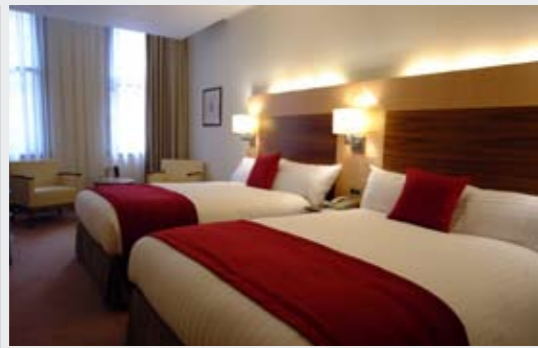
*Pulp Party at Satan's Hollow
101 Princess Street, M1 6DD.
For more information about the next event visit the Pulp Facebook page.*

*Pop, Bubble, Rock! at Sound Control,
1 New Wakefield Street, M1 5NP.
For information about the next event visit the Pop, Bubble, Rock! Facebook page.*

**BOOK
YOUR
STAY**

With a rash of multi-million pound hotel refurbishments and exciting new accommodation complexes springing up, there has never been a better time to stay over in Manchester. Whether you're looking to stay in the city's vibrant centre or spend a few nights enjoying the laidback calm of Salford Quays, and whether you'd prefer the ease of a full service hotel or the convenience of self-catering apartments Manchester has something to suit the needs of any family. All the hotels and apartment complexes partnered to the family-friendly summer are offering family rooms at exclusive family-friendly rates as well as a free bag of Manchester museums and galleries goodies, especially for all young creative tourists.

15

**Arora Hotel**

It's summertime in Manchester and there's a lot to do. In conjunction with Creative Tourist, the Manchester guide for the creative tourist, Arora Hotel Manchester has designed an exclusive offer including overnight stay in a superior Double Double, for either two adults, or two adults and two children up to the age of 12. What's more, kids eat breakfast for free!

Contemporary in design, yet still maintaining the unique character of its grade-two-listed heritage, the four-star Arora Hotel Manchester has the perfect location in the heart of Manchester City Centre. All major tourist attractions are only a stone's throw away including the world famous "Theatre of Dreams" at Old Trafford, Manchester City Stadium, Manchester Art Gallery, MEN Arena, The Opera House, Arndale Shopping Centre and Exchange Square.

Room Only, Bed & Breakfast and Dinner Bed & Breakfast rates available. Rates starting from as little as £79.00 inclusive of VAT and Mini Manchester Explorer pack with a retail value of over £10.00.

Get the deal at:
<http://manchester.arorahotels.com/default.aspx?pg=promos>

**Atrium Apartments**

The Atrium by Bridge Street offers Atrium by Bridge Street offers stylish Serviced Apartments in the heart of Manchester, just a few minutes walk from Manchester's many attractions.

With 116 furnished apartments offering fully equipped kitchens and the extra space and security that only an apartment can provide, The Atrium is your perfect family friendly option for stays in this bustling city. 20% discount off our best available rate (Minimum stay 2 nights). Reserve a suitable apartment and up to 2 children stay FREE! Free Kids Goody Bag. Complimentary Family DVD Library. Kids Mini Manchester Explorer Packs available to buy.

Get the deal at:
<http://www.atriumapartmentsmanchester.com/offer.html>

(Use Promotional Code FF11 when booking to obtain this discount.)

**The Lowry**

Treat your family to a special trip away at the five-star The Lowry Hotel, as a family friendly hotel we know your little ones need special attention and with this in mind we have created a package the whole family can enjoy. Working with creativetourist.com we have a special adventure pack all the family can enjoy, from al fresco film to musical shipping containers, from a new Living Worlds gallery to a celebration of frogs. This is the indispensable guide to the museums and galleries, the parks and gardens, the kid friendly cafes and shops in Manchester.

From only £169 per family you can enjoy overnight accommodation with additional child's bed or cot, breakfast in The River Restaurant, a Mocktail on arrival and an adventure pack per room. All children under the age of three will receive complimentary food and beverages and children under 12 years of age receive a 50% reduction on all menus.

Available 20th July - 9th September 2011. The price is based on a family of four sharing; with children under the age of 12; please speak to reservations for further information on family friendly packages.

Get the deal at:
<http://www.thelowryhotel.com/offers-and-packages/family-creative-tourist/>

**Midland Hotel**

For just £115 per room, per night, up to 2 adults and 2 children can stay in a luxurious family room, enjoy breakfast in our Colony Restaurant the following morning and receive a Mini Manchester Explorer backpack to help them discover everything that Manchester has to offer.

As well as enjoying everything that is on your doorstep when staying at this perfectly located hotel, there's plenty in the hotel to keep your family busy including our indoor heated swimming pool, a host of dining choices, and our Children's Room containing a variety of board games, craft activities, Nintendo Wii and table tennis.

Get the deal at:
<http://www.qhotels.co.uk/hotels/the-midland-manchester/news/the-midland-creative-tourism.aspx>



Park Inn

Opened in June 2009, the four-star Park Inn by Radisson is an ideal location for families. The girls are able to shop at the likes of Selfridges, Harvey Nichols and Arndale Centre all within 10 minutes walk, whilst the whole family can enjoy a meal together or cinema visit at the nearby Printworks entertainment complex. Start your day off right with a visit to our on-site swimming pool, sauna, steam room or gymnasium.

Get the deal at:

<http://www.parkinn.co.uk/hotel-manchester/hotel-deals/creativetourism>



Ramada Manchester Piccadilly

Located in the heart of Manchester City Centre, with spacious bedrooms that can accommodate families of four, and an extensive children's menu, this hotel is the perfect location for families to explore this vibrant city. The hotel is within easy reach of family friendly attractions such as Manchester Art Gallery and Manchester Museum, and for the football fans amongst you the Manchester City Experience and Manchester United Museum are only ten minutes away. Twenty minutes away finds you at the Chill Factor, Legoland or the Imperial War Museum North.

We are offering 15% off the rate of the day for large Executive Rooms which sleep a family of 4. You can choose whether you want a room only or bed and breakfast rate. Children under 4 eat free in the restaurant and there is a special children's menu available in the restaurant for children aged between 4 and 11, along with an activity pack to keep them occupied.

To benefit from this rate, use the promotional code CC9950109 when clicking through to book below. When the Mini Manchester Explorer Bag is available we will offer this as an add on that you can purchase at reception.

Get the deal at:

<http://www.ramadajarvis.co.uk/manchester>



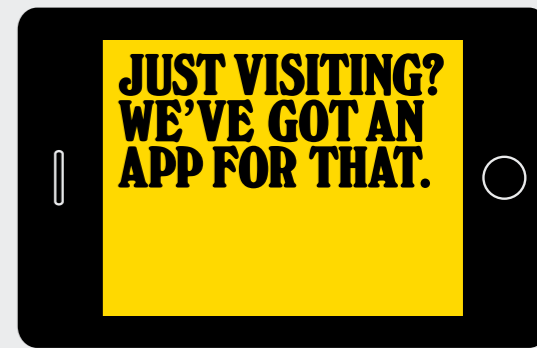
Ramada Manchester, Salford Quays

Buckets of Family Fun and activities for ALL the family with peace and relaxation for Mum and Dad when most needed. If you're looking for a perfect destination for your UK family break this year then our combination of hotel and local family facilities, as well as spectacular location and onsite Italian Restaurant with children's menu makes us the perfect family getaway solution. The hotel boasts family friendly and inter-connecting rooms. The hotel is within easy reach of family attractions such as The Lowry Theatre, Imperial War Museum North, Old Trafford Football Ground and Museum, The Trafford Centre, Chill Factor, MediaCityUK, Legoland and Manchester City Centre. All attractions are within a 10-minute walk or drive from the hotel.

Family breaks available from £99.00 for 2 nights inclusive of Full English Breakfast is available to book online now quoting "SUMMER 1" in the promotional code.

Get the deal at:

<http://www.ramadasalfordquays.com/creative>



Creative Touris App

Once you've found somewhere to lay your head you'll want to know about great places to eat and exciting things to do near your accommodation. We have an app for that. The **Creative Tourist app**, available for download from the iTunes store, is crammed with insider tips to help you make the best of your visit to Manchester. One last thing; those goody bags are especially for creative kids. Grown-ups might be able to have a go – but only if they ask nicely.

More Information

And if all of this isn't enough here are some great resources to bookmark and subscribe to:

Go See This

Subscribe to [Go See This](http://goseethis.com) at goseethis.com for up-to-date information, ticket-purchase, reviews and news about what's on all over the city

Family Friendly

At [Go See This](http://goseethis.com) you will also be able to subscribe to the legendary Family Friendly arts listing service, which no busy parent can live without. [goseethis/familyfriendly](http://goseethis.com/familyfriendly)

Modern History

Modern History is a showcase for the region's rich industrial heritage and highlights the inventions, achievements and stories that have shaped the modern world. modernhistory.co.uk

Visit Manchester

For all other events, sport, travel, hotels, great deals and tourist information visit visitmanchester.com

Manchester Visitor Information Centre can be found on Lloyd Street, Piccadilly Gardens, M60 2LA. Open 10 – 5.30 Mon – Sat and 10.30 – 4.30 Sundays and Bank Holidays. It has a hotel and ticket booking service and lots of information to share including walking tours led by Blue and Green Badge Guides.

Manchester International Festival

For the full 2011 Manchester International Festival programme, more information and to book tickets visit mif.co.uk

Lakes Alive

More information about Lakes Alive, including a full list of this season's events, can be found at lakesalive.org

Just So Festival

To find out more about the 2011 Just So Festival and to book tickets go to justsofestival.org.uk

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