

Manchester Guides:

Manchester International Festival Walks 2009

Days & times: **See individual walks for details**
Tickets: **Each walk £5**
Duration: **Approx 1hr**
Meeting point: **The Pavilion Information Point on Albert Square*.**

Just turn up 5 minutes before the start time. No booking required.

Manchester's extraordinary history is brought to life in this series of Festival-inspired walks, given by the city's outstanding blue- and green-badge tour guides. The walks will cover some new views of the city's past, present and future, come rain or shine.

***Except where otherwise stated**

MIF-inspired walks

City Trees Walk [*Flailing Trees*]

'**Flailing Trees** brings the environment into sharp focus by inverting the natural order.' Stroll through Manchester's streets and hear the stories the city trees have to tell. Hear about the Catalpas near Lincoln Square from the American 'Indian' homelands, the oaks that made our great ships, the barely-noticed hawthorn that has been here for eight thousand years, longer than any warring peoples. And Manchester's own poplars, sci-fi male clones, the rarest trees in Britain, with a story all their own. Trees are part of our living city and they are all permanent artworks, if you know how to look.

Sat 4 July 1pm; Sat 11 July 3pm; Tue 14 July 1pm

Georgian Manchester [*JS Bach/Zaha Hadid*]

Explore Manchester's fascinating Georgian heritage. See the "Duke's Canal" that revolutionised transportation. See examples of Georgian Architecture, from Classical to 'Gothik' and surviving Weavers' Cottages – evidence of a way of life swept aside by the Industrial Revolution. Hear about the entertainments – where you would have seen a 'Learned Pig' and wild tigers. See where Bonnie Prince Charlie fired his cannon on his way to regain the throne. Visit a church and square paid for by a Hanoverian leader of fashion and hear about her feud with her pipe-smoking rival, Madame Drake.

Fri 3 July 3pm; Fri 10 July 1pm

Rice 'n' 3 or Wok 'n' Stroll [*Festival Feast*]

Festival Feast includes Chefs and Cookery writers who specialise in Indian, Chinese, Middle Eastern and English Food. This tour shows where you can feast on these cuisines 365 days of the year, right here in Manchester (not just on the day of Festival Feast: Sun 19 July).

Discover the delights of Chinatown – the restaurants, the food stores, the bakeries – and then uncover the hidden charms of the 'rice and three' Curry Houses in Manchester's trendy Northern Quarter (you could even sample quail or venison curry!). English Fayre and the Middle East are well represented in the Northern Quarter too. We'll see them all. Get some stunning ideas for some great nights out.

Sat 11 July 1pm; Sat 18 July 1pm

Manchester and America – a Love Affair [*It Felt Like a Kiss*]

Discover the links between America and Manchester - economic, political and cultural. From our cotton trade links to our embrace of modern dance music, via Mancunian support for the abolition of slavery. Sacrifice, success and solidarity.

Mon 6 July 5pm; Thu 9 July 1pm & 3pm

Spinningfields Unspun [*It Felt Like a Kiss*]

This 60-minute walk will trace the history of Manchester's newest quarter - Spinningfields. You will discover the questionable background to this former red light district, and its transformation into a spectacular commercial and cultural centre. We will take you to a library built for love, the new home of Manchester print journalism and the stunning new addition to the People's History Museum. Find out where you can buy a perfect Manchester Tart, and see the Stirling Prize-nominated courthouse that aims to make the process of law transparent.

Sat 18 July 3pm

Procession [*Procession*]

Relive the 1877 grand opening of the gothic masterpiece that is Manchester Town Hall. Picture the procession led by the Cavalry and Infantry, hear the stories of the forty-three thousand trades taking part. The Bakers and Confectioners Operatives with their 164lb loaf (yes, really!), the mounted warrior in tinplate armour leading the Manchester Tinplate Workers Society and the Independent Order of Good Templars for Missionary and Reclaiming Drunkards. Hear of the imprisonment of the Lord Mayor years earlier and the making of the great bell named after him, still the largest, most perfect bell in England.

Fri 3 July 5pm; Sat 4 July 5pm; Sun 5 July 3.30pm; Thu 16 July 1pm

Discover the Quays* [*Carlos Acosta*]

This is where Salford 'stole the sea' to avoid paying taxes to Liverpool. Our 90-minute Quays walk explains the astonishing endeavour of the Manchester Ship Canal, and its transformation in the last 30 years. You will discover more about the iconic 21st century buildings on the Quays: the Lowry arts complex and Daniel Libeskind's Imperial War Museum North. We will also look at Europe's biggest construction project - the home of much of the BBC from 2011 - MediaCityUK.

Thu 9 July 5pm; Wed 15 July 3pm; 90 min.

**Meet at Blue Cranes, Salford Quays*

The Factory Tour [*The Durutti Column's A Paean to Wilson*]

Few men could be credited with giving modern Manchester as much as (Salfordian) Tony Wilson. His freeman of Manchester inscription in the Town Hall describes him as a 'cultural catalyst' – but those two words cover so much. Consummate broadcaster, on television and, later, radio. Impresario, club owner, and regeneration visionary. Our hour-long walk visits some of the places he lived, worked and played, including the Hacienda and Factory HQ sites, and the studios from which he broadcast to Granadaland.

Wed 15 July 5pm; Fri 17 July 5pm

Manchester: The French Connection [*Prima Donna*]

'Paris, 14 July 1879, Bastille fortress stormed by the mob.' Shock waves resounded across the world and England was not immune. How did the French Revolution affect Manchester? On this Bastille Day walking tour of the city, find about people, places and events that connect Manchester and France. Discover too...: Where Eric Cantona kept in touch with his literary soul. Manchester's gateway to the Battle of the Somme. Why Manchester Cathedral recalls the patron saint of France. The Frenchman who inspired painter L S Lowry. And why the Duke of Wellington didn't get off the train.

Tues 14 July 3pm; Thu 16 July 3pm; Sun 19 July 3pm

Ger-Mancunians: Germans in Manchester [Kraftwerk]

With Kraftwerk performing at the MIF, come on a tour that encounters some of the thousands of German immigrants who were welcomed here throughout the 19th century and contributed immensely to all aspects of society. We'll hear of world-famous names such as Marx and Engels, the fathers of Communism; Hallé, the founder of Britain's longest-running symphony orchestra; Rothschild, the controversial father of the renowned banking dynasty; and a German mercenary's link with death on Deansgate. The walk puts into context how influential and prosperous the German community was until the Great War sparked anti-German riots in 1915.

Thu 2 July 3pm; Sun 12 July 5pm; Tue 14 July 5pm; Sat 18 July 5pm

Original Modern – Manchester

MIF is proud to be a festival of premieres, original thought and modernity. This walk contextualises the Festival in its home: a place where original modern thinking has changed the world on many occasions. Manchester transformed all our lives, through industry, computing and atomic science. Radical thinkers, social reformers and a host of diverse communities have made it their home – Mancunian by choice, as well as by birth. Discover the cradles of these big world ideas, from the site of the first split atom to the Hacienda to the Suffragettes - Original Modern Manchester celebrates this City of Firsts.

Tues 7 July 3pm; Sun 19 July 5pm

Architecturally Modern – and Original

'Original Modern' is the new branding for Manchester – a vibrant 21st century regional capital rising from a city formed by industry. Waterways built to carry timber and cereals now transport adventurous tourists in brightly coloured narrowboats. Warehouses with hoists for hauling up cotton bales now proudly house our young urban dwellers. A new commercial centre built of glass called 'Spinningfields' – see a map dated 1650 and the name is already there.

This tour traces Manchester's architectural renaissance over the last 30 years in line with its transformation from post-industrial city to dynamic regional capital.

Fri 10 July 3pm

International Walk

Manchester is a city made up of a host of countries: a truly international city, in keeping with the Manchester *International* Festival. On this walk, come through the Chinese Arch to see Greek, Italianate and Flemish architecture; an Irish church and a *huge* American president; and hear about a Danish invasion; a New Zealander who created the atomic age; how the oldest bible in the world, found in Egypt, now lives in Manchester; and what happened when Russia's first man in space visited the Town Hall.

Mon 6 July 3pm; Wed 8 July 5pm; Mon 13 July 3pm

Arts walks

The Wand'ring Minstrel – singing tour

You can't talk about Manchester without talking about music, and you can't talk about music without talking about Manchester. On this walking tour of the city, Green Badge tour guide and trained singer Alastair McCall will guide and sing you through the stories behind the city's music, as well as some of Manchester's city history, all punctuated with songs reflective of the time. The rugged folk songs of the 18th century, the beautiful operatic tones of Caruso, the sweet melodies of the Hollies and the raspy swagger of Oasis. All will be talked about and demonstrated in this tour.

Sat 4 July 3pm; Tues 7 July 1pm; Fri 17 July 1pm; Sun 19 July 1pm

The Road to High Art

Many of the city's cultural venues past and present can be accessed by a walk from the TIC towards Rusholme down Oxford Street and Oxford Road, with a short digression to see the Bridgewater Hall. Other venues that will be passed include the Palace Theatre, Cornerhouse, Dancehouse, BBC, MMU Capitol Theatre, RNCM and University of Manchester Martin Harris Centre. The walk ends at the Whitworth Art Gallery.

Fri 3 July 1pm; Wed 8 July 1pm; Sun 12 July 1pm

Lowry's Manchester* – a city seen through the artist's eye

This tour takes you into heart of the visual inner and outer world of LS Lowry – famously quoted as saying 'I only paint what I see, you know'. Relive the route of the shy rent collector, a landscape many understand to be the industrial north – but few know where it starts or finishes. Capture the legacy of Manchester that formidably implanted itself on Lowry's imagination, revisit places where he stood and either absorbed or actually copied. Explore the images and psychology of the man and the city that helped create him.

Tue 7 July 5pm; Mon 13 July 5pm

**Meet at Queen Victoria's statue, Piccadilly Gardens*

Adolphe Valette – Manchester's Impressionist

Forgotten or even unknown for years, Valette is now recognised as one of Manchester's outstanding art treasures. This tour takes you to the spots in the city where Valette taught and painted; it explores the different aspects of Impressionism seen through a Manchester eye, and continues into Manchester Art Gallery where a large collection of Valette's work stands. Explore the clouded spires, the reflections in the water, the atmospheres and passing moments of an Edwardian jewel. On this tour you can experience both painting and real subject in a uniquely hands-on Manchester experience.

Fri 17 July 3pm

A Walk on the Wild Side

Believe it or not, central Manchester is home to a wide variety of wildlife. Here we can see the world's fastest animal (the peregrine falcon), capable of reaching 180mph in a dive. Our resident pair bred 4 chicks in April.

Hopefully we can also catch a glimpse of the black redstarts that successfully bred here last year. On our walk, look out for other species of birds, mammals (National Mammal Week is 4-12 July), butterflies (Save Our Butterflies Week is 18-25 July) and insects. So, come along to experience the wild side of Manchester on a walking safari.

Thu 2 July 5pm; Thu 16 July 5pm

General walks

'Green City' Tour

Many of us aim to be 'green': to leave the planet in as good a shape as possible for our kids, to be environmentally aware, perhaps even to save ourselves some money. But how does Manchester as a city shape up? This tour is a different way of looking at buildings, green spaces, waterways and alternative power sources to see some new, inventive, environmentally friendly initiatives introduced in the heart of our city.

Thu 2 July 1pm; Mon 6 July 1pm; Wed 15 July 1pm

Discover Manchester

This introductory tour offers a taste of Manchester so that the new visitor can easily familiarise themselves with our city – a taste of history, modern-day, culture, and attractions to provide an overview of Manchester and its area. The Guide will then advise how you can

best enjoy and get the most out of the Manchester International Festival over the next couple of days by telling you what's on, where, and how to get there!

Daily throughout the Festival 11am

Girl Power

Nothing new here but did you ever wonder who started Girl Power? And no, I don't mean the Spice Girls. Manchester's women have always been a feisty lot; they had to be, to cope with those Manchester radicals! Join us on this walk to learn of the radical thinking women of Manchester, how they fought for women's rights. Hear about the women with the courage of their convictions to make their way in a man's world, from penning a best seller to organising an 18th century mail order catalogue, not to mention the ladies with money *and* sense who gave the city some of its memorable buildings!

Wed 8 July 3pm; Mon 13 July 1pm

A Stroll Around the Quays

Once the thriving Port of Manchester, not much is left to tell the story of the ocean-going ships which regularly docked here from all corners of the world. Come and stroll by the Manchester Ship Canal and see for yourself the transformation including the Imperial War Museum, the Lowry centre and the newest development, MediaCityUK.

Fri 10 July 5pm; Sat 11 July 5pm
****Meet at Blue Cranes, Salford Quays***