

The Top Five Hidden Attractions in Manchester, England

By: James Maines

Dr. Kevin O'Donnell

[ETSU, Advanced Composition](#)

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Picture of Manchester, England, Image taken from Google, 2014.

City Name:
Manchester, England

Region:
North West England

Founded:
1st Century (originally
Mamucium)

City Status:
29 March 1853

Population:
2.55 million

Websites:
<http://www.manchester.gov.uk/>
<https://www.visitmanchester.com/>

When most people think of England, they automatically think of London. Although one of the biggest cities in the world, London isn't the only city in the country that manages to pull in millions of tourists every year. Another is the city of Manchester.

Brief History

Located in North Western England, the city of Manchester was originally constructed in the year A.D. 79 as a fort named Mamucium by the Gallo-Roman General Gnaeus Julius Agricola after the Roman Conquest of Britain during the 1st century to ensure that the interests of Rome were protected. Since then, Central

Manchester has been in and around the same area as the fort. During the Industrial Revolution, Manchester was one of England's greatest assets, as it was called "Cottonopolis" because of its many textile mills that covered the city and shipped cotton based goods throughout the country. Today however, Manchester isn't just a manufacturing town, but it is a city that thrives on its long history, nightlife, arts, sports, and culture. But why should Americans come to this wonderful city? The answer to this can be seen through examining the top five most interesting attractions that I think the city has to offer and experiencing life like a local Mancunian.

My name is James Maines and I am an American who has spent the majority of my childhood living in the United Kingdom. During that time, I managed to travel extensively throughout the country, experiencing the many wonders that the countries have to offer. When it comes to visiting Manchester however, there are many attractions that visitors automatically will want to visit such as the Museum of Science and Industry and the Manchester Art Gallery. But what about the individuals who would want to experience the unique, hidden sites that the city has to offer such as a statue of Abraham Lincoln that signifies a strong history between two countries, a home of a famous author, or even a peek at the world's oldest public library. If that sounds interesting, then this is the perfect guide for you. Whether you enjoy visiting ancient architectures that are full of history, homes that have belonged to famous authors, or museums that cover a variety of different exhibits; there are many attractions that the city offers and will still manage to captivate you by the end of your visit in this spectacular city.

5. 84 Plymouth Grove – The Former House of Elisabeth Gaskell

Name:
The House of Elizabeth
Gaskell

Year Founded:
Circa 1838

Address:
84 Plymouth Grove,
Manchester M13 9LW

Opening Times:
Wednesday, Thursday
and Sunday
11.00am - 4.30pm

Ticket Prices:
Adults: £4.95
Concessions (Senior
citizens and students):
£3.95
(around \$5.00 US)
Children under 16: Free,
when accompanied by
an adult.

Contact Us:
Phone: 0161 273 2215
Email:
enquiries@elizabethgaskellhouse.co.uk

Website:
elizabethgaskellhouse.co.uk



The Elizabeth Gaskell House, Image taken from Google.

84 Plymouth Grove is a Grade II¹ listed house that was built in circa 1838 by distinguished architect Richard Lane and holds a special literary significance to Mancunians. Known locally as the “Gaskell House” because of the home’s former owner Elizabeth Cleghorn Gaskell (29 September 1810-12 November 1865) who was an English novelist and short story writer, whose works include such classics as *Cranford* (1841-53), *North and South* (1854-55), and *Wives and Daughters* (1865). The house is also known for the popular guests that Mrs. Gaskell would receive through the years such as, Charlotte Bronte and Charles Dickens, who were acquaintances that would stay with Gaskell on various occasions. Mrs. Gaskell would continue to live in this home until her death in 1865. Today, Gaskell house is owned by the Manchester Historic Buildings Trust, who utilise the home as a museum that allows visitors the chance to walk through the seven

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- ¹ In the United Kingdom, Grade II buildings are catalogued as being of particular national importance & special interest.

bedrooms, drawing room, and tea room, and thus experiencing an original Victorian-style home in all its beauty. As both a lover of literature and history, this is a museum that I can personally say can be enjoyed by the whole family.

4: Abraham Lincoln Statue

Name:
Abraham Lincoln Statue

Location:
Lincoln Square

Address:
Lincoln Square, off Brazennose Street, Manchester, M2 5LN

Admission:
FREE
(24 Hour Access)



Statue of Abraham Lincoln in Lincoln Square, Manchester, England. Image taken from Google.

Located in Lincoln Square, the statue of Abraham Lincoln is something that holds historical significance to the people of Manchester. The statue was built by George Grey Barnard in 1919 and was intended to stand outside the Houses of Parliament in London to signify over one-hundred years of peace between Great Britain and the United States. This was changed after the first world war when another statue was created and Barnum's statue was sent to Manchester to be placed in Platt Fields Park ²as a symbol of liberal values and stressing the sacrifices made by the Manchester work force during the cotton famine, a sacrifice which allowed Lincoln to regard Britain as an ally in the Union cause. This action formed a bond between the peoples of Manchester and the United States who were united in the liberation of slaves in the southern states. The Lincoln statue would be moved once more

² Platt Fields Park is a large public park in Manchester, England.

for the last time in 1986 when city officials decided to create a new square in the centre of Manchester named after one of the greatest American Presidents that ever lived.

3. The National Football (Soccer) Museum

Name:

The National Football Museum

Address:

National Football Museum
Urbis Building
Cathedral Gardens
Manchester
M4 3BG

Hours of Operation:

Monday – Sunday 10am-5pm
Christmas Eve, Christmas Day,
Boxing Day, New Year’s Day.

Admission:

Free (Donations are accepted)

Contact:

Phone: 0161 605 8200

Email: info@nationalfootballmuseum.com

Website:

<http://www.nationalfootballmuseum.com/>



image of The National Football Museum, Manchester, England, Image taken from Google.

As with the majority of the country, Football (or Soccer as most Americans call it) is considered by many to be the most important sport in history. The ability to dance, juggle, and manoeuvre the ball in a way that is in itself an art is why it

has been dubbed the “beautiful game.” In Manchester, football is something that takes on more of a religious fervour and with the city’s two teams, Manchester United and Manchester City, there is a unique history that is full of rivalry and comradery. This history is detailed inside The National Football Museum, which was opened in 2001. The museum was, however, not always located in Manchester, but in Deepdale, Preston, Lancashire (just an hour away) and was relocated to Manchester in 2012 after the city thought it would bring in more revenue due to visits from football fans and tourists from all over the world. They also

enlisted the aid of Sir Bobby Charlton³ to become the museum's new president and public face. After its location, the museum was rebuilt with six levels that is dedicated to various aspects of footballing history and is constantly changing, as football does in general. If you are a fan of football or a lover of history then this is the destination for you.

2. Chetham's Library

Name:
Chetham's Library

Founded:
1653

Address:
Long Millgate,
Manchester M3 1SB, UK

Hours of Operation:
Monday-Friday
10 am-4:30 pm
Saturday & Sundays
Closed

Admission:
Free

Contact:
Phone: +44 161 834 7961
Email:
admin@chethams.org.uk

Website:
[http://library.chethams.co
m/](http://library.chethams.com/)



Image of Chetham's Library, Manchester, England, Photo taken from Google. 2016.

When vacationing in Manchester, it is easy to lose track of some of the city's more historical attractions. One of the most important, however, is Chetham's Library, for it was originally founded in the year 1653 under the will of Sir

Humphrey Chetham (A Manchester textile merchant, banker, and landowner) and is the oldest free public library in the United Kingdom; because of this, it has been deemed to be a place usable for scholars since its inception. One of the things that I find most interesting about the library is that it was visited frequently by Karl Marx in the summer of 1845. The

³ Sir Bobby Charlton is one of the most distinguished footballers in English history. He spent most of his career at Manchester United and assisted England in winning the World Cup in 1966.

library would also later become a meeting place between Marx and Friedrich Engels when they were doing research on what would eventually become their 1848 masterpiece *The Communist Manifesto*. Today however, the library is home to over 60,000 texts that date back to the early 17-1800s, and although the majority of the texts are preserved behind glass cases, most can still be viewed by the public.

1. Manchester Christmas Market

Name:

Manchester Christmas Market

Established:

November 1999

Address:

Albert Square, Manchester
M60 2LA, UK

Admission:

Free

Hours:

Seasonal
November-January
Monday-Saturday
8-12

Phone:

+44 161 234 5000

Website:

http://www.manchester.gov.uk/info/500241/christmas_markets



Image taken from the 2014 Manchester Christmas Market, Image taken by James Maines.

When visiting Manchester in the months of November through January, there is one event that you mustn't miss: the annual Manchester Christmas Market. Established in 1999 by the Manchester City Council, The Market is a culmination of over 350 beautifully crafted German-style stalls which houses vendors that sell everything from Irish coffees, sizzled Polish sausages, and an assortment of homemade

German chocolates. This event is considered by many locals to be a staple event during the holiday season, and during the last ten years, the event has increased in popularity and has brought many visitors from all over the UK and the rest of the world to Manchester. In order to experience this magnificent market and join in on the holiday fun, and since this event is only once a year, if you are vacationing in the area, you should make the trip, enjoy the market, and create memories that will last a lifetime.