

MANCHESTER STUDENT HOMES

LOCAL AREA GUIDE



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With a population of 2.9 million, Greater Manchester is the UK's second largest urban area. The city of Manchester is renowned as the world's first industrialised city and has gone on to become a leading international hub for culture, music, media, sport, and commerce. Claiming the title of the UK's 'second city', Manchester has many diverse local areas. This guide has been compiled to provide you with information on areas that might be of interest to you when searching for accommodation.

OVERVIEW

NORTH MANCHESTER

North Manchester extends north from the City Centre and includes Higher Blackley, Charlestown, Moston, Harpurhey, Cheetham, and Crumpsall. There are over 90,000 residents living in these areas. The River Irk runs through North Manchester and there are substantial areas of green space across this part of the city.

EAST MANCHESTER

Parts of East Manchester were traditionally the centre of industrial activity and a legacy of industrial past remains. East Manchester has been the focus of significant regeneration and has seen change over the last 15 years. The area is home to Sportcity, the main site of the XVII Commonwealth Games in 2002, and home to the National Cycling Centre, Manchester Regional Arena, the National Squash Centre, the National Indoor BMX Centre, and the Etihad Stadium, home of Manchester City F.C.

SOUTH MANCHESTER

South Manchester developed from the growth of smaller settlements to the south of the city. This area is predominantly residential and has a population of approximately 137,000. As across the city, the transport infrastructure is well developed.

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1. THE CORRIDOR

[The Corridor](#) is home to The University of Manchester (Oxford Road Campus), Manchester Metropolitan University (All Saints Campus), the Royal Northern College of Music, and The Central Manchester University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust. Within walking distance is the recently developed MMU Birley Campus. The area is also renowned as a business location for professional, health, and biomedical services.

There are a number of cultural assets along the corridor including Whitworth Park, the Whitworth Art Gallery, and the Manchester Museum. Founded in 1889 and redeveloped in 2015, the Whitworth Art Gallery is committed to communities and using art for positive change. The Manchester Museum has undergone major redevelopment and was reopened in February 2023.

Did you know that a number of outstanding personalities worked and researched in Manchester? These include Sir Ernest Rutherford, Niels Bohr, Alan Turing, and others.

Oxford Road is situated along one of the busiest bus routes in Europe, and journey times reflect this during peak hours.



2. MANCHESTER CITY CENTRE

The [City Centre](#) is home to a wealth of museums, theatres, galleries, and historical buildings. These include Manchester Cathedral, Manchester Art Gallery, the Museum of Science and Industry, People's History Museum, John Rylands Library, the Central Library, Manchester Town Hall, the Royal Exchange, the National Football Museum, and the 5th-century Chetham's Library.

The Manchester Arndale, attracting 45 million visitors each year, is an indoor shopping centre which makes up a large proportion of Manchester's retail.



[First Street](#)

Stretching over the southern gateway to the City Centre, First Street is a recently developed quarter designed to connect artistic creativity with business and enterprise. The area hosts HOME, the successor to the renowned Cornerhouse, and is a hub of exciting cinema, theatre, and art.

[Spinningfields](#)

Spinningfields was developed in the 2000s as a business, retail, and residential development area, with the multi award winning Manchester Civil Justice Centre as its landmark building. The area is home to the famed John Rylands Library, one of the University of Manchester's cultural assets, and the People's History Museum. Spinningfields regularly hosts several outdoor markets each year, and its ice rink is a popular winter attraction.

Castlefield

Castlefield - the site of the Roman era fort of Mamucium - which with its characteristic canal boats was designated in 1982 as the UK's first Urban Heritage Park. Castlefield is a short walk from the busy City Centre streets, and plays host to the Museum of Science and Industry (MOSI), Castlefield Bowl (a small outdoor concert and event venue), and the now disused Liverpool Road train station (the world's first purpose built passenger rail station).

Deansgate

The City Centre is also home to Deansgate, a major road running through the City Centre. Deansgate extends from the Southern Gateway, past the 47 storey Beetham Tower (one of the thinnest skyscrapers in the world), and along to Manchester Cathedral at Hanging Ditch. Deansgate is a vibrant and dynamic area full of shops, bars, and pubs. It regularly hosts events including the annual Manchester City Games where a temporary running track hosts some of the biggest names in athletics.

Green Quarter

Manchester's Green Quarter is a relatively new district built on the northern edge of the City Centre. It comprises a series of large new building developments near Victoria rail station. The Green Quarter is home to the £800m NOMA (*North Manchester*) development and One Angel Square, one of the most sustainable office buildings in Europe.

Northern Quarter

Adjacent to the City Centre, the Northern Quarter is a maze of winding redbrick alleys and grand warehouses. With a mix of vintage and creative industries it is a neighbourhood of relatively bohemian culture. There are a number of bars, shops,

restaurants, and cafes along Dale Street, Tib Street, Oldham Street, Thomas Street, and Hilton Street. Afflecks is a renowned indoor market with a range of independently run stalls and shops spread over four floors.

Ancoats

Located near the Northern Quarter is Ancoats. Known as "the world's first industrial suburb", it was once home to Manchester's Little Italy. Since the 1990s, Ancoats has experienced significant investment and substantial regeneration. The Chips Building is a highlight for admirers of colourful post-modern architecture and is found alongside the futurist art-deco Grade II listed Daily Express building built in 1939.



3. SOUTH MANCHESTER

Hulme

Hulme is located just south of Manchester City Centre and plays host to MMU Birley campus. Well connected to other parts of Manchester, Hulme was the site of one of the UK's most ambitious urban regeneration schemes. Hulme is strongly linked with community empowerment; co-operative housing and business enterprise are major features there. The area also features the Z-Arts Centre, a creative space for young people, and the Hulme Community Garden Centre, designed to bring the community together through gardening and sustainable food growing.

Did you know that Hulme was also home to the first Rolls Royce factory, and the influence of this can be seen in street names throughout the area?

There are regular bus services to the City Centre and Piccadilly Station, and it is only a 10-15 minute walk to the universities.



Whalley Range

Whalley Range is a largely residential suburb in South Manchester. Located near to some of Manchester's main arterial routes, Whalley Range is home to the ornately decorated British Muslim Heritage Centre, a former GMB college.

Ardwick

Ardwick is a district located southeast of the City Centre and is home to the O² Apollo Manchester, a grade II listed concert venue which regularly hosts some of the biggest names in music. The Nicholls Campus of UCEN/the Manchester College is located in Ardwick.

Did you know that celebrated Victorian novelist Elizabeth Gaskell was an Ardwick resident? She lived with her husband, William, at 84 Plymouth Grove; a site which was restored and open to the public.

There are regular bus services to the City Centre and Piccadilly Station, and it is only a 15-20 minute walk to the universities.

Longsight

Longsight is a predominantly residential area adjoining Rusholme, Ardwick, and Levenshulme. Longsight Market on Dickenson Road is a busy market operating on Wednesdays, Fridays, and Saturdays. The area is served by buses along Stockport Road which travels to the City Centre from Hazel Grove and nearby Stockport. According to its operators, the 192 route carries over 9 million people each year.

Moss Side

Primarily a residential area, Moss Side lies between Rusholme and Hulme. Former home to Manchester City FC's stadium, Moss Side is characterised by deep community spirit with a number of local community and voluntary groups providing social support, cultural, and leisure opportunities. The centrally located Moss Side Community Allotment involves volunteers who grow and make available locally produced organic food.

Did you know that Moss Side is home to the Whitworth Park and the Whitworth Art Gallery, the first English gallery in a park?

There are regular bus services to the City Centre and Piccadilly Station, and it is only a 10-15 minute walk to the universities.

Victoria Park

Leafy and historic Victoria Park is a designated conservation area in close proximity to both universities and the hospitals. It lies close to the amenities of the City Centre and other neighbouring district centres like Rusholme and Levenshulme. There are over 20 listed buildings in the area, including Victoria Baths, a heritage visitor centre based in a restored Victorian bathhouse. Both the Pakistani and Chinese consulate have offices in Victoria Park on Dickenson Road and Denison Road, respectively.

Victoria Park is also home to the University of Manchester's Victoria Park Campus.

Did you know the leader of the suffragette movement, Emmeline Pankhurst, was a resident at 60-62 Nelson Street? This was the birthplace of the Suffragette movement.

There are regular bus services to the City Centre and Piccadilly Station, and it is only a 5-10 minute walk to the universities.

Rusholme

Rusholme is situated immediately south of the Oxford Road campuses of The University of Manchester and Manchester Metropolitan University. Wilmslow Road, a continuation of Oxford Road, extends through Rusholme and its district centre is home to the famed 'Curry Mile' and many other restaurants, bars, and specialist stores.

Did you know that on New Year's Day 1964, the BBC presented the first edition of Top of the Pops at the Mancunian Film Studios on Dickenson Road?

There are regular bus services to the City Centre and Piccadilly Station, and it is only a 10-15 minute walk to the universities.

Fallowfield

Fallowfield benefits from a range of places to eat and drink, particularly along Wilmslow Road, as well as large supermarkets and local amenities. The University of Manchester has a residential campus, the Fallowfield Campus, along Wilmslow Road; one of the busiest bus routes in Europe. The Fallowfield Loop, which follows the route of the former railway line, is an off-road cycle, pedestrian, and horse riding route that is included in the National Cycle Network.

Platt Fields Park is a large public park located in the centre of Fallowfield and hosts both the Gallery of Costume and a Shakespeare Garden; a garden containing the flowers mentioned in Shakespeare's works. The centrepiece of the park is a large heart-shaped lake, which is used for boating and fishing. The lake has an island sanctuary in the middle as well as a lakeside visitors' centre and boathouse. The park is used for a number of events and fairs throughout the year.



Did you know the 1893 FA Cup final was played at the now demolished Fallowfield Stadium?

The bus route of Wilmslow Road linking Fallowfield and Withington to the universities and City Centre is often claimed to be the busiest bus corridor in Europe, with one bus every 30 seconds during peak hours.

[Levenshulme](#)

Levenshulme is largely a residential area with a number of shops, pubs and antique stores, one being the Levenshulme Antiques Village which is housed in a former police station. Levenshulme is renowned for its markets and bustling community feel. The area also hosts the Annual Levenshulme Festival and is home to Levenshulme Swimming Pool.

Did you know that tourists make visits to Levenshulme railway station since the 'news' broke of *"The Street with No Name"*? This is a 160-year old street that has yet never had an official name.

There are regular bus services to the universities, City Centre, and Piccadilly Station. Levenshulme railway station is only one stop from Manchester Piccadilly, one of the main termini for services to London and elsewhere in the UK.

Withington, Ladybarn & Old Moat

Withington, Ladybarn, and Old Moat are located in South Manchester. These areas retain evidence of their rich local histories, with parts of Withington designated as a conservation area. These areas are predominantly residential and benefit from excellent transport links to neighbouring areas. It is also home to a number of bars, shops, and restaurants. There is a local leisure facility, Withington Baths, which was recently saved from closure by the community. It opened in 1911 and was the first public baths to allow mixed gender bathing. Green space is also abundant here; Fog Lane Park, Old Moat Park, Ladybarn Park, and Kingswood Park offer opportunities to escape the busy city life. Also located in Withington, The Christie is a world class centre for cancer research and is one of the largest treatment centres in Europe.

Did you know the Academy Award winner Robert Donat, star of Alfred Hitchcock's *The 39 Steps*, was born and raised in Withington? Ernest Rutherford, the first person to split the atom, was also a Withington resident and lived in a property on Wilmslow Road, now named 'Rutherford Lodge'.

There are regular bus services to the universities, City Centre, and Piccadilly Station. The area is served by national rail services at Mauldeth Road.

Chorlton

Chorlton-cum-Hardy is a suburban area known locally as Chorlton. It benefits from a wealth of independent shops and cafes, particularly along Beech Road.

The area is home to Chorltonville, an estate of 262 houses built in 1910-1911 and partially inspired by the Arts and Crafts movement; it was originally intended as affordable rental housing for skilled artisans. Chorlton has an independent and bohemian atmosphere. The area hosts a range of local festivals each year including the Chorlton Book Festival, the Big Green Festival, and the Chorlton Arts Festival.

Did you know that Chorlton was the location for Cosgrove Hall, the animation studios where series such as *Danger Mouse* were created and developed?



There are regular bus services to the universities, City Centre, and Piccadilly Station. Chorlton is also well served by Metrolink services, the city's tram system.

Didsbury

Didsbury is a suburban area of south Manchester lying on the north bank of the River Mersey. Well served by local buses and the Metrolink (tram), Didsbury is accessible to most parts of Manchester. Burton Road, one of the district centres in West Didsbury, is renowned for its independent shops, restaurants and bars, and the annual 'Westfest'; a celebration held each year for the independent spirit of the local area. Fletcher Moss Botanical Garden, part botanical garden and part wildlife habitat, was the founding location of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) and is now the largest wildlife charity conservation organisation in Europe.

Did you know that Carol Ann Duffy, a resident of Didsbury and a Professor of Contemporary Poetry and Creative Director of the Manchester Writing School at MMU, is the first woman, Scottish person, and openly LGBT person to hold the position of Poet Laureate in the UK?

There are regular bus services and Didsbury is served by no fewer than four stops on the East Didsbury-Rochdale Town Centre line of the Metrolink.

4. SALFORD

Separated from Manchester City Centre by the River Irwell, [Salford](#) is a city and metropolitan borough of Greater Manchester. The city hosts the University of Salford and the Grade II listed Salford Cathedral, an example of neo-gothic architecture.

Did you know the album sleeve to the Smiths' 'The Queen is Dead' was taken outside of Salford Lads' Club in 1986? The site is now a popular tourist attraction in Salford.



[Salford Quays](#)

Originally opened in 1984 by Queen Elizabeth II, Salford Quays is now home to The Lowry, a vibrant centre for performing arts. The area is renowned for the iconic MediaCity UK which is also home of the BBC, ITV Granada, and *Coronation Street*.

[Salford Crescent](#)

Salford Crescent describes the central portion of the city of Salford which hosts the University of Salford. This area is easily accessible by both Salford Central and Salford Central rail stations.

Broughton

This area is largely residential and located 1.3 miles north of Manchester City Centre. It is made up of Broughton Park, Higher Broughton, and Lower Broughton. Peter Hook of *Joy Division* and *New Order* was born in Broughton.

5. TRAFFORD

[Trafford](#) is a metropolitan borough of Greater Manchester and is the home of Manchester United F.C., Lancashire County Cricket Club, and the Imperial War Museum North. Designed by celebrated architect Daniel Libeskind, the Imperial War Museum North has an extensive collection of historical artefacts and, from its 55m high AirShard, visitors have spectacular views of Salford Quays, Trafford, and Manchester. Trafford also hosts the Trafford Centre, a large indoor shopping and leisure complex that attracts over 35 million visitors annually.

There are regular bus and Metrolink services to the universities, City Centre, and other areas of Greater Manchester.