



Manchester, Liverpool & Northwest England

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Why Go?

Music, history and hedonism: just a taster of three good reasons to explore England's once-mighty industrial heartland, the birthplace of the first modern city, the cradle of capitalism and the Age of Enlightenment. The industry is, for the most part, gone but among the hulking relics are two of the country's most exciting cities (Manchester and Liverpool), a Tudor postcard-town (Chester) and the sine qua non of traditional holidays-by-the-sea (Blackpool). And, if you fancy a bit of respite from the concrete paw-print of humankind, there's some of the most beautiful countryside in England in northern Lancashire and the Isle of Man.

Best Places to Eat

- » Australasia (p548)
- » Monro (p565)
- » Mark Addy (p548)
- » Upstairs at the Grill (p556)
- » Tanroagan (p573)

Best Places to Stay

- » Stone Villa (p555)
- » Great John Street Hotel (p547)
- » Hope Street Hotel (p564)
- » Malmaison (p565)
- » 62 Castle St (p565)

When to Go

The world's most famous steeplechase, the Aintree Grand National, is run just outside Liverpool over the first weekend in April, while May and June are Tourist Trophy (TT) Festival season on the Isle of Man – beloved of motor enthusiasts the world over. The football (soccer) season runs from late August until May.

In the arts, the highlight is the Manchester International Festival, a biennial showstopper held in July. Music buffs should visit Liverpool in the last week of August for madness at Creamfields dance-fest and the Mathew St Festival, an ode to all things Beatles.

Manchester, Liverpool & Northwest England Highlights

- 1** Learning a valuable history lesson at Liverpool's **International Slavery Museum** (p561)
- 2** Having your insides churned at Blackpool's **Pleasure Beach** (p568)
- 3** Learning exactly what kind of hell war is in the **Imperial War Museum North** (p545) in Manchester
- 4** Sampling Manchester's culinary delights at one (or more!) of its superb **restaurants** (p548)
- 5** Getting to grips with wild, exciting **Isle of Man** (p572)
- 6** Tramping Chester's **City Walls** (p554) like the Romans did 2000 years ago