



Manchester, Liverpool & Northwest England

Includes ➔

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Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Australasia (p563)
- ➔ Monro (p579)
- ➔ Lime Tree (p563)
- ➔ Upstairs at the Grill (p571)
- ➔ Tanroagan (p586)

Best Places to Stay

- ➔ Stone Villa (p570)
- ➔ Great John Street Hotel (p563)
- ➔ Hope Street Hotel (p578)
- ➔ Malmaison (p563)
- ➔ Richmond Hotel (p578)

Why Go?

If you're looking for clues as to what once made Britain great, you'll find plenty of them in the Northwest. Dominating the region is Manchester, a paradigm of reinvention that has transformed itself from 20th-century industrial hulk into a modern city with accompanying distractions – from football to fine food. Nearby Liverpool has plenty of its own diversions including a fine collection of galleries and museums, terrific shopping and a sporting pedigree every bit as impressive as that of its neighbour across the Pennines. Within easy reach of both is Chester, a historic postcard to its Tudor past and beyond, to when it was the Roman *Castra Devana*. And, for a bit of respite from humankind's concrete pawprint, some of Britain's most beautiful – and walkable – countryside can be found in northern Lancashire and on the Isle of Man.

When to Go

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

Manchester, Liverpool & Northwest England Highlights

- 1** Learning a valuable history lesson at Liverpool's **International Slavery Museum** (p576)
- 2** Having your insides churned at **Blackpool's Pleasure Beach** (p581)
- 3** Learning exactly what kind of hell war is in the **Imperial War Museum North** (p561) in Manchester
- 4** Tramping Chester's **City Walls** (p569) like the Romans did 2000 years ago
- 5** Sampling Manchester's culinary delights at one (or more) of its superb **restaurants** (p563)
- 6** Getting to grips

