

# Manchester's Treasures



*L.S. Lowry*

Monday 29 September - Thursday 02 October 2025

Manchester ranks as one of the UK's most vibrant cities, justifying its status as Capital of the 'Northern Powerhouse'. The city has a rich historical and cultural Heritage, with splendid public institutions often founded by generous local benefactors who amassed great fortunes and wished to leave a legacy.

During our trip to Manchester we will explore museums, galleries and libraries that owe their existence to the munificence of individual philanthropists. We will discover magnificent municipal buildings erected to express pride in local achievements and optimism about the future and view some of the masterpieces of Pre-Raphaelite art.

## MONDAY 29 SEPTEMBER 2025

We will depart from our local pick-up point in Bristol and travel north to Wolverhampton for a private visit of **Chillington Hall**, a grand Georgian estate that has been the residence of the Giffard family for over 800 years. Parts of the house date back to the 18<sup>th</sup> century, with later additions designed by renowned architects Sir John Soane and Francis Smith. The surrounding parkland was landscaped by Capability Brown and incorporates a picturesque lake and architectural follies. We will have a **buffet lunch** on arrival followed by a **private guided tour** of the house with a resident guide. There will be some time to explore the garden at leisure and **tea/coffee and biscuits** will be taken prior to departure.

We will continue the journey to central **Manchester**, where we will check into the centrally-located boutique **Hotel Indigo Manchester - Victoria Station** (4 star) for 3 nights' bed and breakfast accommodation. After some time to freshen up, **dinner** this evening will be taken in the hotel restaurant.

## TUESDAY 30 SEPTEMBER 2025

After breakfast at the hotel we will meet our local Blue Badge Guide for a day of visits in Manchester on foot. For 19<sup>th</sup> century grandeur, Manchester is hard to beat. There are classical halls and clubs, gothic towers and spires, and baroque banks - many inspired from grand European creations which hopeful architects had sketched on their Grand Tour and then reproduced across the city.



*Salford Quays*

We will begin our morning with a **guided tour** of **Chetham's Library**. Founded in 1653, many of the original furnishings can still be seen in the rooms of this glorious medieval building which house a vast array of over 100,000 books, along with manuscripts, letters, journals, periodicals, prints and deeds. Daniel Defoe, Friedrich Engels and Karl Marx are just some of the library's famous visitors.

We will embark on a **guided walking tour** of the city with our local guide. During our tour we will visit **Manchester Cathedral** (the Collegiate Church of St Mary, St Denys and St George), which once stood at the epicentre of medieval Manchester and is an imposing Perpendicular Gothic structure.

We will view the exterior of **St Ann's Church**, whose tower marks the centre of the city of Manchester. A Grade I listed building dating from the early 17<sup>th</sup> century, it was further embellished in the 19<sup>th</sup> century with stained glass windows. We will pass by the **Manchester Town Hall**, a masterpiece of Gothic Revival architecture designed by Alfred Waterhouse and completed in 1887.

This morning will include a **coffee break**.

We will also explore **St Peter's Square**. Once the site of the Peterloo Massacre of 1819 which saw crowds of people demanding social reform from the House of Commons, the square is now home to several sites of significant heritage interest including the Manchester Cenotaph and a statue of Emily Pankhurst.

There will be free time to take lunch before we continue to the **Manchester Art Gallery**. The gallery houses over 25,000 objects of fine and decorative arts spanning six centuries, including a seminal collection of pre-Raphaelite paintings and important English ceramics. Our local guide will give an **introductory talk** on arrival followed by a free-flow visit.

We will return to the hotel on foot. The remainder of the afternoon and evening will be at leisure.

## WEDNESDAY 01 OCTOBER 2025

After breakfast at the hotel we will travel by coach to Stockport to visit the **Hat Works Museum**. Dedicated to the history of hats and hat-making and housed in a restored Grade II Victorian Mill, this is the first museum in the UK to centre around the headwear industry. It houses an impressive collection of over 400 hats and 20 Victorian machines from decommissioned hat factories in Stockport and Greater Manchester. We will have a **guided tour** of the Factory Floor with a resident guide followed by a little free time to explore the collection on a free-flow basis.

We will travel by coach to the Salford Quays area where there will be free time to take lunch. We will reconvene for a free-flow visit of the **Imperial War Museum North**. An impressive example of postmodernist architecture, the exhibits within the museum explore the social and societal impacts of modern warfare through a vast array of artefacts and artwork.

We will continue on foot to visit **The Lowry**. The Lowry building is acclaimed for its architectural features and remarkable array of visual and performing arts. We will have a **guided tour of The L.S. Lowry Exhibition** with a resident guide.

We will return to the hotel by coach. After some time to freshen up, **dinner** will be taken this evening in a local restaurant.

## THURSDAY 02 OCTOBER 2025

We will check out of the hotel after breakfast and travel by coach to **The Whitworth**. Founded in 1885 as part of the University of Manchester, it was re-opened in 2015 after a £15 million remodelling project which integrated the museum with its parkland setting. It boasts the widest range of textiles outside of the Victoria and Albert Museum in London and is home to a renowned collection of modern art, watercolours, textiles, sculptures, prints and wallpapers. We hope to arrange a



*Shugborough House (The Red Drawing Room)*

**curator-led guided tour** (please note that the exhibition schedule for October 2025 has not yet been released). An early lunch can be taken prior to departure.

We will continue to Stafford to visit **Shugborough Estate** (National Trust). Shugborough was the magnificent ancestral home of the 5<sup>th</sup> Earl of Lichfield, Patrick Lichfield the leading photographer. The 18<sup>th</sup> century mansion house contains a fine collection of ceramics, silver, paintings, and French furniture. There will be time to explore the house and grounds on a free-flow basis. *Please be aware that the walk from the car park to Shugborough Visitor Centre is approximately 1 km (c. 20 mins). There is a small mobility shuttle service which provides transport those who are not able to walk the distance, and a limited number of trampers are also available to hire. Please advise of any mobility requirements on your booking form.*

We will rejoin our coach and continue our journey homeward to Bristol, arriving in the evening.

*Please note that as this tour has been planned many months in advance, the final itinerary may vary slightly from the above.*

*Heritage*  
GROUP TRAVEL

Charlotte House, 12 Charlotte Street  
Bath, BA1 2NE

Tel: 01225 466620

[www.grouptravel.co.uk](http://www.grouptravel.co.uk)



# Manchester's Treasures

## TOUR PRICE

£775 per person sharing a twin/double room

£150 single supplement

## PRICE INCLUDES

Executive coach travel throughout  
3 nights' bed and breakfast accommodation in Manchester  
2 dinners  
Buffet lunch and tea/coffee and biscuits at Chillington Hall  
Tea/coffee during the walking tour of Manchester  
Private guided tour of Chillington Hall  
Services of a local guide for one full day in Manchester  
Guided tour of Chetham's Library  
Factory Floor guided tour at the Hat Works Museum  
Guided tour of The L.S Lowry Exhibition  
Curator-led guided tour at the Whitworth (*subject to availability and the exhibition schedule for October 2025*)  
Executive coach travel throughout  
All entrance charges (*excluding National Trust properties*)  
VOX audio headsets days 2-3

*Please note that entrance charges to National Trust properties are not included as these are free of charge to National Trust members upon production of a valid membership card.*

## HOTEL DETAILS

**Hotel Indigo Manchester Victoria Station** (4 star)

6 Todd Street, M3 1WU

For further details please visit their website:

<https://manchestervictoria.hotelindigo.com>

## MINIMUM NUMBERS

The price of the tour is based on a minimum of  
25 paying participants.

## FINANCIAL PROTECTION

ABTOT provides protection for your booking as set out in the Financial Protection clause of our Booking Conditions.

## OPTIONAL TRAVEL INSURANCE

Travel insurance is not mandatory for the UK, but we strongly recommend that you have adequate insurance in place to cover any COVID-related issues. We have arranged a scheme with specialists Brokersure Limite who are fully authorised and regulated by the FCA (firm reference number 501719) full details of which can be found on the FCA website [www.fca.org.uk](http://www.fca.org.uk). Please call Brokersure on 0330 880 3625 for a quote. *Please ensure that any policy has adequate cover for COVID-19 related issues.*

## PAYMENT DETAILS

A deposit of **£250 per person** is due as soon as possible and no later than **Friday 24 January 2025**. Please note that as places on the tour are limited, bookings will be accepted on a 'first come, first served' basis. The final balance will be due by **Monday 07 July 2025**.

## BOOKING & FINAL TRAVEL DETAILS

To reserve your place on the tour, please send your completed booking form and payment to Heritage Group Travel. You will receive a confirmation of your booking.

The final travel details (itinerary, hotel details and luggage label) will be available approximately  
10-14 days prior to travel.