



Manchester - City Business Guide

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Overview

With a population of 2.5 million people, Manchester is the third biggest city in the UK and the regional capital of the North West of England. Previously known as a grimy city, it has gone through major renovation and the construction of new buildings especially after the IRA bombing of the city centre in 1996. It is today a rejuvenated, dynamic and lively city. Birthplace of the industrial revolution, the city developed in the 18th century with the cotton and became the centre of manufacturing for the textile industry until its decline in the 1950s. While manufacturing remains important, other sectors have developed such as retail and wholesale, financial and business services making Manchester the largest economic region outside London. Today 80 of the Financial Times top 100 companies are present in the area.

Business Etiquette

* In the absence of any professional title, courtesy titles of "Mr" and "Mrs" followed by their name is used

* Punctuality is appreciated but short delays are acceptable

* Conservative dress is the norm

* Post work drinks are a tradition and it's good form to buy a round of drinks for colleagues

* One should not have too gentlemanly an attitude with ladies as it could be interpreted as disrespectful

* Courtesy is important and physical demonstration is not appropriate apart from shaking hands

* Giving gifts is not a normal part of British business culture except for a commemorative item or an invitation to dinner to celebrate the conclusion of a deal

Chamber of Commerce

Italian Chamber of Commerce and Industry for the UK

9th Floor, Rodwell Tower, 111 Piccadilly ; Tel. : + 44 (0) 161 274 4168 ; www.italchamind.co.uk

Manchester Chamber of Commerce and Industry

Churchgate House, 56 Oxford St; Tel.: +44 (0)161 236 3210 ; www.mcci.co.uk

Embassies and Consulates

Assistant High Commission for Bangladesh

3rd Floor, 28-32 Princess Street, Manchester M1 4LB; Tel.: +44 (0)161 236 4853 ; www.betelco.com

Chinese Consulate General Denison House

Denison Rd, Rusholme; Tel.: +44 (0)161 224 8672 ; www.fmprc.gov.cn

Danish Royal Consulate

Elisabeth House, St. Peters Square; Tel.: +44 (0)161 237 9695 ; www.ambassade.dk

Trade Commission of Denmark

Quay House, Quay Street ; + 44 (0) 161 832 7750 ; www.ambassade.dk

Italian Consulate

111 Piccadilly Rodwell Tower ; Tel.: +44 (0)161 236 9024 ; www.esteri.it

Netherlands Consulate

Apex House, 266 Moseley Road ; Tel.: +44 (0)161 248 2390 ; www.minbuza.nl

Royal Norwegian Consulate

Churchgate House, 56 Oxford Street ; +44 (0) 161 236 1406 ; www.norway.org.uk

Spanish Consulate General

Brook House, 70, Spring Gardens; Tel.: +44 (0)161 236 1233 ; www.mae.es

Consulate General of Switzerland

Portland Tower, Portland St; Tel.: +44 (0)161 236 2933 ; www.eda.admin.ch

Business Centers

Most large hotels also have business centers that offer many of the same services that independent centers provide.

The Works Business Centre Ltd 5

Union St, Ardwick Green; Tel.: +44 (0)161 277 7800 ; www.yell.com

Imex Spaces Ltd

Imex Spaces Business Park, Hamilton Rd, Longsight; Tel.: +44 (0) 161 256 2756 ; www.yell.com

Imex Spaces Ltd

Imex Spaces Business Park, Wilsons Park, Monsall Rd, Newton Heath; Tel.: +44 (0) 161 250 7018 ; www.yell.com

Brunttwood Business Centres Ltd

Portland Tower, Portland Street ; Tel.: +44 (0) 161 238 4900 ; www.yell.com

Regus

82, King Street; Tel.: +44 (0) 161 935 8000 ; www.regus.com

Regus

Adamson House, Towers Business Park, Wilmslow Rd, Didsbury; Tel.: +44 (0) 161 955 4200 ; www.regus.com

Regus

Eagle Court, Concord Business Park, Thrapwood Rd; Tel.: +44 (0) 161 932 6001 ; www.regus.com

Regus

Conference and Exhibition Centers

Imex Spaces

Ltd Imex Spaces Business Centre, Windmill Lane, Denton; Tel.: +44 (0) 161 337 0299 ; www.yell.com

APS Ltd

The Old Town Hall, Lapwing Lane; Tel.: +44 (0)161 448 9990

Hire Requirements Ltd

Unit 6, Long Wood Rd, Trafford Park; Tel.: +44 (0)161 848 7208

Clear Presentations

121 Palatine Rd, Didsbury; Tel.: +44 (0)161 448 2424

Out There Events Ltd

Wrendal House, 2, Whitworth St West; Tel.: +44 (0)161 244 5825

Translation Offices

Berlitz Language Centre

28th floor Sunley Tower, Piccadilly Plaza; Tel.: +44 (0)161 228 3607 ; www.yell.com

Aplin Translation Services

John Dalton House 121 Deansgate; Tel.: +44 (0)161 828 8289

Languages for Business Centre Ltd

Alexander House, 94 Talbot Road ; Tel.: +44 (0) 161 877 8400

Courier/Messenger Services

TNT

Tel. :+44 (0) 800 100 600

DHL Worldwide Express

Unit 3-5, The Parkway, Trafford Park; Tel.: + 44 (0)870 1100300 ;

www.yell.com

Secure Couriers

94 Marbury Road, Stockport ; Tel.: +44 (0) 161 621 0123 ; www.yell.com

Bonds Worldwide Express

Unit 3, William Enterprise Centre, Fourth Avenue, Trafford Park; Tel.: +44 (0)161 707 0007

Internet Connection Place

All upper-range and most medium-priced hotels are equipped with dataports that allow guests to use laptop computers. Many hotels also offer business centers equipped with computers and Internet access. Outside hotels, cyber cafes are available including:

Get Connected

342, Oxford Road ; Tel.: +44 (0) 161 273 5000 ; www.yell.com

Syberience

12 Newton Street; Tel.: +44 (0) 161 236 5731

Visas & Customs

Citizens of Brazil, Czech Republic, Italy, Japan, Korea (Republic of), Mexico, Germany, France and the U.S do not need a visa for entry into UK. Citizens of the People's Republic of China need to apply for visa. For adults entering from the non-EU countries, duty-free allowances are 200 cigarettes or 50 cigars or 250 grams of tobacco; 1 liter of alcoholic beverage of more than 22 proof, or 2 liters of champagne and wine; 60 grams of perfume, and other goods to the value of GBP75. For adults entering from the EU countries, duty-free allowances are 800 cigarettes or 400 cigarillos and 200 cigars or 1 kilograms of tobacco; 10 liters of alcohol beverage of more than 22 proof, or 90 liters of wine (20 liters of fortified wine), and 110 liters of beer.

Phone Information

The country code for all of the United Kingdom is 44. The city code for Manchester is 161.

Emergency Phone Numbers

Police, Ambulance, or Fire

999

General Emergency

112

Emergency Dental Care (24-hour)

+44 (0)161 845 4647

Tips and Rules for Use of Phone in Country

To call a foreign number from Manchester, dial 00, then the country code, then the area code, and then the number. Dial 100 to get the operator. Dial 155 to get the international operator. Dial 192 to reach the U.K. directory assistance. Dial 153 to get international directory assistance. Public phones are widely available and can be used with either coins or phone cards.

Tips and Rules for Use and Rental of Mobile Phones

The cellular standards in Manchester are ETACS for analogue and GSM for digital. Major service providers include Vodafone, Cellnet, Manx Telecom, Jersey Telecoms, Orange, One2One and Guernsey Telecoms. If you choose to bring your cellular phone into the U.K, be sure to check with your home cellular service provider to establish compatibility of your phone with systems abroad. Rent a locally compatible cellular phone before you arrive to obtain reasonable rates and reliable service. Cellular phone numbers begin with 3. The three digit dialing code identifies the carrier.

Money

The unit of currency is the pound sterling (GBP), which contains 100 pennies or pence (p). There are 5-, 10-, 20-, 50-, and 100-pond notes; 1- and 2-pound coins; and 1-, 2-, 5-, 10-, 20- and 50-pence coins. Pence or pennies are invariably abbreviated to "pee" in speech. Foreign currency and travelers' checks can be exchanged at banks, bureaux de change (private-exchange booths), and at certain travel agencies. Only pounds sterling are accepted as legal tender for cash transactions. Foreign currency must be exchanged for pounds at a bank or a currency exchange. ATMs are widely available. Travelers' checks are not generally accepted in shops and restaurants, though most major hotels will take them. They can be exchanged for cash in banks, change offices, and certain travel agencies. Credit cards are widely accepted throughout the country in hotels, restaurants, and shops.

Tiping

* Restaurants 10 to 15 percent, unless a service charge has already been added to the bill, in which case no further tip is required.

* Bars Not expected.

* Airport Porter GBP1 per bag.

* Taxis 10 to 15 percent.

* Hotels a service charge is generally included in the bill; and no further tip is necessary.

* Haircare/Personal Services 10 to 15 percent.

*

Time Difference

London lies in the Greenwich Mean Time (GMT) zone. Daylight Savings Time (known as British Summer Time, or BST) is observed from 2am on the last Sunday in March, when the clocks are put forward an hour to GMT plus one hour, until 2am on the last Sunday in October, when they go back to GMT time.





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VAT & Taxes

VAT is 17.5% in Manchester and is almost always included in quoted prices.

Voltage

Electricity is 240V, 50Hz AC in the U.K. Three-pin plugs with square-section pins are used in the U.K.

Local Transportation

The 2 principal mainline railway stations in the city, Piccadilly and Victoria, provide direct and frequent services to the U.K.'s major cities. London can be reached in less than two and a half hours, and the opening of the Channel Tunnel means rail passengers can reach Paris in 5 hours 40 minutes. Greater Manchester encompasses 142 miles of track and 98 passenger stations. M66, M61, M56 and M62 (west) connect the city to other parts of the region.

Manchester has shown U.K. cities the way ahead for comfortable commuting by opening the Metrolink Light Rail System in 1992. The system is the U.K.'s first onstreet light rapid transport, linking Bury in the north with Altrincham in the south via the city centre. Extensions expected for 2006. The bus is to a priority for the city and there are lots of lines which exist.

* Bus companies in Greater Manchester for timetable and fare information:

Tel.: +44 (0)161 228 7811

* Local Train Services: Tel.: +44 (0)161 228 7811

* Metrolink: Tel.: +44 (0)161 205 2000

* Manchester Airport: Tel.: +44 (0)161 489 3000

Health Info

There are no serious health hazards. You do not need any vaccinations before visiting the U.K.

Climate

Manchester has a temperate oceanic climate. While the city certainly has a rainy reputation, the average rainfall is less than in many other places in the UK. During Winter, the average temperature is 5°C and will rarely fall below freezing. Snow is atypical. While Spring and Fall are chilly with an average of 10°C, the best season is certainly Summer when the maximum temperature is usually around 20°C. The marginal months of March and October can be cold and wet.

Public Holidays

* **New Year's Day** January 1

* **Good Friday** Last Friday before Easter

* **Easter Monday** Monday after Easter in mid-March or April

* **May Bank Holiday** First Monday in May

* **Spring Bank Holiday** Monday in late May

* **Summer Bank Holiday** Monday at the end of August November 5

* **Christmas** December 25

* **Boxing Day** December 26

Where to Eat

For a sophisticated atmosphere and fine dining, **The River Room** at the Rocco Forte Lowry hotel will rejoice Marco Pierre White devotees with its inventive menu insisting on seasonal produce. Terence Conran's relaxed and informal **Zinc Bar & Grill** is well located in the nicely restored Triangle centre. **The Lincoln** serves excellent contemporary British food and the menu changes weekly. For classic French bistro food, the mid-priced **Le Petit Blanc Brasserie** by renowned chef Raymond Blanc is a classic with its double baked Roquefort soufflé. The Cantonese **Yang Sing** and its sister house **Little Yang Sing**, considered the best Chinese in the country serve wonderful authentic dim sum. Other good choices include **Koh Samui** (Thai), **Piccolino** (Italian) with its good antipasti and pizzas served in a New-York style dining room or **Greens** considered the best veggie in town. Outside of Manchester, **Juniper**, a one Michelin star, seduces by its playful menu including a delicious roast saddle of Cumbrian hare with foie gras.

Local Gift Ideas

The Triangle on Exchange square, holds a Selfridges and mainstream British shops like Jigsaw, Molton Brown or Space NK. Opposite is the world's largest **Marks & Spencer** for traditional English treats. Nearby, designer shopping is best at **Harvey Nichols** while local trendy designers can be found at **Geese** and **Oyster**.

Leisure Time

For a sky view of the city, Urbis museum's glass elevator will take you 100ft to the top. The museum also exhibits interactive displays of life in different cities around the world. The Manchester Art Gallery, within its impressive neo-Grecian surroundings, hosts impressive pieces of art including a famous collection of Pre-Raphaelite paintings, and also works from British masters. While walking in the old part of the city, visit the cathedral with its magnificent original medieval architecture. Not far away is The Royal Exchange, house of the city's cotton traders in its time, with its impressive trading room. A few blocks down on Albert Square, the Victorian Gothic Town Hall is a masterpiece of Victorian Gothic style. For football fans, it is a must to go and see Manchester United play in the Old Trafford stadium.