

VISIT
Bolton

INSIDER'S HANDBOOK



VISITBOLTON.COM

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TURTON AND ENTWISTLE RESERVOIR



BOLTON TOWN HALL



BOLTON MUSEUM'S EGYPT GALLERY



QUEENS PARK



BOLTON MARKET FOOD HALL



BOLTON FOOD AND DRINK FESTIVAL

WELCOME TO BOLTON

A place born to perform

Looking for your next great day out, weekend escape or family adventure? Bolton is packed with places to explore, experiences to enjoy, and stories to discover.

This guide is packed with so much to do, from rich heritage and fascinating culture to stunning green spaces and buzzing town festivals. Bolton truly offers something for everyone.

Our town is not only famous for its well-known family businesses and famous faces, but it's also award-winning, having been recognised as Greater Manchester's Town of Culture 2024.

Our thriving arts and entertainment scene helped shape this reputation, with the acclaimed, producing Octagon Theatre and the historic Albert Halls offering a diverse programme of live shows, from world-class tribute acts to famous comedy festivals and pantos.

At Bolton Museum, you can step back in time, explore one of the UK's finest Egyptology collections and visit Greater Manchester's only free public aquarium – all in a Tripadvisor Travellers' Choice Award location.

Love events? You're in the right place. Our stunning spaces, from Victoria Square to Queens Park, host some of the UK's most exciting events, including the hugely popular Bolton Food and Drink Festival in summer and the Put Big Light On Festival in winter, as well as the world-famous IRONMAN and IRONKIDS events (home to the world's largest).

There's never been a better time to **Visit Bolton**.



Lee Fallows

Chair of Bolton's
Local Visitor Economy
Partnership Board

Make a day of it in Bolton

If shopping and leisure are on your list, discover everything from high street favourites at Market Place Shopping Centre to a full day out at Middlebrook Retail & Leisure Park – the UK's largest retail park, offering shopping, dining, sport, and entertainment.

And when it's time to slow down, Bolton's great outdoors offers the perfect escape. Explore scenic canals, peaceful reservoirs, beautiful country parks, and family-friendly farms.

Our town is also known for its sporting heritage, having hosted major events such as top-flight football fixtures, UEFA Cup matches, international rugby games, the 2012 Olympic Torch Relay, and of course, IRONMAN.

We're also home to the famous Bolton Wanderers Football Club stadium, which regularly hosts high-profile live concerts.

Always ambitious, Bolton is building something special – a welcoming, vibrant destination where residents and visitors can enjoy unforgettable experiences all year round.

Whatever your interests, you can plan brilliant trips out and weekends away, as you'll find countless places to explore that can be added to your own personalised, shareable itinerary at **visitbolton.com**.

Start planning your visit today.



Sue Johnson

Chief Executive
of Bolton Council

A fantastic place to live, work, study, invest and visit.

TOWN HIGHLIGHTS

1 Countryside escapes

From the rugged beauty of the nearby moors to peaceful canal walks, Bolton offers nature on your doorstep.

2 Family-run gems

Independent cafés, shops and businesses give Bolton its warm, personal touch.

3 Rich heritage

Offering historic theatres, Smithills Hall, and one of the UK's largest Egyptology collections in Bolton's award-winning museum.

MOSES GATE COUNTRY PARK



4 A shopper's delight

With high street favourites, quirky district independents, and a top-rated retail park, Bolton's shopping scene offers something for every taste and budget.

5 Location, location, location

Bolton's excellent transport links to Greater Manchester, Lancashire and the wider UK mean it's very easy to get to.

6 The people

Routinely listed among the friendliest places in the UK, with a family-friendly feel and lots for children to do.



BOLTON FOOD AND DRINK FESTIVAL

7 Green space galore

Made up of over 50% green space, Bolton offers excellent opportunities for visitors and locals alike – from parks and multi-use outdoor trails to fishing spots and moorlands.

8 Festival fever

From the Bolton Food and Drink Festival to IRONMAN UK and the Put Big Light On Festival, the town knows how to throw a party.

9 A Town of Culture

As Greater Manchester's Town of Culture 2024, Bolton celebrates its heritage, creativity, and community like never before.

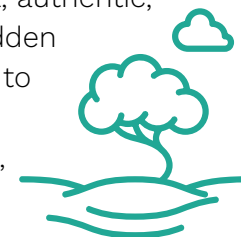
10 Hollywood of the North

Bolton's stunning architecture and cinematic streets have made it a magnet for TV and film – but more on that on the next page.

Unique District Centres

Beyond the vibrant town centre, Bolton is made up of seven distinct townships – each with its own character, heritage, and visitor appeal. From the rural tranquillity of **Turton (South)** and the industrial heritage of **Farnworth** and **Kearsley**, to the market town atmosphere of **Westhoughton** and the canal-side character of **Little Lever**, every corner of the borough has something to discover.

Horwich and **Blackrod**, nestled near the West Pennine Moors, invite outdoor enthusiasts with scenic trails and panoramic views. Together, these districts showcase the diversity of Bolton – local, authentic, and full of hidden gems waiting to be explored. For more info, see p50.



THE HOLLYWOOD OF THE NORTH



FILMING AT LE MANS CRESCENT

Bolton is born to perform

Bolton isn't just a producer's dream backdrop - it's a star in its own right, with plenty of character.

With its grand civic architecture, cobbled streets, and dramatic landscapes, Bolton has become a magnet for film and TV crews. From gritty dramas to glossy thrillers, the town's unique character has appeared in productions across BBC, ITV, Netflix, Paramount+ and Sky, earning it the nickname "Hollywood of the North".

For more info visit:

boltonfilmooffice.uk

Le Mans Crescent, with its sweeping curves and timeless grandeur, has doubled as Moscow, Manchester, London, and even fictional towns in hit series like:

- **Peaky Blinders (BBC)**
- **It's a Sin (Channel 4)**
- **A Gentleman in Moscow (Paramount+)**
- **Alma's Not Normal (BBC)**
- **Ridley (ITV)**
- **Talamasca: The Secret Order (AMC Networks)**
- **Missing You (Netflix)**
- **Brassic (Sky)**

Even Sylvester Stallone filmed a Warburtons ad on the steps of Bolton Town Hall - a nod to Rocky that went viral; with stars like Robert De Niro having also featured in the Bolton bakery's ads.

Around 350 filming days across five years brought over £1.2 million into Bolton. And it's not just about the cameras - it's about the buzz. Crews, creatives, and curious fans flock to Bolton, adding energy to local cafés, shops and streets.



PEAKY BLINDERS SCENE AT LE MANS CRESCENT
- IMAGE PROVIDED COURTESY OF BANIJAY ENTERTAINMENT



ALMA'S NOT NORMAL SCENE AT QUEENS PARK -
IMAGE PROVIDED COURTESY OF EXPECTATION TV

Want to walk in the footsteps of Thomas Shelby and travel back in time? Plan a trip to visit the iconic Le Mans Crescent with its neo-classical architecture and famous arches. You can also enjoy Bolton Film Festival which takes place early October every year.



THEATRES



PANTO AT ALBERT HALLS BOLTON

Albert Halls Bolton

Nestled in the heart of town within Bolton Town Hall, this iconic venue is renowned for hosting world-famous acts and a vibrant mix of comedy, music, drama, pantomimes, thought-provoking talks, and family shows.

Bolton Little Theatre (Town Centre)

Community-led with a rich history and known for high-quality amateur productions, it stages everything from compelling dramas to light-hearted comedies, often featuring local talent and emerging performers - and boasts patrons such as Sir Ian McKellen.

Farnworth Little Theatre

A volunteer-run gem presenting five full-length productions a year, celebrated for its intimate setting and welcoming atmosphere - treating audiences to a dynamic mix of drama, comedy, and thrillers.

Octagon Theatre (Town Centre)

Bringing a world-class producing theatre to the heart of Bolton, the Octagon stages gripping classics, joyful musicals, and boundary-pushing comedy; drawing diverse talent through standout events like the Bolton Comedy Festival.

The Victoria Hall (Town Centre)

Historic concert venue, hosting orchestras, choirs, pantomimes, and community events. Celebrated its 125th anniversary in 2025, marking over a century of cultural excellence and community spirit.

CINEMAS



THE LIGHT CINEMA

Cineworld (Astley Bridge)

One of the largest screens in the North West, with 15 screens and free parking at The Valley. It offers a wide selection of films - from family favourites to the latest blockbusters - and features special deals like Movies for Juniors and Cineworld Unlimited for avid filmgoers.

The Light (Town Centre)

Host to Bolton Film Festival, this stylish nine-screen cinema sits in Market Place Shopping Centre, showing blockbusters, live events, and indie films. With a fully stocked bar, comfy seating, and inclusive screenings, it's a perfect spot for a relaxed movie night or a social outing.

Vue (Horwich)

12-screen cinema at Middlebrook Retail and Leisure Park with recliner seats and Dolby surround sound. Enjoy the latest blockbusters and special screenings in luxurious comfort, with free parking and easy access for families and groups.

Scan me to find out more:





NIGHTLIFE



YE OLDE MAN AND SCYTHE

Hogarths (Town Centre)

Lavish Victorian gin palace with 140+ gins, microbrewery, live sports, music, and events. Grand interiors and beer gardens make it a Bolton favourite.

Northern Monkey Bar (Town Centre)

Vibrant microbar with home craft beers, guest brews, cocktails, pizzas, and live comedy - all in a relaxed, character-filled setting.

The Beer School (Westhoughton)

Award-winning, dog-friendly micro-pub with beer garden, known for its extensive and ever-changing selection of real ales, craft beers, and ciders from independent breweries.

The Crofters Bradshaw (South Turton)

Hosts live music, open mic and quiz nights with cocktail specials, and offers a relaxed bar, deck, and marquee.

The Crown (Horwich)

A landmark pub with a traditional yet stylish feel, serving cask ales and featuring live music, a pub quiz, and traditional pub games.

The Definitely Maybe Bar (Town Centre)

Oasis-themed cocktail bar with live music, neon vibes, darts, and top-tier pizza. Open late weekends - perfect for indie fans and casual nights out.

Ye Olde Man and Scythe (Town Centre)

One of Britain's oldest pubs, dating to 1251. Historic, haunted, and Grade II listed - a must-visit for ghost hunters and history lovers.

SPORT & LEISURE

BOLTON LEISURE CENTRES



BOLTON ARENA

Whether you're looking to swim, lift, run, or relax, Bolton's leisure centres offer something for everyone. With modern facilities, friendly staff, and affordable fees and memberships, staying active has never been easier.

LEISURE CENTRE	LOCATION
Bolton Arena	Arena Approach, Horwich
Farnworth Leisure Centre	Brackley Street, Farnworth
Horwich Leisure Centre	Victoria Road, Horwich
Leverhulme Park Community Leisure Centre	Long Lane, Bolton
Sir Jason Kenny Centre at Bolton One	Moor Lane, Bolton
Westhoughton Community Leisure Centre	Bolton Road, Westhoughton

Free swimming for under-17s

Bolton residents under 17 can swim for free with a Junior Leisure Card. Just bring ID and a completed form (with a parent/guardian) to any centre with a swimming pool.





SPORT & LEISURE

Bolton Sailing Club (Belmont)

Enjoy year-round sailing with RYA training, competitive racing, and inclusive sessions in scenic countryside.

Cycling

Nestled next to the West Pennine Moors, discover miles of walking and cycle trails to enjoy across Bolton.

[View the cycle map here](#)

Fishing

Bolton boasts a range of fisheries including Bradshaw Hall and Gingham Fisheries, offering coarse and match fishing in peaceful settings.

Golfing

Scenic fairways, driving ranges, clubhouses, and lessons - Bolton offers relaxed golfing for all skill levels across stunning countryside courses.

Horseriding

Saddle up for countryside hacks, pony treks, riding lessons, and equestrian shows for all levels at welcoming local stables.



BOLTON SAILING CLUB

Leverhulme Park (Darcy Lever)

Bolton's largest park, offering athletics facilities, five-a-side football pitches, and a community centre.

Rugby

Join local rugby clubs, attend matches, or explore Rugby League World Cup legacy events hosted at Bolton Stadium.

Toughsheet Community Stadium (Horwich)

Bolton Wanderers' home, hosting football matches, world-famous concerts and events with fan-friendly features.

COUNTRYSIDE, PARKS & GARDENS

Barrow Bridge Village (Smithills)

A short walk through a pretty village and tranquil woodland, filled with spring wildflowers, leading up to Daffodil Meadow with lovely views across Bolton. Combine with Smithills Estate and Winter Hill for a longer, more challenging walk.

Bolton Rotary Way

A long-distance circular footpath of over 50 miles that circles the whole of Bolton borough, taking in industrial heritage sites, reservoirs, historic estates, memorials, and country parks.

Bolton to Wigan Community Rail Trail

A 13-mile path through one of Lancashire's most historic transport corridors, with 54 waymarkers and interpretation boards at each of the six stations for local heritage, nature, and route information.



DOFFCOCKER LODGE

Doffcocker Lodge

A tranquil nature reserve, offering scenic walks, rich birdlife, and a peaceful escape around a historic mill reservoir.

Eatock Lodge Local Nature Reserve (Westhoughton)

A network of footpaths provides short circular walks of up to two miles around this green oasis, rich in wildlife and nestled among housing on the former Eatock Colliery site.



COUNTRYSIDE, PARKS & GARDENS



JUMBLES COUNTRY PARK

Horrocks Wood (Smithills)

A range of open-access paths runs through the woodland, offering panoramic views of Manchester and Cheshire. Great for dog walkers and ramblers while avoiding the higher hills.

Horwich Heritage Trail

A short 1-mile walk exploring the historic centre of Horwich, which grew as a cotton and bleaching centre in the late 18th century and with the coming of the railway in the late 19th century.

Jumbles Country Park (South Turton)

Scenic reservoir walks, birdwatching, and a cosy café. Great for families and dog walkers.

Middlebrook Valley Trail

An easy 3.6-mile ramble from Bolton town centre through Queens Park and along the bank of the Middle Brook to Lostock station, returning one stop by train.

Moses Gate Country Park (Farnworth)

Tranquil nature reserve with lakes, riverside walks, waterfowl, woodland trails, and a modern playground.

Moss Bank Park (Smithills)

A family-friendly park with play areas, tennis courts, a miniature railway, and The Hive nature play zone.

COUNTRYSIDE, PARKS & GARDENS

Queens Park (near to Town Centre)

Award-winning oasis, proudly holding Green Flag status - with restored Victorian charm, vibrant wildlife, and a peaceful duck pond.

Seven Acres Country Park (Tonge Fold)

A 79-acre nature reserve bursting with wildflower meadows, woodland trails, and over 100 bird species.

Smithills Estate

Along with the country park, this vast landscape offers over 2,000 acres of scenic moorland, woodland, and wildlife-rich trails, with historic Smithills Hall at its heart - ideal for walking, picnicking, and exploring Bolton's natural and cultural heritage.



QUEENS PARK

Tonge Trail

This circular 8-mile walk follows the River Tonge and Bradshaw Brook, connecting a circuit of parks and green spaces and passing the historic Hall i' th' Wood.

Towers and Turrets (South Turton)

A 6-mile moderate walk from the Last Drop Village Hotel across scenic landscapes and through woods to the attractive village of Chapeltown, taking in two reservoirs, a wooded gorge, and Turton Tower, a 600-year-old Grade I listed Tudor manor house.



COUNTRYSIDE, PARKS & GARDENS



TURTON AND ENTWISTLE RESERVOIR

Turton and Entwistle Reservoir

Scenic woodland reservoir with a popular circular walking trail, located near Turton Tower and The Strawbury Duck B&B, offering a peaceful dog-friendly day out.

Find your favourite trails from our Things to Do section on our website!



Upper Bradshaw Valley Local Nature Reserve (South Turton)

Walks of between half a mile and 2.5 miles lead through woodlands, wildflower grasslands, and hedgerows. Centred on Bradshaw Brook, this large 34-hectare reserve joins Jumbles reservoir and Longsight park.

Walker Fold Woods (South Turton)

Choose from a variety of paths to explore the woods – part of Smithills Estate – or use them as a starting point for a longer hike up to Rivington Gardens, Liverpool Castle, and the 300-metre-tall TV mast atop Winter Hill.

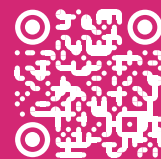
VISIT Bolton

OFF TO ONE OF OUR FANTASTIC ATTRACTIONS?

Walking or cycling is the way to go!

- Skip the traffic
- Save on fuel
- Save on parking
- Get fit
- Enjoy fresh air
- Go green

Try a walking or cycle trail too.



Go to:

letskeepboltonmoving.co.uk/active





FAMILY ATTRACTIONS

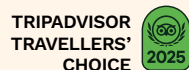
AirVault Inflatable and Trampoline Park (Westhoughton)

A high-energy indoor park featuring trampolines, inflatables, ninja walls, and a covered sports court - plus a mezzanine café and party packages for all ages.

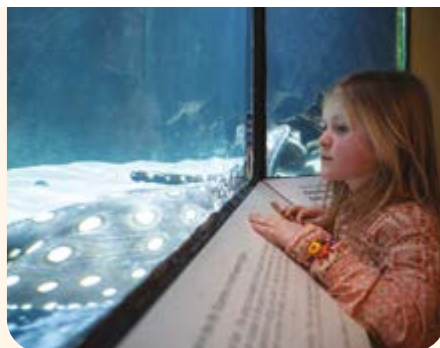
Amazonia (Town Centre)

Rainforest-themed indoor venue, featuring a vibrant 18-hole crazy golf course, jungle, and play frames for kids aged 0-14 - perfect for family fun.

Bolton Museum and Aquarium (Town Centre)



A cultural cornerstone featuring a world-class Egyptology collection, natural and local history exhibits, and Greater Manchester's only free public aquarium. Interactive, educational, and free to enter - with a gift shop and café for a perfect family day out.



BOLTON MUSEUM AND AQUARIUM

Bolton Steam Museum (Heaton)

Home to Europe's largest collection of working textile mill steam engines, lovingly restored by volunteers. Open every Wed and Sun (11am-3pm), with special "In Steam" days throughout the year when the full collection roars to life.

Hedgehogs Woodland Adventures (Horwich)

Offers forest school-inspired play in private woodland, with mud kitchens, campfire cooking, nature crafts, themed sessions, and holiday clubs - plus magical party packages from fairies to axe throwing.

FAMILY ATTRACTIONS



POPPYWOOD ALPACAS

Jump Xtreme and That Fun Place (Haulgh)

A high-energy indoor activity centre featuring wall-to-wall trampolines, dodgeball courts, slam dunk hoops, and a soft play zone with slides, ball pits, and climbing nets. It caters to all ages with sessions for tots, teens, and families - plus a café for parents to relax while the kids go wild.

Party and Play Funhouse (Westhoughton)

One of the largest indoor and outdoor play centres in Greater Manchester. Includes soft play zones, laser tag, and birthday party packages. Designed with both kids and parents in mind.

Poppywood Alpacas (Horwich)

A charming alpaca experience offering scenic walks, meet-and-greet sessions, and even alpaca therapy - perfect for families, nature lovers, and anyone seeking a relaxing countryside adventure.

Smithills Hall

A Grade I listed manor house with medieval, Tudor, and Victorian wings. Offers immersive history experiences, seasonal events like Halloween ghost tours, and peaceful gardens. A must-visit for heritage lovers and curious kids alike.

Smithills Open Farm

A working farm with over 25 types of animals, from llamas to lambs. Features tractor rides, petting zones, and homemade ice cream. Great for younger children and families looking for hands-on fun.



CAFÉS & DELIS



LOTTIE'S OF BELMONT

Café Crescent (Town Centre)

Nestled inside Bolton Central Library, it offers artisan coffee, homemade cakes, and locally sourced lunches in a bright, welcoming space perfect for relaxing or refuelling.

Earl's (Heaton)

Trendy deli serving artisan sandwiches, brunch plates, and fresh coffee in a relaxed setting. Great for daytime bites or evening chill-outs.

Jing Jai Thai Café (Town Centre)

Family-run, inspired by Chiang Mai traditions, serving handmade starters, fragrant curries, and bold stir-fries - alongside Thai sweet bakes and teas.

Lottie's of Belmont (Turton)

Charming countryside café offering homemade cakes, hearty brunches, scenic views, and warm, friendly service.

Blue Café (Farnworth)

Welcoming café serving homemade dishes, flavourful coffee, and warm service in a relaxed atmosphere.

Odessa (Town Centre)

Offers hearty breakfasts, homemade cakes, and friendly service. A local favourite for casual dining.

Thyme Deli (Horwich)

Rustic charm meets gourmet flair - serving fresh deli fare, salads, and artisan treats.

Discover lots more
places on our website,
where you can build
your own itinerary!



COFFEE SHOPS & BAKERIES

Armstrongs Bakers (Great Lever)

Family-run for over 50 years, this beloved bakery is known for handmade pies, cakes, pasties, and fresh bread.

Brewed Coffee (Horwich)

Fresh coffee, teas, milkshakes, and light meals in a relaxed setting with dine-in, takeaway, and an upstairs lounge for private events.

Bridge Coffee (Haulgh)

A hidden gem with top-tier espresso, homemade bakes, and a peaceful atmosphere. Ideal for a quiet recharge.

Burnden Park Pie Shop (Great Lever)

Known for hearty meat pies, pasties, and sausage rolls - served fresh daily. A local favourite with roots in tradition, famously endorsed by Fred Dibnah.

Carrs Pasties

Family-run bakery since 1938, famous for freshly baked pasties, sandwiches, and cakes. Locations: Great Lever, Halliwell, Middlebrook, and Town Centre.



YE OLDE PASTIE SHOPPE

The Coffee House (Farnworth and Town Centre)

Modern coffee shop with a wide selection of brews, light bites, and comfy seating. Great for meetups or solo sips.

Wilsons Pie Shop (Kearsley)

Classic Bolton pie shop serving satisfying meat and potato pies, pasties, and baked goods. A go-to for traditional flavours.

Ye Olde Pastie Shoppe (Town Centre)

Established in 1667 and still family-run, this historic bakery serves handmade pasties praised by celebrities and locals alike.

RESTAURANTS



CURLEY'S DINING ROOMS

Casa Nostra (Westhoughton)

Authentic Italian bar-restaurant offering cocktails, warm hospitality, and weekend buzz with a loyal local following.

Curley's Dining Rooms (Horwich)

Family-run and dog-friendly, it offers hearty breakfasts, homemade dishes, and outdoor seating with its fishing lakeside views.

Nick's Restaurant (South Turton)

Creative seasonal British-Mediterranean dishes served with warm hospitality and a relaxed, inviting vibe.

Olympus (Town Centre)

Award-winning fish and chip restaurant with elegant interiors, live piano, and seating for 200. Serves British classics, pre-theatre meals, and hosts private events.

Royal Balti House (Farnworth)

Award-winning Indian restaurant and Bolton's oldest curry house, serving signature dishes with cocktails in a lively setting.

The Albert (Town Centre)

Stylish bar and restaurant inside the historic Albert Halls, offering special dining experiences, from seasonal events to pre-show dining.

The Cherry Tree (Blackrod)

Award-winning - known for seasonal menus, locally sourced ingredients, and a warm, welcoming atmosphere.

COUNTRY PUBS & ARTISAN MARKETS

Black Dog Inn (Belmont)

Rustic 1825 farmhouse-turned-pub with open fires, scenic views, and a cosy stop for hikers and cyclists.

Bob's Smithy Inn (Horwich)

Traditional retreat with open fires, cask ales, and a warm welcome in a timeless rural setting.

Bolton Artisan Market (Heaton)

Monthly market at Heaton Fold Garden Centre: handmade food, crafts, and gifts from local makers.

Bolton Market Food Hall (Town Centre)

Modern dining space within Bolton Market, featuring global street food, a gin bar, live music, and indoor-outdoor seating.

Provenance Food Hall (Westhoughton)

Offering artisan produce with a premium butcher, deli, bakery, and upstairs restaurant.



BOLTON MARKET FOOD HALL

The Blundell Arms (Horwich)

Classic country pub with seasonal dishes, beer garden, and a welcoming vibe near historic Holy Trinity Church.

The Strawbury Duck (South Turton)

Traditional pub nestled by reservoirs and hills, known for cask ales, hearty food, and a warm, beamed interior.

The Wilton Arms (Belmont)

Welcoming country pub on the moors with refined dining, traditional British dishes, and scenic surroundings.

DON'T MISS OUR ANNUAL, MULTI-AWARD-WINNING
BOLTON FOOD AND DRINK FESTIVAL

EVERY AUGUST BANK HOLIDAY WEEKEND
IN THE TOWN CENTRE!

SHOPPING & RETAIL PARKS



MIDDLEBROOK RETAIL AND LEISURE PARK

Bolton's District Centres

Offering a rich mix of local character and vibrant retail experiences - from Westhoughton and Farnworth's bustling high streets to South Turton's picturesque Last Drop Village - with independent shops, cosy cafés, and artisan boutiques in charming settings.

Bolton Market (Town Centre)

Award-winning traditional market in the North West, offering fresh produce, global street food, flowers, fashion, and more. Its vibrant new food hall features international cuisines, a gin bar, and live music - making it a destination for both shopping and dining.

Market Place (Town Centre)

Historic converted market hall featuring high street brands, The Light cinema, and The Vaults - a restored Victorian basement with diverse restaurants, mini golf, and an arcade. Hosting regular events like artisan markets, comic cons, and Bolton Film Festival at The Light.

Middlebrook Retail and Leisure Park (Horwich)

The UK's largest retail park, packed with everything from big-name fashion and tech to homeware, toys, and everyday essentials. Enjoy Vue cinema, Hollywood Bowl, and a terrace of restaurants for every taste - all beside Bolton Wanderers' stadium. A full day out with shopping, dining, and leisure in one place.

FARM SHOPS & BUTCHERS

Atkinsons Butchers (South Turton)

Traditional butcher and meat wholesaler known for lamb, English cuts, and custom orders. Friendly service with loyal local following.

Barrons of Beef (Smithills)

Family-run since 1978, praised for salt and pepper chicken, weekly meat packs, and friendly, personalised service.

Benthams Butchers at Ryders (Kearsley)

Homemade pies, soups, cakes, and meals, plus a master butcher and ice cream parlour. Known for top-quality meats sourced locally from Lancashire farms.

Frasers Butchers Ltd (Great Lever)

Award-winning Q Guild butcher, known for premium meats, homemade sausages, and BBQ packs. Proudly sources from local farms and offers expert service.



MILK MAIDS

Fresh Farm Shop (Belmont)

Family-run farm shop offering locally sourced meats, organic vegetables, dairy, cakes, spices, and artisan goods.

Milk Maids (Over Hulton)

Beloved for fresh milk, eggs, preserves, and ice cream. Includes a small farm with animals - perfect for families and food lovers.

Smithills Farm Shop

Part of Smithills Open Farm, this shop offers fresh local produce, homemade pies, jams, and baked goods - plus farm-reared meats and dairy. A great stop for quality ingredients and a family day out.

GARDEN CENTRES



HEATON FOLD GARDEN CENTRE

Arthur Lane Nurseries (Ainsworth)

A family-run garden centre with over 35 years of expertise. Offers homegrown plants, garden furniture, and a charming tea room.

Bolton Garden Centre (Deane)

Part of British Garden Centres, this large site offers plants, homeware, a soft play area, and the Gardener's Retreat restaurant with carvery.

Bradley Fold Garden Centre (Little Lever)

Popular family-run centre offering plants, garden furniture, gifts, and pet supplies. Features a stylish café serving homemade meals and cakes, plus seasonal events and homeware shopping.

Heaton Fold Garden Centre (Heaton)

A community-focused garden centre offering plants, gardenware, gifts, and a café. It hosts monthly artisan markets and provides work experience for adults with disabilities, making it both a shopping destination and a social enterprise.

HOTELS, GUEST HOUSES & B&Bs



LAST DROP VILLAGE HOTEL AND SPA

Black Dog Inn (Belmont)

Traditional inn with garden, pub, and dog-friendly rooms. A cosy base for exploring Bolton's countryside and walking trails.

Highgrove Guest House (Town Centre)

A casual, centrally located guesthouse offering simple, traditionally furnished rooms with free Wi-Fi and parking.

Holiday Inn Bolton Centre (Town Centre)

Town-centre hotel with spacious rooms, event spaces, and good motorway links. Family-friendly and ideal for weddings or group stays.

Last Drop Village Hotel and Spa (South Turton)

Set in converted 17th-century farmhouses with luxury spa, pool, and village-style shops. Dog-friendly and perfect for romantic or family getaways, with a variety of events hosted throughout the year.

Meadowcroft Farm Barn (Edgworth)

Nestled in the picturesque village of Edgworth, this award-winning B&B offers luxury accommodation in a beautifully converted barn. With super king bedrooms, en-suite wet rooms, and a cosy log-burning stove, it's a peaceful rural retreat just minutes from Bolton's scenic countryside.

Mercure Bolton Georgian House Hotel (Blackrod)

Relaxing hotel near the West Pennine Moors with a gym, restaurant, and dog-friendly rooms. Popular for families and countryside escapes.



HOTELS, GUEST HOUSES & B&Bs



THE BOLTON STADIUM HOTEL

Quarlton Fold Farm (Edgworth)

Set in the rolling hills near Turton, this peaceful B&B offers rustic charm with modern comforts. Guests love the panoramic views, hearty breakfasts, and easy access to walking trails and reservoirs.

The Bolton Stadium Hotel (Horwich)

Modern hotel at Toughsheet Community Stadium with pitch-view rooms, free parking, and family-friendly dining. Great for sports fans and event-goers.

The Strawbury Duck (South Turton)

Rustic B&B near Entwistle Reservoir with hearty breakfasts and dog-friendly rooms. Great for walkers and nature lovers.

Wendover Guest House (Horwich)

Highly rated B&B near BWFC Stadium with spotless rooms, exceptional breakfasts, and a warm welcome. Family-friendly and peaceful.

What's On

Bolton is the place to be - from monthly artisan markets and foodie weekends, to concerts, scenic walks, theatre productions and family-friendly festivals. Whatever the time of year, there are always good reasons to get out and explore.

In this section, you'll find:

- **A Year of Ideas:** Key events and ideas to help you plan - covering all seasons throughout the year.
- **Highlights you shouldn't miss:** The town's headline festivals and famous events, helping you plan out your year ahead.

IRONKIDS/IRONMAN UK
- EVERY JUNE



BOLTON FOOD AND DRINK FESTIVAL -
EVERY AUGUST BANK HOLIDAY WEEKEND

Whether you want to **discover something local** or plan your visit **around a big event**, this guide has you covered.



A YEAR OF IDEAS

NEW YEAR

Take up a new hobby - explore our museums and libraries offering workshops and socials



Enjoy Easter events and entertainment - from trails and crafts to family shows and pantos



SUMMER

Take up a new outdoor sport like cycling or sailing, or simply spectate



Catch a Halloween show or book a spooky ghost tour at one of Bolton's haunts



WINTER



Visit Santa's Grottos, and see one of his live shows

Bolton's festive panto season begins



Go pumpkin picking at one of our farms, and take a crunchy-leaf trail



Festival season begins! Look out for Bolton Pride in May, IRONMAN UK in June, and Bolton Food and Drink Festival in August



Stroll through Bolton's parks and spot Blossom trees and spring wildlife



Get active at one of our many gyms and leisure centres



SPRING

AUTUMN



Search our directory, discover what's on, and find places

to stay - then build your itinerary for the perfect trip!





Bolton Food & Drink Festival 2026

21

FRI 28TH TO MON 31ST AUGUST

CELEBRATE THE GOOD TIMES

In partnership with **Peel Land**
Communities + Regeneration

Friday 28 – Monday 31 August 2026

Join us for the 21st birthday of Bolton Food and Drink Festival! After over 20 years of flavour, fun, and family memories, the 2026 festival promises even more culinary magic, music, and mouthwatering moments.

FREE Celebrity chef demos
FREE Special events
FREE Regional chef demos
FREE Artisan stalls
FREE Live music and bars
FREE Children's activities
FREE Street entertainment

stepplaces **Agilisys**

boltonfoodanddrinkfestival.com

f boltonfoodanddrinkfestival **X** @boltonfoodfest **ig** boltonfoodfest

Bolton Council



Wilton Fest

Saturday 5 September 2026

The UK's biggest free climbing festival.

Wilton Fest is a free, unticketed outdoor climbing festival set in the stunning Wilton Quarries.

Founded by BMC volunteers, the festival welcomes everyone from complete beginners to experienced climbers, offering a relaxed, friendly introduction to climbing alongside a celebration of local outdoor culture.

Find out more at
wiltonfest.uk

ig WiltonFest

Expect expert guidance, have a go sessions, community vibes and a great day out!



© MIKE HUTTON



© MIKE HUTTON

Albert Halls Bolton

What's on



The Hits of ABBA
12 September 2026



**Johnny Cash Roadshow:
The Prison Era Unleashed**
18 October 2026



Supreme Queen
6 November 2026



Santa Live!
12-24 December 2026



**Snow White and the
Seven Dwarfs**
1-31 December 2026

See what's
on and book tickets here

f **Albert Halls Bolton**
@ **AlbertHallsBolton**
X **AlbertHallsBTN**



The Importance of being Earnest by Oscar Wilde

Sat 12 - Sat 19 September 2026

Bolton Little Theatre, Main theatre,
Bolton, BL1 4TG

Book tickets:

www.boltonlittletheatre.co.uk

01204 524469



FARNWORTH LITTLE THEATRE

2026-2027 SEASON

A Streetcar Named Desire

5 - 12 September 2026

Strictly Murder

16 - 23 January 2027

Bette and Joan

7 - 14 November 2026

Good

13 - 20 March 2027

When we are married

15 - 22 May 2027

Book tickets:

www.farnworthlittletheatre.co.uk

01204 913112

TICKETS
£10/£8



BOLTON FILM FESTIVAL

**Wednesday 30 September –
Sunday 4 October 2026**



BOLTON-BORN COMEDIAN, DIANE MORGAN

Bolton International Film Festival is the largest short film festival in the North West of England and ranks among the UK's leading festivals of its kind.

As a BAFTA and BIFA-qualifying event, it champions excellence in short-form storytelling.

Each October, the festival welcomes a dynamic and diverse audience of filmmakers, students, industry professionals and the wider public - to celebrate bold, original voices in cinema.

Attendees can discover outstanding new work from some of the world's most exciting emerging filmmakers, take part in Q&As, and engage with an industry programme featuring respected figures from across film and television.

Dedicated to nurturing fresh talent and spotlighting evolving voices, the festival acts as a powerful platform for short films and their creators.

Hosted at The Light Cinema in Market Place, audiences can enjoy a wide range of entertaining film genres.

f Bolton Film Festival
@ BoltonFilmFest
X BoltonFilmFest
boltonfilmfestival.com



Freezin (half-term panto)
29 – 31 October 2026



**Goldilocks and
The Three Bears**
14 Nov 2026 – 3 Jan 2027



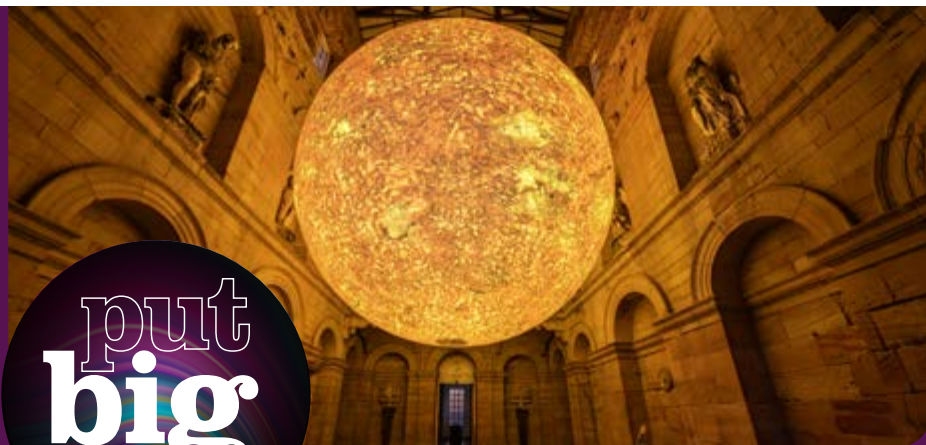
Spooky Lantern Tour
Saturday 31 October 2026



**Bolton Symphony Orchestra,
Second Thoughts**
Saturday 21 November 2026

**Full list of events and
to book tickets here**

f The Victoria Hall, Bolton
@ The_Victoria_Hall_Bolton



put
big
light on

HELIOS BY LUKE JERRAM © BEC HUGHES, HOUSE OF HUES

**Thursday 19 – Sunday 22 November 2026,
5–9pm, Bolton Town Centre**

Put Big Light On Festival returns to Bolton this November.

Experience Bolton's free light art festival, filled with spectacular installations, live performances, and immersive moments for all ages. Don't miss Luke Jerram's Helios and – appearing in Bolton for the first time – the internationally acclaimed illuminated giants, DUNDU.

Follow Put Big Light On Festival on social media for updates and announcements.



f Put Big Light On Festival



@PutBigLightOnBolton



GIANTS OF LIGHT
BY DUNDU

SPARK! LED DRUMMERS AND DUNDU LIGHT GIANT

Funded by
UK Government

together
we are
**GREATER
MANCHESTER**



**Bolton
Council**



There is always something to discover at Market Place Bolton.

Set in a striking historic market hall in the centre of town, it combines shopping, dining, and entertainment with a growing programme of events throughout the year.

Alongside high street names, visitors can enjoy The Light Cinema and The Vaults, home to family-friendly leisure, including mini golf, games, and play.

Regular artisan markets, record fairs, and themed event weekends bring extra colour and character to the centre, creating fresh reasons to visit across the seasons.

Whether you are stopping for a film, food, family time or a browse around the shops, Market Place offers an easy all-in-one destination in the heart of Bolton.

**For the what's on calendar,
visit the website**

f Market Place, Bolton
@MarketPlaceBolton



THE ALBERT

Set within the historic Albert Halls, The Albert bar and restaurant is open exclusively for ticketed and pre-show events.

Bringing you curated dining and cultural experiences that celebrate local talent, seasonal flavours, and bold, innovative concepts, introducing a new era of unforgettable experiences.

For the latest events and menus, visit The Albert website:



Follow The Albert on social media to stay updated on all dining events:



The Albert



TheAlbertBolton



PETER KAY SPECIAL DINING

Join us for one-of-a-kind special dining events to celebrate Peter Kay's return to Albert Halls Bolton!



Peter Kay will be performing from 9-10 January 2027, and if you've got a ticket, why not make your outing even more memorable by booking a table at The Albert for a special Phoenix Nights-themed menu!

Dining event dates and times:

Saturday 9 January 2027:

Matinee: 12pm – 2:15pm | Evening: 4pm – 6:30pm

Sunday 10 January 2027:

Matinee: 12pm – 2:15pm | Evening: 4pm – 6:30pm

(75 mins per table)



To view the full menu and book your table, scan here



NIGHT RUN
BOLTON UK Presented by IRONMAN

IRONKIDS

IRONMAN
70.3 BOLTON ENGLAND



Friday 4 - Sunday 6 June 2027

Don't miss Bolton's legendary IRONMAN weekend!

Bolton will host another bumper weekend of sporting action in June when our three IRONMAN events return.

As many as 10,000 people are expected to take part from Friday 4 to Sunday 6 June.

Every year, huge crowds turn out to cheer them on, creating the party atmosphere Bolton is famous for.

Kicking off the action on Friday 4 June is Night Run Bolton UK, where runners of all ages and abilities take on a 5k or 10k route through the town centre.

f IRONMAN England
@ IRONMAN_UK



On Saturday 5 June, up to 6,000 children and young people will take over the town centre for the world's biggest IRONKIDS.

Keeping the whole family entertained before and after the event will be crafts, face painting, and a climbing wall at the Family Fun Zone.

Then on Sunday 6 June, IRONMAN 70.3 Bolton takes centre stage, welcoming athletes from around the world for a thrilling triathlon challenge. Spectators line nearby parks and gather in the town centre to cheer them on in an unforgettable day of endurance and community spirit.



Summer 2027 - Dates TBC

The Made in Manchester Festival returns to Bolton Wanderers Football Club, promising a vibrant weekend of live music, dance, food, and family entertainment.

Showcasing the best tribute acts to the classic Manchester music scene, alongside all-time favourite bands, bringing nostalgia to Bolton!

Visit the website to find out more:



f Made in Manchester Festival
@ MadeInManchesterFestival



BOLTON DAYS OUT

Whether you've got a full day to explore or just a few hours to spare, Bolton offers plenty to discover – from cultural gems and green spaces to family fun and local flavours. Here are some ideas!

Don't forget,
you can build your
own itinerary on
our website!



QUEENS PARK

FULL DAY



EGYPTOLOGY AT BOLTON MUSEUM

Morning

- Begin your day with a relaxed breakfast in the town centre – there are plenty of welcoming cafés to choose from.
- Head to **Bolton Museum** to explore Egyptology, natural history, art, and local heritage; then ponder at the aquatic creatures at the only free public aquarium in Greater Manchester.
- Wander through the filming hotspot **Le Mans Crescent** and admire the town's grand civic architecture. Maybe even pretend you're a Peaky Blinder while you're at it!



LE MANS CRESCENT

Afternoon

- Grab lunch in one of our quaint town districts – opt for independent eateries and niche cafés with character.
- For nature lovers, visit **Smithills Open Farm** for hands-on fun with animals, or enjoy a peaceful stroll through **Queens Park**, perfect for duck-feeding and quiet moments. Venture a little further to explore calming countryside trails nearby reservoirs and hills with panoramic views.

Evening

- Dine at one of Bolton's many restaurants or traditional pubs – perfect for hearty meals and a relaxed atmosphere. If timing's right, enjoy a show at **Albert Halls** or **Farnworth Little Theatre**.
- End the day with a drink at a cosy country-style pub. Whether it's South Turton, Blackrod, or Horwich, Bolton offers plenty of rural and peaceful settings.

BOLTON DAYS OUT

Stuck for time? No problem, we got you!
Here's some ideas you can explore in just half a day.



TIP:
Most attractions are walkable from the town centre or easily reached by bike or public transport.

HALF A DAY

Retail and Treats

- Browse local, friendly stalls at **Bolton Market** for fresh produce, global street food, and artisan crafts. Or head to the **UK's largest retail & leisure park at Middlebrook** for shopping, bowling, the cinema, or a memorable meal out.
- Stroll through the town centre for retail therapy, and treat yourself to a true Bolton delicacy - a pasty barm from one of our famous family-run pasty shops.



BOLTON MARKET

Nature and Relaxation

- Take a refreshing walk at **Jumbles Country Park** or **Moses Gate Country Park**, both offering scenic trails and tranquil spots.
- Wrap up with lunch at a countryside pub or a laid-back café nearby. Or bring a picnic hamper to a country park or nature trail and take in the views.



MOSES GATE COUNTRY PARK

Culture and Heritage

- Hop on a bus or drive to **Smithills Hall** and step back in time. This beautifully preserved manor features Tudor and Victorian rooms, a chapel, and Great Hall. Set within **Smithills Country Park**, it's surrounded by peaceful gardens and scenic nature trails. Don't miss the charming Bake and Roast tearoom.
- Visit **Westhoughton Library** to learn about the town district's rich past from the great work Westhoughton Local History Group do.

Explore its heritage through old maps, historic photos, displays, and listed churches.

- Visit the **Fred Dibnah statue** in the town centre, near the steam engine display. Unveiled in 2008, it features his trademark flat cap and waistcoat, honouring Bolton's beloved steeplejack and working-class heritage.



SMITHILLS HALL

DISTRICT CENTRES

Explore the character and charm of Bolton's surrounding townships - each with its own identity, heritage, and visitor appeal.

TOWNSHIP	WHAT IT'S KNOWN FOR	WHY VISIT?
Turton (South)	Historic villages and moorland landscapes	Green spaces like Longsight Park (Green Flag status), Egerton Park, and scenic drives
Blackrod	Rural charm and elevated views	Ideal for hikers and countryside lovers
Horwich	Gateway to Rivington and the West Pennine Moors	Outdoor adventures, heritage trails, and cafés
Westhoughton	Former mill town with a proud industrial past	Independent shops, local eateries, and green spaces
Kearsley	A mix of countryside charm, village life and cultural heritage	Historic churches, heritage sites, and pretty canal-side walks, with friendly local pubs and eateries
Little Lever	Close-knit community and family-friendly vibe	Tranquil scenery and canal-side walks
Farnworth	Historic market town with strong community roots and regeneration underway	Shopping, local culture, and home to Bolton's largest nature reserve, Moses Gate Country Park

TRAVEL INFORMATION

The town's ideal location enables excellent connectivity to the north and south of England.

By Bus

Thanks to the Greater Manchester Bee Network and our state-of-the-art Bolton Interchange (which also has a cycle hub), getting around couldn't be easier. You can hop on frequent buses with £2 single fares!

By Bike

Bolton is well-connected by regional cycle routes, making it easy to reach by bike. Secure parking is available at key spots like Bolton Interchange.

By Train

Direct services from Manchester can take as little as 15 minutes. From major cities across the UK - including London - you can reach us via seamless connections through Manchester and other regions.

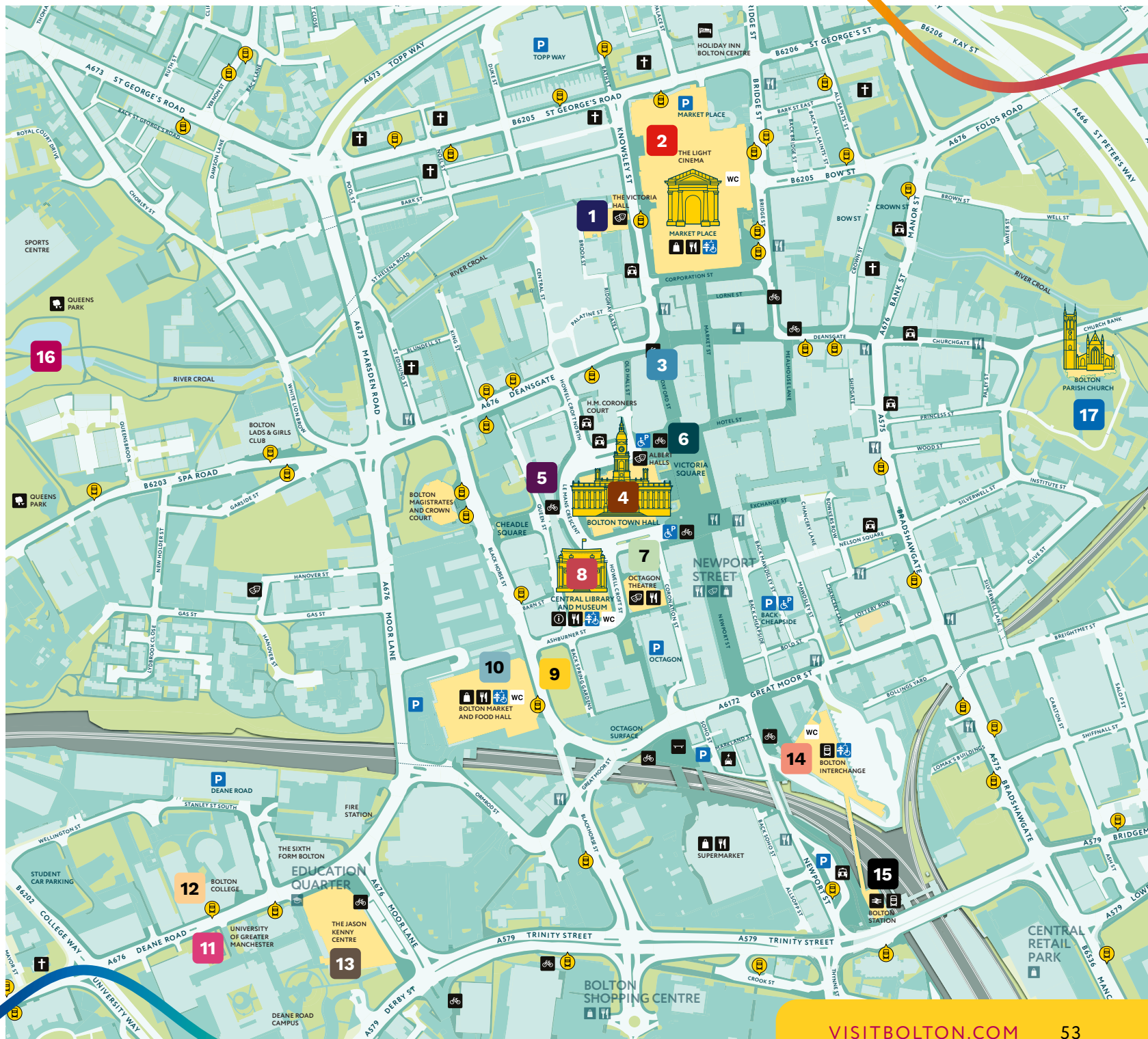
By Car

Situated in an ideal location, Bolton allows easy access to M60, M61 and M62. Parking is a breeze, with plenty of NCP car parks and on-street parking.



TOWN CENTRE MAP

- 1** The Victoria Hall
- 2** Market Place/
The Light Cinema
Host of Bolton Film Festival
- 3** Fred Dibnah statue
and steam engine display
- 4** Albert Halls/Town Hall
- 5** Le Mans Crescent
Popular filming location
- 6** Victoria Square
Host of Bolton Food
and Drink Festival
and Put Big Light On
Festival
- 7** Octagon Theatre
- 8** Bolton Library, Museum
and Aquarium
- 9** Elizabeth Park
- 10** Bolton Market
and Food Hall
- 11** University of
Greater Manchester
- 12** Bolton College
- 13** Sir Jason Kenny Centre
- 14** Bolton Interchange
- 15** Bolton Train Station
- 16** Queens Park
Green Flag status
- 17** Bolton Parish Church



INSIDER TIPS

Discover Bolton like a local...

LOCAL LINGO AND SAYINGS

“Barm” = soft, round bit of bread used for making butties

“Mitherin” = pestering or fussing

“Skriking” = crying

“Ya’reet/Y’alreet?” = you alright?

“Put wood in th’ole/Were you born in a barn?” = shut the door

“Gerrit down yer neck” = eat or drink it quickly

“It’s like Blackpool illuminations in here!” = too many lights on

Must-Try Eats

Ye Olde Pastie Shoppe

(est. 1667) is a Bolton institution

Pasty barm – a carb-loaded local legend



Ice cream
wafer sandwich
invented in Bolton
1905

FAMOUS FACES

Sir Ian McKellen

(Gandalf) – Bolton School alum

Peter Kay, Paddy McGuinness, Diane Morgan, Vernon Kay, Sara Cox – comedy and radio royalty

Sir Jason Kenny –

Famous cyclist who became Britain’s most decorated Olympian

BOLTON’S COAT OF ARMS



Bolton’s motto, **“Supera Moras”**, first introduced in the 1890 arms, translates as **“Overcome Delays”** but is also a ‘dog Latin’ pun on Bolton being **“on the moors”**

Bolton’s elephant emblem is everywhere - from town hall carvings to statues

Theories link it to trade with India and the Diocese of Mercia, as well as the adaptation of the Elephant and Castle from the Arms of Coventry to symbolise strength and dignity



BARROW BRIDGE VILLAGE

BARROW BRIDGE VILLAGE

A picturesque former mill village nestled in a wooded valley in Smithills Estate, with stone cottages, charming paths, and a tranquil escape in the north of Bolton

PLAN YOUR VISIT

EXPLORE MORE AT [VISITBOLTON.COM](https://visitbolton.com)

Planning your visit is easy:

- Browse places to go, things to do, and upcoming events
- Click “Add to itinerary” on anything that catches your eye
- Tap the ❤️ heart icon at the top of the site to view your itinerary
- Share your plans with friends and family - perfect for group trips or solo adventures

Build
your itinerary



Want to feature?

Submit your listings and events on our website via the links at the bottom.

Stay connected:

Follow us on social media for #WhatsOnBolton, hidden gems, and local tips:

f [Visit Bolton](#)

@ [Visit_Bolton](#)

X [VisitBolton](#)

d [Visit_Bolton](#)

Tag us in your adventures and use:

[#VisitBolton](#)

[#BoltonDaysOut](#)

[#HollywoodOfTheNorth](#)

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