discover Bradford

www.visitbradford.com

ABOUT Bradford

Bradford is a diverse and historic city blessed with stunning architecture and a thriving cultural scene.

The city centre is home to a wonderful concentration of heritage buildings, the stunning **City Park** water feature and some superb museums, including the **National Science** & Media Museum. A compact city centre that's easy to cover on foot, Bradford also has plenty of choice when it comes to shopping, food & drink and cultural attractions.

Visit For

Stunning Victorian architecture

International cuisine

Superb museums and galleries

Instagram Ready Spots

Discover the pictureperfect spots in Bradford that are just waiting to be captured on Instagram!

Start at **City Park** for spectacular views of City Hall. Find a peaceful haven in the beautiful gardens of **Bradford Cathedral** and capture a selfie. And don't miss the unique **Grandad's Clock** and **Chair sculpture** in **Little Germany** to add a touch of originality to your posts. Bradford Cathedral

Clty Park

Little Germany

Share your experience with us by tagging @visitbradford and #VisitBradford

City Centre Heritage Trail



Bradford boomed during the industrial revolution, becoming the wool capital of the world and one of the most important trading centres in the UK. Its industrial and cultural heritage can still be admired today with a fine collection of heritage buildings dotted around the city centre.



Bradford City Hall

One of Bradford's most distinctive buildings, designed to rival the new town halls of Leeds and Halifax. The original building, with its 'Italianate' clock tower, was opened in 1873 and was designed by Bradford architects Lockwood and Mawson. The upper parts of the elevations contain 35 statues of Kings and Queens of England.



Bradford Cathedral

The building dates largely from the 14th and 15th century. The church received cathedral status in 1919 and parts were remodelled in 1954 – 63 by Sir Edward Maufe. It contains some fine examples of sculpture

and stained glass.



Wool Exchange

The Wool Exchange symbolises the great wealth and importance which Bradford had gained from the wool trade by the mid-19th century. It was completed in 1867 to the design of Lockwood and Mawson. It is ornate 'Venetian Gothic' in style with very decorative roof parapets and pinnacles.



Little Germany

A compact area of late Victorian warehouses and offices where merchants could store and sell goods in their own premises, rather than through the exchanges. The area has a highly distinctive character, producing some fine streetscapes.





Bradford City Centre

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Transforming Bradford's City Centre





Entertainment and Arts

Bradford UK City of Culture 2025 is a treasure trove with a vibrant entertainment and arts scene waiting to be explored. Immerse yourself in the world of theatre at the iconic **Alhambra Theatre**, where you can enjoy a variety of performances from West End shows to musicals. In 2024, Wicked and Disney's Aladdin will take you on a magical journey.

For a grand concert experience, make your way to **St George's Hall**, which hosts everything from side-splitting comedy shows to wonderful family performances and exceptional music concerts. With its impeccable acoustics, St George's Hall showcases a classical music season, attracting internationally acclaimed orchestras such as the Hallé. If you prefer a more intimate setting, **Bradford Cathedral**, **Theatre in the Mill, The Studio**, and **Bradford Playhouse** are great options. Also, check out **Kala Sangam's** off-site performances, while their venue undergoes an exciting redevelopment.

Music lovers will love the electrifying rock atmosphere at **Nightrain**, or an evening of tribute acts at **Tickles Music Hall**. And there's more! Stay tuned for the opening of **Bradford Live**, the city's new entertainment venue, where the music magic continues.

Discover the magic of cinema in Bradford, the UNESCO City of Film, where **The Light** at The Broadway Bradford, **Cineworld** and **Pictureville** at the **National Science and Media Museum** promise unique and immersive cinema experiences.

Bradford also hosts cultural events and festivals throughout the year, including the **Bradford Literature Festival** and the **BD:Festival**, so there is always something exciting happening in the city.



Impressions Gallery

One of the UK's leading venues for photography, showing significant work by regional, national and international artists. Situated in the heart of Bradford and overlooking the multi-award winning City Park, the gallery presents an inspiring programme of free exhibitions and a rich mix of events and creative workshops.

Centenary Square, Bradford BD1 1SD www.impressions-gallery.com



Bradford Cathedral

Explore the treasures of this historic gem in the city centre. Look out for William Morris stained glass and sculptures by Flaxman and John Shaw.

Immerse yourself in the wonderful atmosphere of the cathedral, which comes alive with a busy calendar of events throughout the year.

1 Stott Hill, Bradford BD1 4EH www.bradfordcathedral.org.uk





National Science and Media Museum

The museum will be reopening in summer 2024 following refurbishment. The Sound and Vision project will create two significant new galleries which will showcase key objects and stories from the world-class collections, as well as improving access to the whole museum.

Bradford BD1 1NQ www.scienceandmediamuseum.org.uk



Bradford Police Museum

A unique insight into the history and heritage of policing, criminal justice, civic enforcement and the development of crime and punishment in Bradford from the early 19th century onwards. Discover authentic Victorian cells and the beautifully preserved Victorian courtroom.

Centenary Square, Bradford BD1 1HY www.bradfordpolicemuseum.com

City Park

Bradford's brilliant public space and home to the largest urban water feature in the UK. The mirror pool has over 20 water fountains, the largest of which can blast water 100ft into the air. A great place to meet up, relax and enjoy one of the best views of Bradford. It also hosts exciting events such as the Bradford Literature Festival and BD:Festival. City Hall, BD1 1HY

Nearby Attractions

Sand Sand

Cartwright Hall Art Gallery

Bradford's civic art gallery offering an exciting programme of exhibitions, four permanent galleries including 19th and 20th century British art, international contemporary prints and contemporary South Asian art and crafts. The Hockney Gallery showcases Bradford's unrivalled public collection of the work of David Hockney.

Lister Park, Bradford BD9 4NS www.bradfordmuseums.org



Bolling Hall

One of Bradford's oldest buildings, during the Civil War, the household supported the Royalist cause and Bolling Hall was a stronghold during the 'Siege of Bradford'. Nowadays, it is a heritage museum with rooms furnished and decorated to give a taste of life at different periods of the house's 500-year history.

Bowling Hall Road, Bradford BD4 7LP www.bradfordmuseums.org



Lister Park

One of Bradford's largest parks, it provides the perfect setting for Cartwright Hall.

The generously proportioned park includes a boating lake, a fantastic children's playground, elegant Mughal Water Gardens and hosts a weekly parkrun.

North Park Road BD9 4NR www.bradforddistrictparks.org

Bradford Industrial Museum

Discover permanent displays of textile machinery, steam power, engineering, printing machinery and motor vehicles, along with an exciting exhibitions programme. Explore the splendour of the Mill Managers' home, Moorside House, or visit the Mill-workers' terraced houses dressed to reflect three different time periods.

Moorside Road, Bradford BD2 3HP www.bradfordmuseums.org



Undercliffe Cemetery

Described as one of the most striking achievements of Victorian funerary design, you'll find grand nineteenthcentury monuments, elaborate tombs, finely decorated obelisks and extravagant mausoleums, along with sweeping views over the city. The listed monuments, amongst others, have QR codes so that you can find out more about who they commemorate with a click of your smartphone.

127 Undercliffe Lane, Bradford BD3 0DW www.undercliffecemetery.co.uk



South Square Centre

A community arts centre featuring a gallery, bar, café and events space, housed in a cluster of 19th century workers cottages. The centre hosts a variety of community events and activities, as well as a workshop programme.

Thornton Road, Bradford BD13 3LD www.southsquarecentre.co.uk



Shopping

Bradford is a great shopping destination for those looking for a variety of shopping options. From high street stores to small independent shops, it's worth taking the time to explore the city and all it has to offer.

Visit The Broadway for all your favourite stores, from Marks & Spencer and Superdry to H&M and Pandora. Located in the heart of the city, the centre also offers restaurants, The Light Cinema, and a Flip Out leisure experience. With regular events throughout the year, it is not only a great place to shop, but also a full experience for the whole family. From here head to Darley St Market, which will open in summer 2024, when the market leaves Oastler Shopping Centre for this new purpose-built venue, complete with big screen and delicious street food vendors.

The highlight of any shopping trip is a visit to Waterstones Bookshop to experience the grandeur of the interior of the former Wool Exchange. This space was built for trade and retains its Victorian sense of theatre and drama. Take a seat in the mezzanine Café W and enjoy the best view of this timeless building. There are more shopping opportunities throughout the city. **The Kirkgate Centre** offers a mix of independent and popular brands, such as **New Look** and **Primark**, while **Forster Square Retail Park** is home to department stores such as **TK Maxx** and **Next**.

If you're looking for unique finds, the An-X Menswear boutique offers a wide range of casual and urban clothing, and the Bombay Stores and Khaadi offer Asian-style clothing, fabrics, and jewellery.

Plus, if you're looking for something to brighten your day or surprise a loved one, a visit to **Blooms Florist** on Market Street is a must for its wonderful selection of fresh flowers.

Give the perfect present with the Bradford City Centre Gift Card, a prepaid card that can be used at a wide selection of retail, leisure, and hospitality venues in the city. Purchase your gift card now at **The Broadway** shopping centre or the **Bradford Visitor Information Centre.**

Bradford truly offers a wonderful shopping experience for all tastes.



The Great Outdoors

Take a walk around Bradford city centre, and you can truly appreciate how Bradford has continued to grow and evolve as a city.

The compact city centre is easy to explore on foot, and although it can be hilly, all routes back into the centre are downhill! Spend time relaxing by the fountains of **City Park**. Located opposite City Hall, this unique water feature in the centre of the city attracts people all year round.

Escape the bustle of the city centre in the grounds of **Bradford Cathedral**, an oasis of calm, and the start of the Tranquillity Trail, a 3.5m circular walk which includes a visit to **Peel Park**, one of Bradford's wonderful Victorian parks, and **Undercliffe Cemetery**, a monument to the great and the good of Victorian Bradford.

If you're on two wheels, cycle routes through the city and beyond will connect you with the **Airedale Greenway** at Shipley and across to Leeds. Discover your love of cycling with regular beginner sessions at **Lister Park.** The park, in the grounds of **Cartwright Hall Art Gallery**, offers lots to explore, with a boating lake, Mughal water gardens, café and children's play area.

Experience the outdoors through the changing season. **Bolling Hall** celebrates spring with beautiful blossom trees, summer in the city is enjoying an ice cream beside **City Park**, in autumn behold the beautiful changing colours of the trees in our parks, while in winter enjoy the sparkling lights of the city centre festive displays.

Bradford city centre is going through a major project with the Transforming Cities Fund to improve routes and facilities for public transport, cycling and walking. During your visit in 2024 you may see works ongoing, this ambitious plan will transform how you can experience and enjoy your time in the city centre.

What's On

Bradford has a busy events calendar for 2024. From live music, theatre and cinema to festivals and family events, there's plenty to keep you entertained during your visit. Look out for theatre and musical performances at the Alhambra Theatre, St George's Hall, Bradford Playhouse and Cathedral, as well as smaller venues throughout the city.

Event Highlights 2024

Yorkshire Games Festival 7–10 March

Wicked The Musical 16 April – 19 May

Super Soapbox Challenge 5 May



Find out more

Bradford Literature Festival 28 June – 7 July

BD: Festival 26 July – 27 July

Disney's Aladdin 14 August – 1 September

Leeds International Piano Competition Concerto Finals 20 – 21 September







Food and Drink

In Bradford, you'll find a world of flavours, with over 200 Asian eateries and a stellar reputation for curry. Try Middle Eastern and Syrian cuisine at **Classic Persian**, curry with a unique twist at **MyLahore** or spice things up at **Jinnah Restaurant**.

Bradford remains the undisputed champion of curry, having been crowned 'Curry Capital of Britain' six years in a row. With a vibrant community and a large number of historic and contemporary curry houses, it's no wonder foodies come from far and wide to experience an authentic Bradford curry. Wherever you are in the city, you can seek out some top quality South Asian cuisine, curry hot spots include Leeds Road and Great Horton Road.

For a unique food and drink experience, explore **Sunbridge Wells**, a maze of fully restored tunnels that provides dining and drinking in a characterful setting. In addition to the many traditional pubs dotted throughout the city, **North Parade** has earned a reputation as the place to go for lively independent bars and beer cafés. Plus, for some tasty dining options, look out for Indian street food at **Peacock Bar** and charcuterie boards at **The Record Café**. Across the city, you'll find a mix of true independents to national chains. You can choose from brands such as Nando's, Pizza Express and Zizzi, but don't miss our local stars, from Bradford institution Pizza Pieces to fine dining at Cona Restaurant.

Discover the vibrant café culture in Bradford, where wonderful surprises await behind the city's historic buildings. Treat yourself to the mouthwatering delights at Café W, nestled within the magnificent Wool Exchange, or enjoy the charming atmosphere of Lefteris Coffee and Tearoom and Tiffin Coffee. The Cake 'Ole offers a delicious experience in a picturesque location overlooking City Park and the majestic City Hall. And if you have a sweet tooth, don't miss the chance to indulge in afternoon tea at The Great Victoria Hotel or The Midland Hotel, where you can enjoy scrumptious desserts in an elegant setting.

With such a diverse range of options, each visit to Bradford guarantees a fresh and exciting culinary adventure.

Getting to Bradford

Getting Here and Around

Getting to Bradford district couldn't be easier whether you choose to drive or use public transport. Once here, you can travel around the district with a great range of public transport available connecting you to all the must-see places.

🚔 By Road

The M606 brings you within 1.5miles of the city centre and connects via M62 with the M1, A1 and M6.

Electric vehicle charging points are located across the district, find out more at www.geniepoint.co.uk

Bradford Clean Air Zone is now in place, passenger cars will not be charged. Find out more www.gov.uk/clean-air-zones

By Bus and Coach

Bradford Interchange is served by **National Express** and **Megabus** to destinations across the country.

First is the main operator of local bus services in Bradford, along with Transdev, who offer services across the Haworth, Keighley and Ilkley area.



Bradford has excellent rail links with two central train stations; Bradford Forster Square and Bradford Interchange provide services to Leeds, Manchester and further afield, plus a direct service to London. Local services from Bradford Forster Square connect Saltaire, Keighley and Ilkley. For a journey planner and details of routes and fares, go to www.wymetro.com

Visitor Information

Contact us for more information to help plan your visit, including accommodation and special events. Bradford Visitor Information Centre, Britannia House, Broadway, Bradford, BD1 1JF

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