



Manchester
International
Festival
2019 4–21 July
mif.co.uk

Manchester International Festival (MIF, 4–21 July) is one of the absolute best occasions during which to visit Manchester, a city already filled with innovative cultural hotspots, and further transformed by 18 extraordinary days of world premieres and special events. The home of the Festival is **Festival Square**, in the heart of the city in front of the Town Hall, and reconfigured for MIF19 with a large new stage: a celebratory atmosphere radiates throughout the city from the freely accessible programme of live music and DJ sets here, as well as the superb, independent food and drink stands. From special events to dishes from some of Manchester's favourite kitchens, the Square is a hub for some of the best cooking in the region. Elsewhere across the city – in former trading halls, art galleries and railway depots that are striking reminders of Manchester's radical, industrial past – internationally-acclaimed artists from 20 different countries present world and UK premieres, often concerned with the most urgent preoccupations of our time. This outstanding programme is also part of the run up to **The Factory**, a world-class cultural space and new home for MIF – one that's evidence of ongoing ambition in a city renowned for its inventive thinking. This guide is your specially-curated introduction to some MIF19 highlights, what else to see in Manchester, top food, drink and shopping picks, as well as travel around the city.

Intro to Highlights

There's much that makes Manchester International Festival exceptional. Its ambition is immense: the Festival commissions a vast and pioneering **programme of work** by internationally-renowned artists every other year. It animates some of Manchester's most unusual, hidden spaces. It proudly premieres progressive, experimental new work, using cutting-edge technology. Where else might you find a theatre collective performing **explosive new work** in found locations across the city, a **virtual reality lunar expedition** taking place inside a theatre studio, and **fantastical, imaginary vistas** created using projection mapping in a former railway depot? The countdown to MIF19 has begun, with tickets to several projects already beginning to sell out: when they do, the opportunity to be among the first to see these immersive, unforgettable events will have passed. Here we highlight some of the most dynamic, avant-garde work taking place as part of the festival – plan your visit now and be part of the experience...

Highlights

BELLS FOR PEACE

A world premiere for the opening MIF19: renowned artist Yoko Ono invites the people of Manchester to gather together in Cathedral Gardens and send a message of peace to the world. For Yoko Ono's first major work for the city of Manchester, join thousands of diverse voices and a people's orchestra of bells from home and abroad as the city rings and sings out for peace.

People across Greater Manchester are currently designing and creating their own unique handcrafted ceramic bells at a series of special workshops. Join them on the day to hear them – or bring a bell of your own and welcome the world to Manchester.

Thur 4 July

6pm

Cathedral Gardens, Corporation Street, M4 3BG

Standing

Suitable for all ages

Admission free

Invisible Cities

This world-premiere production centres on the edgy relationship between Kublai Khan, the volatile head of a vast empire, and explorer Marco Polo, who must transcend a language barrier to describe it for him. *Invisible Cities* conjures a series of fantastical places using a spellbinding mix of theatre, choreography, music, architectural design and projection mapping.

Zenobia, a city of joy. Beersheba, a celestial city of gold. Isadora, a city of promise, seduction and desire. A vast and spectacular empire is brought to life – all for the benefit of its emperor, who may never get to see it for himself...

Tue 2 July – Sun 14 July

[Times vary / Click 'Book Now' for full schedule]

Access Perfs CAP Wed 10 July, 8pm & Sun 14 July, 2:30pm

BSL Thur 11 July, 8pm

Mayfield, Baring Street M1 2PZ

Reserved Seating

£10 Greater Manchester residents on lower wage [Register here](#)

£35

£30 *Previews (Tue 2 – Thur 4 July), Concessions*

£2 transaction fee per order (no per ticket fee)

School of Integration

In Tania Bruguera's powerful, provocative and inspiring new work, Manchester locals originally from other countries will give free classes on a curriculum that includes languages, culture, ethics, politics, economics and many other forms of knowledge.

These are not only instructional lessons, but something more personal and vivid. Every teacher will pass on his or her own experiences, fostering cohesion and building bridges of cultural understanding. Inverting the status quo, School of Integration asks: Why is integration always the responsibility of the immigrant?

Fri 5 July – Sat 20 July

10am-5pm daily, except 11am-5pm Mon

Manchester Art Gallery, Mosley Street M 3JL

Admission Free

Festival Square: The New Pavilion

MIF has announced a brilliant programme of live acts and DJs – all of which will be playing for free on the New Pavilion stage in Festival Square (open noon till late daily during the Festival and always completely free to all).

There will be live sets from The Orielles, LIINES, House Gospel Choir, Children of Zeus, Nitin Sawhney, Horace Andy and more, as well as nightly DJ sets from the likes of The Black Madonna, DJ Yoda and Swing Ting DJs.

Fri 5 – Sun 21 July

Noon-late daily

Albert Square

Atmospheric Memory

Staged in an extraordinary custom-built structure and harnessing state-of-the-art technology, Rafael Lozano-Hemmer's immersive installation mines the air for turbulence caused by speech, then transforms it into trails of vapour, ripples on water and epic 360-degree projections.

Inspired by computing pioneer Charles Babbage's 180-year-old proposal that the air is a 'vast library' holding every word ever spoken, *Atmospheric Memory* asks: was Babbage right? Can we rewind the movement of the air to recreate long-lost voices? And if so, whose would we want to hear?

Sat 6 July – Sun 21 July

[Times vary / Click 'Book Now' for full schedule]

Running time: 60 minutes (arrive 30 mins before entry time)

The Atmospheric Memory Chamber

Science and Industry Museum, Liverpool Road M3 4FP

Recommended 8+, Under-16's must be accompanied by an adult

£8 Adult

£5 Concessions

£1 Under 18s

Free school groups

If you are interested in bringing a school group, please email amschools@mif.co.uk

£2 transaction fee per order (no per ticket fee)

My Head Is Disconnected

Weird, wonderful and forever wild at heart – the iconic David Lynch is taking over HOME for the duration of MIF19. *My Head Is Disconnected* is the first major UK exhibition of Lynch's paintings, drawings and sculpture, featuring over 60 weird and wonderful works dating from the late 1960s to the present day.

Best known for films such as *The Elephant Man*, *Blue Velvet* and TV show *Twin Peaks*, many of us are already familiar with Lynch's on-screen vision, but since graduating from the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts, he has also produced a prolific body of work across painting, sculpture, photography and drawing. Lynch's surfaces, which are scratched, charred and three-dimensional in form, are like windows into the soul.

Sat 6 July – Sun 21 July

Noon – 8pm Mon-Sat

Noon – 6pm Sun

BSL-led tour Sat 20 July, 3pm

HOME, 2 Tony Wilson Place, First Street M15 4FN

Admission Free

Parliament of Ghosts

This major installation reflects on the half-forgotten history of Ibrahim Mahama's home country: Ghana. Abandoned train seats, faded railway sleepers and scrapped school furniture form a vast parliamentary chamber in the heart of the Whitworth.

Parliament of Ghosts beautifully evokes the histories and memories of a country whose journey from British colony to independent nation was completed barely 60 years ago. Also encompassing painting, sculpture, photography and film, this exhibition lends powerful new context to this haunting assemblage of lost objects from a nation in transition.

Fri 5 July – Sun 21 July

10am-5pm daily, except 10am-9pm Thur

Access performances – Audio+ tours Tue 9 & Tue 16 July, 2pm and CAP tour Tue 16 July, 2pm

The Whitworth, The University of Manchester, Oxford Road M15 6ER

Admission Free

To the Moon

Fifty years after man first landed on the Moon, Laurie Anderson will be flying us all there with this new work, developed with fellow artist Hsin-Chien Huang. Presented in the intimate Studio at the Royal Exchange Theatre, *To the Moon* is in two parts: an ambitious, dreamlike VR experience that takes us on our own lunar exploration, and an accompanying installation featuring film, images and music.

Created as part of Anderson's MIF19 residency, *To the Moon* is a special opportunity to explore the ideas and inventions of this singularly brilliant American artist ahead of the new work she'll be premiering and presenting at The Factory, the future home of MIF.

Fri 12 July – Sat 20 July

11-9pm daily

Running time: 30 mins

The Studio, Royal Exchange Theatre, St Ann's Square M2 7DH

Standing

10+, under 18s must be accompanied by an adult

£5

Tree

Directed by Kwame Kwei-Armah, Artistic Director of London's Young Vic, with music inspired by Idris Elba's album *Mi Mandela*, *Tree* is an electrifying new blend of drama, music and dance that follows one man's journey into the heart and soul of contemporary South Africa – with the audience standing at the centre of the action.

It's just 12 hours from London to his parents' homeland, but to Kaleo (Alfred Enoch), South Africa is another world. A family tragedy finally forces him to visit for the first time – and as he takes his journey of healing, Kaleo must confront hidden histories and right the wrongs of the past. But first he must face the present: a shattered family, fighting to hold on to what they believe is theirs.

Sat 29 June – Sat 13 July

[Times vary / Click 'Book Now' for full schedule]

Access Perfs

CAP Tue 9 & Wed 10 July, 8pm

Upper Campfield Market Hall, Campfield Avenue Arcade M3 4FH

Standing

Recommended 14+, Under-18s must be accompanied by an adult

£10 Greater Manchester residents on lower wage [Register here](#)

£35

£30 previews (Sat 29 June – Wed 3 July), Concessions

£2 transaction fee per order (no per ticket fee)

Why you should sign up copy

Sign up to download our full guide to Manchester International Festival 2019, with extended highlights from the Festival, recommendations for the best places to stay, eat, drink and shop in Manchester, and our exclusive picks of other things to see in the city – all in a convenient PDF format. Uncover special offers from our partners, as well as the latest information on MIF19.

Where to Stay

From the budget to the boutique, Manchester's best hostels and hotels each have something to recommend them, whether it's the beautifully-converted, historic building they occupy, or the sociable nightlife they encourage. Here's a selection of distinctive places to stay – either overnight, or for longer.

easyHotel

A solid budget option in the Northern Quarter – Manchester's most characterful, independent district. Housed in a historic, Flatiron-style building, the easyHotel is less than a three-minute walk from Piccadilly train station. Its simple rooms feature exposed brickwork, en suite showers and air conditioning; several are wheelchair accessible.

From £19.99/night

33 Dale St, Manchester M1 2HF

<https://www.easyhotel.com/hotels/united-kingdom/manchester/101866>

Hatters at Hilton Chambers

With a glowing new reception and private en suite rooms as well as shared dormitories, the 3-star Hilton Chambers branch of Hatters Hotels has the edge over its 2-star sister site on Newton Street. Close to

Piccadilly train station and surrounded by Northern Quarter bars and restaurants, the hotel also hosts weekday events including a pub crawl and free city tour.

From £11/night

15 Hilton St, Manchester M1 1JJ

<https://hattershostels.com/manchester-hilton-chambers/>

Motel One Manchester Piccadilly

Right behind Piccadilly train station, 'affordable design hotel' Motel One is brilliantly located and thoughtfully decorated with wallpaper featuring famous local bands and the iconic Manchester bee. Appealing touches include free iPad rental, and a healthy breakfast with emphasis on organic and fairtrade products.

From £69/night

34 London Rd, Manchester M1 2PF

<https://www.motel-one.com/en/hotels/manchester/hotel-manchester-piccadilly/>

Cow Hollow

A relative newcomer, the Cow Hollow hotel can be found in a fully restored Victorian textile warehouse in the Northern Quarter. Designed to be both luxurious and affordable, the sixteen rooms have king size beds and complimentary gourmet breakfast bags, while free prosecco and nibbles are served between 6-8pm each evening.

From £99/night

57 Newton St, Manchester M1 1ET

<https://www.cowhollow.co.uk/>

Hotel Indigo Manchester

Blending original Victorian features with contemporary design, the newly-opened Hotel Indigo occupies a Grade II listed building next to Manchester Victoria station. The rooms are tastefully decorated, with king sized beds available and a cocktail bar and restaurant on the ground floor.

From £111/night

6 Todd Street, Manchester M3 1WU

<https://www.ihg.com/hotelindigo/hotels/gb/en/manchester/manvn/hoteldetail>

Abel Heywood

The Abel Heywood boutique hotel sits above a pub of the same name in the Northern Quarter, has fifteen characterful, fully-equipped rooms – and the added touch of a record player or vintage radio in each. The award-winning restaurant and bar downstairs serves a wide range of drinks alongside 'proper pub grub'.

From £65.05/night

38 Turner Street, Manchester, M4 1DZ

<https://abelheywood.co.uk/book-a-room/>

What else to see

Manchester International Festival takes place in some of Manchester's world-class cultural spaces, as well as transforming former railway depots, disused market halls and gardens. It's an astonishing way to get to grips with a range of the city's defining sites; enhance your visit by exploring more of the city's best venues, starting with these highlights.

Manchester Craft and Design Centre

A ten minute walk from Tania Bruguera's *School of Integration* for MIF19 at Manchester Art Gallery is Manchester Craft & Design Centre, home to a nourishing café and 18 different craft studios, where you can buy an eclectic range of jewellery, ceramics, prints and more direct from the makers.

17 Oak Street, Manchester M4 5JD

<https://www.craftanddesign.com/>

Castlefield Gallery

Established by artists in 1984, Castlefield Gallery may be small but it is influential. The exhibitions here prioritise thought-provoking contemporary art, and the gallery has a reputation for supporting both emerging artists and critics. Its alumni include Turner Prize winners, and it's less than five minutes from HOME, taken over by David Lynch for the duration of the Festival.

2 Hewitt Street, Manchester M15 4GB

<https://www.castlefieldgallery.co.uk/contact/>

Victoria Baths

Once a 'water palace' and Turkish Baths, Victoria Baths now hosts regular events in its Grade II listed building. After a visit to MIF's *Parliament of Ghosts* at the Whitworth close by, don't miss an opportunity to see the beautiful stained glass, terracotta tiles and mosaic floors here on one of the weekly **Wednesday tours**.

Hathersage Road, Manchester M13 0FE

<http://www.victoriabaths.org.uk/>

Gorilla

Ideal for a drink or some food after a visit to a David Lynch event at HOME, or an 'episode' as part of *The Anvil* – an elegy for Peterloo created by ANU for MIF19 – Gorilla has its own gin saloon under the railway arches along Whitworth Street, but is also a great venue for live music, comedy and club nights, with radios from the old BBC buildings on Oxford Road decorating the wall behind the stage.

54-56 Whitworth Street, Manchester M1 5WW

<https://www.thisisgorilla.com/>

YES

Newcomer YES brings live music, DJ sets, food from MIF Festival Square favourites Firebird Hope and pints from £2.95 to four floors of a former auctioneers house, with its rooftop terrace a particular attraction in the summer. From the team behind local music promoters Now Wave, the programming is good, the vibe better, and there are often queues out the door on weekend evenings.

38 Charles Street, Manchester M1 7DB

<https://www.yes-manchester.com/>

Holden Gallery

At the heart of the Manchester School of Art at Manchester Metropolitan University is the Holden Gallery, which has an exhibitions programme curated to reflect particular thematic ideas. Open on weekdays (noon – 6pm) and free to visit, the gallery is on the way to the Whitworth, home to Ibrahim Mahama's *Parliament of Ghosts* for MIF19.

Manchester Metropolitan University, Grosvenor Building, Cavendish Street, Manchester M15 6BR

<https://www.holdengallery.mmu.ac.uk/>

Food and Drink

Delicious food and drink is one of MIF's Festival Square's great strengths: the resident kitchens and bars there are part of what make it a genuinely vibrant and fun place to hang out. It's the home of the Festival in the heart of the city – and happily surrounded by more great options for drinking and dining. These are our top picks.

Festival Square: Manjit's Kitchen

Award-winning vegetarian and vegan street food, bringing the flavours of India to MIF's Festival Square.

Festival Square: Ginger's Comfort Emporium

Ice cream and desserts for grown-ups, with intense, sophisticated concoctions like baked apple sorbet – as well as a new, MIF19-inspired flavour.

Festival Square: Firebird Hope

Moreish burgers made from free-range Yorkshire chickens or homemade vegan seitan and skin-on fries – local favourites Firebird Hope bring a special one-off menu to Festival Square.

Salut

A short walk from Festival Square is Salut, which has a regularly changing selection of open bottles in its wine preservation machines. Help yourself to a glass (using a pre-paid card), or choose a bottle from the shelves with the help of the expert staff. Perfect for a drink in between MIF19 shows.

11 Cooper Street, Manchester M2 2FW

<https://salut.co.uk/>

Rudy's Neapolitan Pizza

Ranked one of the best places in the world for authentic Neapolitan pizza, Rudy's on Peter Street is a four minute walk from Festival Square. It doesn't accept bookings – but you're more likely to get a table here than the smaller, original site at Cutting Room Square in Ancoats.

Petersfield House, Manchester M2 5QJ

<https://www.rudypizza.co.uk/peter-st/>

Albert's Schloss

On the ground floor of the stunning Albert Hall gig venue – a Grade II listed former Wesleyan chapel with beautiful stained glass windows – Albert's Schloss combines delicious food from its Alpine-inspired cook haus and bakery, a lively bar (there are 'push for Prosecco' buttons at the tables) and free entertainment most evenings.

27 Peter St, Manchester M2 5QR

<https://www.albertsschloss.co.uk/cookhaus/>

Shopping

The Northern Quarter – a jumbled network of streets to one side of Piccadilly Gardens – was once home to industrious textile warehouses; these red-brick buildings are now filled with independent businesses, and regularly used as film sets. This is the most interesting part of the city to shop if you're looking for quality, craft, and items you won't find elsewhere.

Deadstock General Store

There's an eclectic range of homeware and gifts across the old fashioned cabinets and wooden tables inside Deadstock General Store, from vintage-inspired men's toiletries to stationary, socks, flasks and decorative objects. Everything is beautifully designed and made to last, perfectly balancing form and function. It's an elegant little place in the Northern Quarter, perfect for aesthetically-minded shoppers.

46 Edge St, Manchester M4 1HN

<https://www.instagram.com/deadstockgeneralstore/>

Piccadilly Records

Perhaps Manchester's most famous record shop has been open since 1978 (well before the Northern Quarter was the cultural hub it is today), selling expertly curated music in every genre imaginable on both vinyl and CDs. The staff are hugely knowledgeable, and as eager for you to find something you'll love as you are.

53 Oldham St, Manchester M1 1JR

<https://www.piccadillyrecords.com/counter/>

Oi Polloi

Oi Polloi is a mecca for designer trainers and high quality, no fuss menswear. You'll find contemporary and classic brands, a range of British-made products and limited edition launches here; it's one of the city's best stops for men's clothing.

63 Thomas St, Manchester M4 1LQ

<https://www.oipolloi.com/>

Oklahoma

This bright and busy Northern Quarter shop is packed with an inspired selection of colourful, quirky items that you won't find elsewhere – like luminous pineapples, hand-crafted ceramic jewellery and Mariachi candle holders.

74-76 High St, Manchester M4 1ES

<https://www.okla.co.uk/>

Magma

Magma's unusual products often have innovative ideas behind them, such as a book of bookmarks for people who always lose their place when reading. Inside, there's a simply laid out, well-curated selection that's never overwhelming. Go for things you never knew you needed (but which are genuinely useful – or simply pleasing), as well as the shop's excellent selection of books and arty magazines.

24 Oldham St, Manchester M1 1JN

<https://magma-shop.com/>

Fred Aldous

There are 25,000 art, craft and design products across three floors in this exceptional stationers and gift shop, which has been trading for over 130 years. The unofficial Fred Aldous motto is 'Make Anything', a slogan on which it definitely delivers, with a range of in-house creative services alongside its products, such as laser Cutting, risograph printing and photo studio hire. There are also two vintage photo booths on the ground floor.

37 Lever St, Manchester M1 1LW

<https://www.fredaldous.co.uk/>

Travel

Straightforward to navigate on foot, Manchester is connected up by trams and buses, including two **free bus** routes that cover a good part of the city centre. With direct rail links to London and cities across the North, it's an easy place to get to – and to explore.

Getting here

By train

Manchester has three main train stations:

Manchester Piccadilly, with access to -

- Manchester's **free bus**, with two circular routes across the city
- Metrolink trams on four lines
- A taxi rank at the Fairfield Street entrance

Manchester Victoria, with access to -

- Buses from Victoria Station Stop NW
- Metrolink trams on five lines
- Taxis from Manchester Victoria Approach

Oxford Road, with access to -

- Buses from Whitworth Street West and Oxford Street (outside The Principal hotel)
- Taxis from Whitworth Street West, at the bottom of the station approach road, outside Sainsbury's

Average train journey times from:

- London – 2hrs 7mins
- Edinburgh – 3hrs 15mins

- Birmingham – 1hr 28mins
- Manchester Airport – 14mins
- Liverpool – 34mins
- Sheffield – 52mins
- Newcastle – 2hrs 25mins
- York – 1hr 20mins

By coach

National Express and [Megabus](#) provide services from all over the country into Chorlton Street Coach Station in the heart of the city centre.

By road

Manchester is well connected to the rest of the UK via excellent motorway links. The M60 ring road connects the city to motorways north, south east and west.

Getting around

Trams

Manchester's [Metrolink](#) sees frequent trams services departing from each stop. The network is divided into Zones 1, 2, 3 and 4 – check which zone your destination falls in using a [Metrolink map](#) before buying your ticket. There are ticket machines on the platforms; it's essential to buy before boarding.

Buses

Commercial bus services run right across Greater Manchester – see [Transport for Greater Manchester \(TfGM\)](#) for departure times, journey planning, tickets and travel information.

Free bus

The [Manchester free bus](#) takes two circular routes around the city centre, and is a 'hop on, hop off' service, running every 10 minutes until 10pm Monday to Saturday.

NCP Parking

NCP is the official car parking provider in Manchester City Centre – visit the [NCP website](#) for locations and details.

Cycling

There are marked cycle lanes and dedicated routes across the city centre and beyond. Visit the TfGM [cycling website](#) for bike parking, routes, rides and tips.