

# Recreation

## Chester and Cheshire

### Shopping

- \* Blakemere Shopping Experience – browse through over 30 unique craft shops and be sure not to miss out on the tropical garden centre
- \* Chester City Centre – one of the most attractive and popular shopping areas in the country. Of particular interest are the rows, the world famous two-tiered shopping galleries including the oldest shop-front in Britain
- \* Chester Market – following a tradition dating back to the 14<sup>th</sup> century you can discover up to 100 stalls offering a wide choice of the finest quality produce
- \* Cheshire Oaks McArthur Glen Designer Outlet Village – with 140 stores full of designer and high-street brands, this is the largest outlet village of its kind in Europe

### Entertainment and General Interest

#### **Chester**

- \* Chester Boat – taking you on a cruise along the beautiful River Dee. Half hour cruises every 30 minutes
- \* Chester Cathedral – the atmospheric Norman cathedral where Handel first rehearsed the Messiah
- \* Chester Gateway Theatre – for information on current and upcoming productions please call the box office on 01244 340392, or visit their website at [www.chestergateway.co.uk](http://www.chestergateway.co.uk)
- \* Chester Race Course – the oldest racecourse in Britain. Chester races season runs between May and September, and includes 13 events
- \* Chester Zoo – the largest garden zoo in England, the UK's number one wildlife attraction and one of Europe's leading conservation zoos
- \* Dewa Roman Experience – discover what life was like in Roman Britain
- \* Grosvenor Museum – discover Chester's Roman heritage and the natural and social history of the area
- \* Grosvenor Park Miniature Railway – travel through the beautiful Grosvenor Park, over the viaduct and round the pond on Chester's own miniature railway
- \* Roman Amphitheatre – the site of Britain's finest imperial Roman amphitheatre
- \* Roman City Walls of Chester – the most complete in Britain. A 45 minute stroll encircling the cities highlights

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## **Cheshire**

- \* Beeston Castle – experience 4000 years of conquest, siege and buried treasure at this mighty hill top castle with spectacular views from the Pennines to the mountains of Wales
- \* Blue Planet Aquarium – with two floors of amazing interactive displays, and one of the longest underwater tunnels in the world, where you'll encounter amazing tropical fish and awesome sharks
- \* The Boat Museum – far more than boats...period cottages, power hall, pump house, boat trips, blacksmiths forge...a fascinating experience for all the family
- \* The Candle Factory, Higher Burwardsley – make your own candles or leave it to the professionals and return with a great souvenir
- \* Cheshire Farm Ice Cream – set in a picture perfect location overlooked by the twin peaks of Beeston and Peckforton Castle lies a farm with a difference
- \* Cheshire Military Museum – experience 300 years of history
- \* Go Ape – why not take your little monkeys to this outdoor high-wire forest adventure in Delamere Forest. Explore the natural world via rope bridges, Tarzan swings, and zip slides all set 35 feet above the ground
- \* Gulliver's World – over 50 rides and attractions from log flumes to rollercoasters and dinosaurs in one great theme park
- \* Jodrell Bank Science Centre – marvel at the third largest fully steerable telescope in the world on their Observation Pathway, see the changing seasons in the 35 acre Arboretum, and take a journey to Mars or tour the solar system in the 3D theatre
- \* Port Sunlight Village – marvel at the architecture, stroll through the award winning gardens, discover the history of Britain's real Life soap village
- \* Tatton Park - two historic houses, the Mansion and Tudor Old Hall, set in 1000 acres of beautiful parkland with lakes, tree-lined avenues and herds of red and fallow deer. Also features award-winning gardens, a working farm, and speciality shops

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### Gardens of Distinction

Few other areas in the UK can boast the range and number of superb gardens that can be found in our famously green-fingered county of Cheshire. Whatever time of year you decide to visit you will be able to enjoy English gardens at their best. Some of our top gardens include:

- \* Arley Hall and Gardens – 17 acres of beautiful gardens featuring a magnificent centrepiece provided by the breathtaking double herbaceous border, reputed to be the oldest in England
- \* Chester Zoological Gardens – Chester Zoo is almost as famous for its plants as it is for its animals, and has won many prizes for its horticultural displays over the years
- \* Cholmondeley Castle Gardens – these extensive ornamental gardens are dominated by a romantic Gothic Castle and are said by many to among the most romantically beautiful gardens they have seen
- \* Ness Botanic Gardens – these outstanding botanic gardens overlooking the Dee Estuary contain the finest collection of rhododendrons and azaleas in the Northwest, one of the best known heather gardens in Britain, and an outstanding collection of Himalayan and Chinese plants
- \* Tatton Park – 50 acres of award winning gardens rated among the best in the country and representing over 200 years of garden design and history

### Tours and Guided Walks

Chester city offers its visitors the widest range of city tours of any UK city outside of London. There are also excellent tours available around Cheshire and North Wales. Here are a few examples of Chester, Cheshire and North Wales tours:

- \* Busy Bus Sightseeing Tours, North Wales and Cheshire – fully narrated tours on comfortable, executive mid-sized vehicles able to navigate off the beaten track and explore those routes not accessible to full size coaches. For further information telephone 0870 8741800
- \* Chester Heritage Tours – on board a 1910's style open-top bus, the world's only double-decker vintage omnibus of its type, you can see all the city's sights in a unique way with live commentary by a professional guide. For further information telephone 0870 765840
- \* City Sightseeing Chester – 1 hour circular tour, live guide commentary, tickets valid 24 hours, hop on and hop off, frequent departures, see 2000 years of history, combined bus and river tour available. For further information telephone 01789 294466
- \* Guided Walks - one of the best ways to discover Chester's 2000 years of history is to join one of the many walking tours. For further information telephone 01244 402445
- \* Rural Mini Bus Safari Tours – exploring the hidden secrets of Cheshire, North Wales and Shropshire. For further information telephone 01244 351609

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## **Further a field**

### **North Wales**

North Wales has many family attractions from zoos and farm parks to steam trains and leisure centres and events from cultural festivals and agricultural shows to family fun days. The area also offers a wide range of activities including walking, cycling, fishing, golf and watersports to name but a few. Here are a few examples of things to see and do in North Wales:

#### *Entertainment and General Interest*

- \* Alice in Wonderland Centre - Experience Alice's Adventures in the Rabbit Hole, where the narrated story comes to life in a warren of life-size scenes
- \* Anglesey Sea Zoo - The Anglesey Sea Zoo is Wales largest marine aquarium, nestling on the shores of the Menai Strait
- \* Bodelwyddan Castle - picturesque castle with fun toys and games, national collections of art, events and exhibitions, history and a few ghosts!
- \* Caernarfon Castle - Caernarfon Castle is one of the most impressive of the castles built by Edward I and is one of Europe's greatest medieval fortresses
- \* Clwyd Theatre – box office number 0845 3303565
- \* Conwy Castle - Conwy Castle is a masterpiece of medieval military architecture and is associated with one of the greatest circuits of town walls to be found anywhere in Europe
- \* Erddig Hall – atmospheric house and estate, vividly evoking its family and servants
- \* The Fun Centre, Caernarfon - North Wales's biggest indoor adventure play centre to suit all age groups
- \* Great Orme Copper Mines - Uncovered in 1987 during a scheme to landscape an area of the the Great Orme, the copper mines discovered below the ground represent one of the most astounding archaeological discoveries of recent time
- \* Llangollen Railway - Llangollen Railway runs trains for 7 ½ miles along the banks of the River Dee from Llangollen to Carrog through some of the most beautiful scenery in the UK
- \* Loggerheads Country Park, Nr Mold - wonderful woodland walks, relaxing river paddling, fun discovery trails, fabulous views, themed guided walks and an interactive visitor centre
- \* Pili Palas, Menai Bridge - butterfly house, bird house, snake house, lizard land, ant avenue, tropical hide, aviary, butterfly garden, terrapin pond, nature trail, and education centre
- \* Rhuddlan Castle, Rhyl - Begun in 1277, this was the second of King Edward I's great Welsh fortifications
- \* Rhyl Miniature Railway - Our railway first opened on 1st May 1911, and is now the oldest miniature line in the UK
- \* Snowdon Mountain Railway - Travel to Wales' highest peak on Britain's only rack and pinion railway. A majestic mountaintop adventure on the Snowdon Mountain Railway
- \* St Asaph Cathedral - The smallest ancient Cathedral in Great Britain, founded in the year 560
- \* Welsh Mountain Zoo, Colwyn Bay – Britain's most beautifully sited zoo

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## **Liverpool and Manchester**

The great cities of Liverpool, European Capital of Culture in 2008, and Manchester are both on Cheshire's doorstep. Following are a few examples of what there is to see and do in Liverpool and Manchester.

### Shopping

- \* Liverpool City Centre - Liverpool's shopping centre blends a mixture of well-known High Street names and quirky independent boutiques
- \* Manchester City Centre - Manchester does funky, fashionable, chic and sleek better than anywhere else in the country. Retail therapy is a speciality
- \* The Trafford Centre, Manchester – with over 230 stores, more than 40 restaurants bars and cafes, a 20 screen Odeon cinema, bowling, laser quest and rock climbing, The Trafford Centre has more than enough to keep anyone entertained

### Entertainment and General Interest

#### **Liverpool**

- \* Aintree Race Course – see the ground where the famous Grand National is run every April
- \* Albert Dock – Liverpool's number one visitor attraction, showcasing the best of Liverpool in a stunning World Heritage waterfront setting including the largest group of Grade 1 listed buildings in the UK
- \* The Anglican Cathedral and Metropolitan Cathedral – fine examples of internationally recognised architecture
- \* Beatles Magical Mystery Tour - experience the sights and sounds of Beatles Liverpool on a vintage Magical Mystery Tour Bus, identical to the one used in the 1967 film. This tour, operated by Cavern City Tours, visits many of the places associated with The Beatles as they grew up
- \* The Beatles Story, Liverpool - the world's only Beatles-themed visitor attraction. Located within Liverpool's historic Albert Dock, the Beatles Story is a unique visitor attraction that will transport you on an enlightening and atmospheric journey into the life, times, culture and music of the Beatles.
- \* Everton Football Club – experience Goodison Park first hand
- \* Knowsley Safari Park, Merseyside - enjoy a 5 mile safari through 450 acres of historic parkland containing large groups of lions, tigers, rhino and a spectacular herd of elephants. All viewed from the comfort of your own vehicle
- \* Liverpool Football Club Museum and Tour Centre – all the cups, all the glory...celebrating all things Liverpool, past and present
- \* Mersey Ferry – take the famous ferry across the Mersey to learn about the region's fascinating history and see its spectacular sights
- \* Merseyside Maritime Museum – part of the historic Albert Docks on the banks of the River Mersey, this museum tells the story of Liverpool's seafaring heritage and the merchant navy
- \* Tate Liverpool – home of the National Collection of Modern Art
- \* Walker Art Gallery - internationally important collection of art from the 14th to the 20th century
- \* World Museum Liverpool - the awesome exhibits range from the oceans to the stars - including artefacts that are millions of years old

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## **Manchester**

- \* Greater Manchester Police Museum - Greater Manchester Police Museum is set in a Victorian police station built in 1879 and features the development of policing from the Peeler to the present day. There is also a collection of police uniforms from around the world, and a magistrates court from the late 19th century
- \* Imperial War Museum North - One of the most celebrated Museums in Britain today, which is about people and their stories, about how lives have been and still are shaped by war and conflict
- \* The Lowry - The Lowry is a spectacular home to the arts and entertainment with a wealth of activity under one roof
- \* Manchester Art Gallery - the Gallery houses one of the world's finest collections of art, displayed in spectacular surroundings
- \* Manchester Cathedral - an essential visit in the City sporting a gorgeous interior with the best late medieval woodwork in the north - the quire and the ceiling are splendid and full of life in the carved details.
- \* Manchester City Experience (Museum and Tour) - tour Britain's stunning new stadium beginning at the fabulous museum, which encapsulates Manchester City's 130 year history
- \* The Manchester Museum - Explore the world at the Manchester Museum with it's 4 floors of displays and exhibitions in 15 galleries featuring collections from all over the world
- \* Manchester United Museum and Tour - re-live the clubs triumphs, tragedies and trophies, follow the history of the club from 1878 to the present day, including the Hall of Fame and dazzling Trophy Room, and take the stadium tour
- \* People's History Museum - the only museum dedicated to the working people of Britain and the story of how they organised to change society, improving life for future generations
- \* The Quays - The new leisure capital of the North West. Whether you're after culture, architecture, river cruises, theatres, galleries, shopping, museums, football, cricket or just spectacular views, it's all here at this unique waterfront destination

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