

MAGIC

The Gathering

GRAND PRIX MANCHESTER

GP Manchester 2014 Travel Guide

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Format: Block Constructed



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JUDGE

Introduction

Currency: GBP £ (Pounds). Most stores accept major credit/debit cards. Some stores do however have a minimum card spend. A **very small** number of businesses accept Euros (EUR €). Competitive exchange rates can be found at all bureau de change and it is a good idea to research the best ones before arrival. In the UK it is generally a good idea to not change money at the airport, and instead either do so before arrival in the country or upon arrival in the City Centre. In particular The Post Office, Marks and Spencer and Natwest Bank generally offer quite good exchange rates.

Electricity: 240V, 3 pin UK/Irish plug. European plugs require a simple adaptor available in most convenience stores, supermarkets, and hotels. 110V countries require a transformer.

Time Zone: UTC+1 (British Summer Time).

Emergency Services: 999 or 112. For non-emergencies the hospital in Manchester City Centre is the Manchester Royal Infirmary. Closer to the venue is Salford Royal, generally known as Hope Hospital. Police can be contacted for non-emergencies on 101.

Driving: Cars drive on the left hand side of the road in Britain.

Smoking: It is against the law to smoke in indoor public spaces and at transport stations in Britain, you also need to be over 18 to purchase cigarettes and tobacco.

Safety: Manchester is not particularly dangerous, but like any large city it's a very good idea to maintain an awareness of your surroundings and belongings! The weekend of the GP is also playing host to a Manchester United home game at Old Trafford stadium — expect the city centre to be busy with supporters.

Judge contacts:

- **Local Judge:**

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Transport

Arriving By Plane

Manchester Airport

Getting around the airport

Manchester Airport is a large international hub, with three terminals and a ground transport station. Terminals 1 and 2 are connected to each other with covered travelator bridges, via the Station, with Terminal 3 a short outdoor walk from Terminal 1. All walking routes are well-signposted, and are no longer than 15 minutes.



Getting from the airport to the city

The Station has a frequent train service to Manchester Piccadilly in the heart of the city centre (journey time around 20 minutes), as well as local bus route 43 to nearby Piccadilly Gardens (journey time around 1 hour). Both of these services operate 24 hours, although less frequent at night.

Trains are operated by Northern Rail and by First TransPennine Express, with tickets to the city (valid on either) costing £4.10 one-way / £4.20 return at most times, with a return ticket valid for 30 days. For departures before 09:30 on weekdays, fares rise to £4.80 one-way / £7.70 return.

Bus route 43 is operated by Stagecoach Manchester. A one-way ticket to the city costs £3.00, and a 'DayRider' providing unlimited travel until the end of the day costs £4.00 — and is also valid on

services from the city to the Grand Prix venue (see below). If you anticipate travelling between the city and the venue as part of a longer visit, then a 'MegaRider', valid for 7 days, costs £12.50.

Taxis / Cabs are also available at each terminal's Arrivals desk, provided by Arrow Cars, which costs around £23 for a journey to the city, or £25 directly to the Grand Prix venue.

Liverpool John Lennon Airport.

Arriving into Manchester from Liverpool airport is most easily achieved by Train. From the airport take the 80A or 86A to Liverpool South Parkway train station, which is approximately 2 miles from the airport. From the station take a First Transpennine Express or East Midlands Trains service to Manchester Piccadilly.

Terravision also operate a Coach service direct to Manchester Sackville Street for as little as £8.

Arriving by Train

From London

From London, Virgin operate a high-speed service every 20 minutes, with a journey time of around 2 hours. Trains depart from London Euston and arrive at Manchester Piccadilly (the same arrival station as local airport services).

From Other Locations

Trains from all major UK companies stop in Manchester, and we have 3 City Centre stations, Victoria, Oxford Road and Piccadilly. The main city centre station is Manchester Piccadilly, with frequent connections to all other major UK cities. Manchester Oxford Road provides connections to the North West of the country, in particular Liverpool and Preston, and Manchester Victoria provides connections to locations across the north of England. Frequent connections operate between the stations, via a free Metroshuttle bus service.

Arriving by Coach

Coaches arrive into Manchester to Chorlton Street coach station a stones throw from Piccadilly Gardens Bus Station, where transport to the venue can be found. If your coach arrives at Manchester Shudehill Station, follow the directions below to reach Piccadilly Gardens.

Getting from the City to the Venue

Once you have arrived in the city centre, the only non-taxi option to reach the venue is the bus service operated by Stagecoach. Two services serve the same route between Piccadilly Gardens (Stand K) and the Trafford Centre (adjacent to the venue): the 250, and the limited-stop X50. Given that you are travelling the full end-to-end length of the route, the X50 is faster and preferable, but does not operate in the early morning or late evening.

Fares on either service are: £3.00 one-way, £4.00 for a 1-day unlimited 'DayRider' ticket, and £12.50 for a 7-day unlimited 'MegaRider'. Unlimited tickets are additionally valid on route 43 to/from the airport (see above).

If arriving by bus;

You will already be in the correct bus station, catch the 250 or X50 from Stand K.

If you are arriving by train;

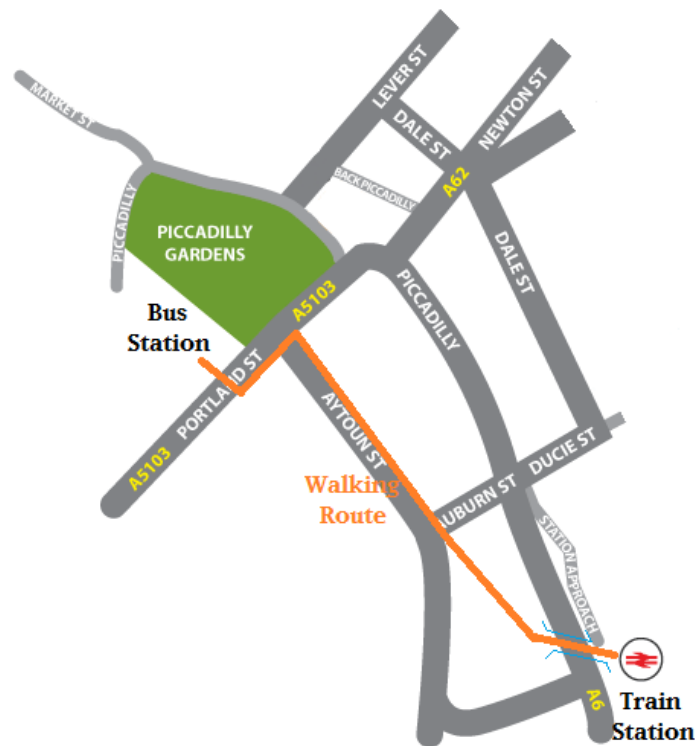
Manchester Piccadilly, the bus station at Piccadilly Gardens is a short 5-10 minute walk away (see map above-right), or one stop on the Metrolink tram (departs from the signposted lower platforms), which is a free transfer with your ticket from the airport as long as your ticket's destination reads "Manchester CTLZ".

Manchester Oxford Road; Catch a train the short distance to Manchester Piccadilly Station and follow the instructions above.

Manchester Victoria; Walk the short distance from the station to Shudehill Metrolink Station (this route is well signposted), and catch the tram to Piccadilly Gardens.

If you are arriving by Coach

Piccadilly Gardens bus station is a short walk up Portland Street from Chorlton Street coach station. If arriving at Manchester Shudehill, catch the Metrolink Tram from Shudehill Metrolink station, to Piccadilly Gardens.



The Venue

EventCity
Phoenix Way, off Barton Dock Road
Urmston
Manchester
M41 7TB

The Grand Prix venue, EventCity, is adjacent to a very large shopping mall called the Trafford Centre, which has its own bus station.

The 250 and X50 buses from the city, however, call at EventCity's own bus stop adjacent to the venue building, in addition to the bus station. The nearest bus stop to the venue, is just past the Trafford Centre "Home" section, directly adjacent to the venue. Access from the bus station is via short walk through the shopping mall, and over the footbridge to the Home Section.

The event will be taking place in Hall 1. Access to Hall 1 can be made via the buildings Main Reception.

The Trafford Centre itself also features many places to shop and eat, more information about food options in The Trafford Centre can be found below.



Accommodation

Near the Venue

Close to the venue, there is a distinct lack of hotels however there are four hotels within a reasonable walking distance (approximately 20 minutes) of the venue.

Premier Inn

Premier Inn Trafford Centre North (M41 7JE)

Premier Inn Trafford Centre West (M17 8PG)

Premier Inn Trafford Centre South (M17 8PG)

Premier Inn are a UK based budget hotel chain, with three hotels located near the venue. Rooms are available for between £29-£73 per night.

The Premier Inn Trafford Centre West is the staff hotel.

Address: Old Park Lane, Trafford Quays, Trafford Centre, Manchester M17 8PG

Travelodge

Travelodge Manchester Trafford Park (M17 8DD)

Another UK based budget hotel chain. This hotel is slightly further afield than the Premier Inn hotels above. Rooms are available for around £60 per night.

Slightly Further Afield

Media City UK/ Salford Quays

About 10 minutes by bus/taxi from the Trafford Centre is an area of Manchester called Salford Quays where the Lowry Museum/ Art Gallery, Imperial War Museum North, a small outlet shopping centre and a large number of UK TV stations are based. Bus connections from this area to the venue is via the X50 bus route, however as noted above this does not operate early morning or late at night. Taxis should cost around £6.

Ibis Budget Media City

M5 3AW

approximately £70 per night

Holiday Inn Express Salford Quays

M50 3XW

approximately £60 per night

Holiday Inn Manchester MediaCityUK

M50 2EQ

approximately £95 per night

Premier Inn Salford Quays

M5 3AW

approximately £80 per night

Ramada Manchester, Salford Quays

M50 3SQ

approximately £80 per night



The City Centre

Regular Hotels

Mercure Piccadilly

Piccadilly Gardens Manchester

4*

approximately £75 per night

Premier Inn

Piccadilly, Dale Street, M1 2HR

Manchester Central, Mosley Street, M2 3DW

Portland Street, M1 4WB

Deansgate Locks, M15 5FJ

Printworks, Victoria Bridge Street, M3 5AS

Between £50 and £70 per night

Midland Hotel

Peter Street, M60 2DS

4*

Around £125 per night

Travelodge

Manchester Ancoats, M4 5AZ

Manchester Piccadilly, M1 1LU

Manchester Central, M3 5AL

Manchester Upper Brook Street, M13 0HB

Between £50 and £70 per night

Sacha's Hotel

Tib Street, Piccadilly, M4 1SH

Around £110 per night

Budget Options

Hatters Hostel

Northern Quarter, Multiple Locations

Favourite of UK PTQ players for manchester events

£29 per night

YHA Manchester

Castlefield, Manchester, M3 4NB

£30 per night

Walkabout Manchester

Quay Street, Manchester, M3 3HN

n.b. this hotel has a bar/nightclub attached, noise is to be expected until ca.3am on a weekend evening.
£15 to £20 per night.

Gardens Hotel

55 Piccadilly, M1 2AP

£85 per night

Places to Eat (and Drink!)

Near the Venue

The venue has a number of fast food outlets close by, including a Starbucks, Krispy Kreme and McDonalds. There is also an ASDA supermarket within easy walking distance.

The Trafford Centre

Within the Trafford Centre itself (about a 15 minute walk from the venue, over a covered walkway) there is a large food court (The Orient). Within this area you can find the usual assortment of fast food outlets, as well as chain restaurants like TGI Fridays, Nando's and Gourmet Burger Kitchen.

Yang Sing Cathay

A smaller version of the Yang Sing in the city centre. Excellent food from a family run independent business.

Tampopo

Good food from across asia, with excellent vegetarian and vegan selections.

Barburrito

Burrito's, Taco's and similar items, freshly made whilst you wait.

“The Mardi Gras” (Wetherspoons)

Cheap and cheerful pub food from the UKs biggest chain pub brand.

The City Centre — Northern Quarter

Pie and Ale

A small eatery which is true to its name serving some of the best pies in Manchester. A wide variety of fillings are available, all served with a hearty portion of mashed potatoes and gravy. The bar has a wide selection of ales and other beverages, and runs a happy hour every night. If you fancy a challenge, try their eating competition!

Unit 2 The Hive, Lever St, M1 1FN

Dough

One of the best pizzeria in Manchester, and with a cocktail bar attached to boot!
Good gluten free and vegetarian options

75-77 High St, M4 1FS

Bakerie

A restaurant specialising in various different types of Bread, and with great vegetarian and vegan selections.

45 Lever Street, M60 7HP

Leo's Fish and Chips

Voted the best "chippy" in Manchester, this friendly eatery is very reasonably priced and a must visit. It is open late at weekend and close to both Hatters hostels so a good choice if you are getting back to where you are staying late at night.

12 Oldham St, M1 1JQ

Sweet Mandarin

Run by three sisters and possibly the best Chinese food in Manchester.
19 Copperas St, M4 1HS

'57 Thomas Street'

A small bar from Manchester's own independent brewery The Marble Brewery. All their beers are vegan friendly, and the bar has chess boards on the tables. Real Ale Specialist.

57 Thomas Street, M4 1NA

Port Street Beer House

Small northern quarter bar with one of the best beer selections in Manchester.
39-41 Port Street, M1 2EQ

TV 21

Lively bar/club with a decent food selection.

10 Thomas Street, M4 1DH

The City Centre — Exchange Square

There are a number of good eateries here; try The Printworks for Wagamamas (Japanese) or the Hard Rock Café, and The Triangle for Pizza Express and Tampopo.

Zinc Bar and Grill

Slightly expensive but brilliant food and cocktails.

The Triangle, Hanging Ditch, M4 3TR

Sinclair's Oyster Bar

One of the cheapest places to drink in Manchester from this traditional pub.

2 Cathedral Gates, M3 1SW

The City Centre — Spinningfields

The area of Manchester where you find most of the expensive shops nowadays, but home to some really unique eateries compared to the rest of Manchester.

Artisan

Restaurant cooking all their dishes with two wood fired ovens and offering a rustic menu.

The Avenue North, M3 3BZ

Southern Eleven

New twists on American BBQ food.

3 Hardman Street, M3 3HF

Bem Brasil

Brazilian barbecue meats served to your table. All you can eat portions.

King Street West, M3 2GQ

The Gas Lamp

Eccentric bar based in Spinningfields. Good whiskey selection.

50 Bridge St, M3 3BW

The Oast House

Brilliant setting for a good food and drink pub, with a large outside area. Fresh rotisserie and deli food, and a large drink selection.

Crown Square, M3 3AY

Elsewhere

Chinatown

Located just off Portland Street, the home of Manchesters Chinese restaurants and an awful lot of karaoke bars.

Postcode within general area: M1 4EE

Curry Mile

Outside of the city centre, in an area of Manchester called Rusholme, a large amount of curry houses and restaurants specialising in South Asian cuisine

Postcode within general area: M14 5TQ

East 2 East

Popular city centre Indian restaurant.

Princess Street, M1 7DG

Reds True Barbecue

One of the best barbecue restaurants in UK.

22 Lloyd Street, Albert Square, M2 5WA

City Centre places to visit



MoSI

The station buildings of the world's very first passenger railway service are today home to the Museum of Science and Industry. Showcasing the city's heritage as the birthplace of the Industrial Revolution, the main hall contains dozens of running steam engines (warning — it's a little noisy!), whereas highlights of the second building include a working replica of the world's first general-purpose computer "Baby", built at Manchester University in 1948. Across the road is the Air and Space hall, where preserved aircraft from the 20th Century are on display.

Entry is free of charge, except for the travelling exhibitions. The price for that is currently unconfirmed, but during the Grand Prix it will be "Collider", about the Large Hadron Collider at CERN in Switzerland.

Market Street/Piccadilly Gardens

The northwestern end of Market Street begins near Exchange Square, with the large Marks & Spencer/Selfridges building containing the two upmarket department stores.

The street then comprises the main shopping district of the city centre, including the Arndale Centre for much of its length, a large indoor mall with hundreds of shops and places to eat.

Towards the southeast, it runs between another pair of department stores, Debenhams and Primark, before emerging into Piccadilly Gardens.

Alongside the main transport hub is a grassy open space, with a large fountain and the 52-metre Wheel of Manchester, where a ride costs £7.00.

Nearby is Manchester's main gaming store FanBoy3 (see below).



FanBoy3

The only FNM location for 15 miles (and one of only two within 30 miles), and one of the premier-grade PTQ-running TOs in the country, this Local Games Store is the focus of **Magic** (and gaming in general) across the entire region.

With plenty of play space, organised play for various games 7 days a week, and a massive board game & roleplaying library, FanBoy3 is an unmissable place to visit for the travelling Grand Prix attendee.

Located right in the city centre a stone's throw from Piccadilly Gardens (see maps section), it's easy to drop in on your way past or spend a bit longer satisfying your gaming urges!



Central Library & Town Hall

Newly refurbished, the Roman-style circular Central Library building dates from the 1930s, and is well worth a look if you are interested in literature, architecture, or both! The massive columned entrance on St Peter's Square was inspired by the Pantheon.

Nearby, the neo-Gothic Town Hall building, completed in the 1870s at the height of the city's industrial prosperity, is the magnificent focal point of Albert Square. Costing today's equivalent of £78 million when first built, and still in use today as the headquarters of local government, it is an exceptional jewel in the city's heritage.



Printworks & Exchange Square

The Printworks, located in a disused newspaper printing building, is an integrated entertainment & leisure hub, with bars, restaurants including a Hard Rock Café, and a large cinema complex.

The indoor environment is uniquely designed and lit to appear as an outdoor street at night, and must be seen to be believed!

Across the road lies Exchange Square, and the Triangle shopping arcade (converted from a former goods trading exchange) hosting smaller independent boutiques and quiet coffee shops.

Northern Quarter

A rough amalgamation of streets and squares, the Northern Quarter is the locus of alternative culture in Manchester, including the city's Local Game Store, FanBoy3 (see above), and comic book stores Travelling Man and Forbidden Planet.

The rest of the district is comprised of retro clothing shops, specialist music stores (including some that helped to cause the rise of House music across the world in the 1980s), and trendy café-bars.

Nestled in the centre is Affleck's Palace (pictured), a permanent market/arcade across four floors of a Victorian mill building, with a great many independent shops catering to a large range of alternative lifestyles.



The Manchester Museum

Part of the University of Manchester, the Manchester Museum houses a number of permanent exhibits, mainly focussed on archaeology and zoology.

Situated a short bus ride (or a brisk walk) away from the city centre, entry is free of charge. Highlights include a full-size replica Viking longboat, a Blue Whale skeleton, numerous Egyptian artefacts including sarcophagi, a hall of live amphibious animals, and a full-size cast of a Tyrannosaurus Rex fossil.

By bus, take any of the 41, 42, 43, 142, or 143 services from Piccadilly Gardens, and ask the driver where to alight.



Additional places of note

Urbis

Located not far from Exchange Square, Urbis houses a museum/gallery based on cities and civilisation; and sharing the building is the National Football Museum.

Chill Factor^e

An indoor ski slope directly adjacent to the Grand Prix venue. Relatively expensive, but offering a unique experience!

Heaton Park

The largest municipal park in Europe, at over 250 hectares, this is the perfect place to spend a quiet day away from the hustle and bustle of Grands Prix and city centres! Take the tram towards Bury and alight at Heaton Park station.

Old Trafford Football Ground

Home of Manchester United, and one of the largest football stadiums in the UK. An excellent visit with their museum and stadium tours, and close to the venue. Take the tram towards Altrincham and alight at Old Trafford station. Likely to be extremely busy on the GP Saturday due to a Man U vs. Sunderland match.

The Etihad Stadium

Home to rival Manchester City Football club. A newly opened museum at the club gives an insight into its history. Take the tram to Ashton-under-Lyne and alight at Etihad Campus station.