

Conference Aston

The Insider's guide to Birmingham from the Conference Aston team, with the lowdown on where to eat, get around and have a great day and night out.



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BRUM

Getting around the second city



“Birmingham’s only open top bus tour, the Big Brum Bus tour is the perfect way to get your bearings in Birmingham. The double decker gives a great view of Birmingham’s fantastic buildings and the experienced guides are the perfect people to give the inside info on the history of the UK’s second city.”

Paul Bunce, Marketing Manager
www.birmingham-tours.co.uk/bus-tours

“Go by canal, whether it’s a boat tour from Gas Street Basin, the heart of Birmingham’s canal network, or a leisurely walk down one of Birmingham’s many canal towpaths. Rumour has it that Birmingham has more canals than Venice, whether or not it’s true they give a great perspective on Birmingham.”

Rajvinder Biran, Reservations Assistant
www.visitbirmingham.com/summer/canals

Getting to Birmingham

By car – Birmingham is at the centre of the UK motorway network and can be easily reached via the M5, M6 and M42.

By rail – New Street, Moor Street and Snow Hill Stations are at the heart of Birmingham city centre, dropping visitors in the midst of the city’s shopping and business districts.

By air – Birmingham International Airport is just outside the city and minutes from road and rail links to Birmingham, with national and international direct flights across the world.

Grabbing a bite in Brum



Birmingham is one of the most exciting places to eat in the UK, whether it's a curry at the heart of the famous Balti Triangle or a meal at one of the top Michelin starred restaurants.

Our staff have been out and about to give you the inside track on where to eat.

“Cafe Soya is a great Vietnamese/Chinese restaurant, with branches in the Arcadian and on Upper Dean Street. A brilliant value for money option, with a vast range of freshly cooked, fantastically flavoured food, served quickly and without fuss.”

Alexandra Pagan, Event Coordinator
www.cafesoya.co.uk

“The Balti Triangle is a must visit for anyone who loves their curries. With more than 50 restaurants and takeaways offering some of the best curries in the UK, there is an amazing choice of dishes including some incredible vegetarian dishes. And for those not in the know, the name Balti refers to the cast iron pot the dishes are cooked in.”

Ben Dolan, Catering Manager
www.baltitriangle.com

“In cosmopolitan Brindleyplace, Bank is one of the more pricey places to eat in Birmingham, but is so worth the money. A fabulous range of fish, meat and vegetarian dishes in contemporary surroundings. It's great for a night out or a pre or post theatre supper.”

Suzanna Reid Barreiro da Silva, Sales Development Manager
www.bankrestaurants.com/birmingham_restaurant.

“For some of the best sushi in Birmingham, try Shogun Sushi and Noodle bar at the Mailbox. With a sushi conveyor belt and a team of chefs whipping up a wide range of dishes it's great for Japanese food fans. And with an all you can eat sushi menu for £10, it's brilliant value.”

Cheryl Thompson, Events manager
www.shogunteppanyaki.com

A great day and night out Shopping



It's unanimous – all our staff voted the Bullring and especially Selfridges the place to shop in Birmingham, whether you are looking for the latest fashions or something special from the Food Court.

But Birmingham is more than just the Bullring and boasts a diverse range of shops, from the Tiffany's of the Midlands, the Jewellery Quarter to the regular Farmers' Market on every first and third Wednesday in the city centre.

Try the Stratford Road for exotic spices, beautiful Asian jewellery and amazing sari fabric or stop off at the Rag Market for vintage bargains.

And just in time for Christmas visit Birmingham's famous Frankfurt Christmas Market, which runs from November 18 to December 23. With stalls selling traditional toys, food and decorations and of course the intoxicating Gluhwein, it's well worth a trip.

Family Days out

"Thinktank is an amazing day out for all the family – an interactive science museum, which gives small and big people the chance to get hands on with exhibits. It's brilliant for a day out and if there's time it's well worth popping into the IMAX for a movie afterwards."

Ben Dolan, Catering Manager
www.thinktank.ac

"Birmingham's very own chocolate factory, Cadbury World is a wonderful and very lovely way to find out more about the history of chocolate as well as seeing how it is made. The tour includes the chance to try fresh chocolate, made just hours before as well as plenty of samples!"

Amanda Ovenden, Yield and Revenue Manager
www.cadburyworld.co.uk

Out on the tiles

Whether it's a night at the Mailbox or Brindleyplace enjoying one of Birmingham's extensive range of pubs and bars or a night of culture at Birmingham Royal Ballet or one of the city's many theatres, Brum has it all.

Keep an eye on our website for latest deals on shows (and of course panto!) and some very special nights we also have planned at Conference Aston.