



ITINERARY ONE

March/April

Discover the distinctive character of Hull, Leeds, Manchester and Liverpool with the First TransPennine Cities of Northern England Rover ticket. These four lively, post-industrial cities are linked by the Trans-Pennine rail route, and this new city trail for 2017 is designed to highlight the very best of the bold cultural programming on offer in each.

This is a standout year to visit, as Hull unveils its 12 month programme as the [UK City of Culture](#), including site-specific performances, gallery openings and a [sound installation](#) that spans the Humber Bridge. In the spring, Manchester sees spotlight exhibitions on leading 20th century designers [Lucienne Day](#) and [Mary Quant](#), while Liverpool's Bluecoat celebrates the 300th anniversary of its building with [an exhibition](#) featuring work by over 100 artists. Over in Leeds, a sensual world premiere comes to the [Leeds Grand Theatre](#) in the shape of Northern Ballet's [Casanova](#).

All four cities boast boutique and high street shopping, independent bars and restaurants serving a global range of cuisines, quality accommodation and good transport links - with each of the cultural trails here designed to be within walking distance unless otherwise specified.



HULL

The [UK City of Culture programme](#) brings a transformative buzz to the home of the formidable poet Philip Larkin (1922-1985), who described Hull - with its ancient harbour, historic Fruit Market area and coastal feel - as a city of 'sudden elegancies'.

Event Highlights

[Opera North - The Height of the Reeds](#). An epic sound installation of newly composed music and field recordings spans Hull's iconic Humber Bridge, experienced intimately through headphones. *1-30 April, free*

[John Grant's North Atlantic Flux: Sounds from Smoky Bay](#). Critically-acclaimed singer-songwriter John Grant curates a four-day music festival in Hull's centre, celebrating the city's Nordic and international links. *28 April - 1 May, tickets £82-89*

Day One

Start at the [Ferens Art Gallery](#) (daily, free), close to the railway station. Newly reopened after a major refurbishment, the gallery features a magnificent permanent collection as well as changing exhibitions, such as a selection of incredibly life-like sculptures by [artist Ron Mueck](#) (22 April - 13 August). Nearby is Queen Victoria Square, temporary home to [Blade](#) by artist Nayan Kulkarni (until 18 March, free) - a single, 75 metre-long wind turbine blade. Also on the square is the [Maritime Museum](#) (daily, free), which tells the story of Hull's role as a port and gateway to Europe through objects including some excellent ship models and a full-sized whale skeleton. From 22 March to 14 May, the museum will also be host to the [Weeping Window](#), a cascade of thousands of ceramic poppies from a high window, inspired by the First World War.

Next, walk to the Old Town and revived waterfront area, where plenty of options for lunch are to be found, as well as [Wilberforce House](#) (daily, free), museum and birthplace of William Wilberforce, an influential figure in the movement to eradicate the slave trade. On the same street - and good for families - is the interactive [Streetlife Museum](#) (daily, free), filled with recreated street scenes (including sounds and smells). For a small diversion, stop by Market Place to see the statue of King

Billy - before returning to the city centre for gigs as part of [John Grant's North Atlantic Flux](#) (28 April - 1 May, tickets £82-89). Alternatively, check out the evening programme at [Hull Truck Theatre](#) or make a visit to [Kardomah94](#), a restaurant, bar and exhibition space with an event line-up that includes theatre, film, spoken word nights and gigs.

Day Two

If you're visiting in April, start your day by taking a short bus or taxi ride to [The Height of the Reeds](#) (1-30 April, free), a sound installation that fuses jazz, electronic music, guitar, orchestral music and field recordings, and is experienced through headphones as you cross the 2,220 metre span of Hull's Humber Bridge. From there, head back across town to the new, pop-up [Humber Street Gallery](#) (daily, free) in the Fruit Market cultural quarter, a warehouse space filled with exhibitions and

gallery takeovers by world-leading artists throughout 2017. In this area - which is currently undergoing £80m of regeneration - you'll also find a microbrewery, bars, clubs and restaurants. Don't miss [The City Speaks](#) (2 February - 31 December, free) nearby; designed by Michael Pinsky, this installation relays your words, spoken into a microphone, onto the west tower of Hull's tidal surge barrier.

The afternoon can be spent following a [city centre trail](#) of the places frequented by Larkin (keep an eye out for the giant, colourful, artist-decorated Toad sculptures that are a legacy of a public art project in Hull). Close by is the Scale Lane footbridge; go with a picnic, or simply find a sheltered spot to ride the bridge as it opens to let shipping pass. From there, make your way to [Früit](#), a venue that combines theatre, film, music, comedy, markets, club nights and festivals - making it the ideal place to while away the hours. Further out from the city centre by bus or taxi is [The Adelphi Club](#), a popular live music venue that's host to regular gigs.



Ferens Art Gallery

LEEDS

Along with its reputation for being a shopping hotspot, Leeds - with its Victorian facades, covered arcades and shining waterfront buildings - is also a centre for dance, sculpture, festivals and a vibrant independent food and drink scene. No wonder, then, that the city is making a bid to be European Capital of Culture 2023.

Event highlights

Casanova. Northern Ballet tells the sensual, passionate story of Casanova, a man consumed by his desires, decadence and excesses in 18th century Venice, in this world premiere ballet by Kenneth Tindall. *11-18 March, tickets £10-£47.50*
Transform. This newly biennial festival of international theatre in arts venues across Leeds includes provocative, entertaining work, world premieres and a major new show from acclaimed company RashDash in a secret location. *19-22 April, tickets free-£12.50*



Northern Ballet dancers in Casanova.
Photo: Guy Farrow

Day One

The **Henry Moore Institute** (Tuesday - Sunday, free), founded by Leeds College of Art graduate and acclaimed sculptor Henry Moore, is a good place to start the day. Discover the interactive sculptures of British artist Roy Ascott in **Form has Behaviour** (25 January - 23 April) and a major new commission by Aleksandra Domanović alongside existing works that respond to classical Greek votive statues in **Votives** (23 March - 11 June) - as well as the excellent **Sculpture Research Library** on the first floor. Next door is the **Craft Centre and Design Gallery** (Tuesday-Saturday, free), beneath Leeds Art Gallery: here you'll find

work by over 300 UK designer makers on display, including glass, ceramics, jewellery, textiles and prints, as well as themed exhibitions such as **Fresh Talent** (14 January - 29 April), a showcase of emerging makers, and **Branching Out** (18 March - 24 June), which features craft inspired by trees. Best of all, everything on display is for sale. Although Leeds Art Gallery itself is currently closed for refurbishment, its **Victorian Tiled Hall Cafe** (daily, free) is worth a visit - for lunch, or just to admire the stunning barrel-vaulted mosaic ceiling.

From here, walk to Leeds' award-winning **Kirkgate Market** (Monday - Saturday, free) where you'll find food, drink, fashion, haberdashery, flowers and hardware at one of the largest indoor markets in Europe. It's also worth dropping by the Grade I listed **Leeds Corn Exchange** (daily, free), where you'll find a wide roster of independent retailers beneath the stunning domed roof. To plan your


Day Two

A short bus or taxi ride across the River Aire from the city centre is **The Tetley** (daily, free); housed in the striking art deco headquarters of the former Tetley Brewery, this contemporary art centre - complete with bar and kitchen - is a great way to spend a morning. Book-lovers will enjoy **These books were alive; they spoke to me** (3 February - 23 April), an exhibition of printed matter and performance works by Barcelona based artist Dora García that coincides with the **Leeds International Contemporary Artists' Book Fair** (4-5 March, free). Also on the south side of the river is **The Royal Armouries** (open daily, free), the Leeds branch of the national museum of arms and armour and home to around 8,500 objects in six themed galleries.



The Tetley

Spend the afternoon back in the city centre, exploring Leeds' characterful **Victorian Quarter** (daily, free), a beautiful shopping



resplendent in marble, gilded mosaics, cast iron and the biggest stained glass window in England. Nearby are the [Queens](#) and [Thorntons](#) Arcades, which are also worth a visit, as well as the newly Michelin-starred restaurant that's causing a stir [The Man Behind the Curtain](#) (Tuesday - Saturday, booking essential). [Leeds Grand Theatre](#) is a short distance away if you've got tickets for Northern Ballet's [Casanova](#) (1-18 March, tickets £10-£47.50), the world premiere of a new ballet by Kenneth Tindall - alternatively, take a bus out to [Hyde Park Picture House](#), a Grade II listed arthouse cinema with an Edwardian balcony and original gas lights. It's also not far from the [Brudenell Social Club](#) - a former working men's club turned live music venue and ideal spot to while away the rest of the evening.

Revolution: designed by the architect behind Highclere Castle (or Downton Abbey), it houses 25,000 artefacts across six centuries and contemporary exhibitions by world-leading artists. [Strange and Familiar: Britain as Revealed by International Photographers](#) (25 November 2016 - 29 May 2017), an exhibition curated by acclaimed photographer Martin Parr, is a particular highlight. On the other side of Piccadilly Gardens is the sprawling Northern Quarter, perhaps Manchester's most characterful district with enough diversions for a morning of exploring, including independent coffee shops, bars, restaurants - and some great spots for vintage clothing bargains. Here you'll find [Manchester Craft & Design Centre](#) (studios open Monday - Saturday, free); formerly a Victorian fish and poultry market, it's now home to a café and 18 different studios, where you can buy stunning jewellery, ceramics, prints, knitwear and more direct from the makers.

MANCHESTER

International culture, industrial heritage, political thought and medieval history run through Manchester's historic city centre, edgy Northern Quarter, trailblazing university campuses, progressive Gay Village, the lively districts surrounding Deansgate and the cutting-edge surrounds of MediaCityUK.

Event highlights

[Mary Quant: Fashion Icon](#). Manchester's Gallery of Costume showcases 22 outfits by Mary Quant, hailed as the most famous female fashion designer in London in the 1960s. *5 November 2016 - 5 November 2017, free*

[Lucienne Day: A Sense of Growth](#). This exhibition at the Whitworth is part of the centenary celebrations of Lucienne Day - virtuoso pattern designer, colourist and one of Britain's most influential 20th century designers. *14 April - 11 June, free*

[Soonni Taraporevala](#). A retrospective of photographs by acclaimed photographer and screenwriter Soonni Taraporevala at the Whitworth features 40 years of images from Mumbai (formerly Bombay), *4 March onwards, free*

Day One

[Manchester Art Gallery](#) (Monday - Sunday, free) in the city centre is a great introduction to the combined civic pride and cultural ambition of the birthplace of the Industrial



The Whitworth, *Gathering of Strangers*, Nathan Coley, 2015. Photo Alan Williams

Close by is the [Centre for Chinese Contemporary Art](#) (Tuesday - Sunday, free), a small but fascinating gallery that champions cutting-edge Chinese art.

Spend the afternoon in Manchester's medieval quarter, the heart of which is the 600 year-old [Manchester Cathedral](#) (daily, free), which hosts a range of events from live gigs to vintage clothing fairs. Circling a pleasant, grassy area behind the Cathedral are [Chetham's Library](#) (Monday - Friday, suggested donation £3), the oldest free public reference library in Britain and 21st April sees the opening of its new [Stoller Hall](#) concert venue, and the [National Football Museum](#) (daily, free), an ideal spot for families - and football fans. Alternatively, take a tram out to [MediaCityUK](#), where the old working docks have been replaced with shining cultural beacons [The Lowry](#) (daily, free) - home to



contemporary art exhibitions, dance and theatre - the [Imperial War Museum North](#) (daily, free), which charts the global history of conflict, and the [BBC](#), including the [BBC Philharmonic](#) orchestra. Make your way back into town by tram or bus towards evening: theatre-lovers should head for the [Royal Exchange Theatre](#), while music fans will find a whole roster of venues ready to cater to their needs. Check out the programming at astounding Wesleyan Chapel turned live music venue [The Albert Hall](#), jazz bar [Matt & Phreds](#) or legendary venue [Band on the Wall](#).

Day Two

The beautifully redesigned [Whitworth](#) art gallery (daily, free) is a short bus ride down Oxford Road away from the city centre - and a great place to start the day. Here you'll find exhibitions including [A Sense of Growth](#) (14 April - 11 June) a showcase of work by leading British designer Lucienne Day and 40 years of photographs of Mumbai by [Sooni Taraporevala](#)

(from 4 March) as part of *New North and South*, a three year programme of artistic commissions and events to celebrate the shared heritage of South Asia and the North of England, as well as a stunning cafe among the trees. Keep going further down Oxford Road (by bus or taxi), past the (in)famous Curry Mile, and you'll reach Manchester's [Gallery of Costume](#) (Thursday - Sunday, free), where there's an exhibition of outfits by [Mary Quant](#) (3 November 2016 - 5 November 2017), fashion designer to an international clientele of hip young things in the '60s and '70s. Also down this end of town is [Contact](#) theatre, which, throughout March, is one of the venues playing host to [SICK! Festival](#) (8-25 March, ticket prices vary), a programme of challenging, world-changing art and theatre. Don't forget to take in the two universities that populate Oxford Road as you head back towards the city centre; they boast Hogwarts-esque buildings, the [Holden Art Gallery](#) (Monday - Friday, free) and some serious alumni between them.

Your next stop is the [International Anthony Burgess Foundation](#) (Monday - Friday, free), a small arts venue tucked away in an old mill where a season of [events celebrating the centenary](#) of prolific writer, composer and journalist Anthony Burgess is unfolding. A short walk from here is [HOME](#) (daily, free), an arts complex with ambitious cross-arts programming across its two theatres, five

cinema screens and 500 square metres of gallery space. The lead exhibitions here are [John Hyatt: Rock Art](#) (4 February - 29 March) and [House of Ghetto: Black Pride](#) (7 April - Thu 15 June). From HOME, walk on towards the arterial road of Deansgate where you'll find Manchester landmark the Beetham Tower (71-metres tall, it hums in high winds) and the [John Rylands Library](#) (daily, free), which houses a collection of rare books that spans five millennia in a neo-Gothic building that took nine years to build. Not far from here is the [People's History Museum](#) (daily, free), the national museum of democracy.

Evening plans might include a return to HOME, where an award-winning team bring Paul Auster's complex novel [City of Glass](#) (4-18 March) to the stage here in a world premiere - or a classical music concert at the stunning [Bridgewater Hall](#). This astonishing venue was built in 1996 for £46m so that, incredibly, all 22,000 tons of it float on nearly three hundred earthquake bearings, or giant springs. Specially

designed to allow the perfect amount of cubic space per person, the acoustics (and programme) here are incredible.

LIVERPOOL



Everyman Theatre

This waterfront city with UNESCO World Heritage Site status has an international reputation for its music scene, and the artists it has produced - but its cultural credentials now include major museums and art galleries, theatres and festivals along streets busy with quirky shops, top notch coffee spots and high quality, independent restaurants.

Event highlights

[Public View](#). Part of the Bluecoat's 300th anniversary year celebrations is this exhibition of works by 100 artists who have previously exhibited at the gallery - including Jeremy Deller, Yoko Ono and Yinka Shonibare. *4 February - 23 April, free*



Day One

Get a feel for Liverpool's maritime past by beginning the day at the city's waterfront - with [Tate Liverpool](#) (daily, free) on Albert Dock your first port of call. Here you can see an exhibition that sets Tracey Emin's famous bed alongside works by William Blake in [Tracey Emin and William Blake in Focus](#) (16 September 2016 - 3 September 2017). Next, stop off at the [Merseyside Maritime Museum](#) (daily, free entry), which charts the city's seafaring history, and the [International Slavery Museum](#) (daily, free entry), which explores Liverpool's role in the slave trade, next door. For fans of the Beatles, the [Beatles Story](#) (daily, adult tickets £14.95) on the other side of Albert Dock is a must, while photography enthusiasts should head for [Open Eye Gallery](#) (Tuesday - Sunday, free), a short walk away along the waterfront. Headlining there is [North: Identity, Photography, Fashion](#) (6 January - 19 March, free) in March,

Head back into the city centre for the afternoon, and to historic arts venue [Bluecoat](#) (daily, free); currently celebrating the 300th anniversary of its building, the lead exhibition here, [Public View](#) (4 February - 23 April, free) features works by over 100 artists. Stop at the cafe for lunch, or walk to Liverpool's Ropewalks district; packed with independent shops and food and drink options, this area is also home to [FACT](#) (daily, free), a cinema, gallery and new media arts centre where artists explore the shifting boundary between fiction and reality in [How much of this is fiction](#) (2 March - 21 May). Not far from here is Liverpool's [Everyman Theatre](#), with productions that make a worthwhile evening's diversion - otherwise, the city's live music scene is one of the most vibrant in the North. Check out the line-up at [Arts Club](#) back in the Ropewalks district and [The Cavern Club](#) (made famous by The Beatles) or, for classical music, [Liverpool Philharmonic Hall and Music Room](#).

Day Two

A trip to Liverpool wouldn't be complete without a visit to the city's two cathedrals: the imposing [Anglican Cathedral](#) (daily, free) and the modernist [Metropolitan Cathedral](#) (daily, free) - home to a stunning, newly commissioned art installation [Sevenfold](#) by internationally renowned artist Liz West - are at either end of the aptly-named Hope Street. Walking between the two, you'll pass the [Everyman Theatre](#), which reopened in March

2014 after extensive renovation to its stage, restaurant and backstage areas (including a metal façade with 105 Liverpool residents cut into it), and a number of good bars and restaurants - including the [Liverpool Philharmonic Dining Rooms](#), an incredibly ornate Art Deco drinking den that's not to be confused with the [Liverpool Philharmonic Hall and Music Room](#) (home to the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra) on the same street.



Tate Liverpool

Spend the afternoon exploring the area around Liverpool Lime Street Station: here you'll find the looming, neo-classical grandeur of the Grade I listed [St George's Hall](#) (daily, free), which boasts a striking 25 metre-high barrel vaulted ceiling and an exquisite, original Minton tiled floor made from around 30,000 individual tiles (only occasionally unveiled to the public). Behind the hall is the [Walker Art Gallery](#) (daily, free), an impressive gallery with a collection of paintings, sculpture and decorative art from the 13th century to present day alongside temporary exhibitions. Next door is the Grade II-listed [Liverpool Central Library](#) (daily, free) - the largest of the 22 libraries in the city and restored to its full historic glory thanks to a £50m refurbishment - and next door to that, Liverpool's [World Museum](#) (daily, free). For the evening, head to the city's up and coming Baltic Triangle, only a ten minute walk from the city centre: here you'll find the epic feeling [Camp and Furnace](#) bar and event space, mid-19th century pub [The Baltic Fleet](#), and Black Lodge Brewery's [Tap Room](#).



Camp and Furnace