

EXPLORE
Coventry
Official Visitor Guide 2021



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WE'RE BACK!



CANTEEN

FEELING HUNGRY?
WE'VE GOT YOU,
WHATEVER THE WEATHER



COSTA

**COCOA
CAFFE**

CHOPSTIX
NOODLE BAR



Krispy Kreme
DOUGHNUTS

Meowbo
BUBBLE TEA



LOVE SHAKE
Premium Thickshakes & Smoothies

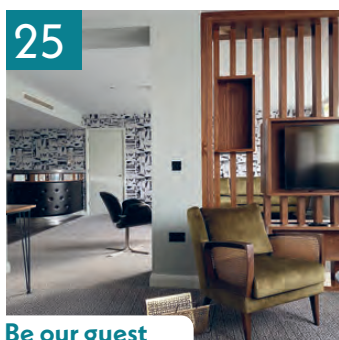
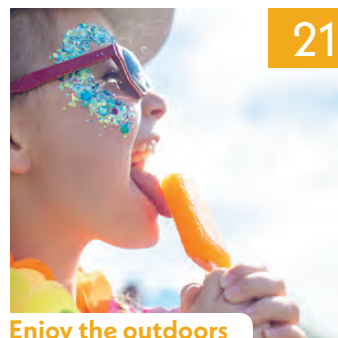
Shakeaway
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SUBWAY



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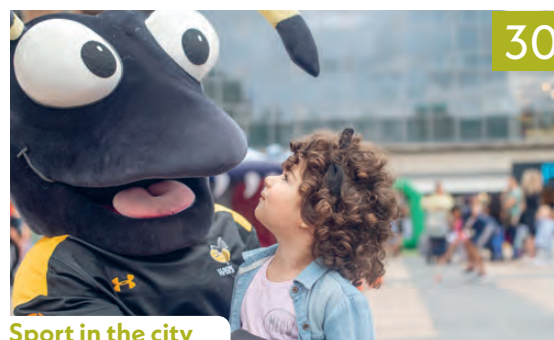
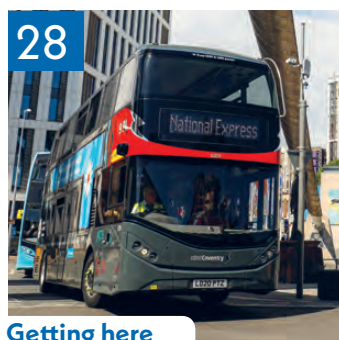




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Herbert

Art Gallery & Museum

An award-winning gallery and museum situated in the heart of Coventry – the perfect place to delve into history and engage with culture.

World-class exhibitions

Extraordinary events for all ages

Ever-changing displays

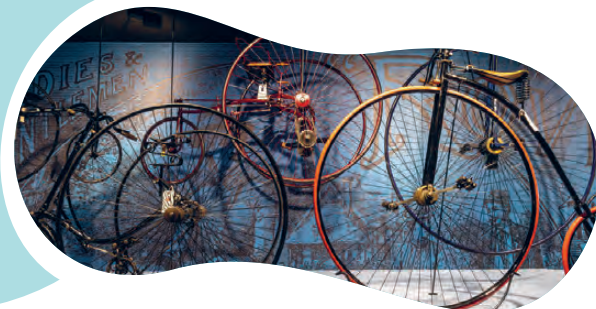
Unique experiences

Find out more
theherbert.org

H

COVENTRY TRANSPORT MUSEUM

Driving curiosity



A WORLD-CLASS COLLECTION. A WORLD-CLASS EXPERIENCE.

Housing the largest publicly owned collection of British vehicles on the planet and telling the story of a city which changed the world through transport.

Touring exhibitions

14 fully accessible galleries

Over 350 vehicles

A day to remember

BOOK NOW

transport-museum.com



Welcome to Coventry



Coventry Transport Museum



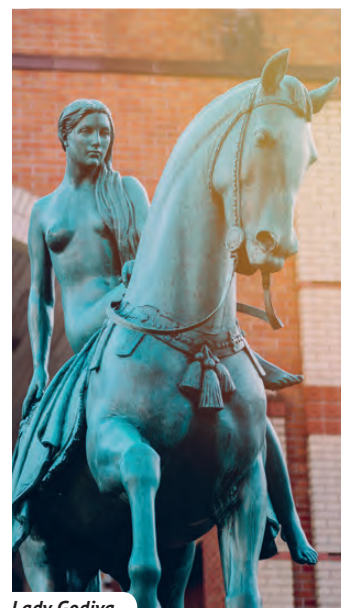
Coventry Cathedral ©Rahul Argha Sen



FarGo Village



Holy Trinity Church



Lady Godiva

The city of Coventry, located at the very centre of England, lies surrounded by leafy Warwickshire countryside and is proud to be a diverse, accessible, and culturally rich destination.

Sitting just one hour from London by train, and 20 minutes from nearby Birmingham, Coventry is conveniently interlinked with the rest of England, easily reached by road, rail or air.

Coventry is extremely proud to be the UK City of Culture, beginning our year of celebration in May 2021. For a whole year, we will celebrate our rich cultural heritage with events, music, dance, theatre, and large-scale spectacle. As well as these big celebrations, our city will show its

unexpected side, with more intimate experiences and ways to get involved across every area of the city.

Supported by our UK City of Culture success, Coventry's city centre has seen vast changes in recent years, with the stunning transformation of our public spaces, making them open, inviting, and accessible to our visitors. The area is overflowing with places to eat and drink, plus exciting, independent shops, remarkable museums, galleries and even our own

exhilarating city centre waterpark.

Within our city centre, and throughout the wider area, Coventry is filled with activity to captivate all ages and interests. And with so much to discover this year, you'll want to stay. Choose from well-known branded hotel chains, luxury boutique venues, or chic central apartments. And why wait for the weekend?

There are great midweek breaks on offer, often with special rates.

Whether you're looking to visit friends, celebrate a special occasion, immerse yourself in culture, or treat your taste buds to a foodie feast, a visit to Coventry can be anything you want it to be.

Find out more at: visitcoventry.co.uk

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©HKD Media



UK City of Culture 2021

Welcome to Coventry, the city where movement began.

We're a City of Welcome, a City of Sanctuary, and now, UK City of Culture 2021. From May 2021 to May 2022, Coventry is set for a bumper year of music, art, theatre, dance and literature. There's never been a better time than now to visit Coventry during its time in the cultural spotlight. Plus, we've got something for everyone, in every ward of the city.



Carnival of Light ©Jamie Gray



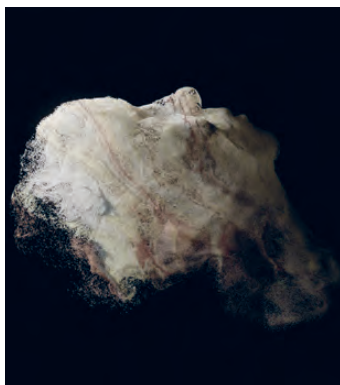
Not only is Coventry the UK City of Culture 2021, it is also home to remarkable histories and stories. We were the heart of the UK's motor industry, and before that, the UK's medieval textile industry, and you might have heard some of our most famous stories – Lady Godiva taking to the streets to fight for equality, and the devastation of the city centre

during WWII. Today, we're one of the most diverse cities in the UK, and also one of the youngest (our population is eight years younger than the national average). City of Culture is your chance to leave a footprint in the incredible stories that have shaped our Cov.

Dates for your diary

Here are a few of the upcoming events we're excited about, but there's loads more to find out about online.

Download the app, follow us at @Coventry2021, or visit coventry2021.co.uk for all the latest information on our programme.



Observations on Being

22 June – 15 August 2021

Observations on Being is an inspiring journey through Coventry's Heritage Park revealing our unity with nature. Music, poetic storytelling and compelling visuals will invite you to explore your relationship with the natural world in this exhibition of newly commissioned immersive experiences by Marshmallow Laser Feast. You will move in small groups through a series of outdoor multisensory installations that have been developed in conjunction with extraordinary ecologists, writers and musicians.



The Show Windows

15 May 2021 – 1 May 2022

Following a year where we have mainly been gazing out of our windows, we are now inviting you to look in.

Inspired by The Wizard of Oz author, L. Frank Baum's book about shop window design, city centre shops and businesses play host to a range of extraordinary window installations designed by local, national and international architects and artists. These portals will transport you to other places, inspire you, excite you, and encourage you to explore the city.



Terry Hall presents Home Sessions

29 July – 1 August 2021

Terry Hall returns to Coventry to curate a brand-new four-day music event, which will take place in the heart of the city.

Born and raised in Coventry and lead singer of the iconic Coventry band The Specials, as curator, Terry Hall will create a weekend that blends international legends with contemporary pioneers.

The festival will also shine a light on the rich history of the Coventry music scene in what will be one of the most unique experiences of 2021.



The Turner Prize

29 September 2021 – 12 January 2022

One of the best-known prizes for visual arts in the world, The Turner Prize 2021 is coming to the Herbert Art Gallery & Museum in Coventry as part of UK City of Culture.

See the work of some of the boldest British contemporary visual artists in the first time the Prize has ever been presented in the Midlands. The 2021 Prize's jury is: Russell Tovey, Actor; Zoë Whitley, Director, Chisenhale Gallery; Aaron Cezar, Director, Delfina Foundation; and Kim McAleese, Programme Director, Grand Union.



Herbert Art Gallery & Museum

Make the most of your time in the UK City of Culture

Download the app, and start unlocking rewards

With so much happening in Coventry this year, we wanted to help you out. The **Coventry City of Culture App** is your guide to the programme, right in the palm of your hand. It's also the only way to start unlocking unique benefits by collecting **Cov Points**.

Every time you get involved with City of Culture (booking a ticket, coming to an event, volunteering, sharing with friends) you can earn points. The more points you earn, the bigger the rewards, from exclusive experiences to priority booking for shows.

Download the app now on the **App Store** and **Google Play Store**.

Visit the Coventry UK City of Culture Shop – open seven days a week

Located on **Hertford Street**, the Coventry UK City of Culture shop is your one-stop location for all things City of Culture. It's where you can find out more about our year-long programme, book tickets for must-see events, indulge in some retail therapy with our range of official merchandise, as well as pick up some artisanal goods from local makers.

And once you've done all of that, and recharged with a tea or coffee, head out and start your City of Culture journey.

Find out more at: coventry2021.co.uk    [coventry2021](https://www.instagram.com/coventry2021) [CoventryMoves](https://www.instagram.com/CoventryMoves)



Coventry Cathedral

History & heritage



Ford's Hospital



Coventry Cathedral

A city like no other, Coventry has been shaped by its rich history and heritage. Its journey from medieval walled city to industrial powerhouse, devastation during the Second World War and its phoenix-like rising from the ashes all combine to make Coventry unique.

Our city's history can be seen on every corner. Medieval streets sit alongside modern buildings that symbolise the rebuilding of the city after the Blitz, and new development that showcases Coventry as the forward-thinking, ever-moving city it has become.

The rich tapestry of its history is a story that captivates and inspires, showing how a place with such humble beginnings can grow into one of the most unique cities in the UK.

Coventry was a scattered settlement when Leofric, Earl of Mercia, and his wife Godiva, founded a church in 1043. By the end of the 14th century, Coventry had become the fourth most powerful city in England. Lady Godiva would go on to

become one of the city's most famous characters. A striking statue of her famous naked horseback ride - said to have been undertaken as a bargain with her husband to free the people of Coventry from the heavy taxes he had forced on them - stands in pride of place in Broadgate, a bustling and expansive plaza in the heart of our city.

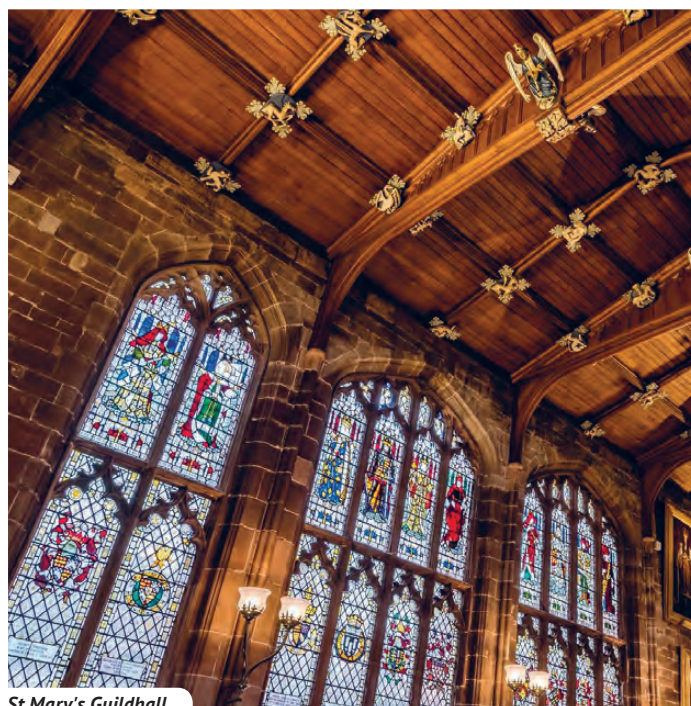


Bayley Lane

Walk around Coventry and it's not only Lady Godiva who draws your eyes upwards. From the famous three spires of **Holy Trinity Church, Christ Church** and **St Michael's** that stand out on the skyline, to one of the most striking scenes in the city - the ruins of the original cathedral standing alongside its new replacement. The former was left destroyed after the bombing of Coventry during the Second World War and the new version, consecrated in 1962, was dedicated to international peace and reconciliation and is now at the heart of the thriving **Cathedral Quarter**.

New alongside old is a theme that runs through Coventry's veins, showing exactly how far our city has come. Its early years as a city will never be forgotten, visible in landmarks like historic **Spon Street** and **St Mary's Guildhall** - one of England's finest guildhalls dating back to the mid-14th Century. The Guildhall is currently closed until December 2021 while it undergoes an exciting transformation that will preserve its heritage for visitors and the local community for years to come.

Another piece of Coventry history being safeguarded for the future is the Grade I listed 14th century **Charterhouse**. One of only nine ever built in Britain, it was heavily damaged during the Dissolution of the Monasteries, with the church and the monks' cells destroyed and used as building materials. But the Prior's House, nationally-important medieval and Tudor wall paintings, and the remains of the inner precinct wall remain and were gifted to the citizens of Coventry in the Second World War. Now owned by Historic Coventry Trust, Charterhouse and the surrounding land is undergoing restoration thanks to a £4.3 million National Lottery Heritage Fund grant.



St Mary's Guildhall

Coventry's growth into a centre of pilgrimage and trade is marked by the remains of its once two-mile long town wall, which still stands in parts of the city today along with two remaining medieval gates, **Cook Street** and **Swanswell Gates**.

Our city's history is full of highs and lows, of boom and slump. While it garnered riches through its early years, Coventry's economy struggled in the 16th Century. During the Civil War, the city wall helped to guard Royalist prisoners - coining the term 'sent to Coventry'. But when Charles II came to the throne, the town wall and defences were ordered to be destroyed.

As Britain's industrial revolution arrived, Coventry's industry focused on ribbon weaving. But by the mid-1800s, when writer **George Eliot** came to know the city - basing her novel *Middlemarch* on it - the introduction of mechanised looms left its weavers redundant. Watchmaking took over, but again declined. In the 1860s the city became the home of Britain's cycle industry, expanding into cars when **Daimler** took up residence in a disused cotton mill in 1896. The **Coventry**



Priory Row



Coventry Transport Museum



Coventry Cathedral

Transport Museum gives a comprehensive look at our city's motoring history, boasting the largest publicly-owned collection of British vehicles on the planet.

Coventry managed to continue growing despite the First World War, but the Second World War took its toll. The city was heavily bombed, with the most catastrophic raid taking place on November 14th, 1940. The single most concentrated attack on a

British city in the war, it left such devastation that Nazi propagandists coined a new word - coventriren - meaning to raze a city to the ground.

Even destruction of the highest order couldn't keep Coventry down for long. Our city rose from the rubble and went on to grow into what it is today - a vibrant hub of development and diversity. A city with a proud history that has not just survived, but thrived.

Come and see the story of Coventry for yourself and be a part of its next chapter.



Herbert Art Gallery & Museum

Theatre, & culture & music



Godiva Festival



Belgrade Theatre ©Nicola Young

Culture has long been at the heart of Coventry. From world-class music to fabulous theatres and art galleries, we really have got it all. Our title as the UK City of Culture 2021 showcases Coventry's cultural calibre - a place that welcomes top names across music, theatre and art as well as producing our own home-grown talent. From Philip Larkin to Pete Waterman, The Specials and more, Coventry has given rise to key cultural figures across the arts through the years, and there's no sign of us letting up.

Theatre

Our city boasts an array of theatres that provide a platform for visiting companies as well as our local talent. **The Belgrade Theatre** remains one of the largest regional producing theatres in Britain, with its historic building offering a diverse calendar of productions, from touring musicals to critically-acclaimed plays, alongside traditional pantomimes, comedy and live music. Home to an extensive talent development and community programme, its 850-seat main auditorium

and smaller studio space for 250-300 guests allow it to host a range of companies and performances across a variety of genres.

Just outside the city centre, the Art Deco **Albany Theatre** offers a main house theatre

that can seat more than 600 people across two levels, while its flexible studio space can accommodate audiences of up to 110 in a variety of formats. The Albany stages everything from classic and contemporary dance, to drama and comedy, as well as music of all genres.

Another unique cultural space in Coventry is the **Shop Front Theatre**. This one-time fish and chip shop restaurant in the heart of the city is a unique 55-seat flexible space and the only professional space of its kind in the whole of the UK. Home to award-winning independent theatre company **Theatre Absolute**, the once-empty space has welcomed thousands of people through its doors since co-founders, producer Julia Negus and writer Chris O'Connell, opened its doors in 2009 in partnership with Coventry City Council. In the Shop Front, Theatre Absolute presents new work for theatre, commissions writers and artists, runs writing workshops, mentors artists and holds live events and talks, while the space is also used by other local arts and community organisations to showcase their own work.

Art

Coventry's history collides with our impressive art offering at the **Herbert Art Gallery & Museum**, where you can enjoy world-class art and interactive displays and exhibitions whilst admiring the building's unique architecture. The gallery's ever-changing displays, often created in partnership with national museums, range from the natural world and the Old Masters to modern art from some of the top names in the art world as well as emerging talent. The Herbert's exhibitions often showcase Coventry's own unique history and culture, and a wide range of talks, events and workshops for

adults and children build on this, making it a hub for the arts in the city.

If finding art out-and-about is more your style, **Coventry Canal Basin** is the perfect place to start out on several art trail treks. You'll find informative fact boards and plaques along the routes highlighting some of Coventry's rich industrial history and enjoy miles of traffic-free towpath walks.

Music

Known as the city that gave 2-Tone music to the world, Coventry's love of music continues to grow, serving up world-class talent and welcoming some of the top touring acts around. While bands like **The Specials** and **The Selecter** are often mentioned when it comes to our music scene, they are just part of a vast catalogue of musical talent that Coventry can lay claim to.

One of Coventry's best-known music venues is **hmv Empire Coventry**, which recently moved to a new home on Hertford Street in the heart of the city centre. The Empire will build on the popular venue's reputation as the place to showcase

local, breaking and established bands and artists, as well as a number of events planned as part of City of Culture celebrations.

For an insight into Coventry's rich music history, visit **Coventry Music Museum**. A lifelong vision of Coventry music historian and journalist, Pete Chambers, and his wife Julie, the museum draws people from across the world. The museum covers 2-Tone, as well as music across other genres, and offers plenty of activities to interest visitors of all ages, including a studio where visitors can try their hand (and ears) at composing and music-making. The museum's home is the 2-Tone Village, where you'll also find **The Coventry Music Wall of Fame**, a 2-Tone shop and a memorabilia shop.

Whether you're a music lover, art aficionado or theatre buff, we really do have it all. So come and experience the UK City of Culture 2021 for yourself.



Godiva Festival



Belgrade Theatre ©Tommy Ga-Ken Wan



Godiva Festival



FarGo Village

Experience the . magic of live theatre

in the heart of the UK's

City of Culture 2021

Belgrade
Theatre
Coventry

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FARGO

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COMMUNITY
OF CREATORS
+ MAKERS, WE
ARE FIERCELY
INDEPENDENT,
WE ARE FARGO.**

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As we welcome the world.
We look at Coventry's influence on
global music in Music City, Coventry.

MUSIC CITY
COVENTRY

GHOST TOWN 2

Explore Coventry's recent past and bright future
- All wrapped up in an iconic song

CELEBRATING
40 YEARS OF
GHOST TOWN

THE SPECIALS
GHOST TOWN
19.00

Ride in the
actual Ghost
Town Car

Hear how Gov Kid
Pete Chambers
has lived the
Coventry
"Stereotype"



**THE COVENTRY
MUSIC MUSEUM**

Admission: Adults £4.00. Concessions (Students, Seniors
and People of Determination) £2.00 Children* £1.00
*between 5 and 15

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Pepper Lane

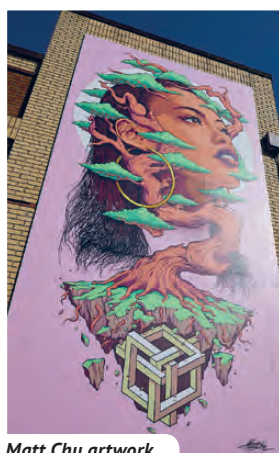


Bull Yard play area



Bull Yard water feature

Our city centre



Matt Chu artwork

As UK City of Culture, you would expect Coventry's emerging new-look city centre to be something special.

And with an emphasis on leisure alongside retail, green spaces and the environment – that's just what it is.

As UK City of Culture 2021, we aim to use our history and culture to spearhead a regeneration led by creativity and sustainability to create a city centre that is vibrant, experiential, healthy and accessible to all.

As the home of the UK motor industry, we have used our expertise to bring in more electric charging points than anywhere outside of London.

We have narrowed roads and widened pavements and we have taken away unnecessary street furniture.

Our railway station is undergoing an £82 million facelift to create a 21st-century transport interchange and gateway befitting of our city. Now when people arrive, they are met by a wide, green boulevard, flanked by artwork that leads them into

the city centre via a series of attractive spaces.

Bull Yard, has been transformed as part of a wider £44 million public realm transformation. The area now boasts an illuminated water feature and a playground in the heart of the city centre, perfect for families and with rest areas for those a little older.

Creative lighting is transformative, and it is everywhere - from the benches, bollards and ground, to the dancing waters of the fountain. It's entertaining, and it's fun. And, of course, our famous Three Spires have been lit to stunning effect.

Coventry was home to Europe's first pedestrianised city centre when it was rebuilt following the war. It was a brave move, and we have tried to capture some of those early aims as we rebuild for the future – keeping the best of the old with the best of the new.

Greenery is everywhere, with planting and seating throughout the centre, and water features are not just to look at, they are tactile and fun.

Broadgate, the square at the heart of our city, has been

rejuvenated with bars and restaurants, offering a new nightlife experience for our residents and visitors – or a place to rest and chat while they shop, fighting loneliness and creating a connected city for all.

We have linked our fantastic venues, improved their surroundings and made them a part of the city. Even the cobblestones are playing a part, with a few of our city's best-known sayings hidden along the walkway in the **Cathedral Quarter**.

Regeneration is more than just new buildings. Art and culture play an integral role and are increasingly important to many people's well-being. Public art is key to our designs, with former grey and functional shopping areas transformed by colour including artwork by **Morag Myerscough**, **Angry Dan** and international lighting specialists **Spiers and Major**.

And the challenge of our empty city centre IKEA store has become an opportunity of creating a major new national collection centre, hosting some of the country's finest art collections, while bringing the city's collection under one roof for the first time.

So from a city made for shopping, we are creating a city made for families, a city of leisure and culture and fun, one where people of all ages want to spend some time – and one they want to come back to, time and time again.

Shopping & lifestyle



Priory Row



West Orchards



Broadgate



The Wave

Whether you're searching for the perfect outfit for that special occasion, a gift for a loved one, or stocking up on your beauty essentials, Coventry has plenty to offer thanks to its impressive selection of markets, precincts and shopping centres, including Lower Precinct and West Orchards. There's something for everyone, from high street favourites to designer boutiques, independent retailers and vintage stores, making shopping in Coventry a unique and exciting experience.



Broadgate

Shop 'til You Drop

Not sure where to start on your shopping expedition? Head to **West Orchards** and **Lower Precinct** shopping centres to kick-off your retail therapy in style! There's plenty of parking on site at both centres and you'll find high street retailers such as Next, River Island, River Island Kids, M&S, Goldsmiths, New Look, H&M and Lush.

Now you're warmed up, it's time to check out the city's independent and boutique shops. **City Arcade** is full of creatives, Historic **Spon Street** boasts timber framed, Tudor buildings and a vibrant mix of bars and restaurants. **Burges** and **Hales Street** have recently benefited from a £2 million boost from Historic England and here you can find a fantastic mix of independent shops and restaurants, alongside household names. Venture a little further into the city and show some love to our independent retailers. Head to **FarGo Village** – an artistically re-purposed industrial space that's fiercely independent and full of quirky shops to explore. Looking for that perfect gift, or want to treat yourself to something a little different? Sift through vinyl treasures at **Just Dropped In**; find retro games and geeky memorabilia at **Fantayzia**; or

embrace your artistic side at **Print Manufactory** and **Crazy Rah Art**.

To help make your shopping experience even more enjoyable, the Coventry BID team has introduced two fantastic new initiatives to the city – **Really Simple Queuing** and **You. Smart. Thing**.

Really Simple Queuing (RSQ):

This booking service has been created as a completely free way to help nervous and vulnerable shoppers feel safe when coming into the city, by creating timed shopping slots at participating stores via RSQ. Instead of joining any queues outside retailers, visitors who have booked a slot will be checked in on arrival, asked for their booking confirmation email and allowed to enter. It's like being in the VIP line!

You. Smart. Thing: This innovative travel assistant service suggests tailored



The Botanist

journey plans that enable you to travel more efficiently without disruption or delays. This not only saves time – and, therefore, money and greenhouse gases – but also takes you by recommended routes at specific times. However, it's more than just an integrated travel service with live updates – alongside specially tailored travel options and journeys from door-to-door - it can even suggest things to do, places to visit or somewhere to stop for refreshments or comfort breaks along the route.

The Lowdown on Leisure

For those not so keen on retail therapy, or if you're all shopped out, there are plenty of other activities in the city to keep you entertained. Water babies will love **The Wave** – a UK award-winning indoor waterpark making a

splash in the heart of the city. From water slides and wave pools, to a Lazy River, the luxurious **Mana Spa**, and a splash pad for the little members of the family – it's a great place to visit for a fun-filled day out.

If you're not so keen on the water, take a trip to **Skydome** instead. Catch the latest blockbuster at **Odeon**, burn off some energy at **Puregym**, or test out your skating skills at **Planet Ice**. If you're feeling lucky, end the day at **Genting Casino** and see whether a roll of the dice will bring you back to Coventry sooner than you think!

Whether you're looking to indulge in a weekend of retail therapy, or simply want to try something new, Coventry is the city to do it in!



The Botanist



Dhillon's Spire Bar ©Rich Phillips Photography

Food & drink

When you come to Coventry, one thing is for sure - you won't go hungry. From popular chains to thriving independents, one-off experiences or street food to satisfy, we've got food and drink to suit every taste and budget. Coventry's food and drink reflects our diverse culture, giving locals and visitors the chance to taste their way around the globe right here in the city. Whether you're after a certain cuisine, a special occasion or a family-friendly place for dinner, you'll find everything you need and more.

Our love of food is something we celebrate in Coventry. Our annual **Coventry Food Festival** champions the excellent food and drink scene in our city and surrounding area, offering up demos from top local chefs and artisan producers from across the area. In 2021, we are also playing host to the first ever **Coventry & Warwickshire Foodie Awards**, which celebrate food and drink by recognising those at the very top of their game.



Coombe Abbey Hotel

Around the world in one city

Forget leaving the country to try different cuisine. You can get it all right here in Coventry. From authentic Caribbean from FarGo Village's **Leave it to Esmie** and Mexican cuisine from **Selminas** on Spon Street, to Korean barbecue from **Jinseon** on Priory Place, Japanese courtesy of the likes of **SHIN** and **Hana Moon** and plenty of choice when it comes to

Chinese food, our array of independent restaurants have you well catered for. If it's pizza you're after, we've got all the big brands and some smaller names of our own like **Basement Browns**, a whole range of Indian food right up to the award-winning **Turmeric Gold**, as well as steak, French, Brazilian and plenty of restaurants serving up classic British dishes. For vegan options, we're not short of choices with the likes of **Dirty Kitch** at FarGo Village and if you've got a sweet tooth, dessert cafes like **Creams** and **Heavenly Desserts** will keep you smiling. And let's not forget fabulous coffee, great cakes and more thanks to Coventry's thriving cafe culture with everyone including the big names as well as independents like **Bean & Leaf** in the heart of the city centre. Whatever cuisine you fancy, you can find it in Coventry.



Bistrot Pierre ©Phil Boorman Photography Ltd



Broadgate



Coombe Abbey Hotel



Digbeth Dining Club ©Garry Jones

Independents and chains alike

Like our big city siblings across the country, we've got all the big chains you'd expect to find. Family favourites like **Pizza Express** and **Nando's** sit alongside the likes of **Bistrot Pierre** and **Las Iguanas**. But in Coventry, we also have a thriving independent sector when it comes to food and drink, with producers, restaurateurs and

chefs offering up everything from great bread courtesy of social enterprise **Proof Bakery** to fine dining meals from passionate chefs like Tony Davies at **Gourmet Food Kitchen** and **Earlsdon Supper Club** founder Tobias Reutt. There's brilliant coffee from passionate baristas as well as quality cakes from an array of artisan bakers and cake-makers.

Special occasions to street food

The food and drink on offer in Coventry ranges right from extravagant establishments perfect for special occasions, to a casual street food offering to rival any city. We have a great selection of food for families, from cafes and lunches to takeaway options, and some of our venues have play areas making them the perfect place for a family lunch or dinner.

Special occasions are well catered for, with everything from fine dining options to unique supper clubs and dining experiences from chefs at the very top of their game. If it's one-off experiences you're after, we have them too, and you can try everything from a medieval banquet at **Coombe Abbey** to delicate afternoon teas courtesy of Coventry venues like **Laura Ashley The Tea Room**. Tie in lunch or dinner with a few cocktails in some of our fabulous bars, or make

a whole day or evening of it by adding a shopping trip, a tour around cultural Coventry, or a trip to the theatre or a gig.

If street food is your thing, Coventry is the place for you. With traders running pop-ups across the city offering everything from big burgers to authentic Mexican tacos, you can get your hands on it all. **FarGo Village** is a hub for everything artisan - including food and drink - and 2021 sees the cultural hub take things to the next level with the opening of a new social all-day dining experience, **Factory**, that will provide a home for great street food to coincide with our City of Culture celebrations.

Like anywhere else, food is at the heart of our culture here in Coventry and shows exactly how diverse, ambitious and creative our city is. Make sure you bring your appetite when you visit - you'll need it!



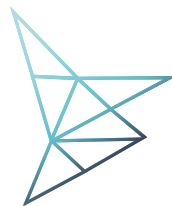
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CAR PARK OPENING TIMES

MONDAY - SATURDAY
7AM - 7PM

SUNDAY AND
BANK HOLIDAY MONDAY
9.30AM - 5.30PM



Nightlife

Coventry's nightlife is as vibrant as our city's history and culture. In the same way that Coventry is full of both the old and the new, so too is our night-time scene. Traditional pubs sit alongside modern cocktail bars and clubs, offering something for everyone no matter what the occasion. Whether it's a quiet drink with a friend or a celebratory cocktail night, we've got it all.



The Yard



A pub on every corner

Okay, maybe not every corner, but walk anywhere in the city and you'll come across one of our great pubs serving up craft ales and guest beers to rival anywhere else in the country. Home to an array of our own microbreweries including **Dhillon's**, **Twisted Barrel** and **Byatts**, Coventry has a keen beer brewing scene serving up only the best for our locals and visitors. If you're after our oldest pub, head to **Medieval Spon Street** and visit **The Old Windmill**. Dating back to 1451, the pub has been recognised by Coventry's CAMRA branch and is much-loved for its good service and great ale.

That's just one in a broad range of pubs across the city, from historic buildings complete with Tudor features, to dog-friendly establishments, beer gardens for those summer afternoons and evenings and an array of pub grub to suit every taste. If it's a good pint you want in a great pub, we can help.

Brilliant bars

If you're looking for a bar rather than a pub, Coventry has plenty of those too. Whether it's a cocktail, a glass of wine or any other tipples that you fancy, the list is long and caters for every occasion. For pre or post-theatre drinks near the **Belgrade Theatre**, there's the **Artisan Bar & Grill House**, while if it's a stunning setting you're after, check out the newly-opened **Dhillon's Spire Bar** nestled in Christchurch Spire in the city. Another recent addition to Coventry's bar scene is **Generators**, the rooftop bar at the brand-new **Telegraph Hotel**, where you can sip cocktails and tuck into tapas with views across the city.

In the city centre, the **Slug & Lettuce** has its own beer garden and outdoor bar right next to the **Cathedral Ruins**, while **The Botanist** and **The Cosy Club** are popular haunts for cocktails or pre or post-dinner drinks. As well as these, there are plenty of independent venues to try. **The Yard** is one of the jewels in Coventry's nightlife crown and our city's most popular LGBTQ+ venue, offering weekly cabaret, DJs and more.

If it's sport or games you're after, **The Phoenix** boasts live music, two bars and a large outdoor space including heaters and a covered terrace, as well as hosting club nights and events at weekends, while **Rileys Sports Bar** boasts 39 tables, including 16 full-size

snooker tables and American and English pool tables, as well as a darts zone and dozens of live TVs showing the latest sporting action.

Something for the night owls

As a bustling student city, Coventry isn't short of late-night options. Whether it's live music, big-name DJs or some culture cocktails, we've got it all. A mainstay of Coventry's night-life, **Kasbah** is spread over three floors and is a popular late-night haunt. In the past, it has played host to the likes of Calvin Harris, Arctic Monkeys and La Roux, and remains a live music and club venue, as well as offering a BBQ and shisha lounge.



Belgrade Theatre

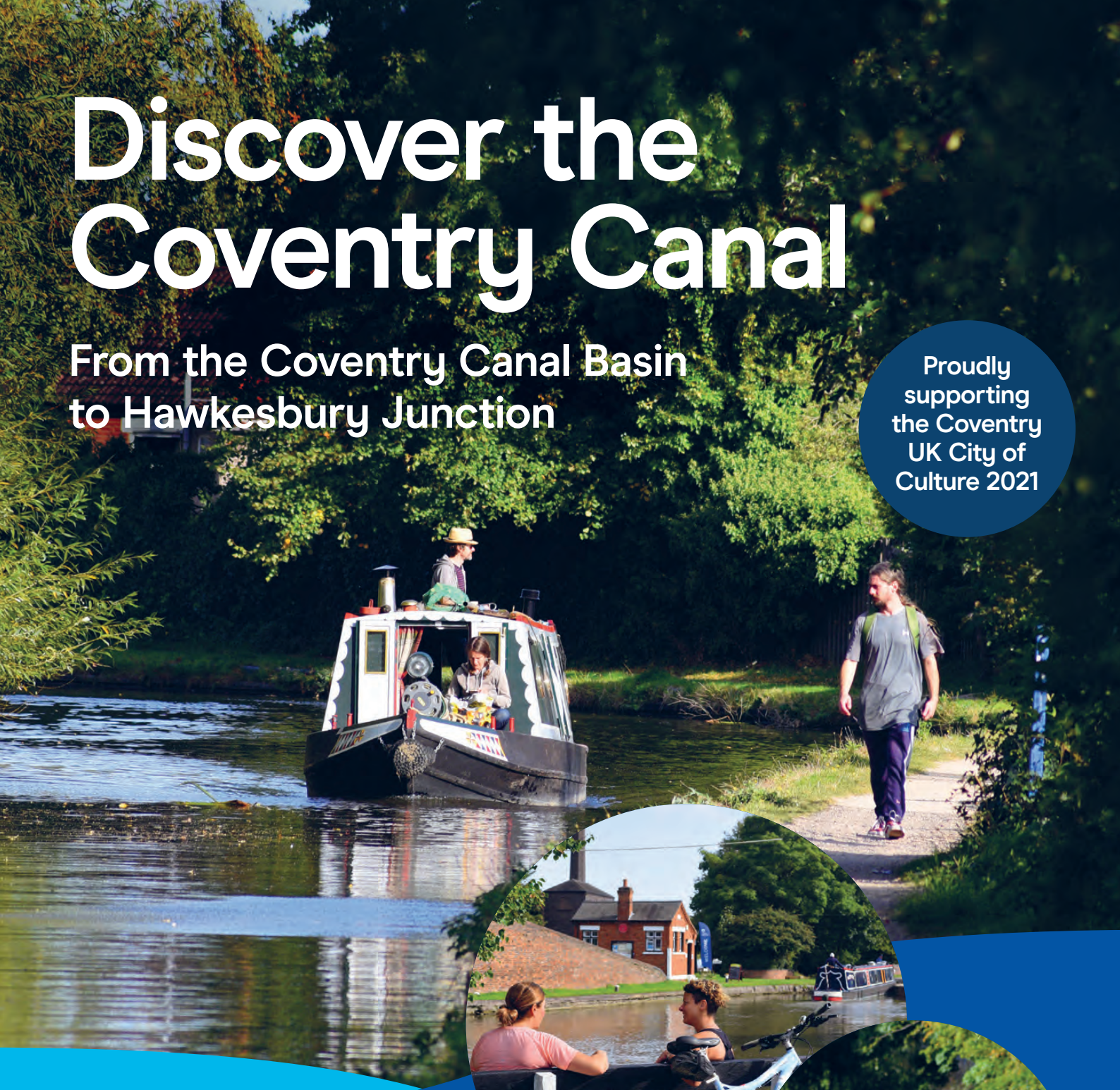
Part cocktail lounge part club, **Catch Twenty Two** reopened at the end of 2016, offering cocktail lessons and masterclasses as well as innovative cocktail boxes, while **Samoan Joes** offers an upbeat tiki experience to really get the party started.

From late-night bars to dancing, there's plenty of places in Coventry to party the night away.

Discover the Coventry Canal

From the Coventry Canal Basin
to Hawkesbury Junction

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Culture 2021



Lush towpath, rich wildlife and unique heritage are waiting for you to enjoy along the picturesque Coventry Canal.

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Coombe Abbey Hotel



Godiva Festival



Go Ape

Enjoy the outdoors

From small secret hideaways to landscaped lawns, beautiful borders and acres of parkland, Coventry's parks and green spaces offer visitors a chance to get close to nature and relax while surrounded by the hustle and bustle of urban life.



War Memorial Park

Attracting more than 400,000 visitors a year, the **War Memorial Park** is home to historic landmarks, sculptures and themed gardens. Treat the family to an action-packed day out with the park's own **Splash n Play** water park, crazy golf, footgolf and play parks suitable for all ages.

With 500 acres of beautiful Capability Brown gardens, woodland and lakeside walks, **Coombe Abbey Park** offers a wide variety of activities to enjoy. Take on **Go Ape's** treetop adventure, visit the park's insect hotel and the **Discovery Centre's** new interactive exhibitions - there is something for everyone.

The 100 acres of **Ryton Pools Country Park** are just waiting to be explored. Containing two play parks, vast wildlife

and a pirate-themed walk, Ryton Pools Country Park will keep the whole family happy. Get creative in the Children's Wood, an area of woodland within the park set aside for den building. A wealth of building materials in the form of cut branches are provided by rangers to allow younger visitors to enjoy taking part in this exciting activity.

Situated in the heart of the city centre **Lady Herbert's Garden** is one of Coventry's

hidden gems. Designed by Albert Herbert, this tranquil park may be one of the smallest in Coventry but the beautiful array of flowers offers visitors a chance to enjoy an afternoon coffee surrounded by nature.

Designed by great canal engineer, James Brindley in 1768, **Coventry Canal Basin**, in the heart of Coventry, is home to shops, waterside wildlife and an abundance of historic canal architecture. It has a welcoming community of boaters and is an ideal starting point for your Sunday afternoon canal side stroll or bike ride.

Enjoy **Allesley Park's** picturesque outdoor space, play areas, rolling landscape and established trees. Visitors can marvel at the unspoilt expanse of greenery and the park's unique **Fairy Village**. Tiny hand-painted doors appear on trees, accompanied by little stepladders and plant pots, making it a brilliant place to explore with little ones. There's also crazy golf on offer, as well as a pitch-and-putt course for the more serious player.



River Anker at Polesworth ©Roger Kidd



Warwick Castle ©David Martyn



Aston Martin Gaydon ©Drew Gibson

On your doorstep

Curling around Coventry in a green embrace, rural Warwickshire is a captivating mix of the famous and the yet-to-be-discovered in beautiful countryside threaded by rivers and canals.

Grabbing the headlines, of course, are **Shakespeare's Stratford-upon-Avon**, the magnificent medieval **Warwick Castle**, **Kenilworth Castle** and

Elizabethan Garden, plus the elegant Georgian, Regency and Victorian streetscapes of **Royal Leamington Spa**, fantastic days out, one and all.

Scattered between and around such iconic visits are also historic market towns and villages full of allure, including Roman **Alcester**, enchanting **Welford-on-Avon** with its thatched black-and-white cottages, and **Southam** on the River Stowe with 'green men' in the church and a Holy Well – just one of many intrigues tucked away in the county's quiet country corners.



Hatton Locks ©Kodachrome25

Freedom of scenic roads

A great way to discover Warwickshire is on a rural road trip: check out the five new scenic driving routes through lovely open countryside and along snugly hedged lanes, to historic sights telling tales of a landscape at the heart of England that has always been rich in romance, drama and mystery. You can breeze through a kaleidoscopic tour in a day, or take your time, pause, stretch your legs and look around.

Escape, for example, exploring between Rugby and Coventry along roads that lead to the Gunpowder Plot Village of **Dunchurch** and a Roman fort. Time travel 'from Saxons to Shakespeare' in South Warwickshire: from picturesque **Henley-in-Arden** to villages connected to the Bard, with the unusual Saxon Sanctuary in **Wootton Wawen** and treasure-filled **Coughton Court** en route.

Or let the less-explored 'towns and country' of North Warwickshire surprise you: setting off in the steps of local girl Mary Ann Evans, aka renowned Victorian novelist George Eliot, to scenes that inspired her writing; also

uncovering links to a once-celebrated Tudor poetry circle featuring Ben Jonson at **Polesworth Abbey**.

Fresh-air walks, picnics and legend

Standing on top of **Burton Dassett Hills**, breathing in deep lungfuls of fresh air and looking out over far, far-reaching views is an exhilarating reward for the climb from the parkland below! There's still the puzzle of the curious 15th-century beacon on the summit to ponder: a signal point, windmill remains, or the historic lodge of a rabbit-keeper? Exercise for your brain cells as well as your legs!

Whether you're after a quick 'time out' fix, a half-day ramble or longer (with or without four-legged friends) you'll find spacious parks, woodlands and canal towpaths in generous supply. Combine legend with a leisurely stroll at **Charlecote Park** where a young Will Shakespeare allegedly went poaching and where deer roam freely. Or admire the cleverly designed vistas of 'Capability' Brown landscapes and the ornamental lake at

Compton Verney Art Gallery & Park (incidentally, home to the largest collection of British folk art in the UK).

Then 'just add water' and go with the flow: 19 rivers cross Warwickshire including the Avon, Anker and Stour, and there are 100 miles of canal towpaths to wander. View the famous **Stairway to Heaven** – Hatton's flight of 21 locks – and narrowboats gliding past as you walk beside the Grand Union Canal. Maybe stop at a waterside pub or bring a picnic of goodies from a farm shop – artisan cheeses, preserves, ciders and eco-ales are among Warwickshire's locally made produce.

Another day, follow trails and go birdwatching at **Kingsbury Water Park** or **Draycote Water**. Or simply cherish the glint of wildflower meadows in summer.

Stay longer, explore further

Alongside Warwickshire's claims to fame as Shakespeare Country and George Eliot Country, did you know that **Rugby** is a hotbed of literary links ranging from Tom Brown's Schooldays to Lewis

Carroll, Rupert Brooke and Salman Rushdie? The town is also the birthplace of the game of rugby, celebrated by the school and in **Rugby Art Gallery & Museum**.

You will find the site (and story) of the first pitched battle of the English Civil War in Warwickshire too, the Battle of Edgehill 1642, and (somewhat more modern – channel your inner James Bond!) the global HQ of Aston Martin at Gaydon, also home to the **British Motor Museum** showcasing the world's largest collection of historic British cars.

Which brings us back to getting out and about on Warwickshire's lovely rural roads, for a day trip or a short break. Plan ahead, take your time, and indulge in an extended stay that blends culture with quiet countryside – maybe self-catering in a castle linked to three queens; 'counting sheep' in a restored 19th Century shepherd's hut on a farm; or ensconced in a self-contained Georgian bathhouse hidden in woodland. How relaxing is that?



Welford-upon-Avon ©VisitBritain/LeeBeel

Find out more about Warwickshire's market towns and villages, historic attractions, great country drives and rural walks at visit.warwickshire.gov.uk

Please remember to check opening times with individual attractions before setting out.



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Visit Coventry



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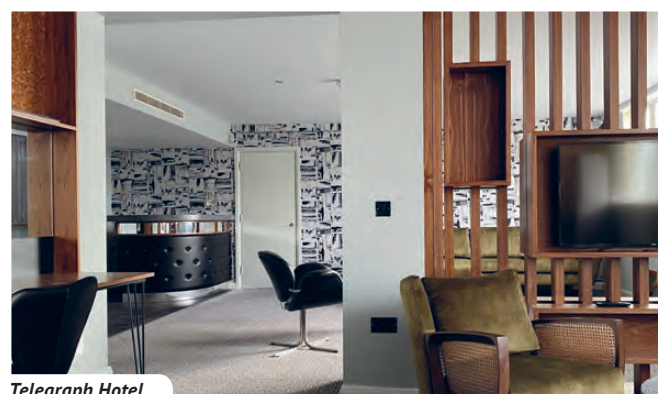
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Coombe Abbey Hotel



Village Hotel Coventry



Telegraph Hotel

Be our guest

Whether you're looking for a superior bedroom, a quaint country house hotel, or a uniquely themed bespoke accommodation, Coventry boasts fantastic places to stay, from respected chains, such as **DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Coventry** and **Village Hotel Coventry**, to stunning independently run venues, such as the newly-opened **Telegraph Hotel**.

Visit the city's historic four-star hotel, **Coombe Abbey**, and enjoy a stay surrounded by character and comfort. Each of the bedchambers is complete with captivating history and personality, soft furnishings and beautiful views. Explore 500 acres of parkland, taste delicious freshly prepared food or test your nerve on the nearby Go Ape treetop adventure. Whatever you're interested in, there's an experience for everyone at Coombe Abbey.

The cool and modern **Village Hotel Coventry** is perfect for any stay, leisure or business. Just 10 minutes from the centre of historic Coventry, the hotel boasts home-from-home luxury, together with a high-end gym, indoor

swimming pool, sauna, steam room and whirlpool. There's also a bar, restaurant and Starbucks on site – perfect for a quick bite between meetings or a slap-up dinner with friends.

Home to the iconic Telegraph newspaper for more than 50 years, 157 Corporation Street has now been transformed into a laid-back, chic new hotel with headline-grabbing features that bring style and comfort to the city. The **Telegraph Hotel** has a wide range of luxurious bedrooms and facilities, designed with the style and fun of the 1950s to ensure your stay is a unique experience.

There are numerous high-end chain hotels within the city too. Situated inside the

Coventry Building Society Arena, **DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Coventry** offers 'pitch view' rooms, an onsite casino and a West Midlands Trains stop only five-minutes' walk away, making this hotel the number one choice for visitors who want to extend their stay after attending an event.

If you are looking for unique, self-catering accommodation, why not stay in one of Coventry's most significant historical landmarks? Set inside the tranquil Lady Herbert's Garden, **Swanswell Gate** and **Cook Street Gate** will soon be fully transformed and adapted to provide all the home comforts you need for a memorable city break.

From quiet countryside retreats to larger hotels located inside the bustling city centre, you will find somewhere to stay in Coventry that is exactly what you need.

Upgrade your stay with our Coventry 'Stay Play Explore' package.

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Spend a day with us



Bayley Lane ©Neil Catley

One Day in Coventry: You may not have long to spend in Coventry, so to help you effectively plan your trip, we've compiled some of our top suggestions for the ideal city day-visit.

Why not begin your morning with a guided walking tour of our city centre? Take an hour to wander the historic, cobbled streets surrounding **Coventry Cathedral** with one of our expert guides; delve into Coventry's rich heritage as you uncover our medieval history and fascinating legendary tales.

Next, you could climb the challenging 181 steps of **St Michael's Tower** – still standing in the Cathedral ruins - and marvel at the best panoramic view of Coventry you'll find.

After working up an appetite, head over to nearby **Cathedral Lanes**. Not only will you be able to spot our famous statue of Coventry-

heroine, **Lady Godiva**, and our much-loved city clock, dedicated to the legend of **Peeping Tom**, you'll also be presented with a wealth of food and drink outlets, the perfect place to rest your legs and re-energise before the afternoon's activities begin.

Following lunch, head past our **Council House** and walk towards the **Herbert Art**

Gallery & Museum. Here, you can immerse yourself in captivating art and fascinating culture. With award-winning exhibitions and a packed events programme, the Herbert makes for an entertaining escape for all.

If you have time, why not then take the short walk to **Coventry Transport Museum**? The museum houses the largest publicly owned collection of British vehicles in the world and tells the fascinating story of Coventry and its people through the rise and fall of its biggest industry. With **Esquires** café on-site, the museum also makes the perfect stop for a refreshment break if needed.

If you're here during the evening, or staying overnight, there are lots of places for you to kick-back and relax

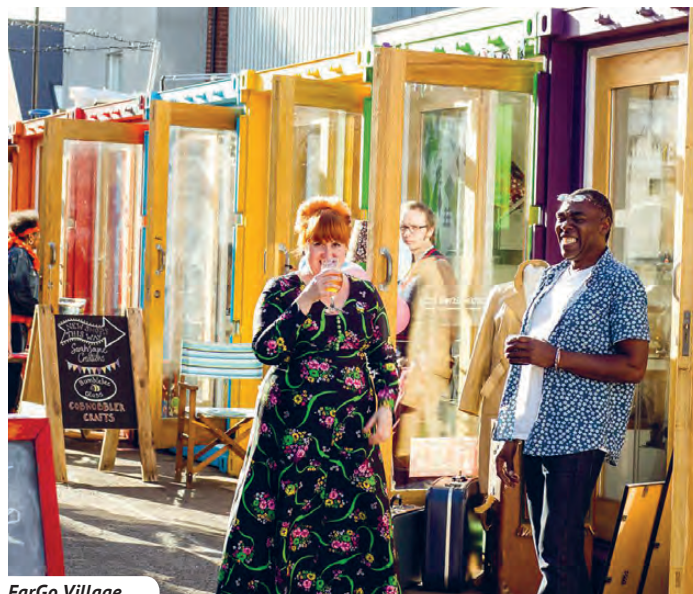
over a meal with family, or perhaps have a beer with friends. **Medieval Spon Street** offers award-winning bars and restaurants, from curry houses to cosy bistros. Nearby, you'll find **Belgrade Plaza**, complete with family-friendly restaurants. The city's scenic and historic **Cathedral Quarter** is home to various restaurants, quaint coffee shops and trendy cocktail bars, while **FarGo Village** brings together some of the most exciting, independent kitchens and traders from the local area.

Alongside these lively evening hang-outs, Coventry has a wealth of music and theatre venues, hosting international music superstars, touring West End productions, critically acclaimed drama and thrilling comedy favourites. Venues including **Warwick Arts Centre**, **Belgrade Theatre**, **Albany Theatre**, **Coventry Building Society Arena** and **hmv Empire Coventry** have packed events programmes, with something sure to delight every visitor.

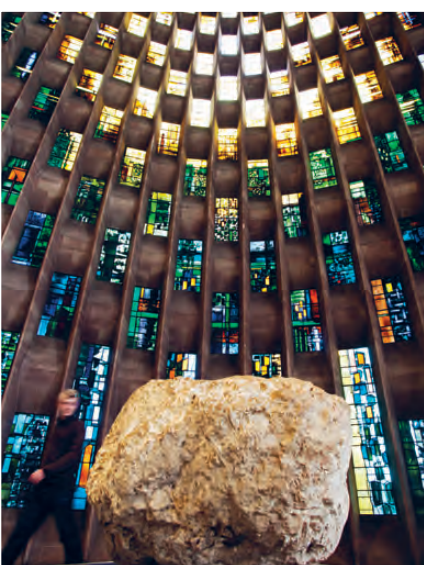
And don't forget! Keep your eyes peeled for regular updates from our friends at the **Coventry City of Culture Trust**, who will be unveiling great plans for their celebratory year.



Coventry Cathedral



FarGo Village



Coventry Cathedral



Belgrade Theatre ©Manuel Harlan



The Wave

...or even more

Two Days in Coventry: If you're staying in Coventry overnight, you'll want to ensure that you're making the most of your extra time in the city. Here's our alternative two-day itinerary to help inspire your extended visit.

Begin to explore Coventry's bustling centre by taking in the extraordinary architecture and rich history of **Coventry Cathedral**. As our most famous landmark, no trip to the city would be complete without a guided tour of this fascinating and historically significant space.

While you're in the vicinity, be sure to make a stop at the **Herbert Art Gallery & Museum**. Discover Coventry's rich history, culture and heritage as you wander the many galleries. With Alfred's Café inside, the museum makes the perfect stop-off for a refreshment break.

If you're hoping to indulge in a little retail therapy, Coventry's lively high-street is just a short walk away. Explore our newly rejuvenated city centre and take in our host of big-name stores, along with our independent shops and host of tempting food and drink outlets.

If you're looking to make a splash during your stay, you can't miss a session inside our exhilarating waterpark, **The Wave**. Located in the

city centre, try out the six high-octane slides, precision-engineered for maximum fun! Afterwards, why not take time out to rejuvenate inside the luxurious **Mana Spa**?

That evening, combine culture and creativity with quirky shops and great places to eat at **FarGo Village**. With its laid-back, boho vibe, FarGo is the perfect place to hang-out and relax after your busy day!

Alternatively, why not take in a show? **Belgrade Theatre** has an exciting programme of theatre for you to enjoy, while **hmv Empire Coventry** and **Warwick Arts Centre** offer a lively evening of entertainment with year-round gigs, classical performances and world-class comedy.

On day two, why not escape the bustling city centre and dare to test your nerve as you clamber among the trees at **Go Ape**? Hidden among 500 acres of breath-taking parkland, Go Ape offers the best in high rope antics, with something for both thrill-seeking adults, and fun-seeking children. While you're nearby, why not recuperate and relax as you enjoy an exquisite afternoon tea inside our decadent **Coombe Abbey Hotel**?

Whilst you're here, be sure to discover the city's eclectic and world-famous music heritage inside the **Coventry Music Museum**. Packed with captivating memorabilia and history, the museum celebrates our legacy of 2-Tone and so much more.

Before you leave, don't forget to check out the events taking place in Coventry. Head over to visitcoventry.co.uk for full event listings and find out how to really enhance your stay in the city!



Millennium Place

Getting here

Coventry and the surrounding region is one of the most accessible locations in the UK. Situated right at the heart of the country, you can comfortably arrive at any of our destinations by whatever means.



Millennium Place

Bus

Keeping Coventry connected with our surrounding suburbs as well as nearby Warwickshire and Birmingham, **National Express Coventry** offers regular bus services, seven days a week.

Operating from Coventry's central bus terminal, **Pool Meadow**, National Express Coventry provides a convenient solution to discovering the city without using a car.

Air

Birmingham Airport is the nearest public air travel terminal for Coventry and operates flights to destinations across the UK and around the world, including Europe, the Middle East and Indian subcontinent.

Birmingham International railway station, located at the airport, offers a quick and direct route to Coventry city centre in around 10 minutes.

Train

Coventry is on the West Coast Main Line, with regular train services linking the area with other major UK towns and cities. Trains operate every 20 minutes (on average) to central London, which is only one hour away using **Avanti West Coast** services. There is an extensive timetable of local trains linking Coventry to nearby local towns, including Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwick, Royal Leamington Spa and Rugby.

Road

With easy access to the national motorway network, it's easy getting to Coventry by road. In fact, 75 per cent of the UK population is within a two-hour car journey.

The M6, M6 Toll, M40, M42, M5, M69 and the A45/A46 are the major arterial routes in and out of Coventry and surrounding areas, as well as linking Coventry to central Birmingham, which is only around 20 minutes by car from the centre of Coventry.

Bike

West Midlands Cycle Hire provides a fun, healthy and sustainable way to explore Coventry, with bikes available to hire 24 hours a day, every day of the year, from more than 20 docking stations located in the city centre and surrounding areas.

Taxi

With connections to the city dating back more than 120 years, Coventry is home to the black cab, having manufactured these world-famous vehicles since the 1940s.

Taxis can be picked up from the multiple ranks across the city or hailed on the street. There are also private hire companies operating in the city, and app-based taxi services such as Uber and Ola are also available.

Visitor Information

Coventry's primary Visitor Information facility is located just outside Coventry Railway Station. Visitor Information staff are on-hand, seven days a week to help with a range of city information, while offering a variety of souvenirs, guides and maps.



Avanti West Coast

Attractions

- A** Coventry Cathedral
- B** Coventry Transport Museum
- C** Herbert Art Gallery & Museum
- D** Belgrade Theatre
- E** FarGo Village
- F** Holy Trinity Church
- G** St Mary's Guildhall
- H** St John the Baptist Church
- I** Medieval Spon Street
- J** Coventry Watch Museum
- K** The Wave Waterpark
- L** Coventry Canal Basin
- M** The Weaver's House

Public Services

- Pedestrianised Shopping Area
- Cathedral Quarter
- Park and Gardens
- Visitor Information Centre
- Police Station
- Toilet
- Toilet (disabled)
- Toilet (Changing Places)
- Shopmobility
- Coventry University
- Leisure Centre
- Council House
- Library
- Post Office

Transport

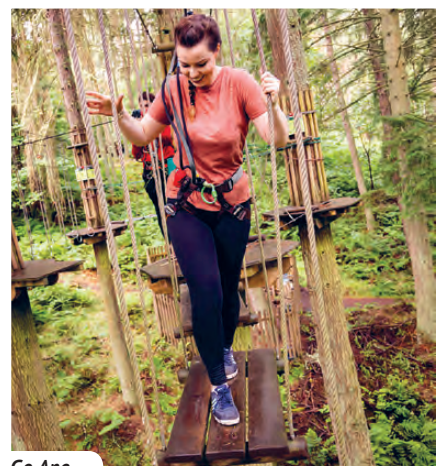
- Car Park (Long Stay)
- Car Park (Short Stay)
- Car Park (other)
- Car Park Entrance
- One Way Street
- Bus Station
- Railway Station
- Coach-Set down point

Out and about



England Netball at Coventry Building Society Arena

Broadgate



Go Ape



Coventry Blaze ©Scott Wiggins Photography

Sport in the city

Coventry is proud to boast some of the country's most talented sports teams, offering the perfect opportunity to become immersed in unrivalled competition across multiple sports and venues.

Coventry is home to a number of world-class squads across a variety of sports, offering an unmissable live spectacle for city visitors. There is a huge breadth of grassroots sports that can be enjoyed for leisure across the city, and Coventry is also a proud host city for the **Rugby League World Cup 2021**, the **Commonwealth Games** and **International Children's Games** in 2022, and was the European City of Sport in 2019.

The city's famous, newly-named **Coventry Building Society Arena** is home to top national sport. You can watch **Wasps RFC**; **Coventry City FC**, known as the Sky Blues; and **Wasps Netball**, who operate in partnership with Wasps RFC. The arena is also home to an on-site hotel, and casino.

The **Butts Park Arena** plays host to **Coventry Rugby** who currently play in the Championship, the second-tier of English Rugby Union and the **Coventry Bears Rugby League** side.

For lovers of winter sports, **Coventry Blaze** is the city's largest ice hockey club, which plays its home games at the 3,000-seater

Skydome Arena. The arena is also home to **Planet Ice**, where recreational ice-skating lessons and activities can be enjoyed by all.

For those who enjoy summer sports, Coventry has some amazing options available, including cricket and golfing choices for all levels of ability. **Coventry & North Warwickshire Cricket Club** is an amateur club with plenty of opportunities for young and adult members to develop their cricketing skills and become part of a team. Coventry is also home to a number of fantastic golf courses including **Hearsall Golf Club** and **Copsewood Grange Golf Club**.

Run through the famous Coventry streets and take part in the **Coventry Festival of Running** in October 2021. The festival has something for everyone! A half marathon, 5k, 2.5k wheelchair and a

children's mile. Why not join **Coventry parkrun** – a free weekly 5k event for participants of all standards? It takes place every Saturday at 9am in the city's famous **War Memorial Park**. Alongside these events, Coventry is home to some of the country's most highly respected running clubs, including **Coventry Godiva Harriers**.

Other Coventry sporting activities include climbing at **The Ballroom Climbing Wall**, or the treetop adventures of **Go Ape** located on site at the famous **Coombe Abbey Hotel**. **Coventry Tornadoes** are Coventry's leading basketball club, boasting more than 200 members, competing at local, regional and national levels in male and female leagues.



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