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COVENTRY

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GUIDE 2023

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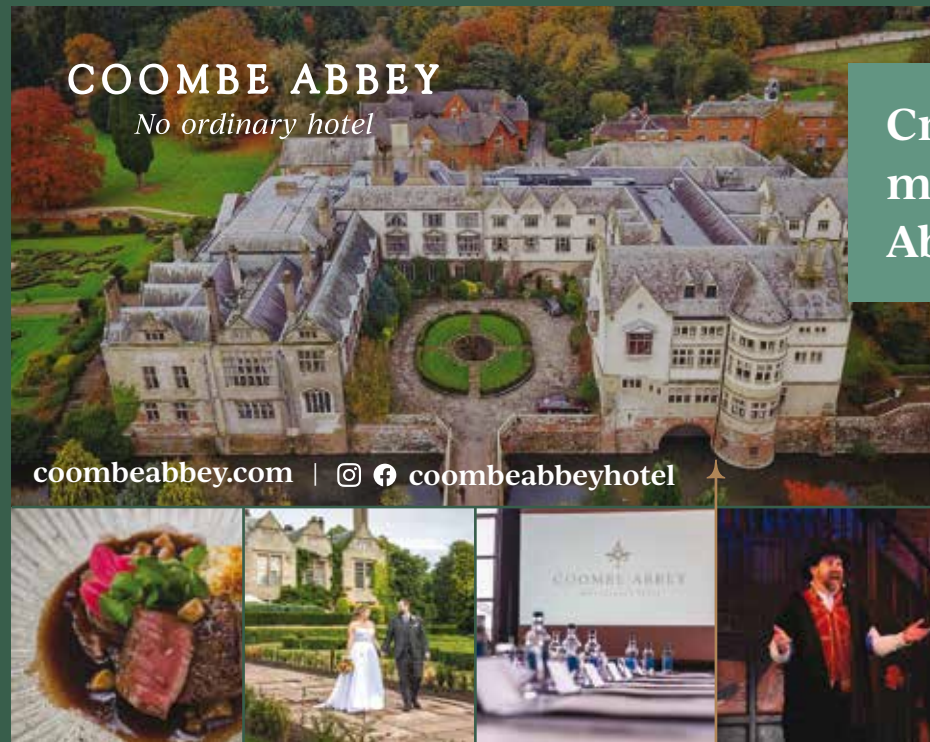
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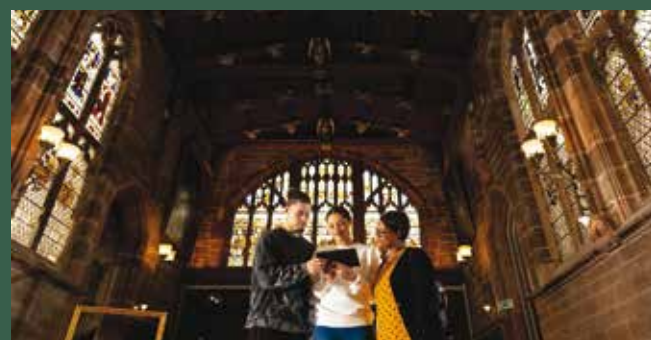
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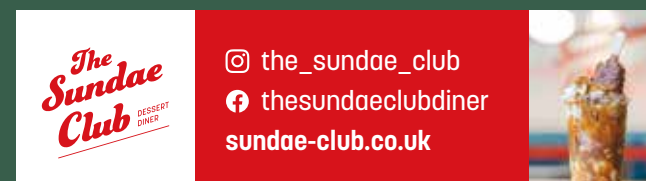


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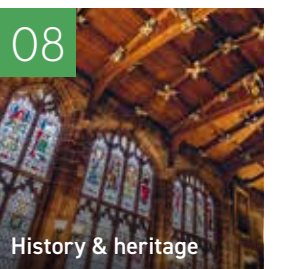
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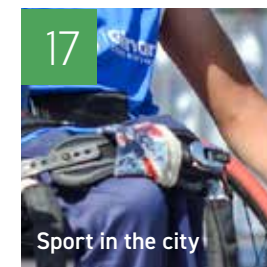
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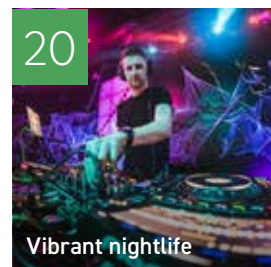
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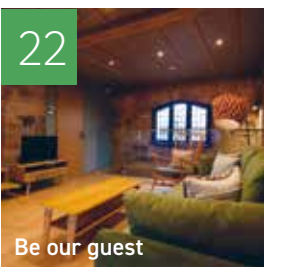
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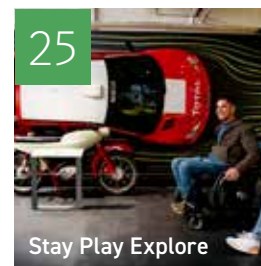
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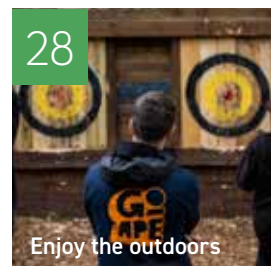
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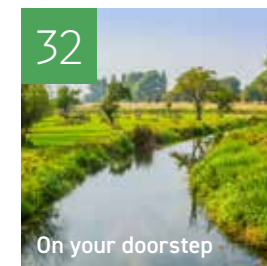


Dippy In Coventry

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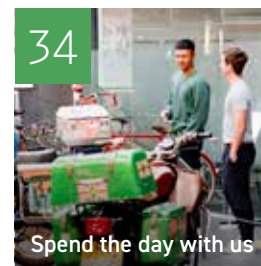
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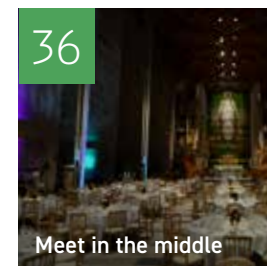
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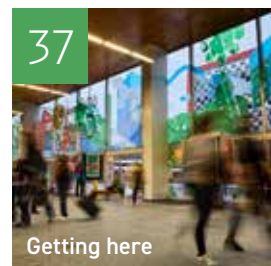
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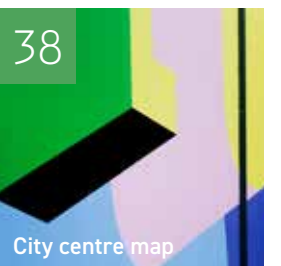
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WELCOME TO COVENTRY

Get ready to be charmed by Coventry, and its leafy surrounding Warwickshire countryside. Coventry is proud to be a **diverse, accessible** and **culturally-rich** destination with a **thriving nightlife**, an **award-winning restaurant scene**, **world-class attractions** and **places to stay** that span comfortable affordability to four-star luxury.

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 have been the UK City of Culture 2021/2. Enjoy our excellent cultural events programme all-year-round, from show-stopping theatre, comedy and live music that sits alongside the clubs, cocktail bars, and independent breweries.

Coventry is home to a wealth of things to do and discover. From the unexpected with centuries-old history and heritage, to breathtaking architecture and impressive innovation, Coventry is undeniably the go-to

destination for a city centre staycation.

Experience our rich cultural scene with events, music, dance, theatre, and large-scale spectacles, with more still to come. As well as these big celebrations, our city has shown 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,



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. Why wait for the weekend? There are great midweek breaks on offer, often with special rates.

galleries and even our own exhilarating city centre waterpark.

Within our city centre, and throughout the wider area, Coventry is filled with activities to captivate all ages and interests, and with

Whether you're looking to visit friends, celebrate a special occasion, immerse yourself in culture, or treat your tastebuds 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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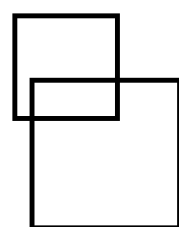
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OUR CITY CENTRE

Coventry city centre combines the **best of the old and the best of the new**, with an emphasis on leisure alongside retail, green spaces and the environment.



Coventry Railway Station

Cultural buildings have also been revived, including: the beautifully restored **St Mary's Guildhall** and **Drapers' Hall**; the UK's first permanent digital gallery at **The Reel Store**; and redevelopments at the **Belgrade Theatre** and **Herbert Art Gallery & Museum**. We have linked these and other 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 within the walkway in the **Cathedral Quarter**.

Regeneration is more than just new buildings. Public art is integral to the city centre landscape too – shopping areas have been transformed by colour, including artwork by **Morag Myerscough**, **Matt Chu**, **Angry Dan** and international lighting specialists **Spiers and Major**. But the most

successful city centres are constantly evolving – so over the next few years, private sector investment will see new homes, shops, leisure areas and more green space created in the city centre. It's set to be another exciting chapter!

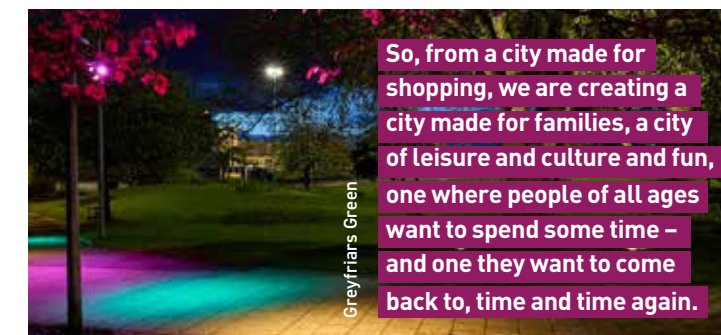
And now the challenge of our empty city centre IKEA store has become an opportunity for creating a major new **National Collection Centre**, hosting some of the country's finest art collections, while bringing the city's collection under one roof for the first time.

We have used 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. We have narrowed roads and widened pavements and have taken away unnecessary street furniture. Our centrally located **railway station** has had an £82m facelift, creating a 21st century transport interchange offering our visitors the perfect welcome. When passengers arrive, they are met by a wide, green boulevard that leads them into the city centre via a series of attractive spaces.

Bull Yard has been transformed as part of a wider £44m public realm transformation. The area now boasts an illuminated water feature and a playground perfect

for families and with rest areas for those a little older. Creative lighting is transformative too, and it is everywhere – from the benches, bollards and ground, to the dancing waters of the fountain. And, of course, our famous Three Spires have been lit to stunning effect too.

Coventry was home to Europe's first pedestrianised city centre when it was rebuilt following the war. Now, greenery is everywhere, with planting, seating and water features that are tactile and fun.



Greyfriars Green

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.

HISTORY & HERITAGE

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 developments that showcase 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 here 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 horse 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 upon them - stands in pride of place in Broadgate, a bustling and expansive plaza in the heart of our city.

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, Ford's Hospital** and **St Mary's Guildhall** with a hall fit for a king, a medieval powerhouse, a destination for banquets and blockades, and a tale of miraculous survival.

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.

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**. These gates have been transformed into luxury holiday cottages and are perfect for a unique getaway with friends and family.

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 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 - *coventrieren* - 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 our next chapter.



Lady Godiva



Herbert Art Gallery & Museum



Charterhouse



Coombe Abbey, Medieval Banquet

DISCOVER COVENTRY'S CATHEDRAL QUARTER

Coventry's Cathedral Quarter is home to some of the most impressive and important historic buildings in the Midlands.

Dr Geoff Willcocks, the Chair of the newly formed Cathedral Quarter Alliance, tells us about this new organisation and its aspirations for the future.



A SIMPLE QUESTION

Several years ago, just before the restoration work started, I was standing in the ballroom of Drapers' Hall with a senior officer from the Arts Council. After explaining that we would be giving the Hall a new lease of life as a venue for music education and music performance, she asked me a very simple question: if we had a quiet and delicate string quartet playing in the Hall, how did we know that a heavy metal festival wouldn't be taking place in the Cathedral Ruins at the same time? As the Cathedral Ruins are only a matter of a few yards away from Drapers' Hall this was a very sensible question. To my horror I realised that I didn't have an immediate answer. However, what was clear was that those of us who are neighbours in the Cathedral Quarter would now need to start thinking about how we were going to work together in the future.

In many ways, that was the moment when the Cathedral Quarter Alliance was born. Initially, the main focus of the Alliance concerned co-ordinating the programming of the Quarter for the various large events taking place during Coventry's year as City of Culture. These events ranged from major City of Culture Trust events, to the Antiques Roadshow and The Meanwhile... graphic novel festival, as well as the usual business of the Quarter such as

graduation ceremonies, Remembrance Day parades, Coventry Pride and so on.

At this point in the evolution of the Alliance, it was very much about creating, in simple terms, a clash diary – making sure that all the partners were aware of what each of us was up to and by extension considering the impact events would have on the other residents of the Quarter. However, over the first year of the Alliance, it became very clear that we could do so much more than merely inform each other of our respective programmes and events. This realisation led to where the Cathedral Quarter Alliance is today.



Drapers' Hall



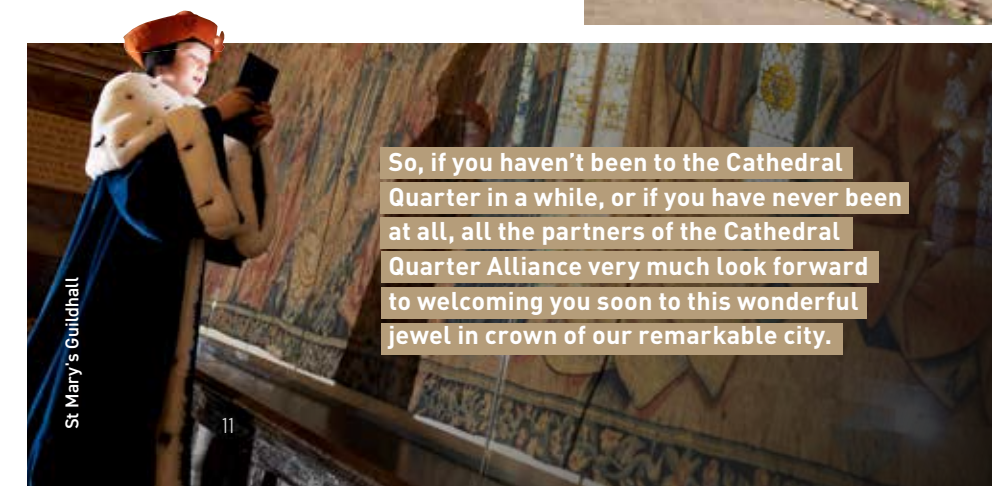
St Mary's Guildhall

THE HEART OF AN HISTORIC CITY

The Cathedral Quarter is the very heart of historic Coventry. Within a one-hundred-yard radius we have all three of the city's past and present Cathedrals spanning over 1,000 years: Sir Basil Spence's modern architectural masterpiece, the ruined medieval Cathedral so famously burned in the Blitz, and the remains of the Cathedral founded by Earl Leofric and Lady Godiva in the 11th Century. Holy Trinity Church with its outstanding 1430s painting of the Last Judgement, the recently restored Regency splendour of Drapers' Hall, and the equally splendid medieval St Mary's Guildhall, with its 500-year-old tapestry, the oldest in the UK still hanging in its original location. When one adds to this enviable rollcall of nationally and internationally important historic buildings and artefacts, The Herbert Art Gallery & Museum with its dynamic offering of permanent and visiting exhibitions, a wide range of visitor accommodation and an excellent food and drink offer, the Cathedral Quarter can be seen as not just the epicentre of historic Coventry, but also of the tourism offer of the whole city.

CREATING A BETTER EXPERIENCE

When taken as a whole like this, the membership of the Alliance soon realised that we should be looking at better ways to ensure the visitor experience for those coming to the Cathedral Quarter is all that it could be. To this end, the Alliance now acts as a highly localised destination management organisation. We are now working much more closely together, thinking more clearly about how we programme events, performances, and exhibitions so that we increase the value of our visitors' time with us. For example, a visitor can tour the Cathedrals, see an exhibition at The Herbert, grab some lunch in the Metropolis Restaurant, experience the historic stories of Coventry in St Mary's Guildhall, have dinner in Turtle Bay and then enjoy a concert at Drapers' Hall. Increasingly, we are looking at how we create our events programmes so that we have themes that run across all our venues, cross-marketing our offers, thinking and working with the City Council on the streetscape, lighting, and parking, as well as collaborating with the team at Visit Coventry. All this we do to make the visitor experience better for all those, whether citizens of the city or visitors from further afield, visiting the Cathedral Quarter.



St Mary's Guildhall

So, if you haven't been to the Cathedral Quarter in a while, or if you have never been at all, all the partners of the Cathedral Quarter Alliance very much look forward to welcoming you soon to this wonderful jewel in crown of our remarkable city.

Coventry Cathedral

Coventry Cathedral

Coventry Cathedral

THEATRE, CULTURE & MUSIC

Culture runs through Coventry's veins. From **world-class music** to fabulous **theatres & galleries**, we really have got it all. Our title as UK City of Culture 2021/2 showcases Coventry's cultural calibre - a place that welcomes top names across the arts as well as producing our own home-grown talent. From **Philip Larkin** and **Daniel Lismore** to **Pete Waterman**, **The Specials** and more, Coventry has given rise to key cultural figures 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 own local talent.

Belgrade Theatre remains one of the largest regional producing theatres in Britain, whose historic building offers a diverse programme of productions, from touring musicals to critically-acclaimed plays, 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, drama and comedy, as well as music from all genres.

Warwick Arts Centre is one of the largest arts centres in the UK and recently reopened after a four-year-long £25.5million transformation. Attracting around 300,000 visitors a year to more than 3,000 individual events, the centre is known for its top quality productions of theatre, contemporary and classical music, dance, comedy, visual art, films, talks and family events.



Warwick Arts Centre



Albany Theatre



Belgrade Theatre ©Nicola Young



The Reel Store

ART

Coventry's history collides with our impressive art offering at **The Herbert Art Gallery & Museum**, where you can enjoy unique exhibitions and interactive displays 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 top names, 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. In 2021 it staged the Turner Prize - itself an historic occasion

- and has gone on to host exhibitions from major artists on a regular basis.

Coventry is also home to **The Reel Store**, the UK's first permanent, digital art gallery. This attraction, suitable for the whole family, is based in the old reel store at the Telegraph Hotel, former home of the Coventry Evening Telegraph newspaper, which has now been transformed into an immersive digital gallery. The 360-degree experience explores the relationship between digital technology, visual arts and people, featuring an awe-inspiring display

that captures the beauty and spectacle of space in waves of colour and light.

If finding art out and about is more your style, **Coventry Canal Basin** is the perfect place to start exploring several art trails, complete with informative fact boards and plaques along the routes highlighting some of Coventry's rich industrial history. As you move around the city, you may spot some of the murals painted as part of **In Paint We Trust**, one of the projects undertaken as part of the Coventry City of Culture year and continues as its legacy.



In Paint We Trust

MUSIC

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

One of the city's best-known music venues, **hmv Empire Coventry**, reopened in 2021 as a multi-use space and has already hosted acts

including Ed Sheeran, Tom Grennan, Roger Taylor and more. The venue showcases local, up-and-coming and established artists, offering a packed programme of artists to appeal to all tastes and ages, whilst its facilities rival some of the best live music venues in the UK.

Coventry continues to attract top names in music, with the **MOBO Awards 2021** held at Coventry Building Society Arena and **BBC Radio 1's Big Weekend** at the War Memorial Park in 2022. The War Memorial Park also plays host to the **Godiva Festival**, a three-day music festival

named after the city's famous Lady Godiva. The festival began in 1997 and has grown to be the largest family music festival in the UK. Alongside major events like these, venues across Coventry boast a packed programme of concerts, gigs and more across the city, which continues to live up to its reputation as a city with music running through its veins.

For an insight into Coventry's rich musical 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. It covers non-ska related music as well as 2-Tone, and includes 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 emporium.

Whether you're a music lover, art aficionado or theatre buff, we really do have it all. So, come and experience Coventry and its culture for yourself.

Godiva Festival



SHOPPING & LIFESTYLE

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**.

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 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. **The Burges** and **Hales Street** have recently benefited from a £2 million boost from Historic England and Historic Coventry Trust, 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**.

If you are looking for quality local produce, then **Spon Street Farmer's Market** is the place to go. Once a month, the city's historic Spon Street holds a market that celebrates the best of Coventry and Warwickshire's independent

vendors. From street food and beverage stalls to world-class craft producers, the market offers a wide range of entertainment and fun for all the family.

Looking for something more unusual? Coventry city centre is home to a large, **indoor market**. Opened in 1958, this unique market sells a huge variety of produce and homewares; from international foods, to traditional sweets, bakery, butchers and fishmongers, among many other stalls. The market is a hub of activity with friendly and helpful business owners on-hand to welcome you in.



Broadgate

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 Wave



Bayley Lane

SPORTS IN THE CITY



ELITE LEAGUE ICE HOCKEY AT THE SKYDOME ARENA

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FOR MORE DETAILS INCLUDING
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WELCOME TO THE HOUSE OF DRAGONS!
ENJOY THE SHOW

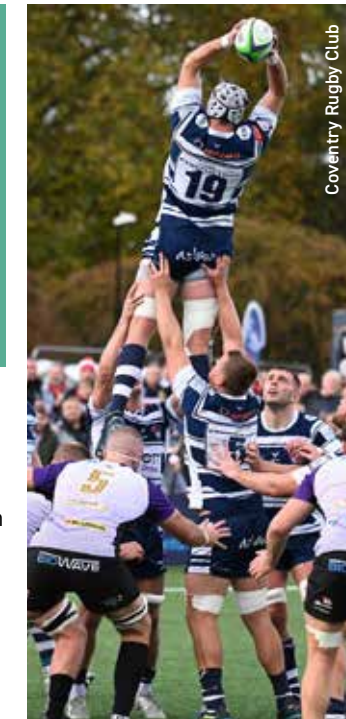
Coventry is proud to boast some of the UK's **most talented sports teams**, presenting the perfect opportunity to become immersed in unrivalled competition across multiple sports and venues. Coventry is a **great place to spend time with family and friends** and enjoy sports at a range of levels.

Our city is home to a multitude of world-class clubs across a variety of sports including **Coventry Rugby Club**, **Coventry Blaze** ice hockey and **Coventry City Football Club**, 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 proud to have recently hosted the **Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games**, the **2022 International Children's Games** and **Rugby League World Cup 2021**.

The city is proud to be hosting the **Westfield Health British Transplant Games in July 2023** – yet another event that is inclusive and caters for all ages. The Games will promote and celebrate the importance of transplantation awareness alongside the fantastic athletes and their inspirational stories.

After being a massive hit in 2019 during Coventry's year as **City of Sport**, the **UK Corporate Games** will return to the city in August of 2023. The UK Corporate Games are one of the best multi-sports competitions for businesses and employees in the country – and open to visitors to watch!

Coventry's annual sporting event, **Sports Fest**, will return for its 11th installment the city centre during the summer of 2023. The event in Broadgate will be free to enjoy as always, with sports for all ages and abilities to take part in. Pop along and find a new sport or activity to enjoy! Previous years have featured everything from table tennis to cheerleading along with disability sport and inclusive activities such as adaptive cycling. Visitors will also be able to talk to sports clubs on how to get involved.



Coventry Rugby Club



The Ballroom Climbing Wall



CCFC

Team Coventry went on to finish second out of 73 cities in the **International Children's Games** in 2022 and was the first ever Games in the history of the event to include disability sport. In order to get them to the 2023 Games in Daegu, South Korea, we will be holding multiple events and fundraisers around the city to ensure they get to compete after being involved in the Games for over 25 years. Keep updated on the Coventry Sport social media channels on how to get involved.

Coventry is packed with year-round sporting activities to keep the whole family entertained. For an action-packed day out at any time of the year, **The Wave** is an award-winning, indoor waterpark making a splash in the heart of the city. From high-speed slides and a fun-packed splash zone to the exhilarating Wave Pool and relaxing Lazy River. Other Coventry sporting activities include climbing at **The Ballroom Climbing Wall**, or the treetop adventures of **Go Ape** located on-site at our famous Coombe Abbey Hotel.

FOOD & DRINK

When you come to Coventry, one thing is certain – you won't go hungry. From popular chains to thriving independents, one-off experiences to **vibrant street food**, we've got **gastronomy to suit every taste and budget**. Coventry's food and drink scene 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 craving a certain cuisine, have a special occasion to celebrate or are looking for a family-friendly place for dinner, you'll find **everything you need and more**.

AROUND THE WORLD IN ONE CITY

Forget leaving the country to try different cuisines. You can get it all right here in Coventry. From authentic Caribbean and Mexican cuisine to Japanese, Chinese and Vietnamese, our array of independent restaurants has you well catered for. If it's pizza you're after, we've got all the big names and some smaller artisan pizzerias of our own. There's Indian food, steak, French, Italian, Brazilian, Greek and of course plenty of restaurants serving up classic British dishes. For vegan options, we're not short of choices and if you've got a sweet tooth, we've got dessert parlours to keep you smiling. Let's not forget fabulous coffee, great cakes and more thanks to Coventry's thriving café culture. Whatever cuisine you fancy, you can find it in our city. And while we might be overlooked by many, Coventry's dining potential shone through for one of the country's top food critics, with Korean barbecue restaurant **Jinseon** receiving a great review in Jay Rayner's Observer column in 2022.

New for 2023, **Coventry Dining Club** will be taking up residence in **FarGo Village**, bringing the finest street food traders on rotation each week, as well as resident DJs, local beers and cocktails, to create the ultimate social experience every Friday and Saturday.



VisitBritain © Nemorin



Digbeth Dining Club © Garry Jones



Tales of Tea



Sky Blue Tavern

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**, **Five Guys**, **Turtle Bay**, **The Botanist** and **Las Iguanas**. But in Coventry, we also have a thriving independent scene when it comes to food and drink, with producers, restaurateurs and chefs offering up everything from great bread to fine dining meals, brilliant coffee and quality cakes.

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 scene to rival any city. We have a great selection of food for families, from cafés 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 at unique supper clubs like **Gourmet Food Kitchen** and **Earlsdon Supper Club**, to 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, such as **Tales of Tea at St Mary's Guildhall**, a unique experience served in the historic building's vaulted undercroft. For dinner with a difference, you can try everything from a standout meal at the Telegraph Hotel's **Forme & Chase restaurant** to a Brazilian feast at **Rodizio Rico**. 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 has traders running pop-ups across the city, offering everything from big burgers to authentic Mexican tacos. **FarGo Village** is a hub for everything artisan, and features an eclectic mix of food and drink experiences, from **Esmie's** unforgettable West Indian cuisine, to **BiB Noodle Bar** and the **Twisted Barrel** vegan brewery.

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 for sure!



Generatore Rooftop Bar

VIBRANT NIGHTLIFE

Coventry's nightlife is as diverse as our city's history and culture. In the same way that our city is full of both old and 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 or season. Whether it's a quiet drink with a friend or a celebratory night out, a pint in the sun or a cosy cocktail in the depths of winter, we've got it all.

A PUB ON EVERY CORNER

Maybe not every corner, but walk anywhere in the city and you'll come across one of our great pubs serving 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 scene serving up only the best for 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 CAMRA and is much-loved for its good service and great ale.

BRILLIANT BARS

If you're looking for a bar, Coventry has plenty of those too. For pre-or-post-theatre drinks near the **Belgrade Theatre**, there's the **Artisan Bar & Grill** or the theatre's very own **Nineteen 58 bar**.

For a stunning setting, check out **Generators**, the rooftop bar at the brand-new **Telegraph Hotel** or **Dhillon's Spire Bar**, nestled in Christchurch Spire. You could also try Dhillon's recently-opened sports bar, the **Sky Blue Tavern**. The latest addition to Coventry's nightlife is **FOMO** - an Instagrammable bar offering original cocktails, pan-Asian inspired food, DJs and more.

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 the amazing **Turtle Bay**, which arrived in the city in 2021. There are plenty of independent venues to try too, including **The Yard** - one of the jewels in Coventry's nightlife crown and our city's most popular LGBTQ+ venue (although everyone's welcome!) offering weekly cabaret, DJs and more.

If it's sport or games you're after, **The Phoenix** boasts two stages, two bars and a large outdoor space including heaters and covered terrace, while **Rileys** sports bar has 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 for the latest sporting action.

Boom Battle Bar offers everything from axe-throwing to beer pong and augmented reality darts for a fun day or night out, while **Teezers** will see you enjoy a fun experience, with crazy golf alongside clubhouse cocktails and street food. The latest addition to the city is **PLAYERS**, a new multi-purpose entertainment venue featuring a stunning bar and space for 500 people, as well as 20 sumptuous private hire rooms for any occasion, perfect for watching live sports, birthday celebrations and work parties.

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 nightlife, **Kasbah**, is a popular late-night haunt that's played host to some big names and remains a live music and club venue, as well as offering a BBQ and shisha lounge. **Samoan Joes** in medieval Spon Street, offers an upbeat tiki experience to really get the party started and just outside the city centre in Coundon, **Rialto Plaza** has been revamped and offers some great food, music events and themed nights.

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

'great times all round'

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PLANET HUGO

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HOTEL

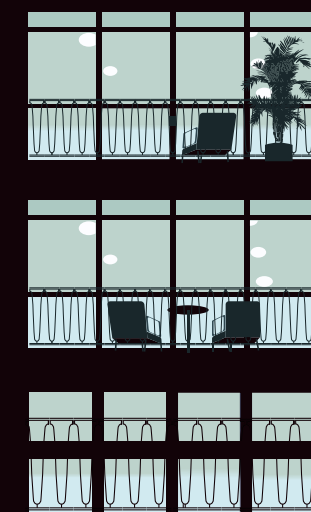
FORME & CHASE
BAR AND RESTAURANT

MID-CENTURY STYLE, TODAY'S COMFORT

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BE OUR GUEST

Swanswell Gate

If you're looking for nightlife, entertainment and culture, all wrapped up in one convenient package, then there's nothing like spending a few days in one of the UK's most historic cities.

Whether you're looking for a **boutique hotel**, **country house** or **even a unique 14th century holiday cottage**, Coventry boasts fantastic places for you to **escape the everyday** and enjoy an action-packed staycation.

ON THE OUTSKIRTS

The **Village Hotel Coventry** is perfect for any stay, leisure or business. Just 10 minutes from Coventry city centre, the modern hotel boasts home-from-home luxury, together with high-end gym facilities, fitness classes and a 25m indoor swimming pool. There's also a bar, restaurant and Starbucks onsite – perfect for a quick bite between meetings, or catching the latest sports match with friends.

There are numerous high-end chain hotels within the city too. Situated inside the Coventry Building Society Arena, the **DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel** offers 'pitch view' rooms, an onsite casino, vibrant sports bar and a West Midlands Trains stop only a five-minute walk away, making this hotel the number one choice for visitors who want to extend their stay after attending an event.

17 acres of tranquil grounds surround the 4-star **Mecure Brandon Hall Hotel and Spa Warwickshire**.

Offering a range of accommodation options to suit all, including enhanced accessibility rooms, **Brandon Hall** is the perfect place to enjoy a romantic getaway. Why not treat yourself to an elegant lunch or dinner at the Clarendon Restaurant, or relax near the open fireplace, on the patio or in the Bewick Bar? Treat yourself at the onsite spa, complete with fitness studio, 18 metre heated swimming pool, sauna and steam room, giving you time to switch-off, unwind, relax and repair.

Looking for a family-friendly hotel? 15 minutes from Coventry city centre, the **Holiday Inn Kenilworth Hotel** has contemporary style and comfort, which allows you to relax and enjoy your stay. Guests can unwind in the modern, newly-refurbished restaurant, **Clocktower Café & Bistro**, or explore the nearby surrounding area, which includes Kenilworth Castle, just a 12-minute walk away.

Lynchgate Cottages

UNIQUE STAYS

Transport yourself to the magical and historic four-star hotel, **Coombe Abbey**. Enjoy a medieval stay surrounded by character and comfort. Each of the bedrooms is complete with captivating history and personality, soft furnishings, and beautiful views. Explore 500 acres of parkland, taste delicious freshly prepared hearty 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.

Home to the iconic Coventry 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 standout experience.

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

Coombe Abbey Hotel

IN THE HEART OF THE CITY

Stay in a fairytale cottage in the heart of the city. The **Lynchgate Cottages** on Priory Row are some of the oldest buildings in the city, dating from 1415, and provide a unique place to stay in the heart of Coventry. Original features such as the unique timber framing of the building are combined with modern luxury to ensure a comfortable stay. Luxurious beds and plenty of hot water in a modern shower or bath, along with all you need in the kitchen and living areas are available right in the heart of the city. With views over Holy Trinity Church and Broadgate, Priory Row is an oasis in this historic city.

The Ibis Coventry Centre and **Ramada Hotel & Suites** are located within Coventry city centre and have everything you need for a comfortable visit. Both are equipped with modern facilities and a team of dedicated staff working around the clock to ensure a friendly welcome and relaxed stay, whether for business or pleasure.

Boasting up to 100 boutique bedrooms, restaurant and gym, **Hotel Indigo** is set to open its doors in Coventry, late

2023. The hotel, conveniently located next door to Coventry Railway Station, will offer something extra special for overnight visitors to the city.

From quiet countryside retreats to larger hotels located inside the bustling city centre, you will find somewhere to stay in Coventry and its surrounding region that's exactly what you need.

Holiday Inn Kenilworth

The Telegraph Hotel

DISCOVER CHARTERHOUSE

Unlock the history of Coventry at Charterhouse Heritage Park. Hiding away just one mile from the city centre, Charterhouse - one of Coventry's most important heritage sites and the centre of Charterhouse Heritage Park - will be the latest visitor attraction in Coventry to open its doors to the public this year.

In 1940, former Lord Mayor Colonel Willam Wyley bequeathed the old Charterhouse Priory of St Anne to the people of Coventry, handing over the keys as part of his estate. His wish was for the building to be a centre for arts and culture for the benefit of the people, and in 2023 that wish is set to come true.

The Grade I listed 14th Century building has quite the story to tell, and has served many different purposes since it was founded in 1381, including

a Carthusian Monastery for an order of monks that lived in silence and a nursery and walled garden that sold exotic citrus fruit to wealthy locals.

Visitors will be able to discover the stories of the property and its place in the history of the city, immerse themselves in moments of silence and contemplation just like the monks that used to live there, and see the rare medieval and Elizabethan wall paintings that have been carefully conserved and restored. After a wander

through the historic house, visitors can grab some refreshments in the brand new café, and supplied with ingredients grown onsite in the newly restored garden.

Then, visitors will be able to have their own moments of reflection by taking in the beautiful surroundings of the Charterhouse Heritage Park, including Paxton's Arboretum and the River Sherbourne.

And that's not all. Historic Coventry Trust, the charity responsible for restoring the site, have a jam-packed programme of events

planned for Spring 2023 and beyond, to provide everyone with a truly memorable experience at a place they'll want to visit again and again. Why not make a weekend of it and stay in one of Historic Coventry's luxury boltholes in the centre of the city? You can find the 'Stay with us' pages on our website.

To keep up to date with all the latest Charterhouse news, head to the Historic Coventry website and sign up to the newsletter.

historicoventrytrust.org.uk



STAY PLAY EXPLORE

Stay Play Explore Coventry is a great value break that offers tickets to three amazing visitor attractions, plus overnight accommodation with breakfast, **from just £159**.

Our Stay Play Explore breaks are super-flexible, meaning you can choose which hotel and attractions you want to visit, and add on as many extra nights as you choose to stay. Our family breaks include bed, breakfast and a choice of three amazing attractions including the **Coventry Transport Museum**, **The Wave**, our city centre waterpark, **Ballroom Climbing Wall** and **Footgolf** to name just a few.

After an action-packed day out, enjoy an overnight stay including breakfast at one of our family friendly hotels. Be right at the heart of it at **Ibis Coventry Centre**, or enjoy a splash in the **Village Hotel Coventry** pool, or enjoy upscale comforts at the **Double Tree by Hilton Coventry Building Society Arena**. No matter where you choose to stay, our conveniently located Coventry hotels allow you to enjoy non-stop fun through your break. As well as all attractions included as part of your Stay Play Explore

break, why not immerse yourself in our exciting and varied programme of events, activities and inspiring cultural performances that take place throughout the year? Alternatively, why not visit the award-winning museums and public galleries and discover our city's fascinating history?



The Wave



Telegraph Hotel



The Ballroom Climbing Wall

THE PERFECT BREAK

Looking for a romantic getaway weekend? The Perfect Break is the ideal holiday package for couples. Choose from a fabulous collection of expertly curated, excellent value, flexible and easy to book UK holidays for adults from just £159 for two people. Choose from our hand-picked selection of hotels, including the famous **Telegraph Hotel**, and then match them with three great experiences to create your bespoke break. All for one great price. Your break, your way.

Why not take in the summer's evening on the

Metropolis roof-top with a glass of fizz and a sharing platter, or try your luck at the **Grosvenor Casino**? From afternoon tea to ale tasting, you won't be short of ideas on how to spend your staycation in Coventry.

There's so much to see and do in Coventry, you'll need more than one visit, to find out more and book your break now visit www.stayplayexplore.co.uk

play stay^{zzz} explore™

SUPPORTING GROWTH IN COVENTRY AND BEYOND



Birmingham is Britain's best-connected airport. It lies at the heart of the road and rail networks. More than 90% of the UK population is within a four-hour journey of Birmingham Airport (BHX). That includes - just 10 minutes away by train - Coventry, Britain's ninth largest city and its sixth youngest (average age 36.2 - source: 2018 BBC poll) with its 30,000 students, many of whom hail from overseas.

Coventry, as with the wider West Midlands region, is a story of potential not yet fully realised. Our most exciting years lie ahead. This includes BHX, which is currently Britain's seventh-largest airport despite taking its name from the second-largest city. We have an opportunity to grow.

When the new HS2 railway is completed in 2033, BHX's already excellent connectivity will be better still. Central London will be a barely conceivable 38 minutes away. This journey time will compare favourably with those to Stansted, Heathrow and Gatwick. BHX will be a feasible 'local' option for many millions more people from outside this region. For added convenience, HS2 plans to link its new Interchange railway station - 10 minutes from Birmingham city centre - directly into the BHX terminal via an automated people-mover (APM). The agreement for this APM's construction was signed in 2022 by BHX and HS2 Ltd. Work is set to begin in 2026.

HS2 is a key part of our plan to grow BHX's annual customer numbers from

12m in 2019 to 18m by 2033, by which time we also aim to have become a net-zero-carbon airport. Key steps between now and then include investing £20m+ in building a new security screening area by June 2024 and, from 2025, installing new aircraft stands capable of housing larger aircraft.

This growth can be facilitated on BHX's existing runway, which is currently only a third utilised. Plenty of scope to get to 18m and far, far beyond in future years as the terminal and other facilities at the airport undergo the necessary improvements.

BHX's objective is not just to grow the airport business for its own sake, but rather for the good of the West Midlands region. As BHX grows, the

region grows. As we grow, Coventry grows. In 2022, BHX contributed £1.5bn to the region's economy and supported 30,900 jobs. By 2033, these numbers are expected to have moved to £2.1bn and 34,400 jobs.

At the time of writing (January 2023), inflation in the UK is at 10.7% (consumer prices index in the 12 months to November 2022 - source: ONS). Many people are struggling. Media coverage is gloomy. The global economic outlook is undeniably bleak. But there are pockets of hope, including here in the West Midlands, showcased so brilliantly by the 2022 Commonwealth Games - a moment which encapsulated the untapped potential of our region.

Having emerged from the Covid deep-freeze in March

2022, BHX has been on a curve of steady recovery as it resumes its 10-year plan for low-carbon growth. Emirates and Turkish Airlines each flew all their aircraft at more than 98% full in July. Air India increased its weekly flights from one to six from November to cater for growing demand. Ryanair added a fifth aircraft to its fleet based at BHX and announced it would add a sixth in summer 2023. A resurrected Flybe returned to operation, based at BHX. SunExpress and AndoulaJet airlines began operating from BHX. EasyJet added new

routes, including Lisbon and Milan, from BHX. Aegean Airlines is returning to BHX in spring 2023. All of this in a single calendar year in which BHX cut its carbon emissions by 37% en route to its 2033 net zero goal.

The above news is, of course, ancient history now. We're looking ahead to a future in which there will be so much more good news. All as BHX serves, and helps to grow, the people, the communities and the businesses of this region.



ENJOY THE OUTDOORS

Coventry has a hidden heritage waiting for you to explore. 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.

Engage with the nature around you by exploring our city's largest park, **War Memorial Park**. Known for attracting over 400,000 visitors a year, the War Memorial Park is one of Coventry's premier outdoor spaces, with its cafés, sports facilities, playgrounds, skate park, fitness trail, sculptures, and themed gardens, as well as, of course, its iconic War Memorial.

Coombe Abbey Park offers a wide variety of activities to enjoy throughout the year. 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. No trip to Coombe would be complete without stopping by the **Visitor Centre** for a bite to eat at the **Café in the Park**, a sweet treat at **The**

Sundae Club and picking up some local delicacies from the **Artisan Market** to take home with you.

Situated in the heart of the city centre, **Lady Herbert's Garden** is one of Coventry's hidden gems. Enjoy a balmy stroll in the tranquil gardens, designed by Albert Herbert himself, and take in the beautiful summer flowers. The smallest park in Coventry 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 the **Canal & River Trust** Welcome Hub, Playrights Café, 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.

Connect with nature in the **Charterhouse Heritage Park**. Surrounding the historic Charterhouse is a rare and varied wildlife-rich habitat that brings the countryside to the very edges of the city centre. Venture across the road to explore the famous **London Road Cemetery and Paxton's Arboretum**. Designed by famous



London Road Cemetery

architect Joseph Paxton, London Road Cemetery is an early example of the 19th-century 'garden cemetery' movement, developed not only as a burial site but also a place of natural beauty for visitors and the people of Coventry to enjoy.

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.

There's so much more to Coventry than first meets the eye. It's a city with an abundance of history, culture and nature. Together, Visit Coventry and The Outdoor Guide, have created **six brand new walking routes** that take in some of the highlights of the city and its surrounding areas. So, dig out your comfiest shoes and head out to discover some of Coventry's incredible heritage, from its medieval past to its deep-rooted connections with music and literature, there's so much to uncover.



WALKING ROUTES

HISTORIC COVENTRY

Our walk around the historic heart of Coventry takes you back around 700 years in the space of just over two miles. The city walls date back to 1355, Medieval Spon Street has buildings that date back to the 12th and 13th century. St Mary's Guildhall dates back to the 14th century. Greyfriars Hospital is said to be one of the finest examples of Elizabethan architecture in the country. And of course, there are the three spires that Coventry is famed for.

COVENTRY CANAL

Once a key trade route into the city, the canal is now used for leisure purposes. This walk takes you from the city centre to the Canal Basin and along the towpath, past some of Coventry's industrial heritage including the Cash's Houses, the original cottage industry. It's a peaceful walk surrounded by nature - it's at times hard to believe you're still in the city!

2-TONE TRAIL

Part of Coventry's cultural heritage is the world-famous 2-Tone movement. Beginning at the gem that is the Coventry Music Museum, this trail takes you around the city to see some of the locations that were instrumental in the late 1970's / early 1980's music scene and for bands like The Specials and The Selecter.

COOMBE ABBEY PARK

On the outskirts of Coventry is Coombe Abbey and the parkland that was landscaped by the world-renowned Lancelot 'Capability' Brown. There are three trails to enjoy here that take in the Old Deer Park woodland, the expansive lake with its abundance of local wildlife, and the ornate formal gardens. Something for all the family!



War Memorial Park

WAR MEMORIAL PARK

Opened in July 1921 as Coventry's tribute to soldiers from the city who lost their lives during the First World War, this stunning park has extensive open green space for little ones to run, Japanese Peace Garden for a moment of calm, a sensory garden to reconnect, and the iconic cenotaph to remember - there's something here for all occasions and preferences.

GEORGE ELIOT TRAIL

Just a short distance from Coventry is the town of Nuneaton. Here, in 1819, Mary Ann Evans was born - although you perhaps know her better as George Eliot. Her much-loved Middlemarch is said to be based on Coventry. This walk takes in key locations in her hometown that inspired another of her writings - Scenes of Clerical Life.

For more information on these walks, and to download the routes please visit
theoutdoorguide.co.uk/walks/coventry-walks



Coventry Canal © Paul Wrighting

DIPPY IN COVENTRY

The Nation's Favourite Dinosaur

Herbert
Art Gallery & Museum

N NATURAL
HISTORY
MUSEUM



Dippy, the Nation's Favourite Dinosaur, is on display right here in Coventry. The much-loved diplodocus skeleton cast has left London's Natural History Museum, its home of over 100 years, and is now in stunning surroundings at the Herbert Art Gallery & Museum.

Arriving this February, the dino-star is set to stay in the city for at least three years. In its displayed pose, the 292-bone skeleton is 26 metres long, 4.3 metres wide and 4.17 metres high. It is believed the species lived sometime between 156 - 145 million years ago and belongs to a group called sauropods, meaning 'lizard feet'.

Not only is Dippy here in Coventry, but the exhibition is also completely free. To avoid queuing we recommend you book online at theherbert.org.

Dippy's time in Coventry will see lots of child-friendly, dinosaur-themed activities and exhibits at The Herbert, which are sure to keep

your dino-mad little ones entertained for hours.

These fun-filled events include themed children's craft, a talk about the fossils in our collection and much more. Keep up to speed with these events by checking our website or sign up to our newsletter for updates.

Elsewhere at the museum there are more stunning exhibitions, such as Divided Selves, a delve into the geo-political partitions which shape huge parts of society. There are also the gallery's permanent exhibitions, such as the Lady Godiva exhibit, which focuses on Coventry's most famous legend through the lens of Coventry's Peace and Reconciliation motto.

With fantastic transport links and parking you could

even make your trip to see Dippy into a family day out.

You could see Dippy in the morning, followed by a visit to Coventry Transport Museum a short walk away, taking in the UK's largest collection of historic vehicles, most of them Coventry-built. There are also the world's two fastest cars - Thrust SSC and Thrust 2.

With culture and engineering boxes ticked, use the afternoon to really get the adrenalin pumping by visiting The Wave, an award-winning waterpark, which offers something to keep the whole family of all ages entertained. For *thrill* seekers there are six high-speed slides, for *spill* seekers there is a splash pad, and for *chill* seekers there is a lazy river and wave pool.

Be it culture or leisure,
'there's something
for everyone' across
CV Life's venues in
Coventry city centre.



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**READY
SET
GO**



**THERE'S
SOMETHING
FOR
EVERYONE!**

The Wave Waterpark...

For thrill, spill & chill seekers
Book your tickets thewavecoventry.com

Coventry Transport Museum...

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Herbert Art Gallery & Museum...

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ON YOUR DOORSTEP

River Avon © Kodachrome25

Curling around Coventry in a green embrace, rural **Warwickshire** is a captivating mix of the famous and the yet-to-be-discovered 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.

And in this year of King Charles III's coronation, what better time to explore why royalty has been drawn to Warwickshire over many centuries and follow in their footsteps. You'll find plenty of history and mystery across the county: unlock the secrets of Tudor monarchs at historic houses, and Civil War hideaways of Charles I and Charles II, not to mention what amused Queen Victoria.



Kenilworth Castle

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



Burton Dassett Hills

FREEDOM OF SCENIC ROADS

A great way to discover Warwickshire is on a rural road trip: check out the five 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.

Explore fascinating history in the Gunpowder Plot village of **Dunchurch**. 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

Whether you're after a quick 'time-out' fix, a half-day ramble or longer, 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



Aston Martin Gaydon - © Drew Gibson



Shakespeare Birthplace Trust

– 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 birthplace to the great game of rugby, and 2023 marks its bicentennial. Throughout 2023, **Rugby School**, along with the **Rugby Art Gallery & Museum**, will be celebrating this significant milestone.

Channel your inner James Bond with 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. With over 400 British classic cars for our visitors to explore from the collections of the British Motor Industry Heritage Trust and the Jaguar Heritage Trust.

Indulge in an extended stay that blends culture with the 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?

EXPLORE EVEN FURTHER

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

SPEND THE DAY WITH US

Going on a day trip to Coventry and wondering what to see and do while making the most of your visit to the city? Let us help with some inspiration to maximise your brief time with us.



Priority Gardens

Why not start your morning at Coventry's famous **Herbert Art Gallery & Museum**? This free attraction offers a wealth of hands-on opportunities to learn more about the history of Coventry. Immerse yourself in fascinating culture, and say hello to the nation's favourite dinosaur, **'Dippy'**, currently on display here in the city. With award-winning exhibitions, eight permanent galleries and a packed events programme, the Herbert makes for an entertaining start to your day!

Head out of the Herbert Art Gallery & Museum doors and take in the beautiful scenery of **Coventry's**

Cathedrals. Destroyed in the Second World War, Coventry Cathedral Ruins now stand beside the new Cathedral as a reminder of a tumultuous past and our status as a City of Peace and Reconciliation.

Just a short stroll away, Broadgate is at the heart of our shopping precinct and provides an opportunity to see the iconic **statue of Lady Godiva**. Can you spot Peeping Tom as he peers out from our famous clock on-the-hour? Here you can head for lunch in **Cathedral Lanes**, where you will find a multitude of eclectic eateries including The Botanist, Bistrot Pierre, Wagamama and Las Iguanas.

After lunch, immerse yourself in the city's historic seat of power and debate, with a memorable visit to one of the finest guildhalls in Britain. **St Mary's Guildhall**, located in the city's historic Cathedral Quarter, astonishingly escaped bombing raids during the Second World War. As one of the only remaining

medieval buildings, it still stands as a testament to medieval Coventry's influence and wealth. The Guildhall is home to the magnificent Coventry Tapestry, which along with its spectacular interiors, provides a glimpse into the city's fascinating history.

Lastly, no trip to Coventry would be complete without a trip to **Coventry Transport Museum**. Just a short walk away from St Mary's Guildhall, Coventry Transport Museum houses the largest publicly owned collection of British vehicles in the world and tells the fascinating history of Coventry and its people through the rise and fall of its biggest industry.

If you're here during the evening, there are lots of places for you to kick back and relax over a tasty meal with family or 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 a range of diverse eateries, quaint tea rooms 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 hangouts, Coventry has a wealth of music and theatre venues, hosting international music superstars, touring West End productions, critically acclaimed drama, and hilarious 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.



Coventry Music Museum



Coventry Cathedral

OR EVEN MORE...

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 a lovely 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 retail quarter 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 options.

If you're looking to make a splash during your stay, you can't miss a session inside our exhilarating waterpark, **The Wave**, the UK's only city centre waterpark, where you can try out the six high-octane slides, precision-engineered for maximum fun!

If it's a one-off experience you're after, don't miss **The Reel Store**, the UK's first permanent immersive digital art gallery located in the former home of the Coventry Evening Telegraph newspaper. A space that was once the source of our city's many stories has now been transformed into an

If you're lucky enough to have a little longer in Coventry, then you'll want to know that you're making the most of your overnight stay.

immersive digital gallery, a 360-degree experience, suitable for the whole family.

During the 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** and **The Albany Theatre** both have exciting programmes 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 treat at **Coombe Abbey's Sundae Club**, a stylish, 1950s-inspired diner and takeaway that comes complete with a child-friendly menu of irresistible sweet temptations.

Whilst you're visiting, 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!



Belgrade Theatre © Manuel Harlan



Visit Britain © Nemorin



FarGo Village Visit Britain © Nemorin

MEET IN THE MIDDLE

Did you know Coventry and Warwickshire is also a **key destination for meetings, events, incentive travel and conferences**? Here are five reasons why you should consider the region for your next event.

AN UNRIVALLED LOCATION IN THE HEART OF THE UK

Our central location makes us incredibly accessible for UK and international delegates. 60 minutes from central London by train, direct access to five motorways, and Birmingham Airport is just 15 minutes by road and rail.

WORLD-CLASS VENUES

We benefit from a huge selection of quality venues including academic institutes, convention centres, country houses, cathedrals and castles.

All our venues are making progressive steps to ensure your event can be sustainable, ensuring corporate objectives for climate change can be achieved.

If incentive travel is your focus, we can offer bespoke, unique experiences for your guests.

OUTSTANDING SECTOR STRENGTHS

Our rich history of innovation began in the 19th century, as inventors of the motor car, bicycle and jet engine. To this day, we continue to be world leaders in the sectors of automotive, advanced engineering, autonomous vehicles and low carbon technologies.

Alongside the supporting academic excellence at our two universities, Coventry University and the University of Warwick, we are also the largest gaming cluster in the UK.

HERITAGE, CULTURE AND SPORT

In 2021, Coventry was the UK City of Culture, therefore you can expect rich cultural experiences during your time with us. Whether it be music, theatre, art, history or sport, there is something for everyone. We pride ourselves on organising memorable



social programmes for your delegates, giving them a sense of place away from their conference venue, adding to their delegate experience.

VALUE FOR MONEY

You can also expect incredible value for money!

Hosting your event outside of London, moving into the region but within easy reach

The Coventry and Warwickshire Convention Bureau brings unbiased local knowledge and well-established partnerships with our venues and suppliers. This saves event organisers time and money. The best bit: our services to you are **FREE OF CHARGE**.

Our commitment is to grow the local visitor economy, and support our local hospitality venues, to ensure the long-term prosperity of the region.

To find out more, call us on **024 7697 5526**, visit [conferencecoventryandwarwickshire.co.uk](https://www.conferencecoventryandwarwickshire.co.uk) or email cwconference@destinationcoventry.co.uk



The Slate

of the capital, you can expect to make savings of at least a third. Not only will your budget be richer, so will your delegate experience! Hold your event away from the hustle and bustle and venture into the heart of the UK countryside, for something really different.

GETTING HERE

Coventry Railway Station

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

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.

TRAIN

Coventry's impressively improved railway station opened in 2022 and has enhanced access to platforms, shops and a new entrance from Warwick Road. A car park and cycle storage is included in the development, as well as a new bus interchange accessible by a walkway from the station.

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.

ROAD

With easy access to the national motorway network, it's simple 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.

Making cycling in the city safer, there are new, dedicated cycleways on several of Coventry's main arterial routes in and out of the city centre. You can plan your cycling journey via the Visit Coventry website using our innovative travel assistant service.

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, Bolt and Ola are also available.



Coventry Visitor Information Centre

COVENTRY VISITOR INFORMATION CENTRES

Our Visitor Information team can provide the very best in local knowledge, history and recommendations on how to make the most of your stay in Coventry. With advice on what to see and do, the finest places to eat and sleep, a trip to one of our Visitor Information Centres outside Coventry Railway Station and within Pool Meadow Bus & Coach Station, should really be your first port of call when visiting our city.



Coventry Electric Bus

OUT & ABOUT



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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
- N** London Road Cemetery
- O** Charterhouse
- P** The Reel Store
- Q** Old Grammar School

TRANSPORT

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

PUBLIC SERVICES

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



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