

Visit  
**Hull**

# Old Town and City Guide

Explore every corner of  
Hull's vibrant city centre

[VisitHull.org](https://www.visithull.org)

**#MustBeHull**



# For a great day out, It Must Be Hull

Step into Hull Old Town and explore centuries of rich history, striking Elizabethan and Georgian architecture and fantastic museums.

Wander cobbled streets and discover the city's fascinating past while enjoying the vibrant social scene. This historic quarter blends culture, character and charm - from quaint shops to buzzing bars and restaurants.



Hull in 1880



**Don't miss the Museums Quarter or the unique Fish Trail, with sea creatures in the pavement leading to iconic cultural landmarks. Admire historic High Street architecture, visit the remains of Beverley Gate, or enjoy a pint in one of the city's oldest pubs.**

Just a short walk away, modern attractions like The Deep aquarium and the impressive Murdoch's Connection takes you to the bustling Fruit Market and Marina, where you'll find stylish places to eat, drink and unwind.

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For history through the ages...

# It Must Be Hull

Visit Hull's Old Town and experience the city's rich heritage

**Holy Trinity Church** was built.

1285

**Merchant William De La Pole** was made the first Mayor of Kings Town upon Hull.

1296-1299

1332

**Trinity House** was founded as a religious guild

1369

**The first whalers sailed from Hull**



1594

**The siege of Hull** was the first major action of the English Civil War.

1621-1678

1642-1646

The revolution of 1688 is commemorated in the city with a **magnificent golden statue** of the "Great Deliverer" King Billy

1735

1743

King Edward I acquired Wyke from the Monks of Meaux Abbey to establish a northern port, which was **renamed Kings Town upon Hull**.

**The Old Grammar School** was built. It's now the **Hands on History Museum**.



Poet and politician **Andrew Marvell** was born in 1621

**Maister House**, was rebuilt after a fire. Although it's now occupied, the entrance hall and staircase are open to the public.

The Dock Company, **the first statutory dock company in Britain** was formed.

1773

**Hull attained city status**

1780

1897

Aviator **Amy Johnson** was born and raised in Hull. She was the first female to fly solo from Britain to Australia.

1903-1941

1914

**King George Dock** opened.

World War II saw **95% of housing in Hull** damaged - making it the worst-hit city outside of London.

1939-1945

**Humber Dock** closed after more than 150 years of use and **reopened as Hull Marina**.



1963

**St Stephen's Shopping Centre** opened

2007

**Hull rejoins the reformed Hanseatic League**.

2012

**Hull announced as next UK City of Culture**

2013

Hull enjoys its year in the spotlight as the **UK City of Culture 2017**.

2017

2025

**Looking Forward**

Hull Maritime is refurbishing four historic sites and two ships, inviting visitors to explore Hull's maritime history and contributions.



Whether you're looking to reflect or be entertained  
**Trinity Square**  
has it all.



At the heart of the square stands Hull Minster, dating back to the 13th century. Recently transformed, it's now a popular venue for arts, events and exhibitions, complete with a new café and visitor experience.



**Uncover hidden treasures, savor artisan cuisine, and explore unique independent shops in one of the city's most charming neighbourhoods.**



Trinity Square is a great spot to pause and soak up the atmosphere. Surrounded by pubs, bars and local landmarks, it hosts events throughout the year – from outdoor markets to pop-up performances.

**Trinity Market is a real haven for food lovers.**



Trinity Market is a buzzing hub of street food and local independent traders. From vegan bakes and gourmet burgers to freshly brewed coffee, there's something for everyone – plus regular live music and special events.

# The vibrant Fruit Market is the independent heart of Hull



The cobbled streets of the old town Fruit Market have now become the heart of Hull's Buzzing independent cultural scene.

This bustling corner of the city is alive night and day, with something fresh to offer visitors throughout the year. This is a place where there is always something happening – from live music and performance to art exhibitions, comedy, and pop-up markets.

Food and drink are also high on the agenda, with the area home to some of Yorkshire's finest independent restaurants, cafes, bakeries and bars you'll be spoilt for choice.



All of this comes with fantastic views such as Hull Marina and The Deep, while Murdoch's Connection, which links this area to Hull Old Town – enjoys stunning views and the seating provides a handy spot to enjoy a tasty alfresco treat or a pitstop on your day out.



Search  
events here:



# Culture Hull

**Hull wears its culture on its sleeve - and we're not shy about it.**

Ever since our year as UK City of Culture in 2017, the city's been buzzing with creativity. In March, Colliderfest mixes science, art, and evening spectacle for a weekend that's anything but ordinary.



Summer's where things really kick off though - Humber Street Sesh brings hundreds of unsigned bands to the marina, while Freedom Festival fills the



streets with world-class theatre, circus, and surprise encounters. And of course, Pride in Hull throws one of the friendliest, fiercest parties in the calendar.

Hull's art scene is just as bold. You'll find major exhibitions at the stunning Ferens Art Gallery, home to everything from old masters to Turner Prize nominees. In the Fruit Market, Humber Street Gallery keeps things fresh and contemporary, with edgy installations and a rooftop bar that's perfect for post-gallery chat.



If theatre's your thing, you're in luck. From the legendary Hull Truck to the traditional

and refurbished glamour of Hull New Theatre, and the bold, genre-bending work of Middle Child, you'll find drama in all the right ways. For live shows, there's something for every vibe: the grand Hull City Hall, or venues like Social, which blends live music, theatre and comedy in a cosy, creative space. Want the big names? Head to Connexin Live Arena. After something cult, chaotic and a little more intimate?

Try the legendary New Adelphi Club.



## **In short...**

**Hull's cultural scene is amazing. Come curious - you'll leave inspired.**

**CultureHull.com**

Hull loves its culture - and we're proud to show it off.

# City Trails

Take a stroll around the streets of Hull's Old Town and discover the city's rich heritage and beautiful architecture.



Scan QR codes for routes

## The Look Up Trail

Learn about the history of Whitefriargate.

Allow 30 minutes



## The Hull Fish Trail

Follow the fish and enjoy the rich heritage of this once famous fishing city.

Allow at least 3 hours



## Lord Mayors Centenary Plaques Trail

Discover the story of local heroes and Hull's fascinating past.

Allow 3 hours



## Blue Plaque Trail

A guide to our distinctive City Heritage Plaques.

Allow at least 3 hours



## The Larkin Trail

Discover a poet's landscape as you follow the Larkin Trail.

Allow 3 hours



LARKIN100

## The Ale Trail

A guide to the traditional pubs in Hull Old Town with a historical story to tell.

Allow a half a day



## Hull: Yorkshire's Maritime City Tour

Discover 800 years of maritime heritage.

Allow 2 ½ hours



## The Wilberforce Trail

Follow in the footsteps of William Wilberforce.

Allow 1 hour



## Hullywood

Explore Hull's star-studded streets.

Allow 2 hours



# Hull: Yorkshire's Maritime City

Hull's proud seafaring past is at the heart of a multi-million-pound project to transform the city into a world-class maritime destination in Yorkshire.

Supported by Hull City Council and The National Lottery Heritage Fund, the project will showcase over 800 years of maritime history, telling stories of invention, triumph, disaster, and global trade across four

key sites and two historic vessels.

Hull's Grade II\* listed Maritime Museum is undergoing a major refurbishment, bringing new life to the former headquarters of the Town Dock Company. The Spurn Lightship, fully restored by Dunston Ship Repairs Ltd, will reopen soon at Hull Marina with improved access and new displays.



Once stationed off Spurn Point, it helped sailors safely navigate the Humber estuary.

The Arctic Corsair, Hull's last distant-water sidewinder trawler, is being restored and will reopen 2026 at the regenerated North End Shipyard.

This historic area will also feature a new visitor centre and highlight Hull's shipbuilding heritage — even the link to Robinson Crusoe, whose fictional voyage began from the port.

Together with improvements to Queens Gardens, this project reconnects Hull to its waterfront and invites visitors to explore its rich maritime legacy.



Learn more at [maritimehull.co.uk](http://maritimehull.co.uk)



Hanseatic Towns

# Hanse Hull

## A Trading Legacy That Shaped a City

In the mid-13th century, seafaring merchants from across Northern Europe joined together to form the Hanseatic League as a way to pursue their shared economic and diplomatic interests independent of local kings and princes.

Throughout the North Sea and Baltic Sea region, up to 200 largely independent Dutch and German towns and cities such as Lubeck and Hamburg banded together to get the best deal for their merchants in Kingdoms such as England and Denmark.

Hull's strategic position and thriving merchant class made it a natural trading partner. Ships arrived daily with timber, canvas, furs, and iron, while Hull exported wool, cloth, lead and salt. William De La Pole, a prominent wool merchant and Hull's first Lord Mayor, helped fund the city's defences and became a key lender to King Edward III.

Dutch influence, especially, left a lasting mark. You can still see it today in the Dutch-style gables along High Street, the black ledger stones in Hull Minster, and the brickwork of Wilberforce House. Even 20th-century conversions like the Empress pub echo this architectural heritage.

1980 saw the reformed cultural alliance of former Hanseatic towns which in 2006, Kings Lynn became

the first English member of the newly formed Hanseatic League; it was joined by Hull in 2012.

Today, six towns and cities along England's east coast are members of the modern Hanseatic League: Boston, Ipswich, Great Yarmouth, King's Lynn, Hull – and most recently, Beverley which joined in 2021.



# For Family Entertainment across the city It Must Be Hull

Hull is a vibrant city brimming with exciting activities for visitors of all ages. Whether you're seeking adventure, family fun, or a unique experience, Hull has something to offer.

**St Stephen's:** Hull's top family shopping and leisure spot. Enjoy popular High Street brands and

fun family activities like Crazy golf, rock climbing, trampolining, and a cinema. There's plenty to eat with a range of family-friendly restaurants and cafes. With over 800 parking spaces available, visiting is simple and convenient. Whether you're shopping, dining, or playing, St Stephen's offers everything you need for a fun family day out.



**Escape Rooms:** Challenge your wits at venues like Escape Room Hull, Take the Exit and Enigma rooms with rooms suitable for families and first-timers.



**Princes Quay:** Princes Quay offers a fantastic mix of shops, a Vue Cinema, a 12-lane bowling alley, soft play, Quasar, and tasty dining options. Uniquely built on stilts above the historic Princes Dock dating back to 1829, the centre features a stunning central atrium that regularly hosts events,

activities, and community projects. Whether you're shopping, dining, or enjoying entertainment, Princes Quay is the perfect destination for the whole family to enjoy.

Discover the dynamic offerings of Hull and create unforgettable memories during your visit.



From breakfast to dinner, Humber Street is buzzing with choice. Think fine dining, casual eats, global flavours, and tasty takeaways – all by the scenic marina.

Stroll across Murdoch's Connection to Princes Dock Street for waterside cocktails and outdoor dining. Or head to Trinity Square for pubs, restaurants, and world street food.

**A treat for your tastebuds**

# It Must Be Hull

Hull's food and drink scene goes way beyond fish and chips (though our chippies are legendary!).



**Old Town is famous for its fantastic pubs.**

The Old Town is full of historic pubs - enjoy a pint where the past comes to life, or follow the Hull Ale Trail to uncover fascinating stories along the way.



Hull's bar scene is thriving, with bottomless brunches, bar snacks, craft drinks, and cocktails – perfect for a relaxed afternoon or a night out.

**Dine and Drink venues:**



## For Independent Shopping, It Must Be Hull



Hull's city centre is full of hidden gems and indie favourites – from quirky gift shops to vintage treasures and creative makers.



Explore Trinity Market for artisan coffee, handmade treats, and unique local products. Just next door, Hepworth Arcade is packed with character, featuring long-standing independents like Dinsdale's Joke Shop and Beasley's vintage.



Around the corner, Fruit Market is home to galleries, boutiques, and standout vintage stores. And for something really special, head to Paragon Arcade – a Victorian gem filled with one-of-a-kind stores, stylish cafés, and local makers.



## Arctic Corsair

Hull's last distant-water sidewinder trawler, is being restored and will reopen at the regenerated North End Shipyard in summer 2026. For more information visit [maritimehull.co.uk](http://maritimehull.co.uk)



**Reopening 2026**

## Dinostar (Humber Street)

An interactive dinosaur museum for kids with a T-rex skull, touchable fossils, and sound effects. Great for young explorers.



## Beverley Gate/Civil War (Whitefriargate)

Stand at the historic gateway where, in 1642, Hull's governor Sir John Hotham famously denied entry to King Charles I — a defining moment that helped spark the English Civil War.



## Ferens

A free gallery with a standout collection from Old Masters to contemporary works by artists like Gillian Wearing and Stanley Spencer.

## Blaydes House (High Street, across Alfred Gelder Street)

Built around 1740 for the influential Blaydes family, this surviving Georgian merchant's house is now owned by the University of Hull. Visits are by appointment.



## Hands on History Museum (South Church Side)

Located in William Wilberforce's former school, this museum explores Victorian Hull and ancient Egypt in an accessible, family-friendly space.



## Blaydes Shipyard (High Street, across Alfred Gelder Street)

Located across Alfred Gelder Street, this was the original construction site of the HMS Bounty, built in 1784 as the collier Bethia before being purchased by the Royal Navy. The nearby North End Shipyard is the future home of the Arctic Corsair.



## Hull and East Riding Museum (High Street)

Explore 235 million years of history, from mammoths and Romans to medieval warriors, brought to life in immersive galleries.

■ Numbers refer to locations on map on pages 34-35

### Hull History Centre (Worship Street)

This public archive brings together centuries of records, from maps, manuscripts and photographs to newspapers and personal papers. It offers a rich insight into Hull's people, places and past – including renowned figures such as Amy Johnson and Philip Larkin.

09



FREE ENTRY

### Maister House (High Street)

Hull's only National Trust property. Its Palladian staircase and historic architecture offer a glimpse of 18th-century grandeur. Currently closed to the general public.

12

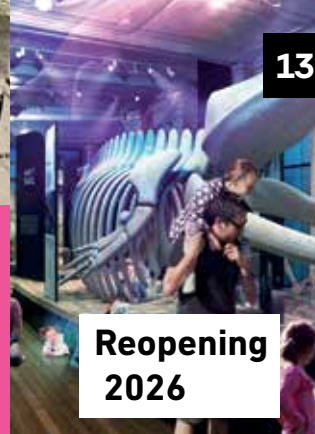


Only open for Heritage Open Days

### Maritime Museum (Queen Victoria Square)

Set within a grand Victorian building, the refurbished Maritime Museum will feature world-class displays, exploring Hull's seafaring past through powerful stories, rare artefacts and immersive new galleries.

13



Reopening 2026

### Hull Minster (Trinity Square)

This magnificent building is over 700 years old and was granted Minster status in 2017. With events throughout the year, it remains a vibrant part of the Old Town.

10



FREE ENTRY

### Queen Victoria Square

The heart of Hull City Centre. Home to Ferens Art Gallery, the Maritime Museum, and Hull City Hall.

14



### Humber Street Gallery (Humber Street)

Hull's leading contemporary art space, located in the creative heart of the Fruit Market. Humber Street Gallery hosts a changing programme of exhibitions, events, film, and design, alongside a café and rooftop bar with views across the city.

11



FREE ENTRY

### Scale Lane Bridge

An impressive, state-of-the-art swing bridge that links Hull Old Town to the east bank of the River Hull. Designed to carry pedestrians while it moves, the bridge also incorporates a soundscape that reflects Hull's maritime character.

15



### Spurn Lightship (Hull Marina)

Fully restored and due to reopen with new displays about life aboard and the vessel's role in maritime safety.



16

Reopening soon

### The Deep (Tower Street)

A dramatic aquarium experience with sharks, turtles, sawfish, and penguins. One of Hull's most popular family attractions.

20



Home to 3,500 fish

17

### Statue of King Billy (Market Place)

Located in Market Place, this golden statue of King William III celebrates the Glorious Revolution of 1688 and is one of Hull's most recognised landmarks.



### St Mary's Church (Lowgate)

Dating back to the 14th century, St Mary's is one of Hull's oldest surviving buildings. Restored in the 19th century, it remains a striking example of Gothic Revival architecture.

18



FREE ENTRY

### The Old Pier, Horse Staith & Humber Ferry (Nelson Street)

Before the Humber Bridge, ferries once crossed from the Old Harbour. You can still visit the old pier site on Nelson Street.



21

### Trinity House (Trinity House Lane)

A Grade I-listed building with maritime links dating back to the 14th century. Home to the ancient seafarers' guild of Hull. Regular tours available.

22



23

### Trinity Square/ Trinity Market

Trinity Square is home to an eclectic mix of events throughout the year including Farmers Markets and Freedom Festival and home to Trinity Market, a foodie haven.



FREE ENTRY 19

### Streetlife Museum (Museums Quarter)

Step back into 200 years of transport history, walk a 1940s street, and climb aboard vintage trams and carriages.



30 Numbers refer to locations on map on pages 34-35

### Wilberforce House (High Street)

Birthplace of anti-slavery pioneer William Wilberforce. The museum explores the transatlantic slave trade, its abolition, as well as West African cultures.

24 FREE ENTRY



31

# Hull

did you know...

## The Quirky...



### England's smallest window

Can be found at the George Hotel, Land of Green Ginger in Hull. It is said to have been used as a lookout by the gatekeeper.

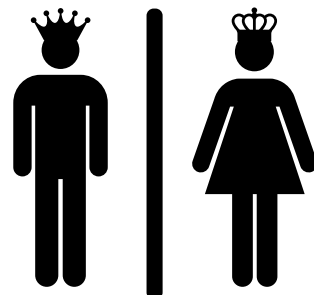
### Cream telephone boxes

Hull is the only place in the country not to have BT provide its telephone services. The Hull Telephone Department was launched in 1904, later becoming Kingston Communications.



### Royals on the Throne

There are 2 statues of monarchs in Hull city centre both are located above public conveniences.



## The Famous...



### William Wilberforce

Fought to end Britain's involvement in the Transatlantic Slave Trade.



### Amy Johnson CBE

Pioneering aviator and the first woman to fly solo from England to Australia in 1930.



### Mick Ronson

Singer, composer, guitarist and producer who achieved critical and commercial success.

### John Venn

English mathematician, logician and philosopher noted for introducing the Venn diagram.



## Did you know...

Hull is the first full fibre broadband city in the country.

Home to the **Humber Bridge**, the world's largest leisure bridge.



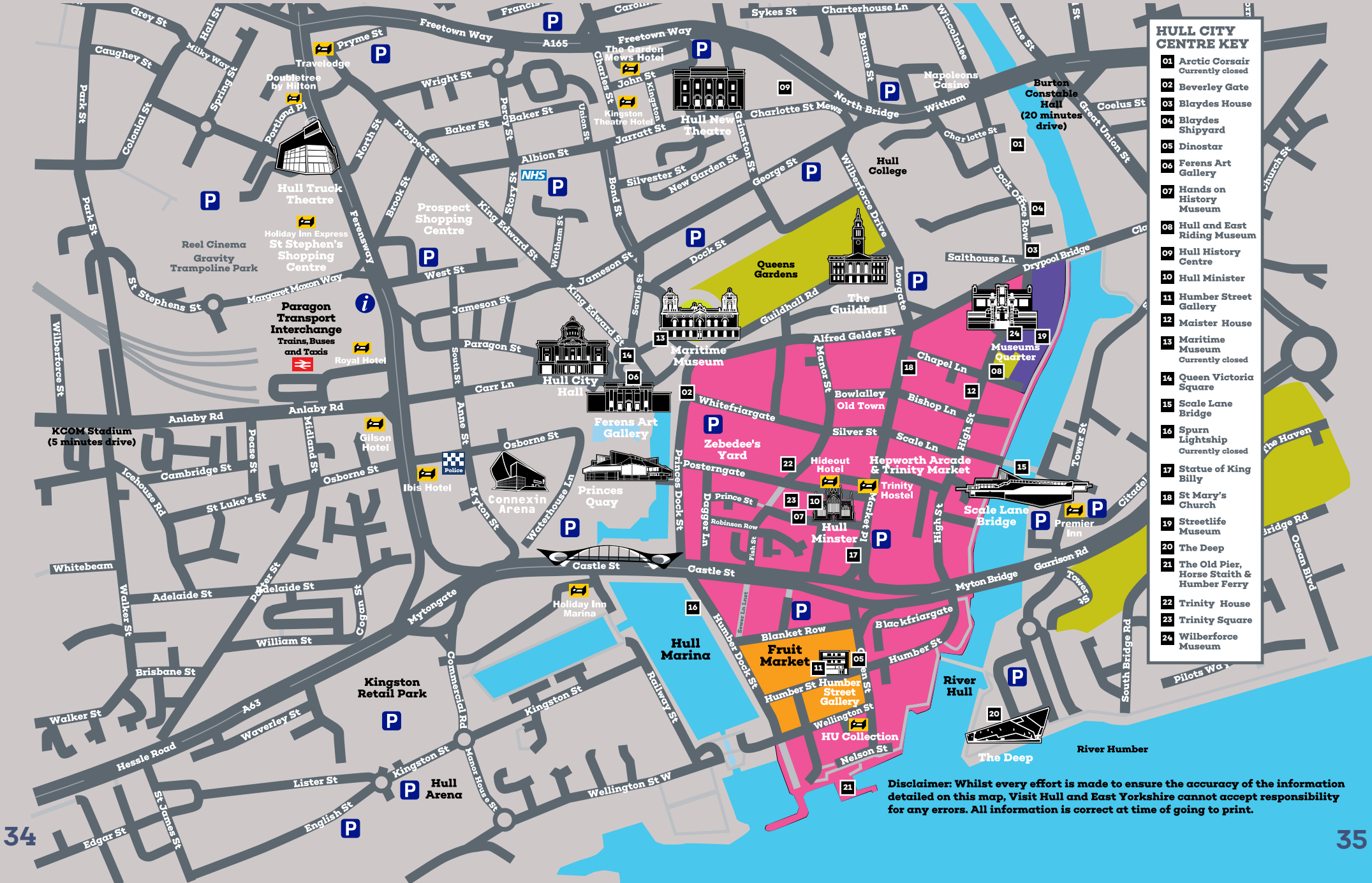
People from Hull are referred to as **Hullensians**.

**Boiled sweets, liquid crystal displays (LCDs) and Lemsip** all had their origins in Hull.



# Let us show you around...

This Map is also available online [www.visithull.org](http://www.visithull.org)  
 A larger version is also available from Hull Visitor Centre.



- ### HULL CITY CENTRE KEY
- 01 Arctic Corsair Currently closed
  - 02 Beverley Gate
  - 03 Blaydes House
  - 04 Blaydes Shipyard
  - 05 Dinostar
  - 06 Ferens Art Gallery
  - 07 Hands on History Museum
  - 08 Hull and East Riding Museum
  - 09 Hull History Centre
  - 10 Hull Minister
  - 11 Humber Street Gallery
  - 12 Maister House
  - 13 Maritime Museum Currently closed
  - 14 Queen Victoria Square
  - 15 Scale Lane Bridge
  - 16 Spurn Lightship Currently closed
  - 17 Statue of King Billy
  - 18 St Mary's Church
  - 19 Streetlife Museum
  - 20 The Deep
  - 21 The Old Pier, Horse Staith & Humber Ferry
  - 22 Trinity House
  - 23 Trinity Square
  - 24 Wilberforce Museum

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# DISCOVER SOMETHING UNIQUELY INDEPENDENT



Visit Trinity Market where you will discover an eclectic mix of independent & creative businesses.



Treat yourself to tastes and cuisines from all over the world and then venture round the stalls to find some amazing treasures.

Featuring live bands, comedy acts and family entertainment at selected times, Trinity Market really is the place to be.



**VISIT** [trinitymarkethull.co.uk](http://trinitymarkethull.co.uk) **FOR MORE INFORMATION**