

Amazing Attractions

There's a huge variety of things to do in Chester.

History lovers will adore **Grosvenor Museum** with its fabulous displays of Roman Tombstones, Art, and Silver and Natural Cheshire gallery. Its Period House shows how we used to live from the 17th century to the 1920's, while the fabulous DVD show chronicles the city's development from dinosaurs to the digital age.

Nearby is the **Dewa Roman Experience** with its time-travelling Roman galley that whisks you away to the streets of Fortress Deva 2000 years ago in a superb reconstruction. It also includes excavations of the original foundations and finds discovered on site plus Roman Soldier Tours around the city all year.

Chester has always been a city of merchants and the **Grosvenor Shopping Centre** brings together the very best high-street brands into a spacious under cover retail centre plus great food outlets. There are several entrances but arguably the best is via Bridge Street Row through **St Michael's Arcade** designed and built in 1909-1911. Simply stunning!



Equally fascinating is **Cheshire Military Museum** at Chester Castle, recounting the history of the County's Regiments and battles they fought across the world from the 17th century to the present day.

Neatly tucked away behind the 19th century Town Hall is **Chester Indoor Market** which offers quirky stalls and houses Chester's only Streetfood hub, Taproom and a communal seating area.

Nearby you can discover art and sculpture from across the world in **Watergate Street Gallery** housed in a stunning Georgian building, where hundreds of paintings by dozens of artists are always on display for enjoyment and purchase. Magical!



That's Entertainment!

You'll find plenty of entertainment at venues throughout the city.

Housed in an art-deco Odeon cinema dating from the 1930's and a spectacular modern extension is the award-winning **Storyhouse** that brings together two theatres, a cinema and a library plus a vibrant cafe bar and restaurant.

Here you can enjoy a host of events ranging from home produced shows and the best touring theatre including comedy, music, drama and dance. Its boutique cinema features the latest releases and independent films, and its beautiful restaurant and bar is the perfect setting to soak up the city's cultural offering.

Summertime, it stages open-air theatre in Grosvenor Park.

Out of Town

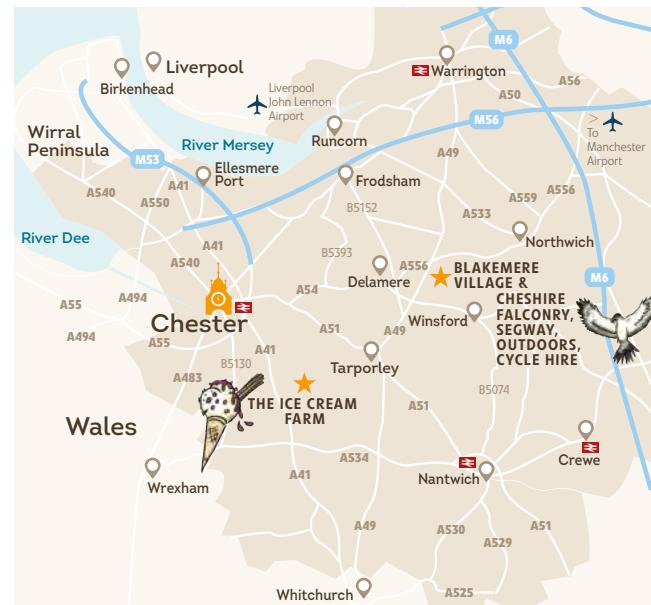
Located just outside of Chester, in Cheshire's glorious countryside, are an outstanding variety of attractions that are well worth a visit.



Children of all ages will simply love **The Ice Cream Farm** at Tattenhall, an adventure park featuring a host of activities, including JCB diggers, quad bikes, golf course plus Europe's largest indoor sand and water play and lots, lots more! As well as an amazing array of activities, there are plenty of places to eat and drink, including the world's largest ice cream shop, selling 50 flavours of award-winning real dairy ice cream!

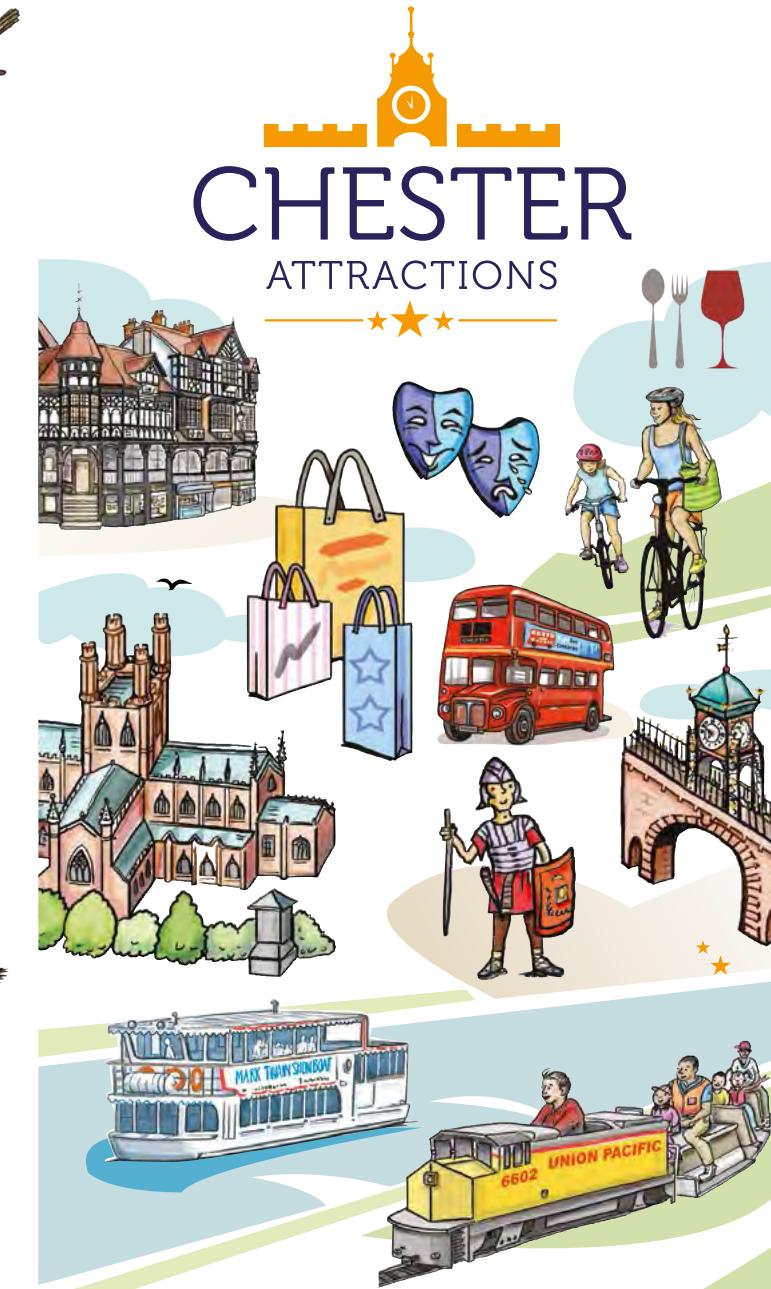
Nearby is **Blakemere Village** near Northwich, where you'll find a vast variety of independent stores in a beautiful Edwardian courtyard setting, ranging from fashion and accessories to antiques and collectibles, crafts and objets d'art plus plenty of places to taste, eat and drink.

Here you can enjoy a host of activities courtesy of **Cheshire Falconry**, **Cheshire Segway**, **Cheshire Cycle Hire**, and **Cheshire Outdoors**, where you can have a go at archery, crazy golf, laser clays, and low ropes or follow Nature Trails through 15 acres of woodland with a puzzle to solve along the way.



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FREE CHESTER MAP



GREAT FUN IN A GREAT CITY
chesterattractions.org.uk

Welcome to CHESTER

It's one of Britain's finest heritage cities with an action-packed history and great treasures from the past.



2000 years ago, the Roman Empire built **Fortress Deva** here to suppress fierce Welsh tribes across the border, and stayed for over 300 years.

They established the pattern of the city's streets, built the original **City Walls** and created the largest **Amphitheatre** ever uncovered in Britain where 7000 spectators watched spectacular events including circuses and gladiatorial combat.

Today, you can follow in the footsteps of **Viking** raiders, discover an **Anglo-Saxon** township ruled over by warrior queen, **Aethelflaeda** - the daughter of **Alfred the Great** and explore **Chester Castle**, built by the **Norman invaders** under the orders of **Hugh Lupus**, a nephew of **William the Conqueror** who also commissioned the creation of the 1000 year old **Cathedral**.



In the Middle Ages, Chester was the **largest port in North West England** and welcomed sailing ships from across the world until the **River Dee** silted up and became unnavigable.

Chester has always been a city built on trade and commerce and 700 years ago its merchants developed the city's unique heritage - the **world-famous 'Rows'**, the two-tier galleries of fascinating shops with their distinctive black and white, half-timbered style.

The local economy flourished and prospered until the outbreak of the **English Civil War** when the city supported King Charles I in his battle with the forces of Oliver Cromwell for control of the State.



The nearby **Battle of Rowton Moor** in 1645 sealed the King's fate: the Royalist city of Chester was under siege for 2 years by Parliamentarian armies and their formidable cannons until starvation and disease forced the citizens to surrender.

Chester has always shown resilience in the face of adversity and recovered to become once again a major centre for business, its success reflected in the splendour of buildings constructed in the **Georgian and Victorian** eras.

Today, it's a bustling city renowned for its great shops, restaurants and nightlife surrounded by architectural gems from the past 2000 years just waiting to be discovered.

Explore and enjoy!



Must-See Heritage

The 2000 year old city features a host of heritage attractions.

These include **the most complete City Walls** in Britain built by the Roman Empire, extended and strengthened by an Anglo-Saxon princess to keep the Vikings at bay; fortified by Norman invaders; bombarded by Cromwell's cannons, and developed by the Victorians into a pleasant 2 mile walkway that visitors can enjoy today.

Here you can also enjoy a visit to the **oldest racecourse** in the country, stand in **the largest Roman Amphitheatre** ever uncovered in Britain, or explore the retail delights of the 700 year old **Rows two-tier shopping galleries**, which are unique to Chester.

In the heart of the City is the 1000 year old **Cathedral** built by Norman invaders on the site of a Roman temple and changed across the centuries by different architectural styles.

Its many highlights include the finest mediaeval carvings in Europe in the quire and misericords, and the Refectory Café (where monks used to eat in silence and listen to Bible readings).

Equally stunning is the iconic **Eastgate Clock** built to celebrate Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee in 1897 and one of the most photographed timepieces in the world.



Nearby, is the City's original Cathedral - **St John's Church** built by the armies of William the Conqueror on the site of the earlier Anglo-Saxon building. Step inside and marvel at the massive Norman pillars and stand in the Nave that's said to display the finest example in Europe of the transition from the Romanesque to the Gothic architectural style.



Trips & Tours

Chester offers a great choice of trips and tours to help you find out about the city's action-packed past.

The Chester Tour with a City Guide packs 2000 years of history into a 90 minute walk, while **Chester Ghost Tours** provide an evening of fun and phantoms. You can also join a **Roman Soldier** from the Dews Roman Experience and find out what life was like in Fortress Deva; or pedal back in time with **Chester Cycle Tours** for a fun guided bike tour.

Equally enjoyable are the leisurely sightseeing trips around the city with **Sightseeing Chester** aboard their iconic London Routemaster Bus with live commentary en route, while a ride on the **Grosvenor Park Miniature Railway** is a delightful way to explore this 150 year old, floral masterpiece.

Fancy a fun-filled adventure tour around North Wales or The Lake District? Head for Chester Railway Station and step aboard the **Busbybus** for an all-day excursion exploring the castles, countryside and coast of North Wales, or take a trip to the Lake District and enjoy the breathtaking beauty of its rugged mountain fells and lakes and take to the water with a steamer sailing.



Or take to the water all year on a pleasure cruise along the River Dee with **Chesterboat** sailing past beautiful riverside properties and countryside while a fascinating commentary tells you about Chester's rich history and prominent buildings. Magical!





01 BLAKEMERE VILLAGE

Sat Nav: CW8 2EB Tel: 01606 883261
www.blakemerevillage.com

Discover boutique shops and fun activities in the heart of the Cheshire countryside complete with great food and drink outlets.

02 BUSYBUS

Tel: 0844 585 4444 www.busybus.co.uk
Adventure tours around North Wales and the Lake District.

03 CHESHIRE CYCLE HIRE

Sat Nav: CW8 2EB Tel: 01606 882223
www.cheshirecyclehire.co.uk

Enjoy the pleasures of pedal power in a woodland setting.

04 CHESHIRE FALCONRY

Sat Nav: CW8 2EB Tel: 01606 882223
www.cheshirefalconry.com

Get up close and personal with birds of prey and watch them soar and swoop.

05 CHESHIRE MILITARY MUSEUM

Tel: 01244 327617
www.cheshiremilitarmuseum.co.uk

Quick march to The Castle and step back in time to trace the history of the County's regiments and the battles they fought across the world from the 17th century to the present day through exhibitions, reconstructions and military machinery.

06 CHESHIRE OUTDOORS

Sat Nav: CW8 2EB
Tel: 01606 882223
www.cheshire-outdoors.com
Try your hand at archery, crazy golf, laser clays, or follow woodland Nature Trails.

07 CHESHIRE SEGWAY

Sat Nav: CW8 2EB
Tel: 01606 888090 / 882223
www.cheshiresegway.co.uk
Step aboard a segway for a journey along a forest trail.

08 CHESTERBOAT

Tel: 01244 325394
www.chesterboat.co.uk
Relax on a River Dee cruise departing from The Groves. 30 minute city cruises sail every half hour from 11am in summer, and every hour on winter weekends. Extra special are 2 hour cruises at 12noon and 2.30pm to the Iron Bridge in the summertime.

09 CHESTER CYCLE TOURS

Tel: 07899 050003
www.chestercycletours.co.uk
Explore Chester's most fascinating places on a fun guided bike tour. Tours take about two hours with an average travelling speed of 1,000 years an hour!

10 CHESTER INDOOR MARKET

Tel: 01244 973040
www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk
Tucked away behind the Town Hall, the 50 year old market features a host of traditional and quirky stalls and a diverse range of locally sourced food. Open: 8am-5pm Mon-Sat.

11 CHESTER GHOST TOUR

www.ghostcity.co.uk
Tel: 07790498898
7.30pm, Sat (Dec-May),
Fri & Sat (June-August),
Thurs, Fri & Sat (Sept-Nov)
plus extra tours at Halloween.
All tours depart from the Town Hall. Book online or buy tickets from the Town Hall Visitor Information Centre.

12 THE CHESTER TOUR

www.chestertours.org.uk
Discover 2000 years of the city's history with a qualified Guide visiting all the main sights. Daily at 10.30am all year (and again at 2pm Easter-end October). All tours start at the Town Hall.

13 DEWA ROMAN EXPERIENCE

Tel: 01244 343407
www.dewaromanexperience.co.uk
A Roman galley takes you back 2000 years to experience life in Fortress Deva and see its original foundations in enthralling excavations. Roman Soldier Tours of Chester are also available.

14 GROSVENOR MUSEUM

Tel: 01244 972197
www.westcheshiremuseums.co.uk
The city's flagship museum is a treasure-house of heritage featuring Art, Silver and Natural Cheshire galleries.

15 GROSVENOR PARK MINIATURE RAILWAY

Tel: 07530 397079
www.gpmr.co.uk
Exhilarating rides aboard a variety of tiny trains for children of all ages around a floral treasure.

16 GROSVENOR SHOPPING CENTRE

Tel: 01244 342942
www.thegrosvenorcentre.co.uk
The city's premier retail experience showcasing big name brands in a stylish setting.

17 THE ICE CREAM FARM

Tel: 0800 133 7000
www.theicecreamfarm.co.uk
An epic adventure park set in the Cheshire countryside with a host of activities for families to enjoy.

18 SIGHTSEEING CHESTER

www.sightseeingchester.com
Discover 2000 years of Chester's exciting, action-packed past with a trip aboard an iconic red Routemaster double-decker bus with its hop-on, hop-off service and commentary en route.

19 ST JOHN'S CHURCH

Tel: 07811 239756
www.parishofchester.com
Chester's first Cathedral built by Norman invaders on the site of an Anglo-Saxon church and possibly an earlier pagan temple is an architectural delight. It became a principal place of pilgrimage in the Middle Ages and its organ was first used at the Coronation of Queen Victoria.

20 STORYHOUSE

Tel: 01244 409113
www.storyhouse.co.uk
A unique building featuring two theatres showcasing new in-house productions, as well as quality touring musicals, dance, drama, music and comedy. Its boutique cinema shows handpicked new releases as well as cult and classic films. Check out its cafe bar, restaurant and a pioneering new library open until 11pm every day.

21 WATERGATE STREET GALLERY

Tel: 01244 345698
www.watergatestreetgallery.co.uk
Explore Chester's largest commercial art gallery located in the historic Watergate Street, the route to the Port of Chester in bygone days. It showcases the work of local, national and international artists and sculptors and also hosts special temporary exhibitions.