

VISITOR

CONFERENCE

TRADE

VISITLEEDS



CHANGE



HOME

THINGS TO DO

WHAT'S ON

WHERE TO STAY

MAPS & MORE

INSPIRE ME

18 THINGS TO TRY IN LEEDS IN 2018

HAS THE NEW YEAR LEFT YOU INSPIRED TO TRY SOMETHING NEW? LUCKILY, THERE ARE LOTS OF EXPERIENCES TO ENJOY IN LEEDS.

WHY NOT TRY...

1. INDEPENDENT FOOD AND DRINK

2. A NIGHT AT THE OPERA

3. A TRIATHLON

4. THE FREE WATER TAXI

5. A RELAXING SPA-RETREAT

6. INTERNATIONAL CRICKET AT A HISTORIC VENUE

7. AN OUTDOOR CONCERT IN THE CITY CENTRE

8. LEEDS PIANO COMPETITION

9. THE LOCAL BEER

10. AN AWE-INSPIRING BALLET

11. AN AFTERNOON EXPLORING ART

12. STREET FOOD FROM AROUND THE WORLD

13. A FESTIVAL WITH A DIFFERENCE

14. A THEATRE SHOW

15. GOING TO A GIG

16. LEEDS LGBT* PRIDE

17. A NIGHT OUT WITH A DIFFERENCE

18. LEEDS CHRISTMAS

1. FEASTING ON FOOD FROM A LEEDS' INDEPENDENTS

Leeds saw the biggest rise of independent restaurant openings in the country last year, tying with Newcastle for the top spot, so there are plenty of places to sink your teeth into. You can eat your way through the day without needing to call into a chain. Try breakfast at **The Greedy Pig** or **Olive & Rye**, coffee and cake at **Layne's Espresso** or **North Star Coffee**, lunch at **LIVIN Italy** or **The Cross Keys**, afternoon tea at **Just Grand! Vintage Tea Room** or **Le Chalet** and dinner at **Vice & Virtue** or **The Oxford Place** (which just happens to be entirely gluten free!).

Plus, with so many of them making the Michelin Guide (**Bundobust**, **Ox Club**, **Stockdales of Yorkshire**, **Tharavadu** & **The Foundry Wine Bar**) you're guaranteed some of the best

dishes around.

Leeds' love of Independent is celebrated with a two week festival in May; **Leeds Indie Food Fest!**



2. A NIGHT AT THE OPERA

Opera North are working hard to change people's perceptions of opera by creating contemporary, comical productions and modernising the classics. New to opera? You can get a ticket for just £10! There's no need to worry about dress-code, jeans are fine, and many of their operas are sung in English. 'Opera' is as broad a genre as 'film' — there are so many different styles, and the music of one composer sounds utterly different to that of another. So what's to lose? You might just love it!

3. A TRI

The city is limbering up to once again host the pinnacle in triathlon competition; **The ITU World Triathlon Series 9-10 June 2018** — and you can have a go! This prestigious event provides more than 5,000 amateur triathletes with a unique opportunity to compete on the same course as the world's best. If participating isn't for you, then make sure you don't miss out on joining thousands of spectators who will witness the world's fastest triathletes race around the city centre of Leeds in a thrilling showcase of endurance and strategy.



4. THE FREE WATER TAXI

Arguably the cutest way to travel, hop on the little yellow boat **Twee or brother boat Drie** at Granary Wharf near to the train station and chug along the River Aire to Leeds Dock where you'll find the Royal Armouries Museum and cafes/restaurants. This 10 minute trip may be short but it will brighten your day and it's free!

5. A RELAXING SPA-RETREAT

Leeds is known for being a buzzing, exciting city but it's also the perfect place to relax with wonderful spas on our doorstep and even some in the city.

Relax in the roof top spa and garden at **Rudding Park**, winner of Best Newcomer at the Good Spa Awards or soak up the luxury of **Oulton Hall**; they do a scrumptious afternoon tea too! **Chevin Country Park Hotel & Spa** is set in beautiful woodlands and close to the charming market town of Otley or wind down with a massage at **Thorpe Park Hotel**.

Stay in the city centre and enjoy a treatment at the **Crowne Plaza Hotel**, **Lush Spa**, **The Clarins Skin Spa** in Victoria Gate or **Liz Earle** in Victoria Quarter.



6. INTERNATIONAL CRICKET AT A HISTORIC VENUE

What better introduction to cricket then an **international match at Yorkshire Country Cricket Club's** home of Headingley Cricket Ground.

Headingley has been hosting international cricket since 1899 and in 2018 the famous old ground will host three internationals; England vs Pakistan Test Match 1st June, England vs New Zealand Royal London Women's One-Day International 7th July and England vs India One-Day International 17th July.

7. AN OUTDOOR CONCERT IN THE HEART OF THE CITY CENTRE

Every summer **Millennium Square** becomes a hub of energy and excitement with a calendar of live music, screenings and festivals. One of the not to be missed events is the incredible Symphonic Sounds of Back to Basics, which will return to the square on Friday 27 July 2018, featuring a unique collaboration between the Orchestra of Opera North, legendary Back to Basics DJ Dave Beer and a line-up of special guests!



8. LEEDS INTERNATIONAL PIANO COMPETITION

The **Leeds International Piano Competition**, or 'The Leeds' as it is commonly known, is such a huge event that it only takes place every three years – so be sure not to miss it! Returning to the city in 2018, the competition attracts pianist from around the world to compete for the coveted first place position. And you can buy your ticket to witness the world's best go head to head.



9. THE LOCAL BEER

Leeds is home to a number of wonderful independent breweries like **Leeds Brewery**, **North Brew Co** and **Kirkstall Brewery** and you can try their delicious creations in bars and pubs in the city. If you like to get up close and personal, the guys at **Northern Monk Brewery** will give you a tour and talk you through their process before you head upstairs to the Refectory to sample a few.

The city's love of real ale and craft beer has led to the creation of the **Leeds International Beer Festival** taking place 6th-9th September and promises to be the best yet with four days celebrating craft beer from around the world.

Be sure to call into **Tall Boys Beer Market** and the **Little Leeds Beer House** to pick up some bottles to take home.



10. AN AWE-INSPIRING BALLET

Experience the breath-taking beauty of a performance from **Northern Ballet**. Northern Ballet have won a whole host of awards and take their productions all over the world but you can always catch one of their stunning ballets in their home of Leeds. Their 2018 shows range from *Jayne Eyre* to *The Nutcracker* and *Las Hermanas/ Concerto / Gloria*; a tribute to internationally celebrated choreographer Sir Kenneth MacMillan.

11. AN AFTERNOON EXPLORING ART

Leeds Art Gallery has recently reopened its doors following an extensive refurb and it was worth the wait! Find out for yourself why this is a flagship venue for visual art in Leeds. Then call into the **Henry Moore Institute** next door; a gallery dedicated to sculpture. If you prefer your art more contemporary, **The Tetley** and **Leeds Gallery at Munro House** are the place for you.





12. STREET FOOD FROM AROUND THE WORLD

Try food from around the world without leaving the city. **Kirkgate Market's** new street food dining offers some of the tastiest dishes around. Try Asian bakery Zm Zm, a taste of Istanbul at Mr Mackerel, Bánh & Mee Vietnamese Street Kitchen and, for a local twist, a Yorkshire Pudding wrap from the Yorkshire Wrap Company!

Trinity Kitchen boasts a changing line up of street food vendors, alongside some permanent residents, in its cool and colourful location at the top of Trinity Leeds, so there's always something new to try.

There's authentic American at Chicago Rib Shack, Duck n Roll is a duck lover's dream, fresh and delicious indian street food at Rola Wala plus plenty more to tempt your tastebuds.

13. A FESTIVAL WITH A DIFFERENCE

You may have heard of Leeds Festival, one of the UK's most popular music festivals (a well-deserved accolade) but did you know there are over 80 festivals that take place every year in Leeds?!

There are festivals for **arts, celebration, food and drink, family, outdoor, culture**the list keeps going!

Leeds Waterfront Festival brings the waterways to life and Leeds West Indian Carnival is an explosion of colour and celebration you'll never forget. Light Night transforms the city into a stunning collection of installations while Thought Bubble is all about comic art.

Grab a festival wristband for Live at Leeds and head to one of the city centre venues for the best upcoming local bands and established artists or visit a more intimate venue for opera and jazz.



14. A THEATRE SHOW

Don't think a night watching a show is for you? Think again! With such a variety of performances to choose from across Leeds' many great venues you're guaranteed to find something you'll love! Laugh out loud with a comedian at **City Varieties**, take the whole family to a play at **Carriageworks** theatre or be entertained with a touring West End Show at the beautiful **Leeds Grand Theatre**. Catch the world's best artists at the first direct arena, enjoy an original performance at **West Yorkshire Playhouse** and soak up the atmosphere of a concert in the spectacular setting of **Leeds Town Hall**.

Check out some of the city's smaller venues too for something a little difference. Experience cutting edge theatre at **The HUB**, stunning dance performances at **Stanley & Audrey Burton Theatre** and everyone from global stars to up-and-coming talent at **The Venue**.

15. GOING TO A GIG

For music lovers, Leeds has one of the most vibrant live music scenes in the UK. The **first direct arena** hosts the big names on UK tours, but old favourites include **O2 Academy**, **Belgrave Music Hall** and the **Brudenell Social Club**. Brudenell has been a centrepiece of the Leeds music scene for a number of years, and hosts gigs most nights of the week.



16. LEEDS LGBT* PRIDE

If you've never been to **Leeds Pride** you are missing out! Leeds Pride is Yorkshire's Biggest celebration of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Trans* life. The famous Leeds Pride Parade takes over the city centre with a rainbow procession complete with over 60 floats and 5 hours of entertainment! You're guaranteed an incredible weekend at the UK's friendliest pride!

17. A NIGHT OUT WITH A DIFFERENCE

The nightlife in Leeds is arguably some of the best in the country so it's time to pencil in a visit! Relax with a cocktail at one of **Leeds' rooftop venues** for a delectable drink and views over the city then shake your thing on the dancefloor and keep the party going all night at the city's many great **bars and clubs**.

Fancy something a little different? Try burlesque and cabaret show **The Wet Spot**, the wildest bingo game you'll ever play at **Bongo's Bingo** or the hugely popular Saturday cabaret at the **Viaduct**. Budding popstars will love a night at **Mix Karaoke**. Or for those with a competitive streak there's bowling at **Roxy Laynes**, Retro Games Night (amongst lots of other events) at **Belgrave Music Hall** and even beer pong at **Roxy Ball Room**.

Plus, Leeds has been awarded the Purple Flag accreditation meaning you can have an entertaining, diverse, safe and enjoyable night!



18. LEEDS CHRISTMAS

Leeds is a truly enchanting place in Winter and a visit here is sure to get even the sternest of Scrooges into the festive spirit! Enjoy magical and historical markets along with a great food and drink scene, plus plenty of festive fun for all the family. The city's historic stately homes, beautiful parks, public spaces and magnificent Victorian shopping arcades come together to host an array of exciting seasonal activities. Be astounded by the beauty of ballet, cosy up next to the fire with your favourite drink, wonder at the magical lanterns and enjoy a weekend you'll never forget! **This is Christmas with a difference** #LeedsChristmas



WHAT'S ON



Tweets at <https://twitter.com/VisitLeeds>

BLOGS



VISITLEEDS INSTAGRAM

[Accessibility](#) | [Privacy](#) | [Contact Us](#) | [Site Map](#) | [Terms & Conditions](#)

VisitLeeds | +44 (0) 113 378 6977 | tourinfo@leeds.gov.uk

VISITLEEDS

Leeds
inspired

Leeds
CITY COUNCIL

You are accepting third-party cookies.

POWERED BY NVG

Produced by Janine Griffiths from Markateur on behalf of VisitLeeds.