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**DE MONTFORT
UNIVERSITY**
LEICESTER • BEDFORD



essential guide to
leicester
2004

This guide has been specially compiled and reviewed for you.
We hope you enjoy finding your way around Leicester.

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Leicester - a home for students

Mention Leicester and most people think of Gary Lineker the celebrity crisp thief. Some may conjure up an image of a shy bespectacled teenage diarist Adrian Mole. Others perhaps would look to the world of sport for an idea of Leicester, though given the recent performance of the football team this is probably truer of Rugby fans than anyone else!

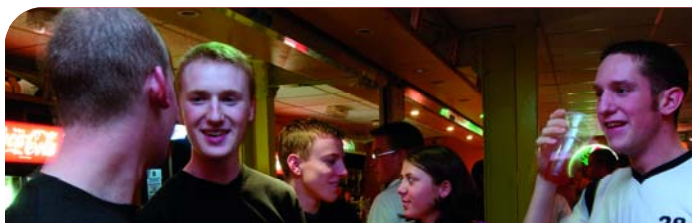
However, Leicester is truly a first-class city for students to live and study in. Situated in the heart of England, Leicester is where all points of the country meet; where cultures mix and mingle.

It's the place you'll find loads of sports, award-winning restaurants, great shopping, a vibrant nightlife, a leading comedy festival, theatre, the arts and much more. This guide will provide information on things to do and places to go in Leicester, as you come to learn, study and have fun!

DID YOU KNOW

One thing that may puzzle you about Leicester or the East Midlands is the lingo. From the little old lady on the market stall to the bus driver, don't be surprised at the strong nasal tones, weak final vowel sounds and general vowel-heavy accent that comes through with 'cheers, me duck' or 'alright, me duck'!

My view...



Graduate Shaun Henderson writes...

Living away from home for the first time and coming to a city like Leicester can be a bewildering experience. Not knowing anyone or anything about the city can leave you walking round rather like a tourist, sticking out like a sore thumb. However, fear not: it only takes a couple of weeks and you will have found your bearings - you'll know your way around Leicester like a black cab driver!

Leicester is a surprisingly compact and well equipped city; it rivals any other in the country. Because of its size it means you're never far away from anything. Once you have a feel of the place you will have the best time of your life, and wonder what you worried about!

There's an increasingly noticeable emphasis on youth in the city, with an abundance of trendy cafés, bars and shops. The West End (Narborough Road, Hinckley Road and Braunstone Gate areas) in particular has seen an amazing transformation with new bars, cafés and restaurants. Leicester's West End is home to students and young professionals alike.

Nevertheless, it's not all about pubs and clubs, it's the atmosphere of the city and the way you feel part of what's going on. It really is an ideal place to spend the best years of your life with the new friends that you meet. With restaurants and cafés to cater for every taste, places to play every sport under the sun, shopping to satisfy even the most discerning

buyer and all kinds of recent developments – all of which are particularly keen to welcome students – Leicester will satisfy anyone who chooses to study here.

- Visit New Walk and the bars, restaurants, and museums
- Alas, no Premiership football at the Walkers Stadium, but there is hope for in the championship!
- Diwali festival in October
- Have a curry...You can't visit Leicester without trying one!
- Take a trip to one of the city's many museums, such as the City Gallery
- Try one of the legendary Union nights
- Braunstone Gate and the West End
- Victoria Park, an open green space for city dwellers to escape the sight of concrete and the noise of traffic for a well deserved rest, and was the venue for Radio One's 'One Big Sunday' and the city's Caribbean Carnival
- Visit Leicester's hilarious comedy festival in February

USEFUL WEBSITES

www.thisisleicestershire.co.uk

www.leicester.gov.uk

www.discoverleicester.com

Price Ratings Scale: £ = Budget Friendly
££ = Moderately Priced
£££ = More Expensive Treat



Cafés and Sandwich Bars

There will be times when, for one reason or another (usually idleness or a total lack of clean plates) cooking at home simply will not do. In these situations, as long as funds permit, a trip to a good café becomes too tempting to resist. Leicester boasts a wide variety of cafés, offering every type of food from light and healthy salads and snacks to the ubiquitous full English breakfast. For those who know their cappuccino from their Al Pacino, there is also an increasing number of very modern coffee bars, perfect for lounging around in and pretending to be an extra from 'Friends'.

Croques £
19-21 Loseby Lane
(0116) 262 1101

Without doubt one of the finest sandwich shops in Leicester. With its extensive menu and varied sandwich fillings, Croques offers an ideal place to grab a bite. House toasties are a speciality.

Café Nero ££
47 Market Street and
7 Humberstone Gate
(0116) 255 4431
www.caffenero.com

Reputed to have the finest espresso this side of Milan, we will let you be the judge. This national chain is a great place to loaf after a heavy bout of shopping.



Stones Delicatessen and Café ££
St Martins Square
(0116) 261 4430

Voted best new café in the UK and Ireland by lifestyle magazine 'Theme', Stones has a lot to live up to. If the quality of the food in their restaurant on Mill Stone Lane is anything to go by, this place is a winner.

Costa Coffee ££
26 Market Street
(0116) 275 8039

www.costa.co.uk

Espresso and a long read? Situated in Waterstones bookshop, Costa provides a great opportunity to sit down with a great coffee and a good book.

Starbucks ££
49-51 Gallowtree Gate
(0116) 262 8356
www.starbucks.com

No city would be complete without at least one of these popular American coffee shops, and Leicester is no exception. Starbucks can be found on the corner of Gallowtree Gate, a stone's throw from the market. Bit pricey, but if you can afford it, you get the opportunity to laze around feeling all angsty and post millennial. Or you could just glower at it and march past, copy of No Logo in hand, you fierce anti-capitalist you.



Ice Mango Coffee House and Internet Café £

4 Market Place

(0116) 262 6255

www.icemango.co.uk

Relax in one of Leicester's stylish internet cafes, with its cool contemporary interior, excellent coffee and even better internet access.

O'Briens £

18 Market Street

(0116) 247 0045

www.obriens.ie

The great Irish sandwich bar situated on Market Street is recommend for it extensive range of sandwiches for vegetarians and meat eaters alike.

The Big Bite £

Bede Park

(0116) 275 6666

Situated in the up-and-coming Bede Island area, The Big Bite is a perfect munching station for DMU students, or simply anyone who happens to be passing. All the usual sandwich shop fare, both hot and cold, with the big breakfast baguette weighing in at around £2.65, The Big Bite offers a cheap and often healthier alternative to burger and fries.



Subway £

43 Market Street

(0116) 2755 999

Subway has arrived in Leicester bringing with it the world famous SUB. Subway's sandwiches are a work of art, created by friendly staff in front of your very eyes.



Po Boys £

Market Street

(0116) 255 9182

Apparently in the deep south vernacular, 'po-boy' means baguette. In Leicester it's a byword for tasty, filling snacks. A walk in shop on Market Street is a complimented by a stand near the market, and offers a coffee menu, newspapers and the usual hot and cold filled rolls and salads.

Castle Rock Café ££

Oxford Street

(0116) 255 4200

Offering a huge range of hot and cold favourites, as well as a uniquely large selection of beverages (alcoholic and otherwise) and located conveniently near to DMU, this place simply has to be visited by all students. The big breakfast is a particular treat: in our opinion, the best breakfast anywhere in Leicester.





Eating Out - Spanish/Mexican/Portuguese

A common stereotype of students is that they subsist on a measly diet of baked beans, pasta and rice. While these ingredients regularly form part of a home cooked meal, they are not the only things that students find to live on. Leicester has a wide range of restaurants which will happily provide the hungry student with tasty food to munch on. Do remember, when your proud parents come to visit their hardworking, intellectual offspring, they will more often than not be in the sort of mood which leads them to treat you to a meal at one of the following fine establishments. Just make sure they pick up the bill, or it really will be beans on toast for the rest of the term!

Las Iguanas ££

(0116) 285 9180

www.iguanas.co.uk

Las Iguanas is a relaxed restaurant with an explosion of Latin culture. If you're in a party mood it is the place to join in the fiesta. The food is amazing with the authentic taste of Latin America. We can recommend the Latin Tapas in the bar.

Barcelonetta ££

Queens Road

(0116) 270 8408

This Spanish Tapas bar could be the alternative that you're craving. An intimate and amiable restaurant caters for groups and couples with really great authentic food!

Nandos £

Granby Street and Freemans Park

(0116) 275 8303

www.nandos.co.uk

Nandos first arrived in Britain 12 years ago and soon worked its way up the pecking order so there are now 85 restaurants around the country, and we are lucky to have two in Leicester. You can expect to find a warm welcome and excellent flame-grilled PERI-PERI chicken, which is great value for money.

La Tasca ££

49-53 Granby Street

(0116) 254 3222

www.latasca.co.uk

La Tasca prides itself on a careful blend of everything that is good about Spain. You are assured of a warm welcome, authentic cuisine and friendly hospitality. As you can imagine, being Spanish the restaurant has an extensive Tapas menu and a great cellar packed with Rioja.

Café Coyote £

21 St Nicholas Place

(0116) 251 8898

www.cafecoyote.com

Offering exceptional value for money, Café Coyote is another great restaurant offering a range of modern Spanish and Mexican food. Café Coyote offers an intimate dining experience, though also provides an ideal party venue able to cater for up to 80 people.

Eating Out - Italian/Asian/Oriental

Ask ££

42 Silver Street
(0116) 251 3372

Chain of smart and friendly Italian restaurants. Catering for all tastes with vegetarian options, the food is great with all the usual dishes of pasta and pizza. They even offer a take away service.



Pizza Express ££

4 King Street
(0116) 254 4144

Situated near to New Walk, this is a great Italian restaurant offering excellent pizza, pasta and Pinot Grigio, ideal for watching the world go by. The restaurant has excellent service form very polite and well mannered staff and offers all the trappings of a modern Italian restaurant.

Zizzi ££

26 Belvoir Street
(0116) 255 8547

Impressive Italian chain restaurant Zizzi is located on bustling Belvoir Street. A good choice of Italian dishes, calzones, pizza and pasta, at reasonable prices

Altoco ££

3 St Martins Square
(0116) 253 3977

Situated in St Martins Square close to the trendy bars. Lots of pasta and pizza dishes in a lively atmosphere in an enjoyable modern setting.

Terra Cotta £

25-27 High Cross Street
(0116) 253 6666

Fantastic Value for money! This place has an all you can eat buffet in classy surroundings. There's Tepanyaki, Mongolian BBQ, Sushi... the list is endless and includes desert!

Mirch Masala £

Market Street
(0116) 247 0080

The staff at Mirch Masala pride themselves on providing friendly service and excellent food to all their diners. Mirch Masala is a vegetarian restaurant offering contemporary food from three continents, which proves exceptional value for money.



The Curry House ££

London Road
(0116) 255 0688

With its very prosaic name, this restaurant is exactly what it says it is. Decent food and a good selection of drinks, enjoyed in a quietly pleasant atmosphere. 10% NUS discount on meals Monday-Thursday and the unique selection of Tawa meals prepared using fresh spices make the Curry House a definite must for all exotic food lovers. Tawa meals are served on a flat 'Tawa' serving dish.



Namaste Indian Restaurant ££

Hinckley Road

(0116) 254 1778

Featured in the Good Curry Guide, and as you might expect the food is of a high quality with many Baltis and interesting specials. It's not too far from the heart of the student quarter either, so well worth a visit.

Nila Palace ££

London Road

(0116) 255 6161

Leicester is famed for its curry houses, but this is one of the best. At busy periods you may have to queue for a table, but it's definitely worth the wait. The food here is great, and the extensive menu has something to suit all tastes from the creamy korma to the vindaloo.

Shimla Pinks £££

65-69 London Road

(0116) 247 1471

The first Shimla Pinks was opened in Birmingham and has since spread across the country, gaining a reputation for good food in a contemporary setting.

Tamarind Indian Restaurant £

16-18 Hinckley Road

(0116) 254 0692

Authentic Indian cuisine at its best, and relatively easy on the budget! Ideally located in the West End a place to drop into after a few beers in the trendy end of town.

The Tiffin £££

London Road

(0116) 247 0420

Quite simply one of the best restaurants in Leicester. This long established Tandoori restaurant has earned its reputation through its commitment to fine food. You're spoilt for choice for Asian food in Leicester; however the Tiffin should be top of your list!

Laguna Tandoori ££

77 Narborough Road

(0116) 254 9133

Long established Tandoori restaurant that has earned its reputation for its fine cuisine. A great restaurant offering reasonably priced food in the heart of the West End. It is apparently endorsed by the critic Garry Bushell, formerly of the Sun! Don't be put off it's a really great place.

Jalsa ££

87a Belgrave Road

(0116) 266 6186

Jalsa is hailed as Leicester's finest ultra modern vegetarian restaurant, specialising in Gujarati food.

The Noodle Bar £

Guildhall Lane

(0116) 262 9029

The noodle bar provides a refreshingly modern approach to enjoy oriental cuisine and offers the best noodle and rice dishes from across Asia at bargain prices to suit any student budget.

Siam Corner ££

118 London Road

(0116) 254 4856

Siam Corner is situated on London Road and is renowned in Leicester as having the "Best Thai food west of Bangkok". The restaurant boasts an extensive menu of authentic Thai cuisine with all dishes being prepared by Thai chefs.

Happy Valley ££

King Street

(0116) 255 7700

Rumored to be owned by a former Leicester City star, this place serves good food, good drinks and gives service with a smile. Set in the beauty of New Walk.

Lanna Thai ££
95 Humberstone Gate
(0116) 254 4856

Have a wander down Humberstone Gate and find this little gem! A great opportunity to enjoy authentic Thai cuisine in the heart of Leicester, surrounded by contemporary light and airy decor.

Ocean City ££
Belgrave Gate
(0116) 224 6050

Cantonese restaurant situated in the heart of Leicester's Chinese community. Excellent food reasonably priced, with an extensive drinks menu. Definitely a place to wine and dine.

English/Continental

The Case £££
Hotel Street
(0116) 251 7675

A little pricey, though it's definitely in the premiership of Leicester restaurants. A fine menu of gourmet food, good wine and divine desserts! Certainly the kind of place where you can relax and watch Leicester go by. Perfect for that romantic moment, or take your parents if they are picking up the bill.

The Opera House £££
10-12 Guildhall Lane
(0116) 223 6666

The Opera House is another stalwart of the Leicester restaurant premiership. This restaurant was the winner of the Best Restaurant category in the Leicestershire Tourism Awards. The Opera House is a traditional, intimate restaurant in a delightful listed building with superb food, an extensive wine list and friendly staff. What more could you want? Booking ahead is essential.

Stones £££
29 Millstone Lane
(0116) 291 0004

One of the most popular restaurants in Leicester set in part of an old Hosiery Mill. Varied menu accompanied by pleasant service, very popular with the chattering classes and Leicester's sporting stars.

Watsons £££
5-9 Upper Brown Street
(0116) 222 7770

Situated in a former textile mill, Watsons allows diners to experience contemporary London dining right here in the midlands. This place has excellent food and friendly atmosphere.



Bars and Nightlife



Whether your taste is for modern, up - market continental style bars or down to earth traditional style pubs, Leicester has something for everyone. A range of pubs and bars spread city-wide, providing Leicester's thirsty denizens with a truly staggering choice of watering holes. Recent relaxations of the licensing laws in the city centre have seen a proliferation of late night bars opening on Belvoir Street and Braunstone Gate and a consequential blurring of the boundary between bars and clubs. A line can be drawn between those venues which charge an entrance fee and those which don't. In short, this means that on an average night out in Leicester, the lucky reveller has a wealth of top locations to party the night away.

Bar Gaudi ££ **37 St Nicholas Place** **(0116) 2990255**

The architecture students among you will notice that this particular bar shares its name with the renowned architect. Those of you who aren't will just cut to the chase and head for this hidden gem of an underground bar. Once seated with your drink you will be able to take in the ornate décor and soak up the fantastic atmosphere. A regular student night (remember to take your NUS card to gain entry) on a Wednesday means even the poorest student can enjoy Bar Gaudi.

Café Bruxelles ££ **90-92 High Street** **(0116) 224 3013**

The European flavour of Bruxelles extends well beyond its name. A huge range of continental beers and classic European styling make this a fantastic hang-out for the pretentious set. Sitting around smoking lethal Gitanes and wearing berets of course, optional. Café Bruxelles – formidable!

Marz Bar ££ **34 Belvoir Street** **(0116) 275 6800**

A bright little bar on bustling Belvoir Street. Popular with those on a full-on night out, Marz, like so many other bars in Leicester, boasts of drinks promotions and DJs as the gap between bars and clubs blurs more and more.

Molly O'Grady's £ **14 Hotel Street** **(0116) 251 8992**

A genuine 'Irish pub' in the middle of town... no wait, come back, this place is excellent! Great Guinness, and a brilliant atmosphere (especially on St Patrick's Day) make this an essential port of call, whether as part of a night out, or as a night out in itself. Its often a venue for live music so you may strike it lucky and get free entertainment.

Revolution ££ **6b New Walk** **(0116) 255 9633**

So much Vodka that even Boris Yeltsin would struggle. This bar is part of the successful

chain of Russian themed vodka bars, supplying a truly staggering range of flavours for the keen vodka connoisseur. Surprisingly cheap food makes this a great place for either day or night.

The Case Mini Bar £££

Hotel Street

(0116) 251 7675

If you enjoy the finer side of life then this is definitely a place for you. The selection of champagnes and cocktails is endless but be warned: it does come at a price, which means that this is a bar more for special occasions than for a regular student night out.

Fat Cat Café Bar ££

41 Belvoir Street

(0116) 255 3610

Relaxed, affordable restaurant by day; lively, buzzing bar by night: Fat Cat's has it all. On a weekend night this venue can get busy which is testament to the cracking atmosphere, supplied in no small part by the in-house DJ. Located near the centre of town, this is a great place to start the night and can be a great night out in itself.

The Marquis of Wellington £

London Road

(0116) 255 5833

Fancy a night out in a proper city centre pub? Well look no further than the Marquis of Wellington. Dark mahogany furniture, smoky atmosphere, the locals in their regular seats and music quiet enough that you can actually hold a conversation! This can make a nice change from all the trendy, modern bars about town and is ideal for a quiet midweek drink with friends.

R/bar ££

78a Granby Street

(0116) 255 9449

A trendy, modern bar near the centre of town. Set on two levels, R/bar has low level lighting, groovy music and an extensive list of cocktails and shooters. If you like your spirits then R/bar is the ideal venue for you.

The Terrace £££

1 Albion Street

(0116) 255 4150

A contemporary style bar with period features, this is definitely a cultured venue for a drink or



two. Sample champagne and cocktails upstairs or try one of the continental meals on offer. One to be saved for big nights out or special occasions as the prices are a little on the high side.

The Walkabout Inn £
68-70 Humberstone Gate
(0116) 251 1070

Great Australian bar on Humberstone Gate with good tucker, live music, televised sports and a typical Aussie atmosphere. Open til late some nights and a great place to party.

Time ££
48a London Road (next to the station)
(0116) 261 9301

Large open plan bar, with a stylish bare brick interior. Sit back on the incredibly comfortable sofas, enjoy the DJ's fantastic mix of tunes and marvel at the service as the bar staff juggle cocktails. There is a classic pre-club atmosphere at weekends and the place is alive and kicking with party people.

The Hogshead £
28-30 Market Street
(0116) 255 5371

If you like good food, a broad spectrum of drinks and a lively atmosphere but also like to be able to hear yourself think, then The Hogshead could be the place for you. A classic pub with a broad selection of ales at affordable prices and a bar food menu to match.

Firefly ££
Millstone Lane
(0116) 255 1228

Recently refurbished, renamed and in many ways reinvented, Firefly is set to be a popular student venue for years to come. This used to be a "rock bar" and the music still heads in that direction, but these days it is much more mainstream, attractive and, once you slip into one of the huge leather sofas, downright comfortable.



Nights out on Queens Road

Just south of the city centre you will find Queens Road. This is a bustling student area which, like the West End, has seen a large number of new bars and restaurants opening in recent years. It is about a 30 minute walk from typical DMU accommodation but is easily reached by bus or taxi. A certain other Higher Education Institution (whose name we won't be mentioning!) is located nearby so it is a great chance for DMU students to mix with the wider student population of Leicester.

Dos Hermanos ££

54 Queens Road

(0116) 270 8507

Relatively new bar with a Latin theme, serving heavenly Havana based cocktails and trendy European beers in exotic and stylish surroundings. Look out for Happy Hour as the cocktails are half price! This bar is right next to one the best tapas restaurants in town and is perfect for whetting the appetite before heading off for a feast next door.

Babelas ££

77 Queens Road

(0116) 270 7744

Charming and friendly with a well stocked bar and plenty of character, Babelas is one of those places where you pop out for a quick drink and find yourself staying for the entire night.

Olives Bar ££

90 Queens Road

(0116) 270 8383

Recently refurbished and renamed, Olives Bar serves great real ales along with a wide

selection of lagers, wines and spirits. Funky music and a lively atmosphere make this a great place for a night out.

Y Bar £££

Queens Road

(0116) 270 7744

This place is brand spanking new and adds to the selection of modern European bars on Queens Road. This bar is full of style, so if you see yourself as a dedicated follower of fashion then the Y Bar is definitely one of the places to go.

The Lounge Bar

21 Allandale Road

(0116) 270 3222

A bit out of the way, but definitely worth seeing this is one of the trendiest bars in town! There is also a separate basement restaurant serving high-quality cuisine with a Mediterranean influence. If you are bringing friends or family over and want to impress then this could well be the place to come.



Focus on the West End



The past few years have seen an amazing transformation in the West End of Leicester. Narborough Road and Braunstone Gate have been transformed into a new centre with bars, cafés and restaurants. Leicester's West End is home to students and young professionals alike. There's a real community spirit here, with students occupying many of the terraced houses off the Narborough Road and the local shops providing ingredients essential to the lifestyle of students, from hair-cuts to fruit and vegetables. Popular with students, close to the De Montfort City Campus and an abundance of cheap rented accommodation.

Soar Point £

The Newarke
(0116) 204 4911

Where the campus and the West End meet! Soar Point is the DMU local. It's the, 'it's a Scream' brand that is so familiar throughout Leicester and every other student city. Cheap food and drink, and certainly the place to spend lazy nights or to prepare for big ones.

The Quay ££

Western Boulevard
(0116) 204 4960

De Montfort student? You've simply got to come here. Situated perilously close to the Leicester City Campus, the Quay is a formidable magnet for passing students. Whether it's a quiet drink you're after (check out the balcony for those sunny afternoons) or great food, the Quay is a great place to be.

Loaf ££

58-62 Braunstone Gate
(0116) 299 9424

One for the trendy kids. Ultra modern furniture and an intimate bar make this an essential port of call for the bright young things of Leicester. Loaf also serves excellent food in its adjacent restaurant.

Sumo ££

Braunstone Gate
(0116) 285 6536

Might look a bit strange from the outside, but with a very friendly atmosphere inside this is a must on a visit to the area. Opens late with three floors of live music, food and drinks aplenty!

Left Bank £

26 Braunstone Gate
(0116) 255 2442

Left Bank burgers are to die for! With a great menu catering for both meat eaters and vegetarians, this busy café bar serves food all day, and is popular with DMU students and staff alike.

Möbius £££

35 Braunstone Gate
(0116) 255 5351

www.mobius-restaurant.com

A new arrival in the heart of Leicester's fashionable West End, Möbius offers a relaxed and intimate socialising experience in a modern European interior. Friendly staff give a warm welcome for daytime or evening drinks and exciting bar food.

O Bar ££

Braunstone Gate

(0116) 255 8223

'Unique, independent and unpretentious', or so says the management. Exotic food and over 50 cocktails mean that the most energetic thing you'll do in this ohsolaidback bar is deciding what to have. Relaxation of the licensing laws and local policy has created a real atmosphere around the West End nowadays and this place adds to it! Probably one of the only places in Leicester open til late most nights. Check out its sister bar 'The Orange Tree' on High Street.

Entropy ££

Hinckley Road

(0116) 225 9650

Situated on the Hinckley Road, a small and stylish bar, which is extremely chilled through the week. Things do liven up just a wee bit at the weekend! Cool music and great beers, what more could you want? Incidentally Entropy was the winner of Best Pub Meal in Leicestershire at the Leicestershire Tourism Awards.

Nine Bar ££

Narborough Road

(0116) 255 1355

One of the elder statesmen of bars along the Narborough Road, with a great reputation that caters for students and locals alike. It's the intimacy that's so appealing!



Mine ££

32-36 Braunstone Gate

(0116) 255 9876

This light, airy and stylish bar and restaurant serves a range of moderately priced meals throughout the day.

The Looking Glass £

26 Braunstone Gate

(0116) 255 9002

A great contemporary bar situated in an old picture frame and mirror shop (hence the name). The bar has a regular live entertainment programme in the cellar.



Nightclubs

Leicester can be proud of its range of clubs. From hard house to indie, UK garage to cheesy pop, there is something in Leicester's clubs for everyone. With many venues offering specific student nights or themed events, there is no excuse for the energetic Leicester student to stay at home.

Life

Humberstone Gate

(0116) 251 1331

Located in the quieter end of town on Humberstone Gate, Life offers a quality night out with regular drinks promotions and a student night (NUS cards at the ready) on a Tuesday featuring chart and dance music.

Lounge One

Welford Road

(0116) 254 6437

A funky club located extremely near to DMU and with a habit of changing its name on a regular basis. In the past has attracted top names such as Judge Jules and Pete Tong and is a quality student night out during the week.

Original Four

King Street

(0116) 254 9008

Stylish bar/club laid out over four floors, each catering to different musical tastes. Fantastic venue whether you want to dance the night away or sit on the comfy sofas sipping cocktails.

Mosh

37 St Nicholas Place

(0116) 248 9241

Mosh is relatively new to the scene and hosts two great nights of indie and alternative each week. Friday night is new cutting edge sounds and Saturday is classic contemporary indie.

Creation

Churchgate

(0116) 262 9720

Contemporary bar opens early before the revolving door takes you through to the club. Throw your hands up in the air, as they say, in the main arena or alternatively smooch and sway to the smooth tunes of the R 'n' B room. There are three rooms of music, with a choice from cheesy pop to house or the finest mix of today's UK garage and R 'n' B. Quality student nights throughout the year.

Po Na Na

Carey's Close

(0116) 252 8190

A rabbit warren of tiny alcoves and low lighting help give this place a deep, cosy atmosphere akin to the Moroccan Souk Bars it aims to emulate. Two floors, including the Bam-Bu-Da section upstairs, and a deceptively large floor space make this an ideal location for a brilliant night out.

Fanclub

Abbey Street

(0116) 242 5765

Tucked away on Abbey Street is the Fanclub, perhaps Leicester's best kept secret. Relatively cheap prices at the bar and a regular choice of themed nights (indie, 60's, 80's etc) keep the punters happy. Look out for the nurses celebrating payday on the last Friday of the month – easy to spot as they are the ones making all the racket on the dancefloor.



Shopping and Cultural Attractions

Leicester has excellent shopping centres ranging from the 1 million square feet **Shires Shopping Centre** to specialist shops and arcades. The open air market in the city centre is the largest in Europe. The Phoenix Arts Centre offers film, drama, dances, music, and comedy, and De Montfort Hall hosts classical music and pop concerts. There are ten museums and 3,000 acres of parks and gardens. If sport is more your taste, Leicester has a variety of leisure centres, football and rugby grounds, a county cricket club and an international athletics and cycling stadium.

The Shires 21 High Street (0116) 251 2461

The Shires doesn't resemble anything from middle earth instead its; crammed with shops from La Senza to Boots. The Shires is much like any big city shopping centre, apart from the unusual claim of being the brightest lit in the country! The Shires is a great place to park and dodge the showers when you're in the city centre.

The Haymarket Shopping Centre

Home to Woolworths, Sommerfield and TK MAXX, the Haymarket is a smaller version of the Shires with a few hidden surprises. Meanwhile, across the road, a row of larger shops such as GAP, Marks and Spencer and JJB Sports ensures all strata of Leicestershire residents are suitably attired.

Leicester Market Market Place (0116) 252 6677

Who said size doesn't matter? Leicester is home to the largest covered market in Europe. Although it doesn't feel that big once you are actually here, there is a sense that you can find almost anything between the many stalls. Tip: Avoid Scurvy, buy some fresh fruit... then eat it!

Leicester Lanes and St Martins Square

A labyrinth of specialist shops for those who don't mind searching for what they really want. Mainly shops selling trendy clothing but if you have a nose around you will find anything from



tattoos and piercings to comic books. With shops such as Limeys, Pilot, Tin Fish and Well Gosh, here is where the bright young things of Leicester stock up.

Narborough Road

Well, this may not be your conventional shopping area but – you can seriously buy anything down here! The best bet for second-hand, dirt cheap furniture and junk shops.

Allandale Road and Francis Street

Interconnecting Allandale Road and Francis Street are tucked away, just off London Road approximately one mile south of the City Centre in the leafy area of Stoneygate. Here you will find a small selection of specialist shops and galleries. If you're looking for something special, chances are you will find it here. You can get to Allendale Road by taking bus 29 or 31 from Charles Street opposite the Haymarket Bus Station.



Belgrave Road

North of the City Centre, Belgrave Road is a haven for shops selling silk saris, gold jewelry and traditional Asian food. Belgrave Road is the place to be over Diwali, when it's heavily decorated with seasonal lighting

Fosse Park

Situated three miles south west of Leicester City Centre, Fosse Park offers an out of town shopping experience with 33 retailers covering a wide range of products, and incorporates a food court and parking for 700 cars.

Attractions

From wide open spaces in which to enjoy the sunshine (or simply the fresh air) to intriguing museums, venues for the latest music and all the old classics, sprightly little theatres and modern multiplexes: Leicester boasts such an abundance of things to do that there's no excuse for anyone to complain of boredom.





Take a stroll... discover

Across from the Clephan Building (home of Humanities at DMU) is the **Jain Centre Temple**, the only one of its kind in Western Europe. The Temple is built in a re-vamped old Congregational Chapel at the beginning of Oxford Street. The rites and beliefs of the Jains, a long-established Indian religious sect, focus on an extreme reverence for all living things – traditional customs include the wearing of gauze masks to prevent the inhalation of passing insects. It has a splendidly garish white marble facade, and visitors may enter the lobby. For more information on visiting call (0116) 254 3091.

From the Jain Centre, it's about ten minutes' walk up to the **New Walk Museum and Art Gallery** (Mon–Sat 10.00am–5.30pm, Sun 2–5pm; free). One of the best of the city's museums, it's located on New Walk.

To get to the museum from Jain Temple, go back to the beginning of Oxford Street, turn right onto Newarke Street and keep going straight until you meet with – and turn right onto – **New Walk**. This is a pleasant pedestrianised promenade that runs out from the centre of Leicester to leafy Victoria Park. On the museum's ground floor is a real surprise – an outstanding collection of German Expressionism, mostly sketches, woodcuts and lithographs by the likes of Otto Dix and George Grosz. The Victorian Gallery features an extravagant romantic painting by Charles Green, the iconic *The Girl I Left Behind Me* of 1880.

Situated at the top of New Walk and set in a tree-lined avenue of pleasant walkways is **Victoria Park**. The City Centre's largest park

is a perfect place to spend a lazy afternoon. The site of the Caribbean festival, Radio One's One Big Sunday, and many games of cricket and football, Victoria Park is the true heart of Leicester.

Moving back into the City Centre, go back down New Walk and head towards the cathedral. Behind it is the **Guildhall Museum**, a half-timbered, multi-purpose building that has served variously throughout the last few centuries as the town hall, prison and police station (Mon–Sat 10.00am–5.30pm, Sun 2–5pm; free).

From the Guildhall, it's a short walk down to St Nicholas Circle, a large roundabout that is part of the ring road. To the right is the **Jewry Wall**, a chunk of Roman masonry some 18ft high and 73ft long that was originally part of Hadrian's public baths. The project was apparently a real irritation to the emperor. Hadrian's grand scheme was spoilt by the engineers, who miscalculated the line of the aqueduct that was to pipe in the water, so that bathers had to rely on a hand-filled cistern replenished from the river – not what he'd had in mind at all.

Also worth a look is the adjacent **Jewry Wall and Museum** (April–Sept Mon–Sat 10am–5pm, Sun 1–5pm; Oct–March closes 1hr earlier; free), which charts Leicester's history from prehistoric to medieval times. The most interesting artefacts are Roman, as well as other archeological finds from Fosse Way milestones to impressive mosaics. From the museum it's a short stroll south via St Nicholas Circle to **Castle Gardens**, a

narrow strip of a park that runs alongside a canalized portion of the Soar. The gardens incorporate the castle motte, the overgrown mound where Leicester's Norman fortifications once stood.

At the far end of the gardens, you emerge on The Newarke, the location of the **Newarke Houses Museum** (Mon-Sat 10.00am-5.30pm, Sun 2-5pm; free), two adjoining Jacobean houses that make a pleasant setting for an exploration of the city's social history. Beside the museum, along Castle View, is the **Turret Gateway**, a rare survivor of the city's medieval castle, and beyond that is the attractive church of **St Mary de Castro** (Easter-Oct Sat 2-5pm). Not only where November graduation takes place, but a haven of tranquillity and a chance to marvel at the array of architectural styles. Most notable is a five-seater sedilia in the chancel. The 'father of English', Geoffrey Chaucer, got married here.

The City Gallery

90 Granby Street

(0116) 254 0595

Slap-bang in the middle of Granby Street is the City Gallery. Host to some less well known artists, fascinating exhibitions and educational workshops, the City Gallery makes a brilliant alternative to slipping into one of Granby Street's many pubs. Best of all, it's free.

National Space Centre

Exploration Drive

(0870) 60 77223

One of Leicester's major attractions is the National Space Centre. Only a bus ride away from the centre of Leicester, it is the UK's only attraction dedicated to space science and astronomy. From the minute you catch sight of the Rocket Tower, you will be treated to a voyage of discovery through space technology of the past, present and future.

NUS discounts apply – check the number listed for opening times.

Eco House

Western Park

(0116) 254 5489

www.environ.org.uk

The epitome of environmental awareness. The whole house incorporates products and materials based on their green credentials. There's a shop and an organic garden, so pop along and see how we could be living in the future.

Abbey Park

Abbey Park Road

(0116) 222 1000

A sizeable Victorian park in the centre of Leicester. The site was once home to the 12th century Leicester Abbey, the ruins of which can still be seen. Visit the boating lake or the Chinese peace garden and just generally chill. Look out for details of the annual Bonfire and firework party.

Bradgate Park

Newton Linford

One of the most popular venues to chill out on a lazy afternoon is Bradgate Park, near Newtown Linford, situated six miles north-west of Leicester. A visitor centre with information on Lady Jane Grey (Queen of England for nine days in the sixteenth century) and the ruins of Bradgate House and Old John Tower, which can be seen for miles around, make this well worth a visit.



Entertainment Venues



Phoenix Arts

Newarke Street

(0116) 255 4854

Bills itself as 'City Centre Cinema', but its so much more than that. Regular screenings of art house films as well as old favourites. Regular themed film seasons, often incorporating educational workshops to help ease those less familiar with the more cerebral end of celluloid. Live events, theatre and music and a licensed bar make the Phoenix absolutely essential.

The Charlotte

Oxford Street

(0116) 255 3956

It would seem that every band of any importance over the last few years has played here at some point in their ascendancy. Small and intimate, the Charlotte can get full very quickly. Add to this the 'dive' décor – darkly painted brickwork, concrete floor and a range of devilishly named cocktails, The Charlotte has the feel of a real hidey-hole and is all better for it.

Jongleurs

Granby Street

(0116) 251 5816

Comedy Club par excellence, hosting some of the most exciting up-and-coming comedians on the circuit. Also welcome to group bookings for those union or society nights out.

De Montfort Hall

Granville Road

(0116) 233 3111

Nationally recognized venue hosting all manner of events, from Asian Dub Foundation to the Leicester Symphony Orchestra. So keep your head down and you will end up here anyway.

The Odeon

Freemans Park

08705 050007

Part of the hugely successful chain of cinemas, Leicester's Odeon, conveniently located at Freeman's Park, is the place to go for your Pepsi and popcorn blockbuster. However, with the 'Fanatical about Film' tag, the Odeon also finds its way to the artier end of film and has a screen dedicated to showing Bollywood blockbusters. Remember your NUS card and you will receive a student discount.





Carnivals and Festivals

Leicester is the place to be if you like parties, carnivals and festivals. In the country's second-biggest street festival, the city's sizeable Afro-Caribbean community celebrates its culture in a whirl of colour and music, usually on the first weekend in August. Perhaps one of the highlights on the calendar, though, is the massive and internationally famous Hindu Diwali, Festival of Light, in October or November. Then in December comes the fanfare of media celebrities for the switch-on of the dazzling Christmas lights. The annual Leicester Comedy Festival is held in February. This festival, actually established by some of our own DMU graduates, has grown to be the largest in the country and hosts many of the biggest names in stand-up comedy.

Take a look at www.leicesterfestivals.co.uk



Abbey Park Festival

Not as big as Glastonbury, but then you will avoid the mudsoaked nightmare of a camping trip whilst keeping true to the spirit of music festivals – great sounds. A baffling amount of bands and a showcase of the most exciting local talent.

Black History Season

October/November

Various venues across the city
www.blackhistoryleicester.co.uk

Theatre, music and exhibitions celebrating Black culture.

Leicester International Music Festival

June

Various venues across the city
www.musicfestival.co.uk

World class musicians present ten days of classical and jazz concerts across the city.

Abbey Park Bonfire and Fireworks

November

(0116) 299 5980

An organised and safe display in Abbey Park, with live music, stalls and a funfair.

The Campus Centre and the Students' Union

One of the major features of student life is the Students' Union, an organisation devoted to ensuring that you have the best possible experience throughout your time at university.

The Union is a resource for you to use as and when you need it – and remember, it is an organisation for students, run by students. As you'll find out very early on, this means everybody from the people who admit you to the people who serve you a pint.

Once becoming a DMU student, you'll receive your 'Smart' card. This entitles you to help, support, discounts, fun and a lot more. But the DSU card isn't just a passport to discounts at the music store or curry house, or discounted entry to the local cinema.

Whether your passion is sports, dance, religion, campaigns, student politics or working in the media, the Students' Union will support you as much as possible. The Union is there also to represent you in terms of the various high profile national campaigns and it also provides support and guidance on education and welfare matters through a free and independent advice centre offering support on anything from housing contracts to legal advice.

Coming through a radio near you on 87.7FM is Demon FM, an award-winning, student-run radio station now in its tenth year of broadcasting. By getting involved with Demon, you can gain experience of producing and presenting as well as marketing and promotions – a great way to follow in the footsteps of the likes of Chris Moyles.

Records show that previous members have gone on to work for the BBC and other high-profile companies.

Some of the ways to get involved:

- **Sports – eg Rowing, Badminton, Rugby, Skiing**
- **Societies – eg Rock, Politics, Theatre**
- **DSU Media – eg Demon FM, mydsu.com**
- **Become an elected course representative**
- **Become a sabbatical officer, part-time or full time**
- **Become an employee of the union – eg bar staff, steward**
- **Volunteer through our 'Involve' programme**

**Volunteer Support Officers
Welfare and Education Centre
Students' Union
1st Floor
Campus Centre
Tel: (0116) 257 6304
Email: volunteer@dmu.ac.uk**

As a 'Fresher', there is only one place to start – the place where all your predecessors started. It's the Union!



Students' Union, embraces catering for staff and students alike, an office base and entertainment venue for the Students' Union, and an NYS Travel Shop, as well as a state-of-the-art facility for Dance and Theatre students, and of course the Graduate Bar.

Starting with DSU is the best way to kick off your university career. It offers a safe and tolerant environment, with cheap drinks and excellent entertainment. One of the best nights out during the week is Thursday, when they're blasting out funky disco tunes and there's an opportunity to dress up in outrageous shirts, flares and of course the obligatory afro hair style.

One of the highlights of the week is Saturday and the Big Cheese!

The Big Cheese is cheap, cheerful and cheesy! Somewhere to dance the night away with drink offers, prizes and a music mix from classic tunes to chart toppers.

With the opening of this fantastic new building comes new themed nights and extended opening hours the venue will now be open most nights during the week, with events including quiz night on Tuesday and a new R'n'B night on Friday.

For more up-to-the-minute information on new opening hours and events, check the DSU website at www.mydsu.com

Sports and Recreation

Don't worry sports fans! As well as being host to a huge array of places to eat, drink, shop, relax and sample a little culture, Leicester is also home to a wide selection of sporting opportunities.

Whether you want to take part yourself or sit back and support, there is sure to be something to meet your needs. Leicester has a strong sporting tradition and the rugby, football and cricket grounds are all within easy reach of the DMU campus.

Leicester City FC ££

The Foxes

Walkers Stadium

0870 040 6000

www.lcfc.com

The Walkers Stadium is one of the best new stadiums in the country and the atmosphere on match days is electric. After a host of high profile signings over the summer, the team

looks set to be a strong contender for a return to the big time and the glamour and wealth of the Premiership!

Leicester Tigers £

Welford Road

08701 28 34 30

www.tigers.co.uk

Tickets: tickets@tigers.co.uk

The Tigers are probably the most successful side in English club rugby over the last decade, gaining numerous domestic Premiership titles, and in 2001 and 2002, the Heineken European Cup. The ground is a short walk from the DMU Campus and is also the venue for the DMU versus University of Leicester Varsity Rugby match, which is one of the highlights of the Universities' sporting calendar.

Leicestershire County Cricket Club £
Grace Road
(0116) 283 2128

What more could you want than listening to the thwack of ball on willow on a leisurely English summer day? Well worth a visit, and with the new Twenty Twenty Cup the cricket is even more exciting than usual!

Leicester Racecourse ££
Oadby

(0116) 271 6515

Steeped in more than 100 years of history, and with 200 acres of grounds, Leicester is proud to be in the top flight of Britain's smaller courses, racing all the year round. Having a flutter on the horses may not be advisable on a student budget, but a day at the races is still a great way to spend an afternoon.

Donington Park ££
(01332) 810 048

<http://www.donington-park.co.uk>

For all you petrol heads out there, right on Leicester's doorstep is Donington Park, a major international Grand Prix class motor racing venue and home to the Donington Grand Prix Collection, the largest collection of Grand Prix cars in the world. Race meetings

for cars and bikes throughout the season make this one of the foremost and busiest motor racing circuits in Europe.

Saffron Lane Sports Centre £
Saffron Lane

(0116) 233 3045

One of the major outdoor sporting venues in the East Midlands, Saffron Lane offers a diverse range of facilities including a well equipped gym, outdoor courts, a 400 metre eight lane athletics track and a cycle velodrome.

Activities

The John Sandford Sports Centre £
De Montfort University

The John Sandford Sports Centre forms the focal point for sports and recreational activities within De Montfort University. The Centre offers a wide range of facilities and equipment including five-a-side, basketball, badminton, indoor hockey, netball, volleyball, tennis and cricket (nets). All centres are also regularly used for aerobic classes. All of the above is available for free when you acquire a student's sports card.



Go Karting £££

County Carting
Humberstone Lane, Thurmaston
(0116) 269 7878

Golf ££

Western Park
(0116) 299 5566

Kick Boxing £

Sussex Street
(0116) 251 2933

Leicester Martial Arts £

Humberstone Gate
(0116) 270 4344

The oldest original club in the UK, it provides the three main disciplines: Karate, Aikido and Judo. NUS discounts are available.

Paintball ££

Rebel Sports
Erskine Street
0800 996 1654

Riley's Pool and Snooker £

Grange Lane
(0116) 254 9944

Located within easy walking distance of DMU, Riley's is a real student favourite. Tasty affordable food is served and NUS discounts are available which only adds to Riley's popularity.

Willie Thorne's Snooker Hall ££

Charles Street
(0116) 262 6239

Another famous person from Leicester is Willie Thorne, the ex-snooker player. He owns his own snooker club with a spacious hall and top quality facilities. If you are really lucky you might even bump into Willie himself as he knocks in a few centuries on his practice tables.

Swimming £

Aylestone Leisure Centre
Saffron Lane
(0116) 233 3040

Ten Pin Bowling £

Megabowl and Laserquest
St Peters Lane
(0116) 251 8885

A great night out with great student discounts! Do you have what it takes to be the Kingpin?

The Final Word...

Recent months have seen incredible transformations in Leicester. From the City Centre outwards, the old has been renovated and in some areas replaced by the new. New places to eat, drink, shop and chill out are springing up all over the place, and many are unique to Leicester. Areas such as the West End, Bede Island and the De Montfort University City Campus have altered dramatically. New business moving in to the area are bringing in money and opportunities all the time. Overall, Leicester is a thriving multi-cultural city for the 21st century and an amazing place to live and study. You will love it here!

Disclaimer - De Montfort University do not necessarily endorse or support any of the views expressed in this document. Also to note that these are just some examples of the wide range of bars, pubs and clubs in Leicester - there are many more to look out for.



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