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**Coventry**

Official Visitor Guide 2021/2022



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Our Coventry wide bus service can get you to the people and places that matter. As the biggest bus operator in the West Midlands and one of the largest in the UK, we are proud to be serving Coventry as it hosts City of Culture 2021. Our range of tickets and ways to pay can help you find fares that fit your schedule



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national express **Coventry**



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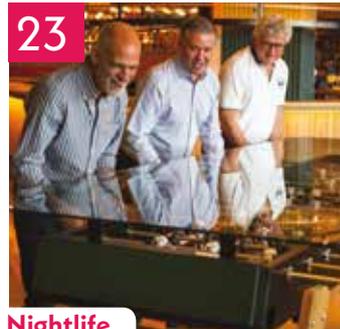
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# CREATIVE HEROES

BRINGING THE BIGGEST REGIONAL  
BRANDS TO LIFE



# Welcome to Coventry



Coventry Transport Museum



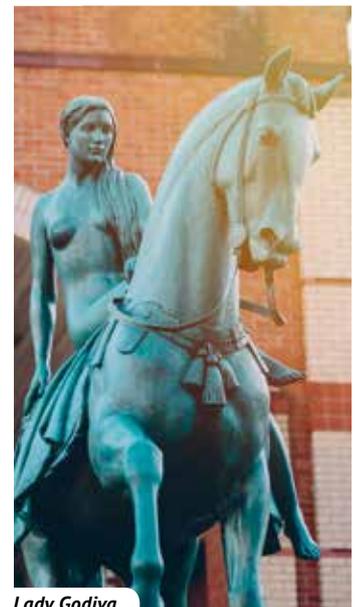
Coventry Cathedral ©Rahul Argha Sen



Holy Trinity Church



Broadgate, Christmas lights switch on



Lady Godiva

The city of Coventry, located at the centre of England, lies surrounded by leafy Warwickshire countryside and is proud to be a diverse, accessible and culturally rich destination.

Sitting just one hour from London by train, and 20 minutes from nearby Birmingham, Coventry is conveniently interlinked with the rest of England, easily reached by road, rail or air.

Coventry is extremely proud to be UK City of Culture 2021. So far this year, we have celebrated our rich cultural heritage with events, music, dance, theatre and large-scale spectacle, with more still to come. As well as these big celebrations, our city has shown its unexpected

side, with more intimate experiences and ways to get involved across every area of the city.

Supported by our UK City of Culture success, Coventry's city centre has seen vast changes in recent years, with the stunning transformation of our public spaces, making them open, inviting and accessible to our visitors. The area is overflowing with places to eat and drink, plus exciting, independent shops, remarkable museums, galleries and even our own

exhilarating city centre waterpark.

Within our city centre, and throughout the wider area, Coventry is filled with activities to captivate all ages and interests. And with so much to discover this year, you'll want to stay. Choose from well-known branded hotel chains, luxury boutique venues, or chic central apartments. And why wait for

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

**Whether you're looking to visit friends, celebrate a special occasion, immerse yourself in culture, or treat your taste buds to a foodie feast, a visit to Coventry can be anything you want it to be.**

Find out more at: [visitcoventry.co.uk](http://visitcoventry.co.uk)

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# UK City of Culture

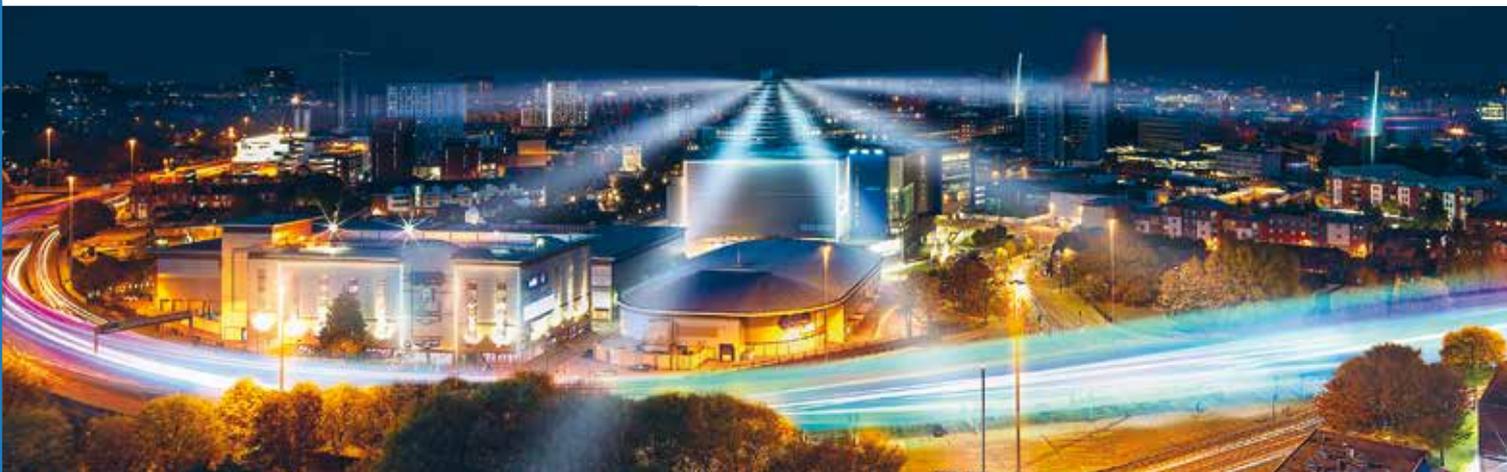
2021

**Welcome to Coventry, the city where movement began.**

We're a City of Welcome, a City of Sanctuary, and now, UK City of Culture 2021. From May 2021 to May 2022, Coventry is set for a bumper year of music, art, theatre, dance and literature. There's never been a better time than now to visit Coventry during its time in the cultural spotlight. Plus, we've got something for everyone, in every ward of the city.



City of Culture shop



Not only is Coventry the UK City of Culture 2021, it is also home to remarkable histories and stories. We were the heart of the UK's motor industry, and before that, the UK's medieval textile industry, and you might have heard some of our most famous stories – Lady Godiva taking to the streets to fight for equality, and the devastation of the city centre

during WWII. Today, we're one of the most diverse cities in the UK, and also one of the youngest (our population is eight years younger than the national average). City of Culture is your chance to leave a footprint in the incredible stories that have shaped our Cov.

## Dates for your diary

Here are a few of the upcoming events we're excited about, but there's loads more to find out about online.

Download the app, follow us at [@Coventry2021](#), or visit [coventry2021.co.uk](#) for all the latest information on our programme.



©Matt Fife

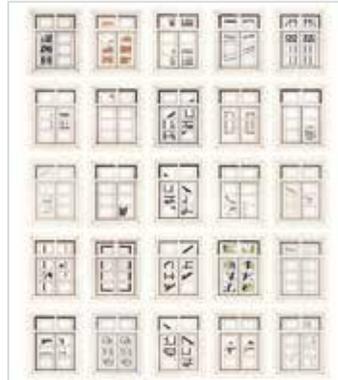
### In Paint We Trust

15 May 2021 – 1 May 2022

Since May 2021, In Paint We Trust has seen new artworks appearing in unique spaces across the city centre and neighbourhoods across Coventry and Warwickshire. Throughout the year, artists will be given opportunities to animate along pathways and walls giving audiences a chance to explore.

In Paint We Trust has been produced by Street Art Strategy with support from the Coventry Business Improvement District.

Visit [coventry2021.co.uk](#) for the map of where you can find these stunning artworks.



### The Show Windows

15 May 2021 – 1 May 2022

Following a year where we have mainly been gazing out of our windows, we are now inviting you to look in.

Inspired by The Wizard of Oz author, L. Frank Baum's book about shop window design, city centre shops and businesses play host to a range of extraordinary window installations designed by local, national and international architects and artists. These portals will transport you to other places, inspire you, excite you, and encourage you to explore the city.



### Broken Angel

6 November 2021 – 1 February 2022

A new project launching at Coventry Cathedral, 'Broken Angel', will see a sequence of new site-specific works temporarily replace the 'Angel of the Eternal Gospel', a figure in John Hutton's great glass 'West Screen' destroyed in an act of vandalism in 2020.

The first artist to exhibit - Anne Petters - is originally from Dresden, one of Coventry's twin cities.

This stunning projection will start in November and run until February 2022.

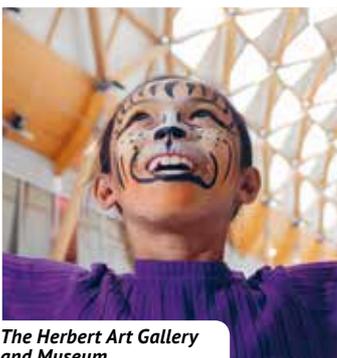


### The Turner Prize

29 September 2021 – 12 January 2022

One of the best-known prizes for visual arts in the world, The Turner Prize 2021 is coming to the Herbert Art Gallery & Museum in Coventry as part of UK City of Culture.

See the work of some of the boldest British contemporary visual artists in the first time the Prize has ever been presented in the Midlands. The 2021 Prize's jury is: Russell Tovey, *Actor*; Zoé Whitley, *Director, Chisenhale Gallery*; Aaron Cezar, *Director, Delfina Foundation*; and Kim McAleese, *Programme Director, Grand Union*.



The Herbert Art Gallery and Museum

## Make the most of your time in the UK City of Culture

### Download the app, and start unlocking rewards

With so much happening in Coventry this year, we wanted to help you out. The **Coventry City of Culture App** is your guide to the programme, right in the palm of your hand. It's also the only way to start unlocking unique benefits by collecting **Cov Points**.

Every time you get involved with City of Culture (booking a ticket, coming to an event, volunteering, sharing with friends) you can earn points. The more points you earn, the bigger the rewards, from exclusive experiences to priority booking for shows.

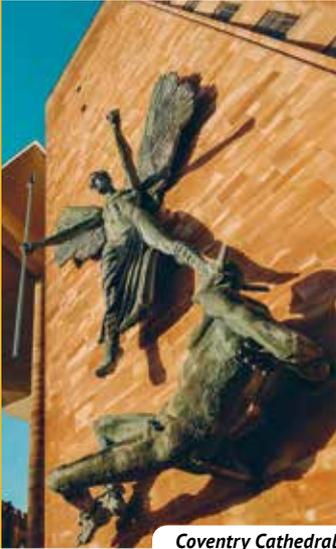
Download the app now on the **App Store** and **Google Play Store**.

### Visit the Coventry UK City of Culture Shop – open seven days a week

Located on **Hertford Street**, the Coventry UK City of Culture shop is your one-stop location for all things City of Culture. It's where you can find out more about our year-long programme, book tickets for must-see events, indulge in some retail therapy with our range of official merchandise, as well as pick up some artisanal goods from local makers.

**And once you've done all of that, and recharged with a tea or coffee, head out and start your City of Culture journey.**

Find out more at: [coventry2021.co.uk](#) [f](#) [t](#) [i](#) [c](#) [o](#) [c](#) [o](#) [v](#) [e](#) [n](#) [t](#) [r](#) [y](#) [2](#) [0](#) [2](#) [1](#) [c](#) [o](#) [v](#) [e](#) [n](#) [t](#) [y](#) [m](#) [o](#) [v](#) [e](#) [s](#)

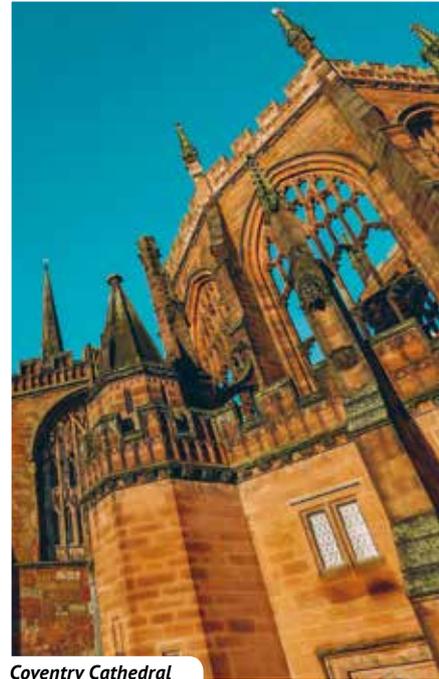


Coventry Cathedral

# History & heritage



Lunt Roman Fort



Coventry Cathedral



2021 CoventryGlides  
©Dylan Parrin Photography

A city like no other, Coventry has been shaped by its rich history and heritage. Its journey from medieval walled city to industrial powerhouse, devastation during the Second World War and its phoenix-like rising from the ashes all combine to make Coventry unique.

Our city's history can be seen on every corner. Medieval streets sit alongside modern buildings that symbolise the rebuilding of the city after the Blitz, and new development that showcases Coventry as the forward-thinking, ever-moving city it has become.

The rich tapestry of its history is a story that captivates and inspires, showing how a place with such humble beginnings can grow into one of the most unique cities in the UK.

Coventry was a scattered settlement when Leofric, Earl of Mercia, and his wife Godiva, founded a church in 1043. By the end of the 14th century, Coventry had become the fourth most powerful city in England. Lady Godiva would go on to

become one of the city's most famous characters. A striking statue of her famous naked horseback ride - said to have been undertaken as a bargain with her husband to free the people of Coventry from the heavy taxes he had forced on them - stands in pride of place in Broadgate, a bustling and expansive plaza in the heart of our city.

Walk around Coventry and it's not only Lady Godiva who draws your eyes upwards. From the famous three spires of **Holy Trinity Church, Christ Church** and **St Michael's** that stand out on the skyline, to one of the most striking scenes in the city - the ruins of the original cathedral standing alongside its new replacement. The former was left destroyed after the bombing of Coventry during the Second World War and the new version, consecrated in 1962, was dedicated to international peace and reconciliation and is now at the heart of the thriving **Cathedral Quarter**.

New alongside old is a theme that runs through Coventry's veins, showing exactly how far our city has come. Its early years as a city will never be forgotten, visible in landmarks like historic **Spon Street** and **St Mary's Guildhall** - one of England's finest guildhalls dating back to the mid-14th Century. The Guildhall is currently closed until March 2022 while it undergoes an exciting transformation that will preserve its heritage for visitors and the local community for years to come.

Another piece of Coventry history being safeguarded for the future is the Grade I listed 14th century **Charterhouse**. One of only nine ever built in Britain, it was heavily damaged during the Dissolution of the Monasteries, with the church and the monks' cells destroyed and used as building materials. But the Prior's House, nationally-important medieval and Tudor wall paintings, and the remains of the inner precinct wall remain and were gifted to the citizens of Coventry in the Second World War. Now owned by Historic Coventry Trust, Charterhouse and the surrounding land is undergoing restoration thanks to a £4.3 million National Lottery Heritage Fund grant.



Coventry Transport Museum

Coventry's growth into a centre of pilgrimage and trade is marked by the remains of its once two-mile long town wall, which still stands in parts of the city today along with two remaining medieval gates, **Cook Street** and **Swanswell Gates**.

Our city's history is full of highs and lows, of boom and slump. While it garnered riches through its early years, Coventry's economy struggled in the 16th Century. During the Civil War, the city wall helped to guard Royalist prisoners - coining the term 'sent to Coventry'. But when Charles II came to the throne, the town wall and defences were ordered to be destroyed.

As Britain's industrial revolution arrived, Coventry's industry focused on ribbon weaving. But by the mid-1800s, when writer **George Eliot** came to know the city - basing her novel Middlemarch on it - the introduction of mechanised looms left its weavers redundant. Watchmaking took over, but again declined. In the 1860s the city became the home of Britain's cycle industry, expanding into cars when **Daimler** took up residence in a disused cotton mill in 1896. The **Coventry**



Priory Row



St Mary's Guildhall



Coombe Abbey, Medieval Banquet

**Transport Museum** gives a comprehensive look at our city's motoring history, boasting the largest publicly-owned collection of British vehicles on the planet.

Coventry managed to continue growing despite the First World War, but the Second World War took its toll. The city was heavily bombed, with the most catastrophic raid taking place on November 14th, 1940. The single most concentrated attack on a

British city in the war, it left such devastation that Nazi propagandists coined a new word - coentriren - meaning to raze a city to the ground.

**Even destruction of the highest order couldn't keep Coventry down for long. Our city rose from the rubble and went on to grow into what it is today - a vibrant hub of development and diversity. A city with a proud history that has not just survived, but thrived.**

**Come and see the story of Coventry for yourself and be a part of its next chapter.**



Herbert Art Gallery & Museum

# Theatre, & culture music



Godiva Festival



Belgrade Theatre ©Nicola Young

Culture runs through Coventry's veins. From world-class music to fabulous theatres and art galleries, we really have got it all. Our title as UK City of Culture 2021 showcases Coventry's cultural calibre - a place that welcomes top names across music, theatre and art, as well as producing our own home-grown talent. From Philip Larkin to Pete Waterman, The Specials and more, Coventry has given rise to key cultural figures across the arts through the years, and there's no sign of us letting up.

## Theatre

Our city boasts an array of theatres that provide a platform for visiting companies as well as our own local talent.

**The Belgrade Theatre** remains one of the largest regional producing theatres in Britain, whose historic building offers a diverse programme of productions, from touring musicals to critically acclaimed plays, alongside traditional pantomimes, comedy and live music. Home to an extensive talent development and community programme, its 850-seat main

auditorium and smaller studio space for 250-300 guests allow it to host a range of companies and performances across a variety of genres.

Just outside the city centre, the Art Deco **Albany Theatre** offers a main house theatre

that can seat more than 600 people across two levels, while its flexible studio space can accommodate audiences of up to 110 in a variety of formats. The Albany stages everything from classic and contemporary dance, drama and comedy as well as music of all genres.

Another unique cultural space in Coventry is the **Shop Front Theatre**. This one-time fish and chip shop restaurant in the heart of the city is a unique 55-seat flexible venue and the only professional space of its kind in the UK. Home to award-winning independent company **Theatre Absolute**, the once-empty unit has welcomed thousands of people since its doors opened in 2009 in partnership with Coventry City Council. In the Shop Front, Theatre Absolute presents new work for theatre, commissions writers and artists, runs writing workshops, mentors artists and holds live events and talks, while the space is also used by local arts and community organisations to showcase their own work.

Back after a four-year transformation, **Warwick Art Centre** believes the arts are a place we can all meet. Attracting around 300,000 visitors a year to over 3,000 individual events, Warwick Art Centre is known for its world-class productions of theatre, contemporary and classical music, dance, comedy, visual art, films, talks and family events.

### Art

Coventry's history collides with our impressive art offering at **The Herbert Art Gallery & Museum**, where you can enjoy world-class art, interactive displays and exhibitions, whilst admiring the building's unique architecture. The gallery's ever-changing displays, often created in partnership with national museums, range from the natural world and the Old

Masters, to modern art from some of the top names in the art world, as well as emerging talent. The Herbert's exhibitions often showcase Coventry's own unique history and culture, and a wide range of talks, events and workshops for adults and children build on this, making it a hub for the arts in the city. Its latest coup is to stage the **Turner Prize 2021** - itself an historic occasion.

If finding art out and about is more your style, **Coventry Canal Basin** is the perfect place to start exploring several art trails, complete with informative fact boards and plaques along the routes highlighting some of Coventry's rich industrial history.

### Music

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

One of the city's best-known music venues, **hmv Empire**, reopened in 2021 as a multi-use venue and has already hosted **Ed Sheeran** with a whole list of big names set to grace its stage, from **Tom Grennan** to **Roger Taylor**. The venue showcases local, up-and-coming and established artists, whilst its facilities rival some of the best live music venues in the UK.

For an insight into Coventry's rich musical history, visit

**Coventry Music Museum**. A lifelong vision of Coventry music historian and journalist, Pete Chambers and his wife Julie, the museum draws people from across the world. It covers non-ska related music as well as 2-Tone, and includes a studio where visitors can try their hand (and ears) at composing and music-making. The museum's home is the **2-Tone Village**, where you'll also find **The Coventry Music Wall of Fame**, a 2-Tone shop and a memorabilia shop.

**Whether you're a music lover, art aficionado or theatre buff, we really do have it all. So, come and experience the City of Culture 2021 for yourself.**



Belgrade Theatre



Belgrade Theatre  
©Tommy Ga-Ken Wan



CBS Arena



In Paint We Trust - Hope

# COVENTRY TRANSPORT MUSEUM

Driving curiosity



## A WORLD-CLASS COLLECTION. A WORLD-CLASS EXPERIENCE.

Housing the largest publicly owned collection of British vehicles on the planet and telling the story of a city which changed the world through transport.

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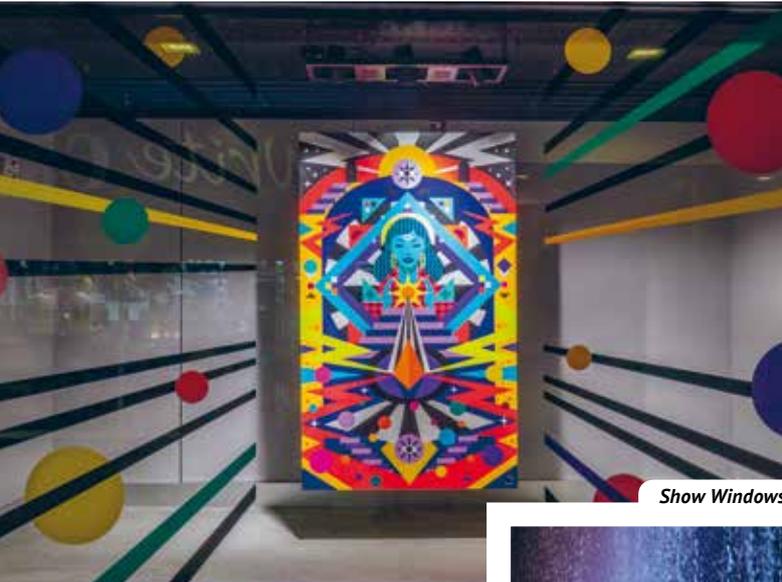


## Herbert

Art Gallery & Museum

An **award-winning** gallery and museum situated in the heart of Coventry – the perfect place to delve into history and engage with art and culture.

Find out more  
[theherbert.org](http://theherbert.org)



Show Windows

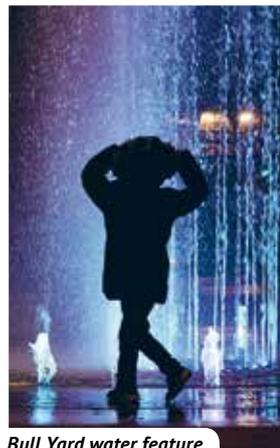


Bull Yard play area



High Street ©Ko Ko Zin

# Our city centre



Bull Yard water feature

As UK City of Culture, you would expect Coventry's emerging new-look city centre to be something special.

And with an emphasis on leisure alongside retail, green spaces and the environment – that's just what it is.

As UK City of Culture 2021, we aim to use our history and culture to spearhead a regeneration led by creativity and sustainability to create a city centre that is vibrant, experiential, healthy and accessible to all.

As the home of the UK motor industry, we have used our expertise to bring in more electric charging points than anywhere outside of London.

We have narrowed roads and widened pavements and we have taken away unnecessary street furniture.

Our railway station is undergoing an £82 million facelift to create a 21st-century transport interchange and gateway befitting of our city. Now when people arrive, they are met by a wide, green boulevard, flanked by artwork that leads them into

the city centre via a series of attractive spaces.

**Bull Yard**, has been transformed as part of a wider £44 million public realm transformation. The area now boasts an illuminated water feature and a playground in the heart of the city centre, perfect for families and with rest areas for those a little older.

Creative lighting is transformative, and it is everywhere - from the benches, bollards and ground, to the dancing waters of the fountain. It's entertaining, and it's fun. And, of course, our famous Three Spires have been lit to stunning effect.

Coventry was home to Europe's first pedestrianised city centre when it was rebuilt following the war. It was a brave move, and we have tried to capture some of those early aims as we rebuild for the future – keeping the best of the old with the best of the new.

Greenery is everywhere, with planting and seating throughout the centre, and water features are not just to look at, they are tactile and fun.

**Broadgate**, the square at the heart of our city, has been

**So from a city made for shopping, we are creating a city made for families, a city of leisure and culture and fun, one where people of all ages want to spend some time – and one they want to come back to, time and time again.**

rejuvenated with bars and restaurants, offering a new nightlife experience for our residents and visitors – or a place to rest and chat while they shop, fighting loneliness and creating a connected city for all.

We have linked our fantastic venues, improved their surroundings and made them a part of the city. Even the cobblestones are playing a part, with a few of our city's best-known sayings hidden along the walkway in the **Cathedral Quarter**.

Regeneration is more than just new buildings. Art and culture play an integral role and are increasingly important to many people's well-being. Public art is key to our designs, with former grey and functional shopping areas transformed by colour including artwork by **Morag Myerscough**, **Angry Dan** and international lighting specialists **Spiers and Major**.

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

# Shopping & lifestyle



Hay Lane



FarGo Village



West Orchards



The Wave

Whether you're searching for the perfect outfit for that special occasion, a gift for a loved one, or stocking up on your beauty essentials, Coventry has plenty to offer thanks to its impressive selection of markets, precincts and shopping centres, including Lower Precinct and West Orchards. There's something for everyone, from high street favourites to designer boutiques, independent retailers and vintage stores, making shopping in Coventry a unique and exciting experience.



Broadgate



The Botanist

## Shop 'til you drop

Not sure where to start on your shopping expedition? Head to **West Orchards** and **Lower Precinct** shopping centres to kick-off your retail therapy in style! There's plenty of parking on site at both centres and you'll find high street retailers such as Next, River Island, River Island Kids, M&S, Goldsmiths, New Look, H&M and Lush.

Now you're warmed up, it's time to check out the city's independent and boutique shops. **City Arcade** is full of creatives, historic **Spon Street** boasts timber framed, Tudor buildings and a vibrant mix of bars and restaurants. **Burges** and **Hales Street** have recently benefited from a £2 million boost from Historic England and here you can find a fantastic mix of independent shops and restaurants, alongside household names.

Venture a little further into the city and show some love to our independent retailers. Head to **FarGo Village** – an artistically re-purposed industrial space that's fiercely independent and full of quirky shops to explore. Looking for that perfect gift, or want to treat yourself to something a little different? Sift through vinyl treasures at **Just Dropped In**; find retro games and geeky memorabilia at **Fantayzia**; or embrace

your artistic side at **Print Manufactory** and **Crazy Rah Art**.

If you are looking for quality local produce, then **Spon Street Farmers Market** is the place to go. Once a month, the city's historic Spon Street holds a market that celebrates the best of Coventry and Warwickshire's independent vendors. From street food and beverage stalls to world-class craft producers, the market offers a wide range of entertainment and fun for all the family.

To help make your shopping experience even more enjoyable, the Coventry BID team has introduced a fantastic new initiative to the city – **You. Smart. Thing**.

**You. Smart. Thing:** This innovative travel assistant service suggests tailored journey plans that enable you to travel more efficiently without disruption or delays.

This not only saves time – and, therefore, money and greenhouse gases – but also takes you by recommended routes at specific times. However, it's more than just an integrated travel service with live updates – alongside specially tailored travel options and journeys from door-to-door - it can even suggest things to do, places to visit or somewhere to stop for refreshments or comfort breaks along the route.

## The lowdown on leisure

For those not so keen on retail therapy, or if you're all shopped out, there are plenty of other activities in the city to keep you entertained. Water babies will love **The Wave** – a UK award-winning indoor waterpark making a splash in the heart of the

city. From water slides and wave pools, to a Lazy River, the luxurious **Mana Spa**, and a splash pad for the little members of the family – it's a great place to visit for a fun-filled day out.

If you're not so keen on the water, take a trip to **Skydome** instead. Catch the latest blockbuster at **Odeon**, burn off some energy at **PureGym**, or test out your skating skills at **Planet Ice**. If you're feeling lucky, end the day at **Genting Casino** and see whether a roll of the dice will bring you back to Coventry sooner than you think!

**Whether you're looking to indulge in a weekend of retail therapy, or simply want to try something new, Coventry is the city to do it in!**



# IT'S BEGINNING TO LOOK A LOT LIKE CHRISTMAS...

Rediscover Coventry City Centre this Christmas, a city rich in culture and history. As we celebrate our year as City of Culture there have never been so many great reasons to visit.

Head to our website to find listings of all the great shops and restaurants plus the latest details of experiences and events available.



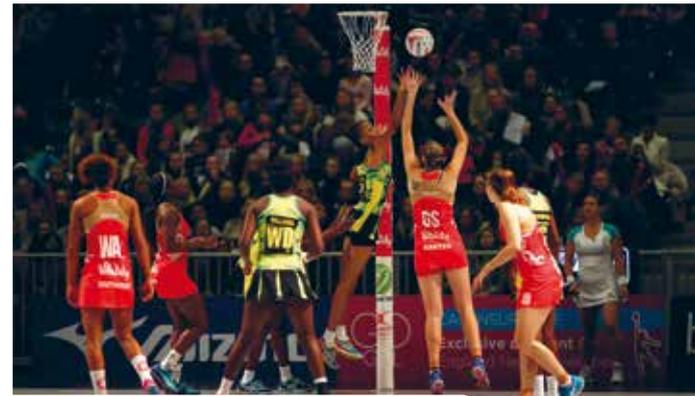
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DISTRICT

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 @COVCITYCENTRE



Coventry Blaze ©Scott Wiggins Photography



England Netball at Coventry Building Society Arena



Coventry City Football Club



Wasps at CBS Arena

# Sport <sup>in</sup> the city

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

Coventry is home to a multitude of world-class clubs across a variety of sports, offering an unmissable live spectacle for city visitors. There is a huge breadth of grassroots sports that can be enjoyed for leisure across the city, and Coventry is also a proud host city for the Commonwealth Games and International Children's Games in 2022 and was the European City of Sport in 2019.

The city's famous, newly-named **Coventry Building Society Arena**, is home to some top national sport. You can watch **Wasps Rugby**; **Coventry City Football Club**, known as the **Sky Blues**; and **Wasps Netball**, who operate in partnership with Wasps Rugby. The arena is also home to an on-site hotel,

**The Anecdote** sports bar and **Grosvenor Casino**. The arena is a venue that can do it all this winter season, from family days out, Christmas gifts to days out (or night!) with friends.

For lovers of winter sports, **Skydome Coventry** is home to the Elite Ice Hockey League team, **Coventry Blaze**.

The Blaze has won several championships including the Challenge Cup and the Playoff Championship. The Skydome is also home to **Planet Ice**, where recreational ice-skating lessons and activities can be enjoyed by all in a unique winter environment – the perfect family day out. Another great venue is **The Butts Park Arena**, which plays host to **Coventry Rugby** who currently play in the Championship, the second tier of English Rugby Union and the **Coventry Bears Rugby League** side.

**Coventry & North Warwickshire Cricket Club** is an amateur club with plenty of opportunities for young and adult members to develop their cricketing skills and become part of a team. Coventry is also home to several fantastic golf courses including **Hearsall Golf Club** and **Copsewood Grange Golf Club**. For a more action-packed winter season, **Coventry Judo Club** welcomes new members, both adults and kids, experienced or new to Judo, and is one of Coventry's leading sports clubs.

Other Coventry sporting activities include climbing at **The Ballroom Climbing Wall**, or the treetop adventures of **Go Ape** located on site at the famous **Coombe Abbey Hotel**.

# Celebrating Coventry's

from the city basin to Hawkesbury Junction



Cycle along the waterway

This year has seen a huge amount of activity on Coventry canals as part of Coventry UK City of Culture 2021. With a raft of activities from creative arts and culture, through to fishing, cycling, kayaking and much more, local people have had a chance to experience their blue waterway in a whole new perspective.



Enjoy the beautiful Coventry Canal



The Coventry Canal was opened in 1790 to connect the rapidly expanding city with the Trent & Mersey Canal to exploit the Warwickshire coalfields, giving the ability to ship fuel north and south along the canal network. Over recent years, it has undergone substantial regeneration, including a major upgrade to the towpath.

The five and a half mile route from Coventry Canal Basin in the city to Hawkesbury Junction can now celebrate a Green Flag Award from Keep Britain Tidy. This award, now into its third decade, which is awarded to spaces that boast the highest possible environmental standards, are beautifully maintained and have excellent visitor facilities.

This wouldn't have been possible without commitment from local groups including **The Big Clean – Coventry, Coventry Mercia Lions Club, Canal & River Trust** volunteers and colleagues, **The Good Gym, Crisis (Coventry)** and many more local groups and residents that have made this space exceptional.

**Nick Cleaver, Community Roots Manager** in Coventry from the Canal & River Trust, has great pride the area being successful. *"I'm so proud that we've gained the Green Flag Award in Coventry. This achievement wouldn't have been possible without all the local people and communities that gave up their valuable time, not just by getting involved, but also to see and experience our beautiful canals and understand and benefit from their true value."*

The Canal & River Trust have worked in partnership with **Coventry UK City of**

# canals



Hawkesbury Junction to Coventry Basin has been awarded with Green Flag status

**Culture 2021** teams to bring a series of events and activities to the canal – from narrowboat traders, live music, arts and culture as part of the **European School of Participation, 'Roam and Dwell'** with **Ludic Rooms** featuring artists and opportunities to experience the canal through arts, **'Castaway'** highlighting the issues with plastics pollution and **Heritage Week** – an opportunity to learn about life and history on local canals. Thousands of people have had the opportunity to see the value in the beautiful canal network.

From **November 11-14** – the canal will be lit up as part of **'Random String'** – Ludic Rooms' festival of arts and technology bringing light, sound and projections to Coventry Canal and Basin and also an opportunity to celebrate the Green Flag Award. The event's theme is folklore, exploring the urban canal, gods and goddesses of the waterways, future creatures and new folk tales.

It will also explore what it means to be by the water in a land-locked city. Tickets are available from **randomstring.co**

Canal & River Trust will be working with Coventry UK City of Culture 2021 until the spring, and will then be looking forward to involvement in the city as part of the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games, when the **Coventry Building Society Arena** plays host to leading sports stars as they host Rugby Sevens, Wrestling and Judo.

There are currently opportunities to get involved with the Canal & River Trust to help us in **#GettingGamesReady** – by volunteering to be the public face of our charity and help care for your local canal in the lead up to and during the Games.

The Canal & River Trust is part of the United by Birmingham 2022 community brand for its Community Activity and Wellbeing



Ludic Rooms Random String will be lighting up Coventry Basin



Opportunities to take part in kayaking on Coventry's waterways.

programmes. The community brand enables local, regional and non-commercial projects, events or initiatives to be

acknowledged by, and work with, the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games on community activities.

**Gavin Passmore, Community Engagement Manager** at Canal & River Trust, said: "We've already started work on improving our canals and towpaths so that they are in tip top condition for the thousands of people from across the Commonwealth who are expected to attend the Games.

"With less than a year to go until the opening ceremony, and the cultural programme starting in March 2022, we need local people to help us transform our canals into a world class venue, one that will be seen by a worldwide audience and really put West Midlands on the global map."



To express your interest in a volunteering opportunity, visit [www.canalrivertrust.org.uk/commonwealth-games-2022](http://www.canalrivertrust.org.uk/commonwealth-games-2022)

The work of the Trust and partners in Coventry has brought new life to the five and a half miles of historic waterways from the city basin to the rural Hawkesbury Junction, engaging with local communities to experience what a valuable asset the waterway is on an environmental, cultural, wellbeing and health level. The work of all involved on Coventry's canals has built a lasting legacy for the future, meaning local people can enjoy the waterways for years to come.



The Botanist



Dhillon's Spire Bar ©Rich Phillips Photography

# Food & drink

When you come to Coventry, one thing is for sure - you won't go hungry. From popular chains to thriving independents, one-off experiences to vibrant street food, we've got gastronomy to suit every taste and budget. Coventry's food and drink scene reflects our diverse culture, giving locals and visitors the chance to taste their way around the globe right here in the city. Whether you're craving a certain cuisine, have a special occasion to celebrate or looking for a family-friendly place for dinner, you'll find everything you need and more.

## Around the world in one city

Forget leaving the country to try different cuisines, you can get it all right here in Coventry. From authentic Caribbean and Mexican cuisine, to Korean barbecue, Japanese and Chinese, our array of independent restaurants have you well catered for. If it's pizza you're after, we've got all the big players and some smaller artisan names of our own. There's Indian food, steak, French, Italian, Brazilian and, of course, plenty of restaurants serving up classic British dishes. For vegan options, we're not short of choices and if you've got a sweet tooth, we've got dessert parlours to keep you smiling, and let's not forget fabulous coffee, great cakes and more, thanks to Coventry's thriving cafe culture. Whatever cuisine you fancy, you can find it in our city.



Coombe Abbey Hotel

Our love of food is something we celebrate in Coventry. Our annual Coventry Food Festival champions the excellent food and drink scene in our city and surrounding area, offering up demos from top local chefs and artisan producers from across the region. In 2021, we also played host to the first ever Coventry & Warwickshire Foodie Awards, celebrating outstanding food and drink in the city and throughout the county.



Bistrot Pierre ©Phil Boorman Photography Ltd



Coombe Abbey, Banquet



FarGo Village



Digbeth Dining Club ©Garry Jones

### Independents and chains alike

Like our big city siblings across the country, we've got all the big chains you'd expect to find. Family favourites like **Pizza Express** and **Nando's** sit alongside the likes of **Bistrot Pierre**, **Five Guys**, **Turtle Bay**, **The Botanist** and **Las Iguanas**. But in Coventry, we also

have a thriving independent scene when it comes to food and drink, with producers, restaurateurs and chefs offering up everything from great bread to fine dining meals, brilliant coffee and quality cakes.

### Special occasions to street food

The food and drink on offer in Coventry ranges right from extravagant establishments perfect for special occasions, to a casual street food scene to rival any city. We have a great selection of food for families, from cafes and lunches to takeaway options, and some of our venues have play areas making them the perfect place for a family lunch or dinner.

Special occasions are well catered for, with everything from fine dining options at unique supper clubs like **Gourmet Food Kitchen** and **Earlson Supper Club**, and dining experiences from chefs at the very top of their game. If it's one-off experiences you're after, we have them too, and you can try everything from a Medieval banquet to delicate afternoon teas. Tie in lunch or dinner with a few cocktails in

some of our fabulous bars, or make a whole day or evening of it by adding a shopping trip, a tour around cultural Coventry, or a trip to the theatre or a gig.

If street food is your thing, Coventry has traders running pop-ups across the city, offering everything from big burger at award-winning **Strip Club Street Food** and **Bad Boys Burgers**, to authentic Mexican tacos from **Good Food Cartel**. **FarGo Village** is a hub for everything artisan - including food and drink - and 2021 saw the opening of **Factory**, its very own indoor street food hub.

**Food is at the heart of our culture here in Coventry and shows exactly how diverse, ambitious and creative our city is. Make sure you bring your appetite when you visit – you'll need it for sure!**

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NINETEEN 58

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# Nightlife

Coventry's nightlife is as diverse as our city's history and culture. In the same way our city is full of both old and new, so too is our night-time scene. Traditional pubs sit alongside modern cocktail bars and clubs, offering something for everyone no matter what the occasion or season. Whether it's a quiet drink with a friend or a celebratory night out, a pint in the sun or a cosy cocktail in the depths of winter, we've got it all.



The Anecdote ©Becky Kerr

## A pub on every corner

Maybe not every corner, but walk anywhere in the city and you'll come across one of our great pubs serving craft ales and guest beers to rival anywhere else in the country. Home to an array of our own microbreweries including **Dhillon's**, **Twisted Barrel** and **Byatts**, Coventry has a keen beer scene serving up only the best for locals and visitors. If you're after our oldest pub, head to Medieval Spon Street and visit **The Old Windmill**. Dating back to 1451, the pub has been recognised by Coventry's CAMRA branch and is much-loved for its good service and great ale.

That's just one in a broad range of pubs across the city, from historic buildings complete with Tudor features, to cosy nooks perfect for hiding from the elements, beer gardens for summer afternoons and evenings, dog-friendly establishments and an array of pub grub to suit every taste. If it's a good pint in a great pub you want, we can help.

## Brilliant bars

If you're looking for a vibrant bar scene, Coventry has plenty of those too. Whether you fancy a cocktail, glass of wine or any other tippie, the list is long. For pre-or-post-theatre drinks near the Belgrade Theatre, there's the **Artisan Bar & Grill** or the theatre's very own **Nineteen 58** bar. For a stunning setting, check out **Generators**, the rooftop bar at the brand new Telegraph Hotel or **Dhillon's Spire Bar**, nestled in Christchurch Spire. You could also try Dhillon's fantastic new sports bar, the **Sky Blue Tavern**.

In the city centre, the **Slug & Lettuce** has its own beer garden and outdoor bar right next to the Cathedral Ruins, while **The Botanist** and **The**

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

If it's sport or games you're after, you'll love Coventry's stunning new **Anecdote** bar, located at the CBS Arena. On an array of huge screens, fans can watch all their sporting heroes, whilst enjoying high-end bar games and a great selection of food and

drink. **The Phoenix** boasts two stages, two bars and a large outdoor space, as well as hosting club nights and events, while **Rileys Sports Bar** features 39 tables including 16 full-size snooker tables, plus a darts zone and dozens of live TVs for the latest sporting action.

## Something for the night owls

As a bustling student city, Coventry isn't short of late-night options either. Whether it's live music, big-name DJs or some culture cocktails, we've got it all. A mainstay of Coventry's nightlife, **Kasbah**, is a popular late-night haunt that's played host to some big names and remains a great



FarGo Village



Metropolis

live music and club venue, as well as offering a BBQ and shisha lounge. **Samoan Joes** offers an upbeat tiki experience to really get the party started and just outside the city centre in Coundon, **Rialto Plaza** has been revamped and offers some great food, music events and themed nights.

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

# FORME & CHASE

BAR AND RESTAURANT

In the old days of journalism, some of the best scoops were cooked up over a working breakfast, a liquid lunch or an after-work drink. Forme & Chase is open all day – so you'll have plenty of opportunity to relax here and create some stories of your own.



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As we welcome the world.  
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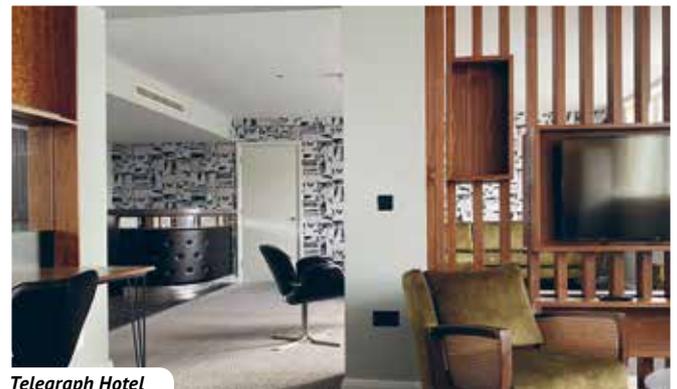
Admission: Adults £4.00, Concessions (Students, Seniors and People of Determination) £2.00 Children\* £1.00  
\*between 5 and 15



Coombe Abbey Hotel



Village Hotel Coventry



Telegraph Hotel

# Be our guest

It's the season to whisk yourself away for a magical stay! Whether you're looking for a superior bedroom, a quaint country house hotel, or uniquely-themed bespoke accommodation, Coventry boasts fantastic places for you to escape the every day and enjoy a winter break.

Transport yourself to the magical and historic four-star hotel, **Coombe Abbey**. Enjoy a festive stay surrounded by character and comfort. Each of the bedrooms is complete with captivating history and personality, soft furnishings, and beautiful views. Explore 500 acres of parkland, taste delicious freshly prepared hearty food, or wrap up warm and test your nerve on the nearby **Go Ape** treetop adventure. Whatever you're interested in, there's an experience for everyone at Coombe Abbey.

The modern **Village Hotel Coventry** is perfect for any stay, leisure or business. Just 10 minutes from the centre of historic Coventry, the hotel boasts home-from-home luxury, together with a high-

end gym, indoor swimming pool, sauna, steam room and whirlpool. There's also a bar, restaurant and Starbucks on-site – perfect for a quick bite between meetings or a winter warming dinner with friends.

Home to the iconic Telegraph newspaper for more than 50 years, 157 Corporation Street has now been transformed into a laid-back, chic new hotel with headline-grabbing features that bring style and comfort to the city. **The Telegraph Hotel** has a wide range of luxurious bedrooms and facilities, designed with the style and fun of the 1950s to ensure your stay is a unique experience.

There are numerous high-end chain hotels within the city too. Situated inside the

Coventry Building Society Arena, **DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Coventry** offers 'pitch view' rooms, an onsite casino and a West Midlands Trains stop only a five-minute walk away, making this hotel the number one choice for visitors who want to extend their stay after attending an event or match.

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

**From quiet countryside retreats to larger hotels located inside the bustling city centre, you will find somewhere to stay in Coventry that is exactly what you need.**

## Upgrade your stay with our Coventry 'Stay Play Explore' package.

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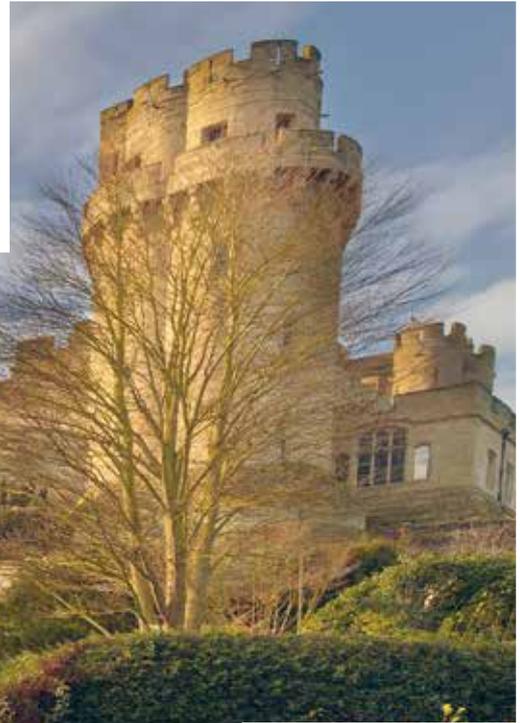
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Shustoke Reservoir



Warwick Castle ©David Martyn



Aston Martin Gaydon ©Drew Gibson

# On your doorstep

Curling around Coventry in a green embrace, rural Warwickshire is a captivating mix of the famous and the yet-to-be-discovered in beautiful countryside threaded by rivers and canals.

Grabbing the headlines, **Stratford-upon-Avon** is the town where William Shakespeare was born and is buried. Every year, millions of people celebrate his life

by visiting the town. Enjoy Shakespeare's finest work performed in the multi-award-winning Royal Shakespeare Theatre, visit the breathtaking Anne Hathaway's

Cottage, or simply explore the streets of this famous market town.

This festive season, **Warwick Castle** has pulled out all the stops. Discover splendid Staterooms adorned with twinkling trees, dazzling decorations and festive flourishes. In the Great Hall, marvel at medieval armour, majestic architecture and the renowned 20ft high Christmas tree. With so much to see



©The Farm Stratford

and do, Warwick Castle is the ultimate family day out!

With wide boulevards, stunning architecture and award-winning parks, **Royal Leamington Spa** is a beautiful and prosperous town located in the heart of Warwickshire. With a current population of around 50,000, the town's growth was largely due to the natural spa springs that were discovered and commercialised in the nineteenth century.

A vast medieval fortress that endured a famous siege and later became an Elizabethan palace, **Kenilworth Castle** is among Britain's biggest historical sites. Experience 900 years of history as you marvel at the mighty medieval keep, climb the towers to admire the fantastic views and imagine the majesty of the Great Hall.

### Freedom of scenic roads

A great way to discover Warwickshire is on a rural road trip: check out the **five new scenic driving routes** through lovely open countryside and along snugly hedged lanes, to historic sights telling tales

of a landscape at the heart of England that has always been rich in romance, drama and mystery. You can breeze through a kaleidoscopic tour in a day, or take your time, pause, stretch your legs and look around.

Explorer fascinating history in the Gunpowder Plot village of **Dunchurch**. Time travel 'from Saxons to Shakespeare' in South Warwickshire: from picturesque **Henley-in-Arden** to villages connected to the Bard, with the unusual **Saxon Sanctuary** in Wootton Waven and treasure-filled **Coughton Court** en route.

Or let the less-explored 'towns and country' of North Warwickshire surprise you: setting off in the steps of local girl Mary Ann Evans, aka renowned Victorian novelist George Eliot, to scenes that inspired her writing; also uncovering links to a once-celebrated Tudor poetry circle featuring Ben Jonson at **Polesworth Abbey**.

### Winter walks, picnics and legend

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

spacious parks, woodlands and canal towpaths in generous supply. Combine legend with a leisurely stroll at **Charlecote Park** where a young Will Shakespeare allegedly went poaching. Or admire the cleverly designed vistas of 'Capability Brown' landscapes and the ornamental lake at **Compton Verney Art Gallery & Park** (incidentally, home to the largest collection of British folk art in the UK).

Then 'just add water' and go with the flow: 19 rivers cross Warwickshire including the Avon, Anker and Stour, and there are 100 miles of canal towpaths to wander. View the famous **Stairway to Heaven** – Hatton's flight of 21 locks – and narrowboats gliding past as you walk beside the **Grand Union Canal**. Maybe stop at a waterside pub or bring a picnic of goodies from a farm shop – artisan cheeses, preserves, ciders and eco-ales are among Warwickshire's locally made produce.

Another day, follow trails and go birdwatching at **Kingsbury Water Park** or **Draycote Water**.

Or simply cherish the glint of wildflower meadows in summer.

### Stay longer, explore further

Alongside Warwickshire's claims to fame as Shakespeare Country and George Eliot Country, did you know that **Rugby** is a hotbed of literary links ranging from Tom Brown's Schooldays to Lewis Carroll, Rupert Brooke and Salman Rushdie? The town is also the birthplace of the game of rugby, celebrated by the school and in **Rugby Art Gallery & Museum**.

You will find the site (and story) of the first pitched battle of the English Civil War in Warwickshire too, the Battle of Edgehill 1642, and (somewhat more modern – channel your inner James Bond!) the global **HQ of Aston Martin** at **Gaydon**, also home to the **British Motor Museum** showcasing the world's largest collection of historic British cars.

Indulge in an extended stay that blends culture with the quiet countryside – maybe self-catering in a castle linked to three queens; 'counting sheep' in a restored 19th Century shepherd's hut on a farm; or ensconced in a self-contained Georgian bathhouse hidden in woodland. How relaxing is that?



Welford-upon-Avon ©VisitBritain/LeBeel

Find out more about Warwickshire's market towns and villages, historic attractions, great country drives and rural walks at [visit.warwickshire.gov.uk](http://visit.warwickshire.gov.uk)

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

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Coombe Abbey ©Anna Rokitowski



Go Ape Coventry

# Enjoy the outdoors

From small, secret hideaways to landscaped lawns, beautiful borders and acres of parkland, Coventry's parks and green spaces offer visitors a chance to get close to nature and relax while surrounded by the hustle and bustle of urban life.



Canal Boats ©Paul Wrighting

This winter engage with the nature around you by exploring our city's largest park, **War Memorial Park**. Known for attracting over 400,000 visitors a year, the War Memorial Park is one of Coventry's premier parks and includes sculptures and themed gardens.

**Coombe Abbey Park** offers a wide variety of activities to enjoy, even in these colder months. Wrap up warm and take on **Go Ape's** treetop adventure, visit the park's insect hotel and the Discovery Centre's new interactive exhibitions – there is something for everyone.

The 100 acres of **Ryton Pools Country Park** are just waiting to be explored. Containing two play parks, vast wildlife

and a pirate-themed walk, Ryton Pools Country Park will keep the whole family happy. Get creative in the Children's Wood, an area of woodland within the park set aside for den building. A wealth of building materials in the form of cut branches are provided by rangers to allow younger visitors to enjoy taking part in this exciting activity.

Situated in the heart of the city centre, **Lady Herbert's**

**Garden** is one of Coventry's hidden gems. Enjoy a winter stroll in the tranquil gardens designed by Albert Herbert himself and take in the beautiful winter flowers. The smallest park in Coventry offers visitors a chance to enjoy an afternoon coffee surrounded by nature.

Designed by great canal engineer, James Brindley in 1768, **Coventry Canal Basin**, in the heart of Coventry, is home to a new **Visitor Information Centre**, shops, waterside wildlife and an abundance of historic canal architecture. It has a welcoming community

of boaters and is an ideal starting point for your Sunday afternoon canal-side stroll or bike ride.

Enjoy **Allesley Park's** picturesque outdoor space, play areas, rolling landscape and established trees. Visitors can marvel at the unspoilt expanse of greenery and the park's unique Fairy Village. Tiny hand-painted doors appear on trees, accompanied by little stepladders and plant pots, making it a brilliant place to explore with little ones during the festive season.

# Spend a day with us



Bayley Lane ©Neil Catley

FarGo Village

You may not have long to spend in Coventry, and with so much to see and do here, let us help with some inspiration on how to make the most of your short time in the city.

Why not begin your morning with a guided walking tour of our city centre? Take an hour to wander the historic, cobble streets surrounding **Coventry Cathedral** with one of our expert Blue Badge guides; delve into Coventry's rich heritage as you uncover our medieval history and fascinating legendary tales.

Next, you could climb the challenging 188 steps of **St Michael's Tower** – still standing in the Cathedral ruins - and marvel at the best panoramic view of Coventry you'll find.

After working up an appetite, head over to nearby **Cathedral Lanes**. Not only will you be able to spot our

famous statue of Coventry heroine, **Lady Godiva**, and our much-loved city clock, dedicated to the legend of **Peeping Tom**, you'll be presented with a wealth of food and drink outlets, the perfect place to rest your legs and re-energise before the afternoon's activities begin.

Following lunch, head past our stunning **Council House** and walk towards the **Herbert Art Gallery & Museum**. Here you can immerse yourself in captivating art and fascinating culture. With award-winning exhibitions and a packed events programme, the Herbert makes for an entertaining escape for all.

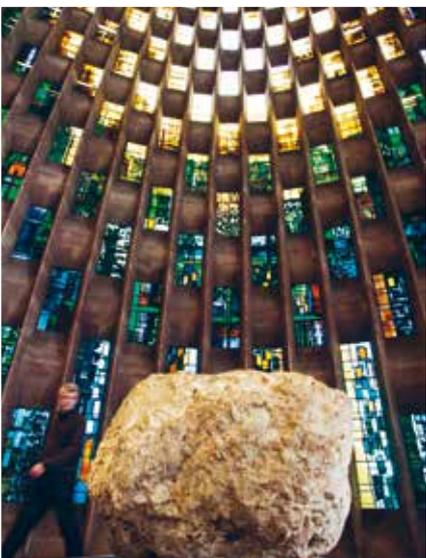
If you have time, why not then take the short walk to **Coventry Transport Museum**? The Museum houses the largest publicly owned collection of British vehicles in the world and tells the fascinating story of Coventry and its people through the rise and fall of its biggest industry. With **Esquires** café on-site, the museum also makes the perfect stop for a refreshment break if needed.

If you're here during the evening, there are lots of places for you to kick-back and relax over a winter warming meal with family, or perhaps have a beer with friends. **Medieval Spon Street** offers award-winning bars and restaurants, from curry houses to cosy bistros. Nearby, you'll find **Belgrade Plaza**, complete with family-friendly restaurants. The city's scenic and historic **Cathedral Quarter** is home to diverse restaurants, quaint coffee shops and trendy cocktail bars, while FarGo Village brings together some of the most exciting, independent kitchens and traders from the local area.

Alongside these lively evening hangouts, Coventry has a wealth of music and theatre venues, hosting international music superstars, touring West End productions, critically acclaimed drama and hilarious comedy favourites. Venues including **Warwick Arts Centre, Belgrade Theatre, Albany Theatre, Ricoh Arena** and **hmv Empire** Coventry have packed events programmes, with something sure to delight every visitor.



Coventry Cathedral The Wave



Coventry Cathedral

## ...or even more

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

Begin to explore Coventry's bustling centre by taking in the extraordinary architecture and rich history of Coventry Cathedral. As our most famous landmark, no trip to the city would be complete without a guided tour of this fascinating and historically significant space.



Belgrade Theatre ©Manuel Harlan

For many, the annual trip to the ice rink is a chance to show off their skills on a pair of skates. For others, being able to stand up straight and glide along the ice is a victory. **Planet Ice Coventry** offers the perfect opportunity to come together with your friends and family to experience some ice-skating winter fun! The magical ice rink offers an array of activities from ice skating lessons to hockey experiences.

That evening, combine culture and creativity with quirky shops and great places to eat at FarGo Village's **Factory**. With its laid-back, boho vibe, FarGo is the perfect place to hang out and relax after your busy day!

Alternatively, why not take in a show? **Belgrade Theatre** has an exciting programme of theatre for you to enjoy, while **hmv Empire Coventry** and **Warwick Arts Centre** offer a lively evening of entertainment with year-round gigs, classical performances, and world-class comedy.

On day two, why not escape the bustling city centre and dare to test your nerve as you clamber among the trees at **Go Ape**? Hidden among 500 acres of breath-taking parkland, Go Ape offers the best in high rope antics, with something for both thrill-seeking adults, and fun-seeking children. While you're nearby, why not recuperate and relax as you enjoy an

exquisite afternoon tea inside our decadent **Coombe Abbey Hotel**?

Whilst you're here, be sure to discover the city's eclectic and world-famous music heritage inside the **Coventry Music Museum**. Packed with captivating memorabilia and history, the museum celebrates our legacy of 2-Tone, and so much more.

If you're looking to make a splash during your stay, you can't miss a session inside our exhilarating waterpark, **The Wave**. Located in the city centre, The Wave offers families year-round fun with their six high-octane slides, precision-engineered for maximum fun!



Coventry city skyline

Before you leave, don't forget to check out the events taking place in Coventry. Head over to [visitcoventry.co.uk](http://visitcoventry.co.uk) for full event listings and find out how to really enhance your stay in the city!



Coventry

# Getting here

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



Avanti West Coast



Visitor Information Centre

## Bus

Keeping Coventry connected with our surrounding suburbs as well as nearby Warwickshire and Birmingham, **National Express Coventry** offers regular bus services, seven days a week.

Operating from Coventry's central bus terminal, **Pool Meadow**, National Express Coventry provides a convenient solution to discovering the city without using a car.

## Train

Coventry is on the West Coast Main Line, with regular train services linking the area with other major UK towns and cities. Trains operate every 20 minutes (on average) to central London, which is only one hour away using **Avanti West Coast** services.

There is an extensive timetable of local trains linking Coventry to nearby local towns, including Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwick, Royal Leamington Spa and Rugby.

## Road

With easy access to the national motorway network, it's easy getting to Coventry by road. In fact, 75 per cent of the UK population is within a two-hour car journey.

The M6, M6 Toll, M40, M42, M5, M69 and the A45/A46 are the major arterial routes in and out of Coventry and surrounding areas, as well as linking Coventry to central Birmingham, which is only around 20 minutes by car from the centre of Coventry.

## Bike

**West Midlands Cycle Hire** provides a fun, healthy and sustainable way to explore Coventry, with bikes available to hire 24 hours a day, every day of the year, from more than 20 docking stations located in the city centre and surrounding areas.

## Taxi

With connections to the city dating back more than 120 years, Coventry is home to the black cab, having manufactured these world-famous vehicles since the 1940s.

Taxis can be picked up from the multiple ranks across the city or hailed on the street. There are also private hire companies operating in the city, and app-based taxi services such as **Uber** and **Ola** are also available.

## Coventry Visitor Information Centre

We have everything you need here to help plan your trip to Coventry with ease. Download one of our handy maps to print and bring with you or take inspiration from some of our suggested itineraries to help inspire your visit to our city.

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

### Attractions

- A** Coventry Cathedral
- B** Coventry Transport Museum
- C** Herbert Art Gallery & Museum
- D** Belgrade Theatre
- E** FarGo Village
- F** Holy Trinity Church
- G** St Mary's Guildhall
- H** St John the Baptist Church
- I** Medieval Spon Street
- J** Coventry Watch Museum
- K** The Wave Waterpark
- L** Coventry Canal Basin
- M** The Weaver's House
- N** London Road Cemetery
- O** Charterhouse

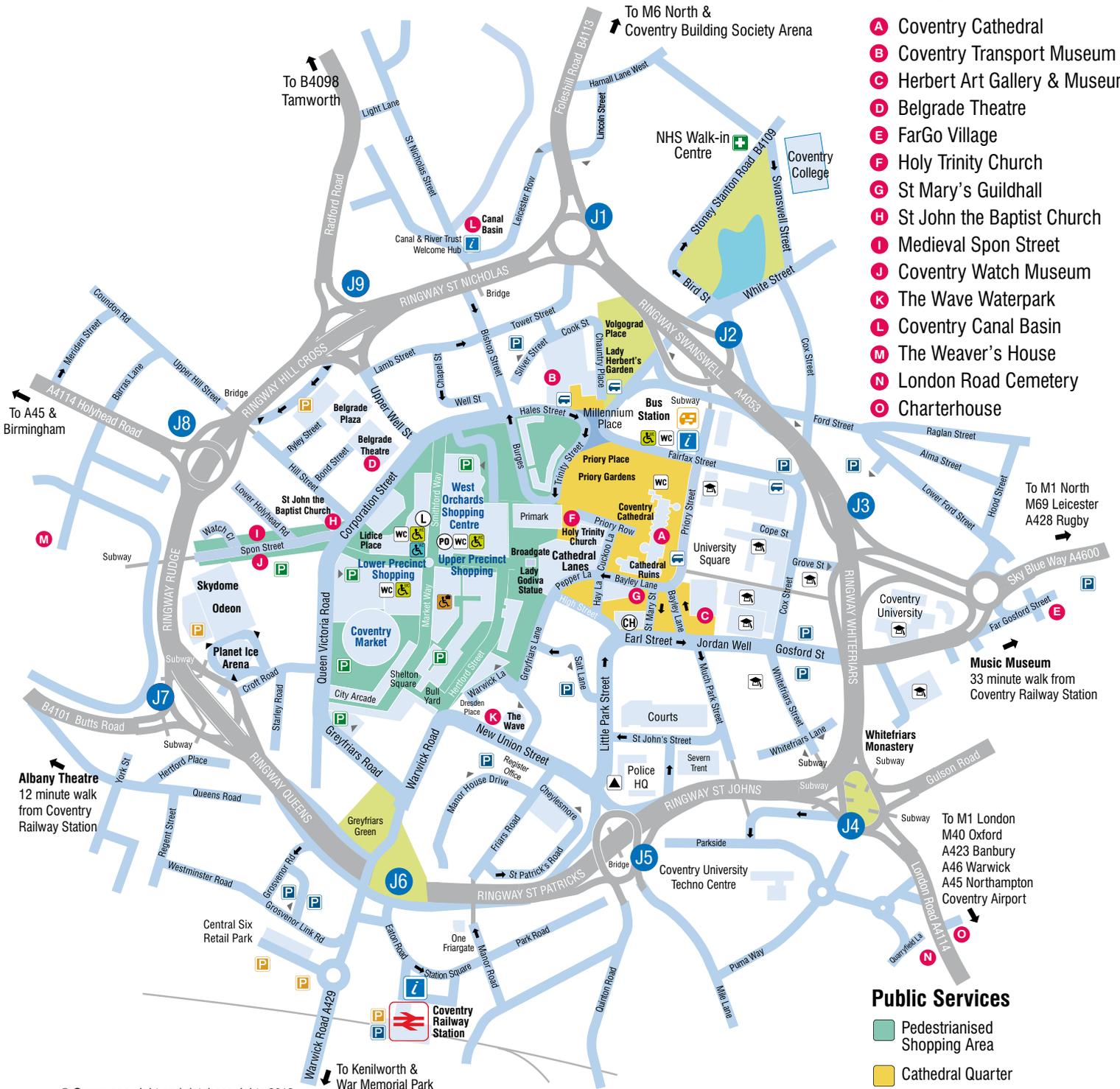
**Music Museum**  
33 minute walk from Coventry Railway Station

### Public Services

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

### Transport

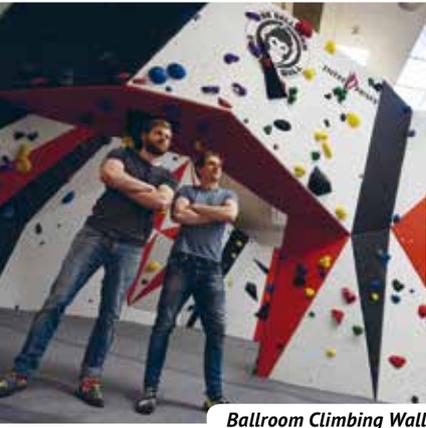
-  Car Park (Long Stay)
-  Car Park (Short Stay)
-  Car Park (other)
-  Car Park Entrance
-  One Way Street
-  Bus Station
-  Railway Station
-  Coach-Set down point



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Out and about

# Stay, play, explore Coventry



Ballroom Climbing Wall



Herbert Art Gallery



Coventry Glides



Coventry Transport Museum  
©Garry Jones

StayPlayExplore Coventry offers tickets to three top-class visitor attractions, plus one night's accommodation, with breakfast, in a quality local hotel - all priced at just £149 for a family of four.



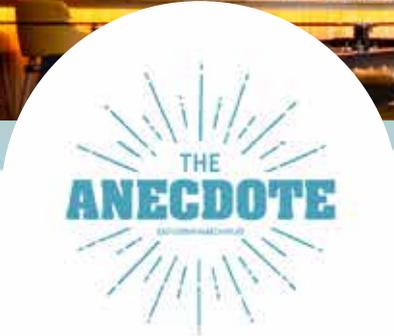
The Wave

StayPlayExplore allows you to build your perfect break with a fabulous collection of carefully curated, great value, flexible and easy to book UK family holidays. Each one of our super Coventry breaks includes admission to at least three attractions or experiences of your choice, and overnight stays with breakfast in a family friendly hotel. All for a fabulously low, fixed price of £149! Remember, our prices are for the whole family, not per person.

StayPlayExplore breaks allow you to immerse yourself in our exciting and varied programme of events, activities and inspiring cultural performances, which take place around the city throughout the year. Why not explore a variety of award-winning museums and outstanding public galleries in Coventry? Or discover stunning sculptures, public works and fascinating history. Visitor attractions and experiences involved in the StayPlayExplore Coventry break include:

- **Coventry Transport Museum** – home to the largest publicly owned collection of British vehicles in the world. Visitors can expect captivating displays, interactive galleries, and highly immersive exhibitions.
- **Midland Air Museum** – With one of Coventry's most famous sons - Sir Frank Whittle - being regarded as the Father of the Jet Age, it is no coincidence that the Museum's strongest theme is the development of the jet and jet-powered aircraft.
- **The Wave** – You'll find six epic slides that are precision-engineered to fill thrill-seekers with excitement: boasting everything from The Torrent's terrifying, disappearing floors to The Cascade's pool plunging and The Rapids' high speed.
- **Foot Golf** - Also known as Football Golf or Golf Football, Foot Golf is the combination of two of the world's greatest sports and it's as awesome as the name suggests.
- **Ballroom Climbing Wall** - The Ballroom Climbing Wall is a dedicated bouldering centre for all abilities in Coventry, a place where anyone aged 5+ can come and give bouldering a go.

There are so many things for you to see and do in Coventry, you may need to book more than one StayPlayExplore break! If you can't wait to book your short break to Coventry, don't delay and head over to: [www.stayplayexplore.co.uk](http://www.stayplayexplore.co.uk)



find us at

COVENTRY Building Society | arena  
www.cbsarena.co.uk

## EAT . DRINK . WATCH . PLAY

The Anecdote is the social hub of Coventry Building Society Arena

Open 7 days a week, from 11am to late, it is the perfect place to meet up with friends, colleagues and family for a variety of occasions

A relaxed and stylish environment, The Anecdote has big screens to watch top class live sport, shuffle board and Foosball tables and plenty of space for large groups to mix

Visit our website for reservations & further information

# WWW.ANECDOTEBAR.CO.UK



t: 024 7693 3450

e: [admin@anecdotebar.co.uk](mailto:admin@anecdotebar.co.uk)



**The Anecdote**

Coventry Building Society Arena  
Judds Ln, Coventry, CV6 6GE

**TRULY**

**PROUDLY**

**COVENTRY**

Warwick Arts Centre is back and better than ever!  
Film, theatre, music, dance, circus, comedy, writers,  
family events, and exhibitions. Whatever you're into,  
join us for experiences you'll feel and never forget.

**Check out what's on at:**  
**[warwickartscentre.co.uk](http://warwickartscentre.co.uk)**

**BOX OFFICE 024 7652 4524**

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Warwick Arts Centre, University of Warwick, Coventry CV4 7AL

**WARWICK**

**ARTS**

**CENTRE**