



TOP HOTELS

The Ellington, left, 23-25 York Place (£££), 0113 204 2150. Hotel within three Georgian town houses with all mod cons. **Malmston**, 1 Swinegate, 0113 398 1000 (££-£££). Plush rooms and a quality brasserie. **The Boundary Hotel**, Cardigan Road, 0113 275 7700 (€). Budget hotel offering free Wi-Fi.



TOP NIGHTS

Leeds Academy, 55 Cookridge Street, 0844 477 2000. New 2,300-capacity gig venue. **West Yorkshire Playhouse**, left, Quarry Hill, 0113 213 7700. Winter welcomes *Animal Farm* and *Peter Pan*. **Mini Club**, 8 Harrison Street, 0113 244 3168. Leeds' clubbing institution boasts a fresh new look.



TOP RESTAURANTS

No 3 York Place, left, 3 York Place, 0113 245 9922 (££-£££). Sophisticated French cuisine. **Sains' Chop House**, 8 South Parade, 0113 204 2490 (€£). Rediscover classic, hearty British dishes. **Saffron Deli**, 72 New Briggate, 0113 244 4440 (€). Stylish Indian with a varied menu.



TOP TRIPS

For winter walks, **Bolton Abbey Estate**, near Skipton, 01756 718009, boasts wooded riverside trails and charming tearooms. Meanwhile, jousting knights, priceless leopards and thought-provoking exhibits await at the **Royal Armouries**, left, Armouries Drive, 0870 034 4344.



TOP SHOPPING

Aqua Couture, 36 Queen Victoria Street, 0113 243 3336. Exclusive fashions from up-and-coming designers. **Jumbo Records**, 5-6 St John's Centre, 0113 245 5570. Music specialists. **Leeds Farmers' Market**, left, Kirkgate Market, first and third Sundays each month. Fresh produce and local delicacies.



Winter is the time to raise a glass to Leeds' Victorian heritage, from traditional pubs to top shops

Built on textile industry wealth, the city's streets are still home to inviting pubs that take pride in Yorkshire tradition but offer more than a pint of mild and a long stare from a whippet. After flashing some Christmas cash in the city's Victorian arcades (above), take time to discover **Whitelocks**, tucked away in a yard off busy Briggate, or **The Adelphi**, where historic Leeds Bridge meets the regenerated waterfront. Warm up in the cosy booths of **The Victoria Hotel**, behind Leeds' imposing town hall. Or check out the stylish icons of a more modern city: beer connoisseurs' haunt **North Bar** and the ever-hip **Norman**.

Music fans can celebrate the opening of new gig venue **Leeds Academy**, while the annual **Leeds International Film Festival** is branching out into sequential art—that's comics to you—with sister event the **Thought Bubble Festival** (13-16 November). Meanwhile, wrap up warm for nocturnal arts festival **Light Night** (10 October) and the **Christkindelmarkt** German market (14 November-21 December). *Abi Bliss*



MYLEEDS
Architect Irena Bauman, author of *How to be a Happy Architect*

"Reports suggest that people living in Leeds are the happiest in England and I'm one of them. I like the ease of living here and great individuals have created good places. My favourite, **The Reliance Bar**, is where I regularly enjoy liver and black pudding with duck eggs."

→ TOP EVENTS

Leeds Shopping Week
3-10 OCTOBER, CITY WIDE
From designer to high street, Leeds' fashion stores show off the style sense that won the city the tag "Knightsbridge of the North". With catwalk shows, competitions, makeovers and special offers, the week kicks off the Christmas shopping season with a touch of glamour.

Leeds International Film Festival
4-16 NOVEMBER
Leeds' 22nd annual cinematic extravaganza has a programme packed with blockbusters, cutting-edge world cinema and cult favourites. All-night marathon *Night Of The Dead VIII* (15 November) promises a gory treat for horror fans who dare to stay up late... leedsfilm.com

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