LEEDS hotdestination



TOPHOTELS

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



TOPNIGHTS

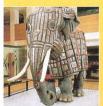
Leeds Academy, 55 Cookridge Street, 0844 477 2000. New 2,300-capacity gig venue. West Yorkshire Playhouse, left, Quarry Hill, 0113 213 7700. Winter welcomes Animal Farm and Peter Pan. Mint Club, 8 Harrison Street, 0113 244 3168. Leeds' clubbing institution boasts a fresh new look.



RESTAURANTS

, left, 3 York Place, 0113 245 9922 (££-£££). Sophisticated French cuisine. . 8 South

Parade, 0113 204 2490 (££). Rediscover classic, hearty British dishes. ,72 New Briggate, 0113 244 4440 (£). Stylish Indian with a varied menu.



TOPTRIPS



SHOPPING





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



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



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