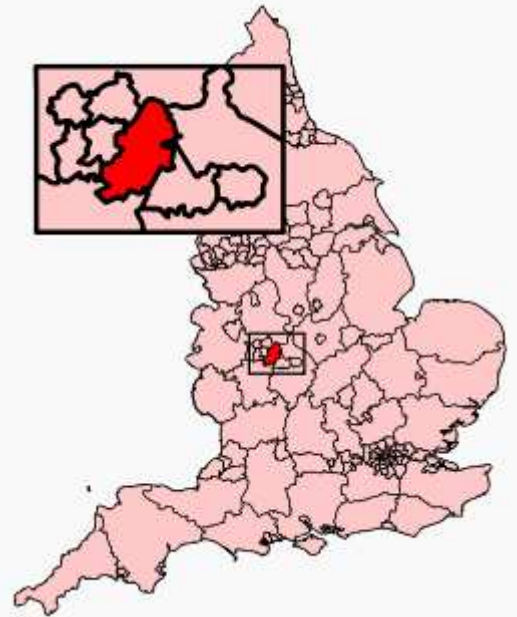


## BIRMINGHAM

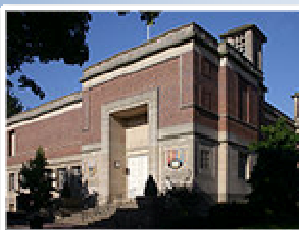
**Birmingham** is a city and metropolitan borough in the **West Midlands** county of **England**. Birmingham was at the heart of the UK's industrial revolution, and its wealth was built upon the multitude of trades that were spawned. This led to a massive canal network, with more miles of canals than Venice (though they're very different types of canal).

Much of the city centre was destroyed during the Second World War, and the replacement buildings added little to the city. However, since the 1990s, **Birmingham** has been undergoing a radical change and many of the post war buildings have been replaced. The majority of the city centre is now pedestrianized, and the canals cleaned up to make for attractive walkways. Locals credit the City Council for the recent transformation, as the city retains its industrial heritage while now appearing modern and forward looking.



**The Cathedral Church of Saint Philip** is the seat of the Bishop of Birmingham. Built as a parish church and consecrated in 1715, St Philip's became the cathedral of the newly-formed Diocese of Birmingham in the **West Midlands** in 1905. St Philip's was built in the early 18th century in the Baroque style by Thomas Archer and is located on **Colmore Row**. The cathedral is a Grade I listed building. St Philip's is the third smallest cathedral in England after Derby and Chelmsford.

**Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery** (BM&AG) is an art gallery in Birmingham. Opened in 1885, it has a collection of international importance covering fine art, ceramics, metalwork, jewellery, archaeology, ethnography, local history and industrial history. The Art Gallery is most noted for the extensive collection of paintings ranging from the 14th to the 21st century. It includes work by the Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood and the largest collection of works by **Edward Burne-Jones** in the world. The collection includes works by Canaletto, Lowry, Gainsborough.



**The Barber Institute of Fine Arts** is an art gallery and concert hall in Birmingham. It is situated in purpose-built premises on the campus of the **University of Birmingham**. The Grade II listed Art Deco building was designed by Robert Atkinson in the 1930s and opened in 1939 by **Queen Mary**. The layout of the museum is centred around a central concert hall which is surrounded by lecture halls, offices and libraries on the ground floor and art galleries on the first floor. In the 2005 Penguin Books publication

Britain's Best Museums and Galleries, the Barber Institute was one of only five galleries outside London to receive five stars for having "**Outstanding collections of international significance**".

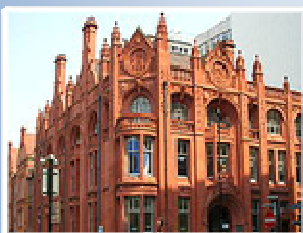


**The Ikon Gallery** is an English gallery of contemporary art, located in **Brindleyplace**, Birmingham. It is housed in the Grade II listed, neo-gothic former Oozells Street Board School, designed by John Henry Chamberlain in 1877. Ikon was set-up to encourage the public to engage in contemporary art. As a result of this, the gallery runs an off-site 'Education and Interpretation' scheme that educates audiences, promotes artists and their art.

The gallery is open every day of the week except Mondays, though it opens on bank holiday Mondays. Featured artworks include all forms of media including sound, sculpture and photography as well as paintings. Exhibitions rotate throughout the year so that as many pieces can be displayed as possible. Ikon is a registered charity which is partly funded by **Birmingham City Council and Arts Council of England**.

**Sutton Park** is one of the largest urban parks in Europe and the largest outside a capital city; it is smaller than Richmond Park in **London**, but larger than the Phoenix Park in **Dublin** which both claim to be the largest in Europe. The Park covers 900.1 hectares (2224.2 acres / 9.0 km<sup>2</sup>), with a mix of heathland, wetlands and marshes, seven lakes, extensive ancient woodlands (covering approximately a quarter of the Park), several restaurants, a private 18-hole golf course on its western edge and a municipal golf course to the south, a donkey sanctuary, children's playgrounds and a visitors' centre. There is no entrance charge (except on summer Sundays, when there is a parking charge for cars) and a wide range of personal leisure activities are undertaken in the park.

**The Birmingham Botanical Gardens** are botanical gardens situated in **Edgbaston**. The gardens are close to the centre of Birmingham and open every day of the year, from sunrise to sunset. They were designed in 1829 by **J. C. Loudon**, a leading garden planner, horticultural journalist and publisher. The gardens opened in 1832. The layout is recognisably Loudon's and, as he proposed, there is a conservatory at the top of the site. There is a lawn on the slope in front of the conservatory and a range of beds and shrubberies round its perimeter. In 1839, Loudon noted that "the trees and shrubs have thriven in an extraordinary degree". Overall, the character is that of a **Victorian public park** – with a bandstand set in 15 acres (6 hectares) of landscaped greenery.



**17 & 19 Newhall Street** is a red brick and terracotta Grade I listed building on the corner of Newhall Street and Edmund Street in the city centre of **Birmingham**. Originally having the postal address of 19 Newhall Street, it was built as the new Central Telephone Exchange and offices for the National Telephone Company (NTC) and is popularly known as the **Bell Edison Telephone Building** - the NTC logo behind the wrought iron gates to the main entrance includes those names. It was also

known as Telephone Buildings within the organisation. The Central exchange had 5,000 subscribers and was the largest of its type in the country. The ground floor was let out to shops. The NTC was taken over by the Postmaster General in 1912 and the ownership transferred to the GPO. During World War I, it was the Midland headquarters of the air raid warning system.



**The Bull Ring** is a major commercial area of **Birmingham**. It has been an important feature of Birmingham since the Middle Ages, when its market was first held. It has been developed into a shopping centre twice; first in the 1960s, and then in the 2000s. The site is located on the edge of the sandstone city ridge which results in the steep gradient towards Digbeth. The slope drops approximately 15 metres (49.2 ft) from New Street to **St Martin's Church**. The current shopping centre is the busiest in the United

Kingdom and is also the eleventh largest. It houses one of only four Selfridges department stores and the largest Debenhams outside of **London**. Consequently, the centre has been a huge success, attracting custom from all over the world, including New York.

**The National Sea Life Centre** is an aquarium with over 60 displays of freshwater and marine life in Brindleyplace, Birmingham. Its one-million-litre ocean tank houses giant green sea turtles, blacktip reef sharks and tropical reef fish, with a fully transparent underwater tunnel. The building was designed by **Sir Norman Foster**. It is alongside the Birmingham Canal Navigations Main Line Canal by Old Turn Junction and opposite the National Indoor Arena. Opening took place in the spring of 1996. In the **Victorian era**, the site was the location of two canal basins in Oozells Street Wharf.



**Birmingham Canal Navigations (BCN)** is a network of navigable canals connecting **Birmingham, Wolverhampton**, and the eastern part of the **Black Country**. The BCN is connected to the rest of the English canal system at several junctions. At its working peak, the BCN contained about 160 miles (257 km) of canals; today just over 100 miles (160 km) are navigable, and the majority of traffic is from tourist and residential narrowboats.

## INFORMATION

### Tourism Office Of Birmingham

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