

## HERITAGE

Like the Great Wall of China and the Taj Mahal, Liverpool is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Take a walk around Albert Dock, the largest collection of Group I listed buildings in the country, and an absolute must-see.

The Dock is an integral part of the fabric of the city and dates back to 1840, but it is far from just a heritage site. It is home to bars, restaurants, museums and some of Liverpool's most popular visitor attractions.

Liverpool's buildings tell the story of the city. Liverpool has some of the best examples of neoclassical architecture in the world, most notably the magnificent St George's Hall. Visit Central Library to see how the original Picton Library has been skilfully meshed with a modern design, and stroll down Hope Street to see both of Liverpool's famous cathedrals the soaring neo-gothic Anglican Cathedral (the largest in the UK) and the modernist Catholic Metropolitan Cathedral of Christ the King with its glorious stained glass windows.

Visit the waterfront to admire the Three Graces – the Cunard Building, Port of Liverpool Building and of course the Liver Building, with its two Liver Birds, the symbols of the city, perching 300 feet above the streets below.

## ART

Tate Liverpool is the home of modern art in the north and is one of the most visited galleries outside of London, staging international exhibitions of Chagall, Mondrian, Klimt, Picasso and Monet to mention a few.

The stunning Walker Art Gallery on William Brown Street houses an incredible collection of paintings, sculpture and decorative arts spanning over six hundred years, including works by Hockney, Degas, Turner and Rembrandt.

The Bluecoat is a cutting edge arts centre housed in a 300-year-old building, offering a programme of art, literature, music and dance. It's also home to a wide range of artists and creative businesses.

FACT is the natural home for bold new exhibitions exploring digital and contemporary issues, as well as housing four cinema screens. Nearer the waterfront, Open Eye Gallery is one of the country's leading photography spaces with globally-renowned artists exhibiting throughout the year.

All of these venues play a part in Liverpool Biennial, the UK's festival of contemporary art which brings artists from around the world to the city to create pieces across galleries and public spaces. The Biennial is completely free and takes place between July and October in even numbered years.

## MUSEUMS

Liverpool has one of the most impressive collections of museums in the country. Start with Museum of Liverpool, opened in 2011 in a landmark waterfront building, which is the UK's first museum dedicated to the history of a city.

Visitors can explore how Liverpool's port, its people and its creative, industrial and sporting history have shaped the city.

Many museums and galleries are located around the Albert Dock, such as the Merseyside Maritime

Museum and International Slavery Museum, where you can find out all about the companies, people and ships connected to this port city.

St George's Quarter, close to Lime Street station, is home to World Museum, where you can discover treasures from around the world, meet live creatures and explore outer space.

#### DRAMA AND COMEDY

Drama in Liverpool has a fantastically strong reputation, and the region has plenty of top theatre performance spaces.

The legendary Everyman and Playhouse theatres are responsible for launching the career of many celebrated actors including Bill Nighy, Julie Walters and the late, great Pete Postlethwaite. Both offer an eclectic programme of home-grown and touring theatre, and frequently stage world premieres.

The Empire is the largest theatre in Liverpool and stages the big musicals and spectacular shows, often straight from the West End.

#### CULTURE

The Royal Court offers a range of long-running plays and one-off nights, and the Epstein Theatre is Grade II listed with a striking interior and hosts entertainment of all kinds.

Smaller theatres such as the Lantern Theatre and Unity Theatre are no less innovative and showcase local, national and international talent in a more intimate setting.

The hundred-year-old Floral Pavilion in New Brighton, Wirral, and Southport Theatre and Convention Centre both have varied programmes of theatre, family shows, comedy and music.

Many bars, clubs and theatres host regular comedy nights such as Comedy Central Comedy Club in Albert Dock, Laughterhouse at The Slaughter House and The Liverpool Comedy Cellar.

The Echo Arena hosts all the big names, such as Jack Whitehall, Russell Howard and Miranda Hart.