

BABCP Manchester Conference Restaurant Guide

Event	Venue	Offering	Location	Price Range	Clientele	Notes
Conference: These venues are near the conference venue, handy for daytime & evening meals.	Ford Maddox Brown	Spoons!	Rusholme	Cheap date	If you've ever been a Wetherspoons you'll know what to expect! Lots of students, given the proximity to the Uni.	Mr Maddox-Brown was of course a Pre-Raphaelite painter (among other things). The Manchester Art Gallery has a great permanent collection of Pre-Raphaelite stuff, so do check it out if you have time.
	My Lahore	British-Asian restaurant	Rusholme	Mid-range	Locals, families, and tourists	Although founded across the Pennines in Bradford, My Lahore is now also a Manchester institution. It is also an alcohol-free space.
	Ziya Asian Grill	Modern Asian	Rusholme	Mid-range	Locals, families, and students	Wide range of South Asian cuisine and more Southern Indian options than many other places in Rusholme. Sometimes has live music, which is fun (but that might just be weekends).
	Rusholme	Brief Area Intro Although not in the city centre, Rusholme is worth a mention for two main reasons. Firstly, it's close to the conference venue and secondly, it is home to Manchester's famous 'Curry Mile'. There are plenty of places to eat great South Asian and Middle Eastern food. Some venues are alcohol free spaces, so great if you want to socialise without booze. Some are fully licensed.				
City Centre: These venues are handy for people staying in the City Centre, or for dining out / nights out.	Bundobust	Vegetarian Indian & craft brewery	Piccadilly Gardens (very central)	Relatively cheap	Students, locals, and tourists	It is café style in that they don't take bookings (unless you are a large group) and you go to the bar to order. Everything is veggie with loads of vegan options.
	Shoryu Ramen	Japanese noodle bar	Piccadilly Gardens (very central)	Mid-range	Tourists, students, and couples	If you want bao buns and soupy noodles there are quite a few nice places in Manchester, but this one wins for food and atmosphere.
	Rice Bowl	Chinese restaurant	Cross St (very central)	Fairly pricey	Everyone!	Popular both for the good quality Chinese food (including some of the best dim sum in the city, but also because it opens a bit later than most places. They don't take bookings, but welcome walk-ins all day / evening.

	Vincenzos	Italian restaurant	Off St Anne's Square (very central)	Mid-range	Locals and tourists	More casual and a little cheaper than Don Giovanni's, but food is just as good really.
	City Centre	Brief Area Intro				
		Manchester has a relatively large city centre, so venues have been picked for their central location, as well as good food and drink				
	Kaya	Malaysian café	Chinatown	Cheap eats	Locals and families	Small menu of lovely things. Nothing posh in terms of décor, but if you want good, spicy food it is good value. They don't serve alcohol but are happy for you to BYOB.
	Little Yang Sing	Chinese restaurant	Chinatown	Fairly expensive	Locals and families	Gluten-free menu and vegetarian options. Can eat in, but Click & Collect also available, or order for delivery through Deliveroo; Uber-Eats, or Just Eat after a busy day at the conference.
	Try Thai	Thai restaurant	Chinatown	Fairly expensive	Families and tourists	One of Manchester's best Thai restaurants. Do watch out for the chilli symbols on the menu - the food can get really spicy.
	China Town	Brief Area Intro				
		Manchester is proud to have the second biggest Chinatown in the UK (just behind London). As you would expect there are a lot of Chinese restaurants, supermarkets, and other businesses, including restaurants specialising in Hunan and Sichan, as well as Cantonese food. However, there are also some great Thai, Vietnamese, Malaysian and Japanese places around here too.				
	Molly House	LGBT bar & small plates	Gay Village	Mid-range	LGBT venue with more mixed crowd and food downstairs and a little more gay male upstairs but everyone welcome.	There are lots of great places to drink in the Gay Village, not so many ones that are nice to eat in too. Molly's is one of the few.
	Via Fosa	LGBT Venue	Gay Village	Mid-range	LGBT locals and tourists	There are lots of great LGBT venues in Manchester, so it is hard to pick just a couple, but the wonderfully whacky layout of Via Fosa makes it worth a visit. It would appear that MC Escher was the architect! Generally nice atmosphere too.
	Gay Village	Brief Area Intro				
		Manchester is certainly one of the most LGBTQ+ friendly places in the UK, so much so that lots of LGBTQ+ people happily spend their time socialising throughout the rest of the city. The Gay Village itself remains very popular with tourists and most venues are welcoming of non-LGBTQ+ people. However, a small number of venues enforce stricter door policies, such as Vanilla (women only space) and The Eagle (specialist interests catered). Most places on Canal Street itself tend to be very mixed.				

	Albert's Schloss	Pub and restaurant (Alpine themed)	West End	Fairly pricey	Something for everyone.	A Manchester institution beloved by locals, footballers, and restaurant critics alike. Can get very busy and noisy of an evening.
	Don Giovannis	Italian restaurant	West End	Expensive	Another one for celebs, footballers and young local lads trying to impress on a first date.	If you want a swanky Italian and don't mind paying, then it is kind of fun. San Carlo is an alternative if you want classy.
	My Thai	Thai restaurant	West End (Branch also in the Northern Quarter)	Relatively cheap	Mixed, but generally younger crowd.	There are two branches of this café-style Thai restaurant in the City Centre. The food is consistently good at both (not to be confused with Try Thai).
	Cask	Craft beer bar	West End (M4 6FQ)	Mid-range	Hipsters and locals	There are over a dozen great craft beer places in Manchester, but Cask is worth a mention as they let you bring your own food. So if you want a beer and cheap dinner from the chippy, it is a great option.
	West End	Brief Area Intro				
		Manchester's swankier restaurants tend to be over in the M2 postcode (encompassing Petersfield, Spinningfields and some of Castlefield). It is an easy bit of the city to access via public transport. You may pay a little more, but if you are looking for champagne and cocktails you won't have to look far.				
Party night: These venues are in the Northern Quarter, handy for the Party Night at 'Band on the Wall'.	Ad hoc	Wine bar	Northern Quarter	Fairly pricey	Popular with all ages but mainly very trendy / chic crowd.	Posh wine shop, which has tables inside and on street. Trendy stripped back space with very helpful staff.
	Love Lust Liquor n Burn	Mexican Restaurant	Northern Quarter	Mid-range	Mixed, but generally younger crowd.	One of the better Mexican's in Manchester, but not too pricey. They do a great Margarita too. <i>You may need to book a day or so in advance though.</i>
	Mackie Mayor	Italian; Steaks; Mexican; Ramen; Thai; Burgers & Craft beer, cider & softs.	Northern Quarter	Mid-range	Mixed, but generally younger crowd.	Cosmopolitan food hall in an 1858 Grade ii listed market building. Only a couple of minutes' walk away from 'Band on the Wall'. Walk ups only (groups of 8+ should contact: bookings@marketoperations.co.uk)
	My Thai	Thai restaurant	Northern Quarter (Branch also in the West End)	Relatively cheap	Mixed, but generally younger crowd.	There are two branches of this café-style Thai restaurant in the City Centre. The food is consistently good at both (not to be confused with Try Thai).

	Northern Monk	Craft beer bar	Northern Quarter	Fairly pricey	Trendy locals and those who work in city centre.	There are lots of craft beer places, but this one is set in a nice space in one of the former textile factories of the Northern Quarter.
	Purezza	Italian restaurant (Vegan only)	Northern Quarter	Mid-range	Mixed, but generally younger crowd.	Sustainable, plant-based pizza. Gluten-free options available. 'Blue light' and student discounts. More offers on the website.
	Sweet Mandarin	Chinese restaurant	Northern Quarter	Mid-range	Something for everyone.	Gluten-free Chinese food and exotic cocktails. Vegan menu & takeaway available. Delegate offer: 10% off when booking - sweetmandarintables@gmail.com
	This and That	Traditional Curry Café	Northern Quarter	Cheap eats	Students and locals	Hard to find, tucked down a small side street. Doesn't look much with its tatty, formica furniture, but you won't get better food, so cheap, anywhere.
	Turtle Bay NQ	Caribbean restaurant	Northern Quarter	Mid-range	Mixed, but generally a younger crowd	"Rum, reggae, and jerk". Sunshine salads, West Indian curries, rum, and cocktails. Mocktails; vegetarian and vegan options available. 'Blue Light' and student discounts, as well as offers on the app.
	63 Degrees	French restaurant	Northern Quarter	Expensive	Local couples, sophisticates	"A taste of Paris, brought to you by the Moreau family". Limited seating, booking essential.
	The Pasta Factory	Italian restaurant	Northern Quarter (Shudehill)	Mid-range	Mixed, but generally a younger crowd	Occupying a historic building, dating back to 1873, focusing on hand-crafted pasta: "made in Manchester, by Italians". Vegan, vegetarian, and gluten-free options.
	Northern Quarter	Brief Area Intro				
		Sat roughly between the two main train stations (Piccadilly and Victoria) and formerly the site of many of the clothing factories, which (alongside the cotton mills), enabled Manchester to spearhead the industrial revolution and be "where the modern world began" as the typically understated locals will have it. Now it is a load of trendy bars, cafes, small music venues and hipster shops. There are some higher end places nestled here next to some of the more cheap and cheerful places in the city centre.				
Party night: These venues are <i>near</i> the Northern Quarter, handy for	Cask	Craft beer bar	Ancoats	Mid-range	Hipsters and locals	There are over a dozen great craft beer places in Manchester, but Cask is worth a mention as they let you bring your own food. So, if you want a beer and cheap dinner from the chippy, it's a great option.

the Party Night at 'Band on the Wall'.	Blossom St Social	Wine bar	Ancoats	Expensive	Trendy Ancoats types and fashionable visitors from elsewhere	The owner, Ben, is known for loving disco, funk and house music and can often be seen DJ'ing.
	Blue eyed panda	Chinese restaurant	Ancoats	Fairly pricey	Trendy locals	Worth a visit if you are staying in the north end of city centre (Northern Quarter, or Ancoats) and want something nearby.
	Cask	Craft beer bar	Ancoats	Mid-range	Hipsters and locals	There are over a dozen great craft beer places in Manchester, but Cask is worth a mention as they let you bring your own food. So, if you want a beer and cheap dinner from the chippy, it is a great option.
	Maricarmen	Spanish Tapas Bar	Ancoats	Mid-range	Trendy locals	'El Tableo' - £3 tapas plates every Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday.
	Rigatoni's	Italian restaurant	Ancoats	Mid-range	Trendy locals	Less variety than many of the Italian places in Manchester. They do a limited pasta menu, and it is all nice.
	Ancoats	Brief Area Intro				
	Technically a few meters outside of the city centre. However, as Ancoats does frequently make it into the lists of the world's coolest neighbourhoods, it is worth a mention. It is also handy enough for pre-drinks before the Bedlam gig in Band on the Wall.					

This guide has been put together by the Conference's Local Organising Committee (Rifkah Cohen, Annie Kemball, Jane Ware and Francesca Waddington) with contributions from Tommy McIlravey, BABCP's CEO. We are grateful for their local knowledge and months of research and tasting