

5 NOT-TO-MISS OPENINGS IN MANCHESTER

Quickly becoming one of England's coolest cities, Manchester debuts five venues you must check out now



HIP CULTURE

Avant-garde Home is the city's newest hot spot on the international arts scene. The stunning development offers its patrons contemporary theater, film and art via its five screens, flexible gallery space, digital production and broadcast facilities, two theaters, three hip bars and a bookstore.

Homemcr.org



THE BEST FOOD

Award-winning chefs are revamping Manchester's culinary scene. Michelin-starred Executive Chef Nacho Manzano offers stylish interpretations of authentic Spanish flavors at Ibérica Spinningfields, a Madrid-terrace-inspired restaurant in The Avenue, a burgeoning gastro-nomic hub.

ibericarestaurants.com



A HIGH-END HOTEL

The five-star luxury Hotel Gotham, in an upscale shopping district, is part of Manchester's boutique-hotel boom. This very grand, art-deco-era building houses 60 refurbished rooms, as well as a restaurant, a rooftop Prohibition-style bar and a members-only club.

Bespokehotels.com/hotelgotham



ART CENTRAL

After a \$23 million expansion and renovation, The Whitworth — part of the University of Manchester — is the go-to spot for lovers of historic and contemporary arts with new exhibition facilities, sculpture terraces, an art garden and a café in the trees.

www.whitworth.manchester.ac.uk



WORK IN STYLE

A new branch of Ziferblat, a pay-as-you-go café/workspace, has emerged in the Northern Quarter, a creative and burgeoning area that's worth checking out. It offers coffee, snacks, couches, games and Internet — all free. The catch? You pay 5 pence (8 cents) per minute of your visit.

Ziferblat.co.uk —NECEE REGIS



A Soccer Fan's Odyssey

An engaging new travelogue captures the appeal of what most of the world calls football

Like many North Americans, it didn't take much for Toronto-based Darryl Webster to catch the soccer bug. During a 2004 sojourn to England, he became a fan of Manchester City, a football club that long endured second-fiddle status to rival Manchester United. Back home, Webster nourished his new passion at Opera

Bob's, where a club of Man City supporters throng weekly to watch matches. Thus inspired, Webster embarked on a 14-stop shoestring odyssey of far-flung supporter clubs during Man City's championship season of 2013-2014, including a British-style pub in Hong Kong and a hotel lounge in Abu Dhabi in the United Arab Emirates, home to the sheik who bought Man City in 2008. His resulting book, *Pride in Travel: A Title-Winning Season Exploring the World of Manchester City* (Pitch Publishing, \$21), chronicles, via often-hilarious prose, his journey and the supporters he met.

With Man City playing two International Champions Cup matches in Melbourne, Australia, this month before the 2015-2016 season kicks off, it's a timely read for any lover of sports or travel.

—NORMAN KOLPAS