

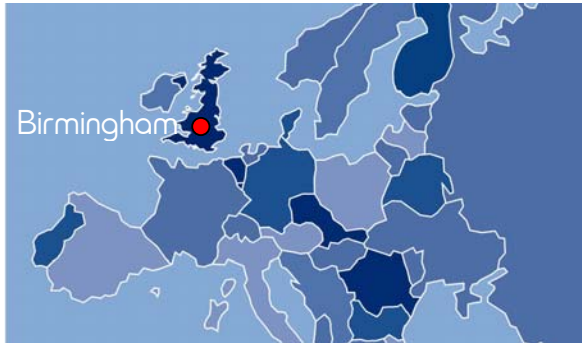
welcome to birmingham

www.locatebirmingham.com



locate in  birmingham

Birmingham



Location

Birmingham is centrally located within the UK. Excellent communication links provide access to UK and European markets.

such as Newark, Dubai, Paris, Madrid, Brussels, Zurich, Milan and Frankfurt. There has also been notable increase in traffic to Asia and Australia as result of the increased availability of services to Dubai and Ashkhabad.

Communications

Birmingham has outstanding access to customers and suppliers across the United Kingdom.

Rail Travel

The unrivalled rail communications network provides direct links to all major UK cities. Birmingham has three mainline stations: New Street, Snow Hill and Birmingham International - only 84 minutes from London.



Road Travel

Birmingham lies at the heart of the national motorway network. There is direct access to the city from the North, South, East and West by the M5, M6, M40 and M42. The city is approximately 115 miles (185 km) to the north-west of London

Air Travel

The region's International Airport is one of the fastest growing airports in the UK, handling nearly nine million passengers in 2004.

There has been a strong growth of direct scheduled services, now totalling over 60 destinations worldwide, including direct daily services to over 40 destinations

Economy and Business

With over 31,000 companies from motorcars to manufacturing, electronics to computing, the latest breakthroughs in technology, and the fast-growing business, financial and professional services community, all means that Birmingham is home to such globally renowned companies such as:

- Jaguar Ltd
- LDV Ltd
- Cadbury Trebor Bassett
- Delcam

Birmingham is also a major national centre for a number of other manufacturing industries, notably chocolate confectionery, paper household products, stationery, rubber tyres and inner tubes. The jewellery and coins industry is highly represented in the city with a presence fifteen times larger than the national average, giving Birmingham a unique industrial profile within the UK.

Birmingham's labour supply is over 590,000. The city is the regional capital of the West Midlands, which has a population of 5.3 million, a large, flexible and motivated workforce of nearly 2.5 million, and a client base of 182,000 companies.



Universities and Research

Birmingham's education, training and research facilities are second to none. There are three universities in Birmingham with a total student population of over 61,000, and a further six universities within a one hour drive of Birmingham city centre, with an additional 105,820 students enrolled.

University Specialisms

University of Birmingham

The University of Birmingham is the oldest and largest of Birmingham's universities. Outstanding research is carried out in medicine, science, engineering and the humanities.

Aston University

Aston University is one of the UK's leading technological universities

The university specialises in research, which solves problems critical to industry, commerce and the healthcare, voluntary, and public sectors.

Aston Business School is one of the largest and most highly regarded Business Schools in the country.

University of Central England

The University of Central England is one of the country's newest universities and at the same time it is one of the country's oldest educational institutions, as several of the constituent colleges are well over one hundred years old.



History

Birmingham's origins go back to the 11th century, with the then hamlet being noted in the Domesday Book. Later, in 1166 the town was granted a market charter and thrived as a market centre.

The Industrial Revolution was fundamental to the growth of Birmingham. The town became the centre of, firstly the canal network and later the railway system. In addition, Birmingham was home to the great thinkers of the modern world - James Watt, developer of the steam engine; Joseph Priestley who discovered oxygen; John Baskerville, founder of the world famous typeface; and William Murdoch, inventor of gas lighting.

Politicians also spearheaded change in the city: Joseph Chamberlain, mayor of Birmingham and later MP, can be credited with improving the city for its residents. Slums were demolished, parks provided breathing space and schools and educational institutions were built.

More recent rejuvenation to the city came in the form of redevelopment to its open spaces. Victoria Square in 1993; Chamberlain Square, overlooked by the Museum and Art Gallery; and Centenary Square - a new open space, completed in 1991.



Chamberlain Square courtesy of Marketing Birmingham

Culture and Relaxation

Birmingham is a vibrant, multi-cultural city where people like to live, work and play. It has been described as the country's new cultural jewel by the Rough Guide to Britain, with a quality of life ahead of Rome, Dubai, Prague, and Hong Kong.

Tourism, shopping, sports, arts and culture are key features providing a pleasant environment for business and relaxation.

Birmingham's reputation as the regional centre of culture and arts goes from strength to strength ranging from theatres, arts and music venues.

Centre for Sporting Excellence

The National Indoor Arena is the home of British indoor sport. It is designed to accommodate more than 30 different types of sport from athletics to boxing, badminton to judo. Already famous for hosting five World and three European Championships, it was host to the first round of the Davis Cup in 2002; and it welcomed the IAAF World Indoor Championships in March 2003.

The 13,000-arena has the country's only six-lane 200-metre athletics track, which is dismantled and stored away when not in use. A staggering seven world records have been set on the track.

Other spectator sports, including basketball, rugby, ice-hockey, badminton and squash are available at venues across the city. And of course, for those who like to take part, the city provides a wealth of health and fitness clubs, golf courses and sports facilities.



Gateway for the region

Birmingham is not only a bustling forward thinking city, but a gateway to the surrounding areas. The area's heritage may be seen in the nearby historical towns of Stratford-upon -Avon and Warwick, whilst Ironbridge Gorge - cradle of the Industrial revolution - and the Potteries of Wedgwood, Royal Doulton and Spode illustrate our working past.



Warwick Castle courtesy of Marketing Birmingham

In Summary

Birmingham has grown from a medieval market centre into a thriving international city. It is now a vibrant, multi-cultural city where people like to live, work and play. The city has been described as the country's new cultural jewel by the Rough Guide to Britain, with a quality of life ahead of Rome, Dubai, Prague, and Hong Kong.

Birmingham is at the centre of the United Kingdom's communications network, offering a business minded and skilled workforce.

The city is home to over 31,000 companies from motorcars to manufacturing, electronics to computing, the latest breakthroughs in technology, and the fast-growing business, financial and professional services community.





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