

This guide was produced by The University of Nottingham, January 2012.

Design and photography: www.campbellrowley.com

Photography page 10-11: www.ashleybird.com

Cover image: Edin's, Nottingham city centre

Paper made from FSC accredited 100% recycled material.



The University of
Nottingham

UNITED KINGDOM • CHINA • MALAYSIA

City guide for students

www.nottingham.ac.uk

#LoveNotts



- 04 Hey big spender!
- 08 Go on... be a sport
- 10 And the beat goes on...
- 14 Lights, luvvies and laughter
- 16 Top nosh
- 20 After dark
- 22 The great outdoors
- 24 Culture vultures
- 28 Seasonal sessions
- 30 Business is booming
- 34 And now for the sensible stuff...

If you're just discovering Nottingham, lucky you...

"Nottingham is a city of legends. And not just that Sheriff-bothering man in tights or the two-time European Cup champions or the world's oldest football league club or the world famous Trent Bridge Cricket Ground or those literary heroes DH Lawrence and Lord Byron or international fashion icon Sir Paul Smith or commercial giants like Boots and Raleigh... (Editor's note: get to the point!) – Nottingham is also home to the UK's oldest live music venue, three of the world's oldest pubs and the biggest entertainment venue in the East Midlands (where you can see everyone from Peter Kay and Michael McIntyre to Beyoncé and Metallica). It's recognised as one of the UK's top shopping cities, has hundreds of restaurants and bars and three comedy clubs – Ricky Gervais made his stand-up debut here, as did Ken Dodd but that's another story. In fact, it's so good, I wish I was a student again. Happy exploring!"

Simon Wilson, Entertainment Editor at The Nottingham Post

With more than 300 bars, cafes and restaurants in the city centre alone, Nottingham has something for everyone.

Hey big spender!

Have you heard?

Nottingham is in the UK's top 10 shopping destinations. The city came in sixth, ahead of Leeds and Newcastle, according to a 2010 retail survey.

What the celebs say

"I used to come to Nottingham when I lived up here. I'd always head straight for Hockley, but now the city has so much more to offer, it has all the brands to choose from."

TV fashion guru Gok Kwan (from Leicester)

#LoveNotts



The vintage charity shops in Hockley Village are little treasure troves – and just metres from the market square.



From quirky outlets and vintage boutiques to giants of the high street, Nottingham's got it all. Here's our top of the shops:

1 The Victoria Centre

Mansfield Road

Good for: all things high street.

2 Beeston's charity shops

Beeston town centre

Good for: fancy dress, vintage rails and second-hand books.

3 Fopp

Queen Street

Good for: vinyl – its extensive collection of records is hard to beat.

4 Tokenhouse

Bridlesmith Gate

Good for: wiling away an hour looking at trinkets and quirky cards.

5 Wild

Broad Street

Good for: interesting retro and American-style clothing.

6 Victoria Centre Market

Upstairs in the Victoria Centre

Good for: fruit and veg, fabric and the odd clothes bargain.

7 Page 45

Market Street

Good for: quality comics, graphic novels and a warm welcome.

8 The Bead Shop

Market Street

Good for: when you want to create rather than buy jewellery.

9 Backlash

Norfolk Place

Good for: vintage clothes and accessories from every decade.

10 American Apparel

Bridlesmith Gate

Good for: big-name hoodies and other fashionable basics.

Nottingham's Kitsch boutique offers retro and modern fashion and jewellery made from an eclectic mix of fabric and memorabilia. Lovely.

Go on... be a sport

#LoveNotts

They say Nottingham has more sports facilities per head of population than anywhere else in Europe. What's your game?

1 Nottingham Forest and Notts County football clubs

Good for: a day on the terraces and learning to cope with disappointment.

2 River Trent

Good for: messing about on the river in a canoe or rowing boat.

3 National Water Sports Centre

Good for: adrenaline-inducing water sports.

4 National Ice Centre

Good for: taking lessons through the Learn to Skate Programme.

5 Nottingham Tennis Centre

Good for: all levels, from pay-and-play to high-level tournaments.

6 Trent Bridge Cricket Ground

Good for: international cricket on a summer's afternoon.

7 Nottingham Climbing Centre

Good for: bouldering, top-roping and lead-climbing.

8 Cycle trails around Nottingham

Good for: getting around the city for free.

9 Nottingham Racecourse

Good for: dressing up and strutting your stuff in the enclosure.

10 The Robin Hood Marathon and Half-Marathon

Good for: pushing yourself to the limit for a good cause.

What the celebs say

"It's not just famous for Robin Hood. Its vibrant sports and arts scene caters to all ages and it's no surprise so many people love living here."

Phil Spencer, Location, Location, Location, Channel 4, 2011

Speed-skating student Gemma Cooper may've missed legendary Torvill and Dean's Bolero victory but she too makes the most of Nottingham's impressive ice facilities.



And the beat goes on...

#LoveNotts

"Nottingham is undoubtedly the East Midlands' buzzing music capital, with a handful of the best small-medium sized venues in the UK, heaps of intriguing bar and back-room stages and even a genuinely great arena – right in the heart of the city – for the superstar acts. You can pretty much find an interesting gig to go to on any given night if you look hard enough, and that makes Nottingham a special place to be."

Ashley Bird, music journalist and photographer



Rock band Not Advised play Rock City, an alternative music venue described by *NME* as "sweaty but truly indie".

Making music is second nature in Nottingham – so many live gigs, so little time...

#LoveNotts

1 Capital FM Arena

Good for: big-name acts from Kasabian to Rihanna.

2 Glee Club

Good for: a beard-heavy mix of indie folk, Americana and blues.

3 The Bodega Social Club

Good for: watching bands up close before they make it big.

4 Rock City

Good for: alternative bands and big names in intimate venues.

5 Splendour Festival, Wollaton Park

Good for: big and small bands in a beautiful park.

6 Rescue Rooms

Good for: great gigs – and it's a bar, live venue and club all in one.

7 Dot-to-Dot Festival

Good for: a whole load of bands, at smallish venues across the city.

8 Royal Concert Hall

Good for: classical, pop, rock and musical theatre from international artists.

9 Spanky Van Dykes

Good for: cool surroundings and pretty much any kind of live music you can think of.

10 Jam Cafe

Good for: open mic nights, bistro food and a boho vibe.

Not forgetting

If you want to showcase your talent, there are lots of open mic nights across the city. Start your search here

www.nottinghamgigguide.com/act/open_mic_night



Rock City is just one of many live music venues across the city. But it's so good, we had to picture it twice.

Lights, luvvies and laughter

This city's got cinemas and stages aplenty and with no less than three comedy clubs, it's true that people in Nottingham laugh more than anywhere else in the UK (note: this claim is completely unsubstantiated).

1 Broadway

Good for: art-house and mainstream cinema in ultra-cool screen rooms.

2 Nottingham Playhouse

Good for: drama, dance, new writing and a beautiful outdoor terrace.

3 Glee Club, Jongleurs and Just the Tonic

Good for: laughing at the latest comedians.

4 Nottingham Arts Theatre

Good for: opportunities to contribute to a community theatre.

5 Savoy Cinema

Good for: "I've-spent-all-my-student-loan" moments.

6 Nottingham Castle

Good for: its outdoor theatre season.

7 Lakeside Arts Centre, University Park Campus

Good for: an eclectic mix of music, theatre, dance and visual art.

8 Theatre Royal

Good for: the big touring musicals and plays, and a panto at Christmas.

9 Cineworld

Good for: catching the latest blockbuster in one of 14 screens.

10 Lace Market Theatre

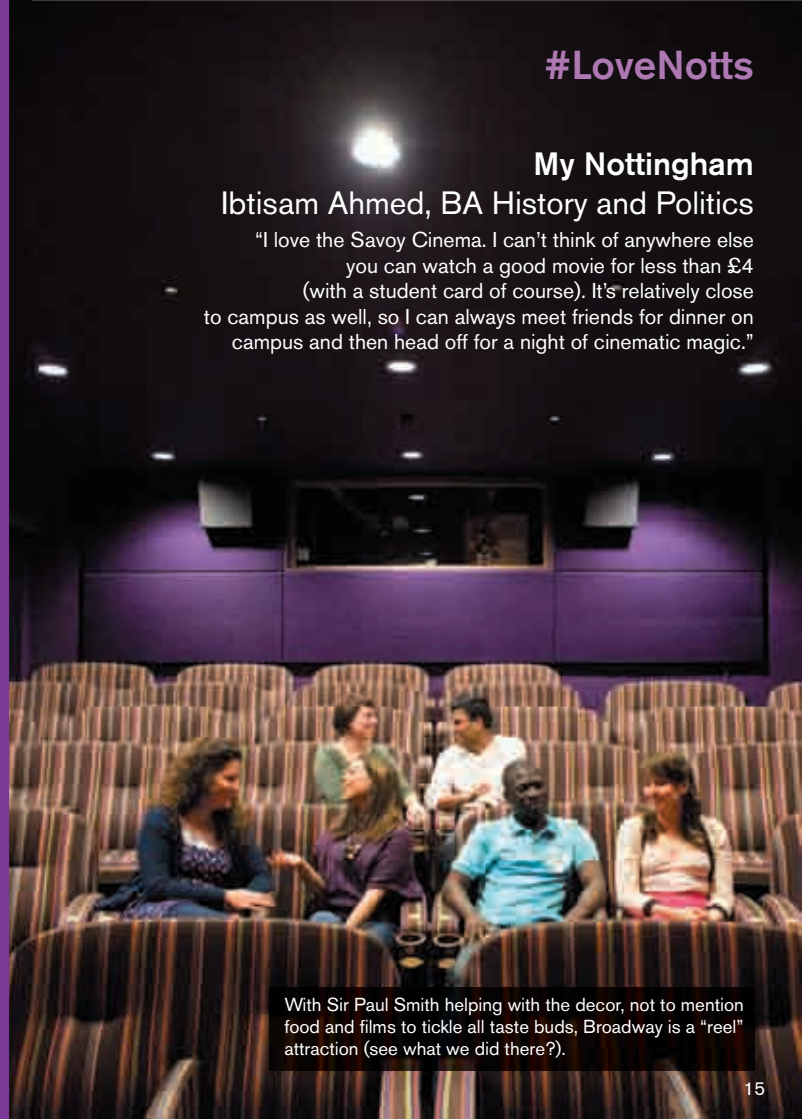
Good for: friendly amateur theatre – get involved!

#LoveNotts

My Nottingham

Ibtisam Ahmed, BA History and Politics

"I love the Savoy Cinema. I can't think of anywhere else you can watch a good movie for less than £4 (with a student card of course). It's relatively close to campus as well, so I can always meet friends for dinner on campus and then head off for a night of cinematic magic."



With Sir Paul Smith helping with the decor, not to mention food and films to tickle all taste buds, Broadway is a "reel" attraction (see what we did there?).

Top nosh

My Nottingham

Harriet Goodwin, BA Art History

"In Nottingham there are plenty of alternatives to mainstream coffee shops. Head to Paul Smith's favourite – The Walk Cafe – which serves quirky afternoon teas in mismatching china. Lee Rosy's is also a great little tea shop with a huge variety of teas. Not to advocate spending loads of money on meals out or anything but I have to recommend Jamie's Italian as well as Le Petit Paris as my two favourite restaurants in Nottingham. Good if you feel like treating yourself."

#LoveNotts



Edin's cafe offers an affordable taste of bohemian Paris in the heart of Nottingham's own boho district, Hockley.



Whether you want kebab and chips al fresco or a slap up meal in a celebrity chef's restaurant, Nottingham's nosh options are hard to beat.

1 Crocus Cafe

Church Square, Lenton

Good for: affordable, ethically sourced dishes and friendly service.

2 Dad's Kitchen

Alfreton Road

Good for: Caribbean takeaways.

3 Sir John Borlase Warren

Ilkeston Road

Good for: steak night, open mic and chilling out in a beer garden.

4 The Library

Wollaton Road, Beeston

Good for: tapas-sized portions of international favourites.

5 Mayfair Restaurant

Mansfield Road

Good for: cheap but morish Chinese food and the option to bring your own alcohol.

6 Mogul-E-Azam

Goldsmith Street

Good for: purse-friendly Indian dishes and student discount.

7 Fred Hallam Ltd (traditional greengrocers in Beeston)

High Road, Beeston

Good for: a quaint alternative to the supermarket – fruit and veg, herbs and fresh fish.

8 Alley Cafe Bar

Long Row West

Good for: imaginative vegetarian and vegan meals.

9 The Walk

Bridlesmith Walk

Good for: tea and cakes with your parents – worth the queue for a special occasion.

10 Edin's Deli Cafe

Broad Street

Good for: tapas specials and continental-style decor.

11 (because it's too good to leave out) Lee Rosy's

Broad Street

Good for: tea – they sell over 100 types.

#LoveNotts



Few veg shops look as impressive as Fred Hallam's in Beeston, one of Nottingham's biggest student areas. Think fresh, organic loveliness.

When darkness falls on the city, there are plenty of places to play – from high-class cocktail bars to nightclubs with more cheese than Cheshire.

1 Saltwater

Good for: pre-club cocktails with a view of Nottingham's rooftops.

2 Coco Tang

Good for: a secret world of cocktail creations and late-night glamour.

3 Gatecrasher Nottingham

Good for: house and dance in a grade A listed building.

4 Oceana and Ocean

Good for: themed rooms at Oceana and top-quality cheese at Ocean.

5 Dogma

Good for: DJs in urban surroundings and free student-entry on Thursdays.

6 Tilt

Good for: live blues music and a tailor-made cocktail menu.

7 Cookie Club

Good for: indie, funk, retro, pop and rock and cheap drinks on a Wednesday.

8 NG1

Good for: partying at the biggest and best gay venue in the East Midlands.

9 Stealth

Good for: dance, garage, live music and DJs.

10 Pandora's Box

Good for: live music from local bands in a bespoke boutique club.

My Nottingham

Ben Driver, BA History

"Wax Bar in Broad Street is a great stop off for a cheeky cocktail and to chill to the likes of Beach Boys, Stevie Wonder and Marvin Gaye."

Saltwater in Nottingham's Cornerhouse entertainment complex boasts a great view of the city's rooftops.

The great outdoors

For a healthy dose of fresh air, we've got parks, forests and even spots of tranquillity nestled neatly in the city centre.

1 Sherwood Forest

Good for: playing tourist and looking for Robin Hood's Major Oak.

2 Wollaton Hall and Deer Park

Good for: walking round the lake and, you've guessed it, deer.

3 The Arboretum

Good for: taking a break from shopping in the city centre with a blanket and a book.

4 Rufford Abbey Country Park

Good for: exploring the abbey ruins and taking the sculpture trail.

5 Clumber Park

Good for: hiring a bike and exploring part of Sherwood Forest.

6 Nottingham Castle

Good for: learning about kings, conquerors and the city's maze of caves.

7 Attenborough Nature Reserve

Good for: getting in touch with nature.

8 Twycross Zoo

(aka The World Primate Centre)

Good for: a fun day out.

9 Newstead Abbey

Good for: getting all poetic – Lord Byron used to live here.

10 Highfields Lake, University Park Campus

Good for: hiring a rowing boat in the summer and relaxing between lectures.

Not forgetting

Nottingham is not far from the Peak District, a stunning national park packed full of pretty market towns and dramatic landscapes. A favourite with filmmakers, the Peak District has been featured in films such as *Jane Eyre*, *The Duchess* and *Pride and Prejudice*.

#LoveNotts



History lesson: the original medieval Nottingham Castle was largely demolished in 1649. A magnificent 17th century ducal mansion now stands on the site, complete with art gallery and museum.

"I'm excited by Nottingham because I think it has a fantastic creative scene... the scene that young artists have created has been very, very exciting... Nottingham is one of the places to be right now."

Alex Farquharson, Director, Nottingham Contemporary



Nottingham Playhouse's website says it produces bold and thrilling theatre in one of the region's most popular landmarks. We agree.

From contemporary art galleries to social history museums, Nottingham has a host of cultural offerings to inspire you.

1 Nottingham Contemporary

Good for: world-class contemporary exhibitions and quirky cultural events.

2 The New Art Exchange

Good for: African, African-Caribbean and South Asian contemporary art.

3 Djanogly Art Gallery at Lakeside Arts Centre

Good for: fascinating exhibitions right by the lake on University Park Campus.

4 True Colours Art Gallery

Good for: ceramics, paintings, photography and jewellery by local artists.

5 Surface Gallery

Good for: discovering new talent.

6 Nottingham Castle

Good for: its permanent exhibition of major historical works.

7 Whitewall Gallery

Good for: fine and contemporary art for the consumer.

8 Museum of Life at Brewhouse Yard

Good for: learning about Nottingham's social history.

9 The Bonington Gallery

Good for: a glimpse of the future through interesting displays and events.

10 Wollaton Hall

Good for: its natural history museum.

#LoveNotts

Not forgetting

There are lots of arty events to get involved in. Lee Rosy's tea shop runs a writing group, Nottingham Contemporary hosts spoken word night Scribal Gathering, and Broadway screens special film events throughout the year. And that's just for starters.

What better way to enjoy a day out on a budget than visiting one of the great exhibitions at Nottingham Contemporary? It's completely free and world class.

Seasonal sessions

#LoveNotts

Temporary markets, festive events and a city centre beach all roll in with the seasons to ensure Nottingham is never quite the same. Here's just a few:

What: farmers' and food markets
When: regularly
Where: Market Square

What: Riverside Festival
When: August
Where: next to the River Trent, West Bridgford

What: Britain's biggest urban beach
When: summer
Where: Market Square

What: the legendary Goose Fair
When: autumn (usually soon after Freshers' Week)
Where: Forest Fields Recreation Ground

What: Robin Hood Beer Festival
When: October
Where: Nottingham Castle

What: bonfire celebrations
When: either the big night itself or the nearest weekend
Where: Forest Fields Recreation Ground

What: Christmas market
When: usually sets up at the end of November
Where: Market Square

My Nottingham
Sophie Gelsthorpe-Hill,
BA Modern Language
Studies

"The Vintage Fair travels around the country and comes to Nottingham a few times a year. It's only £1 to get in and there are loads of different stalls selling a huge variety of vintage clothes, shoes and accessories at affordable prices. There's even a tearoom which sells lots of lovely cupcakes."



If you love mulled wine, tall rides, mini pancakes, festive tunes, warmed-up Vimto, potatoes mixed with German sausages and novelty hats, you'll love the Christmas market.

In 1970, Nottingham lad Sir Paul Smith opened a tiny shop in the city. His name is now an international brand. Business boomed for him and here's his flagship store.

#LoveNotts

Business is booming

"The best thing about Nottingham is that it is not dissimilar to London, obviously on a much smaller scale, but in terms of its cultural mix, eclectic restaurants, shops and retail offer, some fantastic theatres, and a great asset to the city, the Nottingham Contemporary Art Gallery. Another important factor is Nottingham's excellent road connections. It's reasonably close to the A1, very close to the M1 and it's got great rail links to London and the rest of the country."

Victor Ktori, Director, Savills Nottingham

Once you've studied here you'll probably want to stick around. Nottingham attracts many major employers, is a designated Science City, offers affordable housing and is well connected to the rest of the country.

- Nottingham is one of Europe's leading Science and Technology Centres of Excellence with many strengths including biomedical sciences, low carbon technologies, ICT, and advanced engineering.

- Major employers in Nottingham include Boots, Browne Jacobson, Capital One, Coutts, E.ON, Eversheds, Experian, Geldards LLP, HBOS, HM Revenue and Customs, HSBC, John Lewis,

Mercedes Benz, Nottingham City Council, Ofsted, Rolls-Royce, Siemens, Specsavers, Speedo and Toyota.

- The cost of living is considerably less compared to other cities in the UK meaning that you can live in trendy and prosperous areas of Nottingham for a fraction of what it would cost in equivalent areas of London.

What the celebs say

"Nottingham is on the up. With affordable housing, huge investment in public transport and many big businesses calling it home, this city is booming."

Kirsty Allsop, Location, Location, Location, Channel 4, 2011

#LoveNotts

Few British cities have trams, but Nottingham does and the network is set to expand, providing fast links from key student areas to the centre.

And now for the sensible stuff...

#LoveNotts

Nottingham is a compact city with an excellent transport network and a national award that recognises it as a safe and enjoyable place for a night out.

Getting around

Cycling

A poll by *Cycling Plus* magazine found Nottingham to be Britain's second best city for cycling. The Nottingham City Council website has information on cycle routes around the city – www.nottinghamcity.gov.uk

Buses

Nottingham City Transport run buses in and around the city – www.nctx.co.uk – while other student areas, such as Beeston, are serviced by Trent Barton – www.trentbarton.co.uk Both companies offer good late-night transport alternatives.

Megabus coaches also run from the centre and East Midlands Parkway Station, linking Nottingham to London, York and other cities across the UK from as little as £1 – www.megabus.com

Trams

The tram network runs to certain towns outside the city centre – www.thetram.net If you're not used to trams, be aware, they are almost silent.

Trains

Nottingham is right in the centre of the country and is very well connected to all other major cities by the train network – www.eastmidlandstrains.co.uk

Be sure to book as far in advance as possible for the cheapest tickets and check out East Midlands Parkway Station – it's close to Sutton Bonington Campus and often does deals on fares.

Taxis

There are plenty of taxi ranks in town, most notably around the outside of Market Square. If you want to book a cab in advance, google 'taxi Nottingham' for numbers.

Airport

The Skylink bus runs from the city centre to East Midlands Airport every 30 minutes. The airport offers flights, some at bargain prices, to a range of European cities including Amsterdam, Barcelona, Edinburgh, Paris and Rome – www.eastmidlandsairport.com

Safer city

Safety is a key priority for the authorities in Nottingham. The latest police stats show crime in the city is at its lowest for 30 years, with figures from the Government revealing that offences in Nottingham are reducing three times faster than the average.

The city was also named one of the best and safest places for a night out in the UK in 2011. It retained its Purple Flag Award, an accolade that recognises excellence in the running of town and city centres at night. Nottingham is the only city in the East Midlands to have the status, and one of only 16 in the UK.

Keep up to date

Use the links below to find out what's happening on campus.

www.nottingham.ac.uk/connect
www.nottingham.ac.uk/events

Useful websites

www.nottinghamcity.gov.uk
www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk
www.experience.nottinghamshire.com
www.thisisnottingham.co.uk

Contact us:

t: +44 (0)115 951 5559
e: enquiries@nottingham.ac.uk
w: www.nottingham.ac.uk/faqs

This publication is available in alternative formats.
t: +44 (0)115 951 4591



Key

Nottingham Navigator Information Point

Nottingham Tourism Centre

Car parking

Taxi ranks

Toilets

Disabled toilets

Shopmobility

Tram route and stops

Bus Links

SkyLink bus

UniLink 4 bus

UniLink 34 bus

Park & Ride Link 1 bus

Park & Ride Link 2 bus



Scale:

0 50 100 metres

Walking distance:

It will take approximately 5 minutes to walk this far



© Crown Copyright and database right 2011.
City Council Ordnance Survey, Licence Number 100030223.

This map should be used as a guide only.
Please be aware that further restrictions may be in place on all streets.
It remains the responsibility of the driver to follow and comply with all restrictions and directions at any given time and location.