



Leeds set to host a Christmas like no other with the launch of city-wide Winter Favourites campaign

18th October 2021: Leeds City Council and [Visit Leeds](#), the destination management organisation for the city of Leeds, is gearing up to its biggest and most eagerly anticipated Christmas to date, with the launch of a festive programme of events, new installations and experiences happening across the city.

Leeds' Winter Favourites will inspire residents and visitors to the city to immerse themselves in a host of new winter wonders that are on offer in Leeds alongside its much-loved traditional festivities this holiday season.

Leeds City Council has worked with Leeds BID to create plenty of new and exciting festive attractions for residents and visitors to enjoy, making this winter season like no other. The ambition has been to create a whole city experience boasting performances, grottos and markets alongside traditional favourites.

Taking inspiration from the unique traditions and favoured celebrations we all enjoy over Christmas, the 'Winter Favourites' theme of this year's campaign will highlight some eagerly anticipated new activities inspired by widely adored and established events to bring glad tidings to all this Christmas.

The city's festive programme this year will see Millennium Square creating a winter wonderland with an ice rink and Igloo Bar opening from the 26th of November and also new for this year are pop-up market stalls and a free festive themed family trail located around key locations across the city centre.

The traditional Carousel returns to the newly created public space on Cookridge Street, with a brand new Tipi also arriving on Briggate creating the perfect location for the whole family to enjoy a variety of festive refreshments to accompany their favourite Christmas cuisine, thanks to the 'bring your own food' policy. THOR's Tipi will also return to Victoria Gardens from the 19th of November along with the ever popular Wheel of Light.



The new additions to the city’s festivities complement longstanding favourites such as the famous City Square Christmas tree, the ‘Dear Leeds’ lighting installation on Briggate, Rock n Roll Panto at City Varieties, and Lotherton’s Christmas Experience. Lord Whitney’s Upon a Christmas Wish immersive festive experience will also make a long awaited return to Harewood House having been postponed last year.

Deputy Leader of Leeds City Council and Executive Member for Economy, Culture and Education, Cllr Jonathan Pryor commented: “The Council alongside a wealth of stakeholders in the city have worked really hard to extend the Christmas offer this year and provide a wonderful experience for everyone to enjoy. After a diluted festive season in 2020, we are delighted that we can deliver more activities and events to Leeds this Christmas. Leeds’ Winter Favourites will ensure that everyone who visits the city this holiday season will leave with a festive feeling that is bound to last right through to the new year.”

“We encourage residents and visitors alike to discover what’s on offer in Leeds this Christmas and to find their winter favourite.”

To find out more about Leeds Winter Favourites, explore Visit Leeds’ ultimate guide to Christmas in Leeds <https://www.visitleeds.co.uk/winter-season/>

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For more information, please contact VisitLeeds@ilkagency.com

Notes to Editors:

Leeds City Council has made use of one-off European and government funding available as a result of Covid-19 to help deliver this programme of Christmas events.

Visit Leeds is the official Destination Management Organisation run by Leeds City Council, which aims to showcase the breadth of cultural attractions, innovative food & drink destinations and extensive shopping facilities on offer in Leeds and its surrounding areas. Its vision is for the city to be a world-class, modern and historic European destination with a reputation for a vibrant and creative cultural scene set against the backdrop of rich heritage and outstanding architecture.



As the second largest and one of the fastest growing cities in the UK, Leeds attracted over 30 million visitors from 2019 from both the UK and abroad. Its location and exceptional national and international transport links make it the ideal getaway for a variety of visitors to the Yorkshire region and beyond.

Not only is Leeds one of the greenest cities in Europe, it also ranks as the third best shopping destination in the UK outside of London as breath-taking Victorian arcades sit alongside iconic luxury brands and well-known high street retailers.

Leeds is brimming with a wealth of culture, history and diversity, having been home to the UK's first West Indian Carnival back in 1967. The city's rich culture is also reflected in the plethora of live events. From world-class opera organisations; Opera North, Northern Ballet, to unrivalled live music experiences and hilarious comedy, Leeds truly is a treasure trove of live entertainment.

Leeds is also notably known as a world-class sporting destination, having hosted the World Triathlon Series, The Cricket World Cup and The Ashes, while next year will see the city host the Rugby League World Cup and the British Transplant Games. Leeds is also home to Leeds United Football Club, Yorkshire County Cricket Club, and rugby league's Leeds Rhinos.

Over the past 15 years, regeneration has modernised the city centre, while complementing its incredible architecture and heritage. The city is now synonymous with the very best the north of England has to offer; bursting with life and cultural energy.

Leeds in numbers:

- Leeds is brimming with culture, boasting four major theatres, over 16 museums and galleries, an award-winning arena and iconic performance venues such as City Varieties Music Hall, Brudenell Social Club, Belgrave Music Hall & Canteen, and many more.
- Leeds is a city renowned for its art, and is home to over 17 street art installations, as well as extensive 20th century collections found at Leeds Art Gallery, through to the contemporary exhibitions that call The Tetley home.



- In 2019 business tourism delivered an additional £559.5 million to the visitor economy with Leeds, ranking in the top five UK conference destinations for national and international conferences.
- For more information, visit: www.visitleeds.co.uk