Rochdale Town Centre BID

Improving the visitor experience















YOUR FESTIVE GUIDE TO ROCHDALE TOWN CENTRE

Shop · Eat · Drink · Explore · Celebrate

WELCOME

from Rochdale BID

There's something special about Rochdale town centre at Christmas. As the lights go on and the festive season gets underway, Rochdale town centre comes alive with plenty of reasons to shop, eat, drink, explore and celebrate.

Rochdale Town Centre BID works throughout the year to promote the town centre, increase footfall and support its businesses and organisations – and Christmas is always one of the highlights.

This festive season there's lots to look forward to, including the Artisan Market, Christmas lights switch on, Santa's Post Box, Santa's Grotto, guest appearances from your favourite characters, alongside a packed programme of events at Rochdale Town Hall and the fantastic Ignite Fire Festival.

We're also getting ready to celebrate the small businesses that make our town special on **Small Business Saturday - 5 December.**

From independent retailers and cafés to restaurants and local traders, Small Business Saturday puts Rochdale's entrepreneurs in the spotlight and encourages Rochdale residents and visitors to buy local. It is an opportunity to showcase the people behind the businesses and the character they bring to the town centre.

Supporting a small business can be as simple as choosing an independent café for lunch, buying a gift from a local retailer or recommending a local business to a friend.

In this guide, you'll find inspiration for Christmas shopping, places to eat and drink, festive events and plenty of ideas for enjoying Rochdale town centre over the festive season.

However you choose to celebrate, we hope you have a wonderful Christmas in Rochdale town centre.

CHRISTMAS ARTISAN MARKET

Get ready for some festive shopping as the Riverside Christmas Artisan Markets return to the heart of Rochdale town centre.

With around 30 stalls, the market will be packed with Christmas treats, gifts and plenty of inspiration for the festive season.

Browse a fantastic selection of local products, including crafts, clothing, accessories, jewellery, decorations and stocking fillers – perfect for finding something a little different while supporting local businesses.

There will also be delicious treats, so you can grab something tasty, and soak up the Christmas atmosphere while you shop.

Free admission.

RIVERSIDE CHRISTMAS ARTISAN MARKET

SATURDAY 5 DECEMBER
10-4PM

SUNDAY 6 DECEMBER
11-4PM









SANTA'S GROTTO

Step inside an authentic, rustic Santa's Grotto in Rochdale town centre – it even smells festive! Santa will be waiting to greet you and your family in his cosy front room as you step into a small piece of the 'Santa's Village'. He will have his head Elf beside him to make the experience even more magical. Take as many photos as you like and collect your gift from the main man! An unforgettable experience for the whole family.

Book online at: santasvillage.co.uk/rochdalegrotto

MEET YOUR FAVOURITE CHARACTERS AT ROCHDALE RIVERSIDE

5 & 6 December – The Grinch
12 December – The Grinch
13 December – Olaf
19 December – The Grinch
20 December – Jack Skeleton
22 December – Olaf
23 December – The Grinch

All at Rochdale Riverside between the hours of 11am-2pm.

SANTA'S POST BOX

Santa's Post Box is returning to Rochdale Riverside!

A special post box will be located just inside the picket fence at Santa's Grotto. Children can collect a letter-writing kit from The Works, Max Spielmann and Pionero Lounge, or get creative and make one themselves. Pop it in Santa's Post Box and let the elf magic take care of the rest – with a special reply from Father Christmas himself!











IGNITE FIRE FESTIVAL

20 - 22 November
Town Hall Square & Broadfield Slopes

The spectacular Ignite Fire Festival will be returning to Rochdale this November for three evenings of magical family entertainment, with organisers promising it will be bigger and better than ever with new dazzling trails and attractions.

Ignite Fire Festival, which was staged for the first time in 2023, will be transforming the square and gardens around Rochdale Town Hall, including Broadfield Slopes.

The event will open from Friday 20 to Sunday 22 November, with three free night-time spectacular shows, delivering magical and immersive trails of fire, lights and sound.

Fiery displays, blazing sculptures and an incredible illuminated installation will be open to walk through each evening, with the Christmas lights switch-on taking place on the Sunday.

FIND OUT MORE:
rochdale.gov.uk/ignite



RELAX & UNWIND

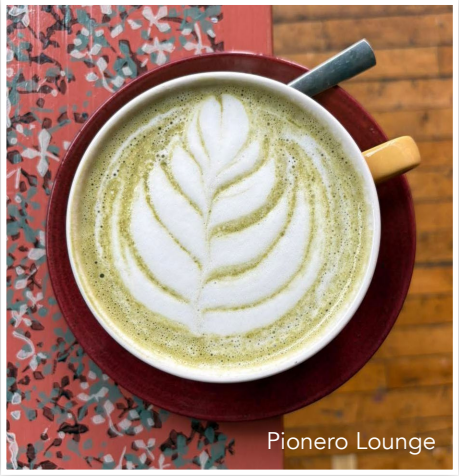
COFFEE & CATCH-UPS

Take a break from the Christmas rush

Whether you're meeting friends or taking a break from Christmas shopping, there are plenty of places to stop and recharge around Rochdale town centre.

From much-loved independents to familiar favourites, grab a coffee, and watch the festive world go by.

Why not try one of the many coffee shops at Rochdale Riverside such as The Coffee House, M&S café, Costa (within Next), Greggs or Pionero Lounge – or the nearby Hampton by Hilton. There's also Russells Café on Yorkshire Street, Veloce Coffee at the bus station and the longstanding San Remo on Drake Street.



Pionero Lounge

BARS & PUBS

Raise a glass in Rochdale town centre

Whether it's a cosy pint, cocktails with friends or a festive night out, Rochdale town centre has plenty of places to enjoy a drink this Christmas.

You'll find some brilliant venues in buildings with fascinating stories, from the historic Flying Horse Hotel and Empire, to The Pint Pot, Bull on the Brow, Regal Moon, Hogarths and Courtyard.

There are plenty more places to discover too, including Our Gracie's, Lucky Duck, Moody Blue, The White Lion, Hoochi Koochi and for those who want to dance the night away – Kokos!

MAKE A NIGHT OF IT

Fancy a festive sleepover?

Planning a festive night out, visiting family or simply fancy making a little more of your time in Rochdale? Hampton by Hilton Rochdale puts you right in the heart of the town centre. The modern 146-room hotel offers stylish bedrooms, free Wi-Fi, a fitness centre and complimentary hot breakfast.

FESTIVE FOOD PICKS

From festive get-togethers to cosy Christmas catch-ups, Rochdale town centre is full of great places to eat, drink and celebrate this season.

The Martlet Kitchen

THE BAUM
Toad Lane
A warm and welcoming pub on the historic Toad Lane offering creative British food, a mouthwatering festive menu and an enviable beer selection.

THE FLYING HORSE HOTEL
Town Hall Square
A traditional pub offering homemade food, pub classics and grills, using the finest locally sourced ingredients.

VICOLO DEL VINO
Baillie Street Quarter
An intimate Italian-inspired wine cellar bar offering antipasti, delicious pizzas, picky bits and sharing bowls.

LA MANCHA
Baillie Street Quarter
Authentic Spanish tapas designed for sharing, Spanish wines and a relaxed Mediterranean atmosphere.

MOODY BLUE
Drake Street
Stacked burgers, proper pub classics and seasonal specials and craft ale.


La Mancha


The Flying Horse Hotel

PIONERO LOUNGE
Rochdale Riverside
A home-from-home café bar with a varied and innovative all-day menu and an exciting calendar of events.

THE MARTLET KITCHEN
Rochdale Town Hall
Celebrate the festive season with a delicious Christmas menu featuring seasonal favourites and festive flavours in a beautiful setting.

NANDO'S
Rochdale Riverside
Famous for its flame-grilled chicken, Nando's is a great spot for a relaxed meal with family or friends.

TACO BELL
Rochdale Riverside
Serving Mexican-inspired favourites including tacos and burritos.

THE REGAL MOON
The Butts
A characterful Wetherspoon pub in the impressive former Regal Cinema, offering an extensive menu.

CHRISTMAS
Wrapped Up

There's something special about Christmas shopping in Rochdale town centre. From familiar high street favourites to brilliant independent businesses, you'll find plenty of inspiration for everyone on your list – and perhaps a little something for yourself too.

Alongside high street favourites such as M&S, Next, H&M, New Look, Boots and Superdrug, B&M, Home Bargains and The Works, Rochdale town centre is also home to a great collection of independent shops.

So, if you're looking for something a little different this Christmas, discover some of these hidden gems…



BUCKLEY MENSWEAR
South Parade
Spread over two floors, the independent quality menswear store combines casual collections with formal tailoring, suits and jackets, as well as suit hire and an in-house alterations service.

NUMBER TEN GALLERY
Baillie Street Quarter
For gifts with a little more thought behind them, Number Ten Art Gallery & Gift Shop is the perfect place. An independent alternative to the usual high-street offering, full of unique gift ideas, handmade jewellery, original paintings, local crafts and more.

CHANTILLY
Cheetham Street
An award-winning boutique established in 1985, offering lingerie, swimwear and nightwear from a wide range of quality brands. Chantilly also provide a professional, personalised fitting service and expert advice.

BUTTERWORTHS SPORTS
Yorkshire Street
Longstanding, independent retailer of 45 years, offering premium designer clothing, plus fantastic customer service. Stocking a wide collection of brands including Adidas, The North Face, Fred Perry and more.

ROCKS OFF
Drake Street
Since 1989, Rocks Off, on Drake Street, has offered a huge range of vinyl and CDs, plus band merchandise. Find the perfect gift for the music lover in your life, with experienced and knowledgeable staff to point you in the right direction.

OKEECHOBEE
Baillie Street Quarter
An independent ladies' clothing boutique in the heart of the Baillie Street Quarter, specialising in high end fashion and accessories offering many well known brands and outstanding customer service.

THE HEALTH FOOD CENTRE
Cheetham Street
An independent health food shop owned by a qualified health food specialist. Offering a wide range of high quality herbal remedies, nutritional supplements and health foods, plus local honey, essential oils and sports supplements – great gifts for health enthusiasts.

SMALL BUSINESS SATURDAY PASSPORT COMPETITION

Get ready to explore 6 town centre businesses and be in with a chance of winning a £100 voucher!
Simply pick up your Passport from a participating business – Buckley Menswear, Number Ten Gallery, Butterworth Sports, Brown's Family Jewellers, Octave or Veloce Coffee – and start collecting stamps.

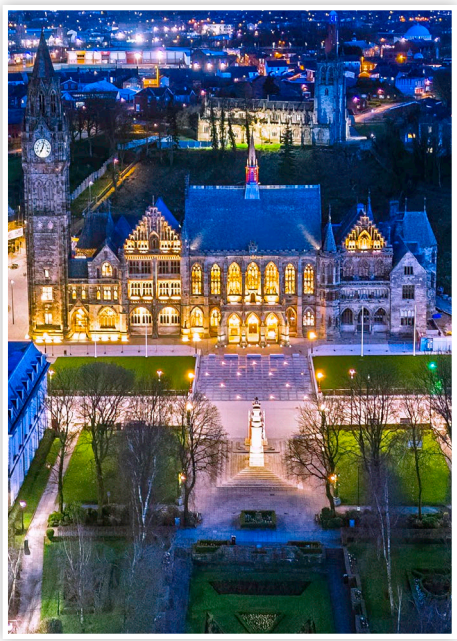
Collect stamps between 5 - 24 December. Once you've collected all 6 stamps, email a photo to paul@rochdalebid.co.uk. One lucky winner will receive a £100 voucher to spend at one of the participating businesses.





What's On This Christmas At

ROCHDALE TOWN HALL



There's plenty to enjoy at Rochdale Town Hall this festive season, with family fun, creative workshops, festive dining and seasonal entertainment all taking place in its spectacular surroundings. Here are some of the highlights…

THE ELVES AND THE SHOEMAKER

26 Nov • 6-7pm

A magical family show with puppetry, live music and plenty of audience participation. Ideal for ages 3-8 and their families. Tickets from £2

CHRISTMAS WREATH MAKING

5 Dec • 10.30am-12.30pm

Create your own festive wreath. All materials provided. Tickets from £20

5 Dec • 1.30-3.30pm

As above plus prosecco and mince pies! Tickets from £30

THE ESCAPE WITH THE ELVES

6 & 20 Dec

Santa's presents have disappeared! Join the Town Hall elves, crack the clues and find them in time for Christmas. Ages 4+. Tickets from £7

BREAKFAST WITH SANTA

13 Dec

Enjoy a festive breakfast with Santa, share your Christmas wishes and receive a special gift.

SUNDAY LUNCH WITH SANTA

13 Dec

Gather the family for a festive Sunday lunch, a special visit from Santa and plenty of Christmas cheer.

A CHRISTMAS ORGAN CONCERT

16 Dec • 2-3.15pm

Jonathan Scott presents a dazzling programme of seasonal music on Rochdale Town Hall's magnificent organ. Tickets from £15

To find out more about any of these events visit: rochdaletownhall.co.uk

REEL CINEMA

Take a break from the Christmas shopping and settle in for a trip to the movies at Reel Cinema, Rochdale Riverside. From 19 - 24 December you can enjoy The Polar Express Pyjama Party, including a hot chocolate and a picture with the conductor before the showing starts!

reelcinemas.co.uk/rochdale



PIONEERS MUSEUM

Step inside the birthplace of the modern Co-operative movement and discover a fascinating part of Rochdale's history.
It was here, on 21 December 1844, that the Rochdale Equitable Pioneers Society opened its first store, selling good-quality food at fair prices and helping to inspire a movement that spread around the world.



PUTT & PLAY

Add a little friendly competition to your festive day out at Putt & Play Rochdale. With three nine-hole mini golf courses, amusement games, plus food and drinks, there's plenty to keep the whole family entertained.

hollywoodbowl.co.uk
/rochdale-putt-play



FESTIVE ELF TRAIL

Get ready for some festive fun this Christmas as the Rochdale Town Centre Christmas Elf Trail brings a little extra magic and mischief.

Naughty elves have been hiding in shop windows throughout Rochdale Town Centre, and we need you to find them! Follow the trail and see how many cheeky elves you can spot along the way.

Trail sheets will be available from a vareity of town centre shops and businesses, giving families the perfect excuse to explore the town, enjoy the festive atmosphere and support local businesses.



Once you have completed the trail and answered the question about the naughty elves, you'll be entered into a prize draw for the chance to win a £50 voucher to spend at a Rochdale Town Centre business of your choice.

So wrap up warm, bring your family and friends, and discover some festive surprises along the way.

MORE TO DISCOVER



When you need a break from shopping and celebrating, Rochdale town centre has beautiful outdoor spaces within easy walking distance. Broadfield Park and the Memorial Gardens offer somewhere to take a walk or watch the world go by.

Rochdale Town Centre BID have published a range of free town centre guides, detailing guided walks, parks & gardens, hidden heritage, mural trails, real ale pubs and more.

Pick yours up at Number Ten Gallery, The Baum or Pioneers Museum.



GETTING HERE

METROLINK
Regular trams run from Manchester Victoria, Oldham and along the Rochdale line. Use the Rochdale Town Centre stop.

TRAIN
Rochdale train station is around a 10-minute walk away, or take the Metrolink into the town centre.

BUS
Rochdale Transport Interchange is right in the heart of the town centre.

CAR
Council car parks offer three hours free parking Monday - Saturday and free all day on Sundays but remember to take and display a ticket. Parking is also available at Rochdale Riverside and behind Rochdale Town Hall.

MAKE IT A CHRISTMAS TO REMEMBER

in Rochdale Town Centre

Rochdale Town Centre BID

51-53 Yorkshire St (first floor)
www.rochdalebid.co.uk
To keep up to date follow us on social media:
@rochdaletowncentre

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