

This guide was produced by The University of Nottingham, June 2015.  
Photography page 10-11: [www.ashleybird.com](http://www.ashleybird.com)

Cover image: Fashion icon, Sir Paul Smith's flagship store on Low Pavement,  
Nottingham city centre.



The University of  
**Nottingham**

UNITED KINGDOM • CHINA • MALAYSIA

# City guide for students

[www.nottingham.ac.uk](http://www.nottingham.ac.uk)

#LoveNotts



# Contents

#LoveNotts

- 4 Hey big spender!
- 8 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 The sensible stuff



TheUniofNottingham



@UniofNottingham

## 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*

Cafe by day, bar and music venue by night, the Malt Cross is known for its friendly and relaxed atmosphere.



# Hey big spender!

#LoveNotts

If you love to shop, Nottingham offers an enticing mix of high street and vintage clothes stores. All the big names, including Urban Outfitters, Topshop, Office and H&M feature within the city centre, while one-off boutiques and treasure troves of antique furniture, jewellery and gifts can be found in the side streets and cobbled roads of the Lace Market and Hockley.

## 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 Wan (from Leicester)



Page 45 is the one-stop shop for your comic book fix.



## #LoveNotts

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

### **intu Victoria Centre**

*Mansfield Road*

Good for: all things high street.

### **Beeston's charity shops**

*Beeston town centre*

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

### **Rough Trade**

*Broad Street*

Good for: an eclectic and extensive collection of music, from CDs to vinyl.

### **Tokenhouse**

*Bridlesmith Gate*

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

### **Bridlesmith Gate**

Good for: Everything from American Apparel to Ted Baker, complete with cobbled streets and Tudor shop fronts. A bit more expensive, but a great shopping experience.

### **Wild**

*Broad Street*

Good for: interesting retro and American-style clothing.

### **Victoria Centre Market**

*Upstairs in the intu Victoria Centre*

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

### **Page 45**

*Market Street*

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

### **The Bead Shop**

*Market Street*

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

### **Backlash**

*Market Street*

Good for: vintage clothes and accessories from every decade.

Nottingham's vintage shops offer retro and modern fashion and jewellery made from an eclectic mix of fabric and memorabilia.



# #LoveNotts

## 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**

## Be a sport

Nottingham has loads of sports facilities throughout the city as well as on campus. What's your game?

### **Nottingham Forest and Notts County football clubs**

Good for: a day on the terraces.

### **Trent Bridge Cricket Ground**

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

### **National Ice Centre**

Good for: taking lessons through the Learn to Skate Programme and watching the Nottingham Panthers play ice hockey.

### **National Water Sports Centre**

Good for: adrenaline-inducing water sports.

### **Nottingham Climbing Centre**

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

### **Nottingham Tennis Centre**

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

### **Nottingham Racecourse**

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

### **Cycle trails around Nottingham**

Good for: getting around the city for free.

### **River Trent**

Good for: getting out on the river in a canoe or rowing boat.

### **The Robin Hood Marathon and Half-Marathon**

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

In addition to all the sports facilities across the city, the University has invested over £50m in sports facilities in 2015-16.

# 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

#### Capital FM Arena

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

#### Rock City

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

#### Rescue Rooms

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

#### The Bodega Social Club

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

#### Spanky Van Dykes

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

#### Jam Cafe

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

#### Glee Club

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

#### Royal Concert Hall

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

#### Splendour Festival, Wollaton Park

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

#### Dot-to-Dot Festival

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

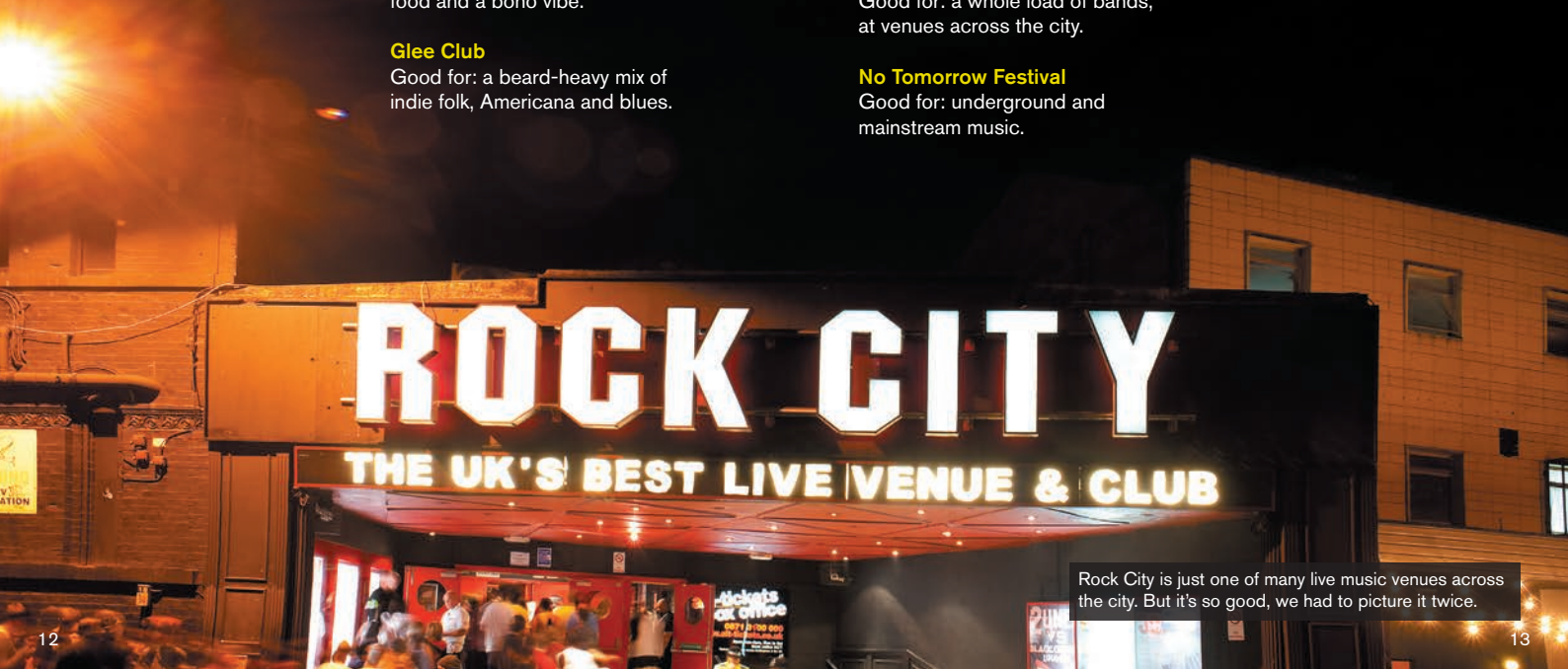
#### No Tomorrow Festival

Good for: underground and mainstream music.

#### 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](http://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).

## **Broadway**

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

## **Cineworld**

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

## **Nottingham Playhouse**

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

## **Savoy Cinema**

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

## **The Castle Micro Moviehouse**

Good for: catching the latest films in a cosy setting.

## **Glee Club, Jongleurs and Just the Tonic**

Good for: laughing at the latest comedians.

## **Nottingham Castle**

Good for: its outdoor theatre season.

## **Nottingham Lakeside Arts, University Park Campus**

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

## **Theatre Royal**

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

## **Nottingham Arts Theatre**

Good for: opportunities to contribute to a community theatre.

## **Lace Market Theatre**

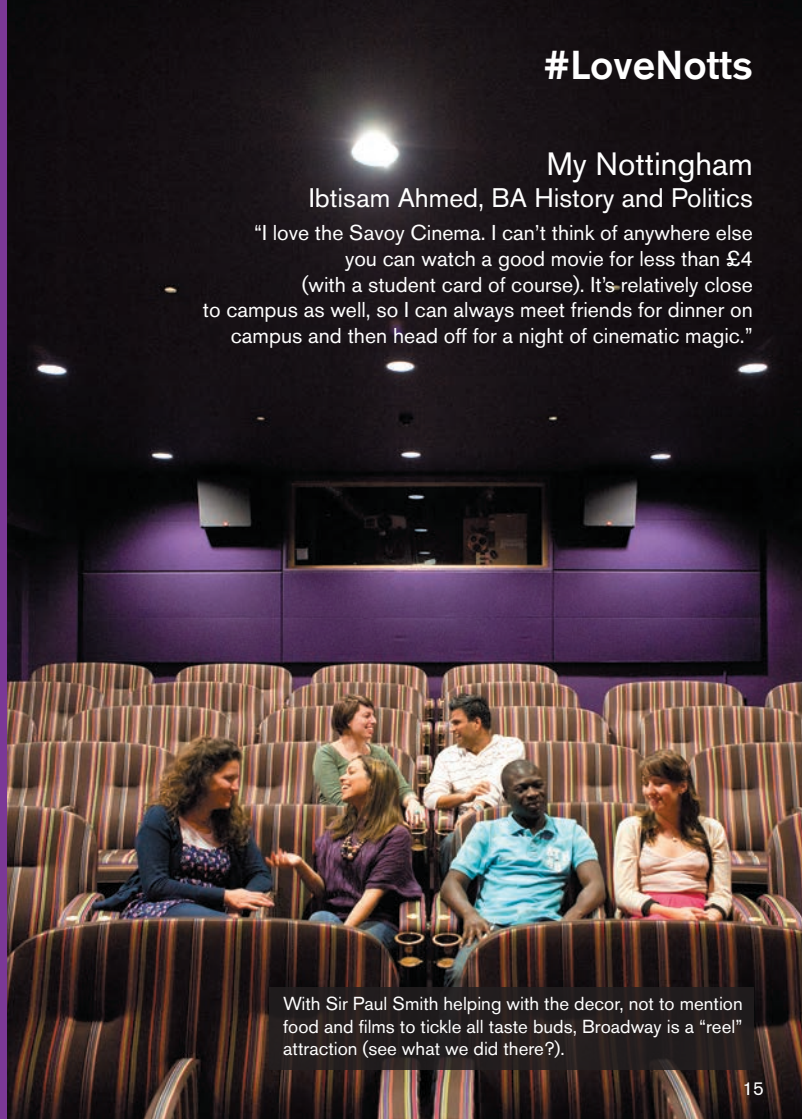
Good for: friendly amateur theatre – get involved!

# #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 History of Art

"In Nottingham there are plenty of alternatives to mainstream coffee shops. Lee Rosy's is 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."

Delilah's Delicatessen offers a huge array of cheese, meats, breads and unique gifts for foodies.

With more places to eat and drink per square mile than any other city in Europe, Nottingham has earned its way into the *Thinkmoney* Six Great Universities for Foodies list.

**Crocus Cafe**

*Church Square, Lenton*

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

**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.

**Sir John Borlase Warren**

*Canning Circus*

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

**Mayfair Restaurant**

*Mansfield Road*

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

**Mogal-e-Azam**

*Goldsmith Street*

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

**Annie's Burger Shack**

*Broadway, Lace Market*

Good for: authentic American burgers and Real Ale.

**Alley Cafe Bar**

*Long Row West*

Good for: imaginative vegetarian and vegan meals.

**Homemade**

*Pelham Street*

Good for: a spot of lunch in a cosy independent cafe.

**Edin's Deli Cafe and Edin's Kitchen**

*Broad Street and Carlton Street*

Good for: tapas specials, scrummy lunches and continental-style decor.

**Lee Rosy's**

*Broad Street*

Good for: tea – they sell over 100 varieties.

The Alley Cafe Bar is perfect for vegetarians and vegans.



# After dark

#LoveNotts

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.

## Saltwater

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

## Junkyard

Good for: craft beers – from lagers to stouts.

## Oceana and Ocean

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

## Tilt

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

## Das Kino

Good for: food, drinks and ping pong.

## Coco Tang

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

## Malt Cross

Good for: a quiet drink, live music or gallery showing of local artistic talent in a Grade II listed former music hall.

## Cookie Club

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

## Boilermaker

Good for: a quirky take on cocktail classics hidden away in Hockley.

## NG1

Good for: partying at one of Nottingham's biggest nightclubs.

## Stealth

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

## Pandora's Box

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

## Rock City

Good for: popular student nights, as well as live music.

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.

## Sherwood Forest

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

## Wollaton Hall and Deer Park

Good for: walking round the lake and, you've guessed it, deer. Also, *The Dark Knight Rises* was filmed here.

## The Arboretum

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

## Rufford Abbey Country Park

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

## Clumber Park

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

## Nottingham Castle

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

## Attenborough Nature Reserve

Good for: getting in touch with nature.

## Twycross Zoo

(aka The World Primate Centre)

Good for: a fun day out.

## Newstead Abbey

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

## Highfields Lake, University Park Campus

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

#LoveNotts

## 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*.

Wollaton Hall and Deer Park is just a short walk from University Park Campus and is a great spot for a picnic.



# Culture cultures

#LoveNotts

"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.

#LoveNotts

#### **Nottingham Contemporary**

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

#### **The New Art Exchange**

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

#### **Djanogly Art Gallery at Nottingham Lakeside Arts**

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

#### **True Colours Art Gallery**

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

#### **Surface Gallery**

Good for: discovering new talent.

#### **Nottingham Castle**

Good for: its permanent exhibition of major historical works.

#### **Wollaton Hall**

Good for: its natural history museum.

#### **Museum of Life at Brewhouse Yard**

Good for: learning about Nottingham's social history.

#### **The Bonington Gallery**

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

#### **Galleries of Justice Museum**

Good for: immersing yourself in a history of crime and punishment.

#### **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 Djanogly Art Gallery? 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


Ros Kino,

BA Geography

"The city is big enough to not be bored but small enough to feel personal. I've had the best three years of my life here."



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.

The background image shows the interior of a restaurant. On the left, there is a large, ornate stained glass window with a central panel featuring a crown and the words 'L. PATRICK'. Below the window, a single lit candle sits on a windowsill. The walls are decorated with several framed pictures and posters, including one titled 'POPULAR ENGLISH ART'. A large, illuminated star-shaped light fixture hangs from the ceiling, surrounded by a silver, bell-shaped pendant lamp. In the foreground, three men are seated at a table, smiling and engaged in conversation. The man on the left wears an orange and white striped polo shirt. The man in the middle wears a black t-shirt and glasses. The man on the right wears a light-colored t-shirt. There are glasses of orange juice and other items on the table.

Nottingham is full of quirky places to eat and drink, including Pitcher and Piano, which is housed in a restored church.

#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**



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, KPMG, 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**

## #LoveNotts

Few British cities have trams, but Nottingham does and the network is expanding, which will provide fast links from key student areas to the centre.

# 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](http://www.nottinghamcity.gov.uk)

### Buses

Nottingham City Transport run buses in and around the city – [www.nctx.co.uk](http://www.nctx.co.uk) – while other student areas, such as Beeston, are serviced by Trent Barton – [www.trentbarton.co.uk](http://www.trentbarton.co.uk). Both companies offer good late-night transport alternatives and discounted rates for students.

Megabus coaches also run from the centre and East Midlands Parkway Railway Station, linking Nottingham to London, York and other cities across the UK from as little as £1: [www.megabus.com](http://www.megabus.com)

### Trams

The tram network runs to certain towns outside the city centre and is set to expand to take in some of the popular student areas. If you're not used to trams, look before stepping out as they are almost silent:

[www.thetram.net](http://www.thetram.net)

### 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](http://www.eastmidlandstrains.co.uk)

Be sure to book as far in advance as possible for the cheapest tickets and check out East Midlands Parkway Railway 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 24-hours a day. The airport offers flights, some at bargain prices, to a range of European cities including Amsterdam, Barcelona, Edinburgh, Paris and Rome:

[www.eastmidlandsairport.com](http://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 one of its lowest points for 30 years, with figures from the Government revealing that offences in Nottingham have recorded one of the highest reductions in England and Wales.

The city was also named one of the best and safest places for a night out in the UK in 2013. It retained its Purple Flag Award, an accolade that recognises excellence in the running of town and city centres at night.

### Keep up to date

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

[www.nottingham.ac.uk/connect](http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/connect)

[www.nottingham.ac.uk/events](http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/events)

### Useful websites

[www.nottinghamcity.gov.uk](http://www.nottinghamcity.gov.uk)

[www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk](http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk)

[www.experience  
nottinghamshire.com](http://www.experiencenottinghamshire.com)

[www.thisisnottingham.co.uk](http://www.thisisnottingham.co.uk)

### Contact us

t: +44 (0)115 951 5559

e: [enquiries@nottingham.ac.uk](mailto:enquiries@nottingham.ac.uk)

w: [www.nottingham.ac.uk/faqs](http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/faqs)

---

The University of Nottingham has made every effort to ensure that the information in this brochure was accurate when published. Please note, however, that the nature of the content means that it is subject to change from time to time, and you should therefore consider the information to be guiding rather than definitive.

© The University of Nottingham 2015. All rights reserved.

This publication is available  
in alternative formats.  
t: +44 (0)115 951 5559



# Key


 Nottingham Tourism Centre


 Car parking

 Taxi ranks

 Toilets

 Disabled toilets

 Tram route and stops

 Tram extension

This map should be used as a guide only.  
All information correct at July 2013.

Bus information is available at all stops or via  
the website:  
[www.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/publictransport](http://www.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/publictransport)

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.

Safe, clean, ambitious  
**Nottingham**  
A city we're all proud of

