

A group of people at a conference networking and drinking champagne. The background is blurred with warm, bokeh lights. In the foreground, a woman with dark hair and a black scarf is looking towards the camera while holding a glass of champagne. To her left, a woman with blonde hair and glasses is partially visible. To her right, a man with glasses and a beard is looking towards her. Another woman with blonde hair is in the background, looking towards the camera. The overall atmosphere is professional and social.

Leeds Conferencing Facts.



With a number of exciting venues working in partnership, including leading universities, the award winning first direct arena and the world renowned Royal Armouries, it's easy to see why Leeds' conferencing city proposition puts the city in the top ten UK conferencing destinations.



Leeds is the **UK's second largest** financial centre and has a central role in other key business sectors. In addition, the city has **24 AIM Secure accredited venues**.

Leeds is a city transformed. With a rich industrial heritage, the city centre has been rejuvenated beyond recognition. This is a city that hasn't stood still and is now a thriving and vibrant business hub.

Leeds is known for its strong presence in the medical and healthcare, professional services, digital and manufacturing sectors and will deliver unique and compelling events through a city wide collaborative approach.

For delegates attending events in Leeds, the city is a wonderful place to explore during free time. The city has a walkable centre which is ripe for discovery, with a strong food and drink scene and an abundance of culture and heritage, as well as over 1,000 shops and over 300 bars and restaurants in the city centre alone.

As a host of the Grand Depart of the the Tour de France, the Rugby League World Cup, four World Triathlon Series event and The UK's Real Estate Investment & Infrastructure Forum (UKREiF), Leeds has showcased its capability for hosting major events.

Travelling to Leeds

Air Travel

Leeds Bradford Airport is Yorkshire's leading airport, located just eight miles northwest of Leeds, it serves more than **70 direct destinations** and hundreds more through its global hub connectivity.

Road network

Directly linked with London and Edinburgh via the **M1** and **A1** and has direct links with the east and west coast ports via the **M62**.

LEEDS BRADFORD AIRPORT

8 MILES
30 MINS
BY BUS
26 MINS
BY ROAD

LONDON GATWICK

3HR 32MINS
BY TRAIN
96 TRAINS
PER DAY
3HR 15MINS
BY ROAD

LONDON HEATHROW

2HR 55MINS
BY TRAIN
3HR 21MINS
BY ROAD

MANCHESTER AIRPORT

1HR 30MINS
BY TRAIN
57 TRAINS
PER DAY
1HR 30MINS
BY ROAD

BIRMINGHAM

93 MILES
1HR 50MINS
BY TRAIN
2HR 15MINS
BY ROAD

LIVERPOOL

64 MILES
1HR 45MINS
BY TRAIN
1HR 35MINS
BY ROAD

MANCHESTER

43 MILES
50 MINS
BY TRAIN
AND ROAD

EDINBURGH

157 MILES
2HR 57MINS
BY TRAIN
4HR 10MINS
BY ROAD

Where to stay Leeds City Centre

TOTAL BED STOCK

4* Hotel rooms **2,675** 3* Hotel rooms **254** Budget hotel rooms (2* & 1*) **1,442**
Serviced apartment rooms **347** University accommodation **5,350*** (*OUT OF TERM TIME)

10,068

Conference venues at a glance	Bedrooms	Capacity T/S	Capacity Rounds	Meeting Rooms	Location	Distance from City Centre (MILES)
First Direct Arena	n/a	12,000	1,200	7	City Centre	0
Leeds United Conference & Events	n/a	1,500	1,100	16	South Leeds	2.5
Royal Armouries & New Dock Hall	n/a	1,000	1,100	12	Leeds Dock	0.5
Leeds Town Hall	n/a	1,200	400	12	City Centre	0
Leeds Playhouse	n/a	750	60	6	City Centre	0
University of Leeds	433	550	600	300	City Centre	0.5
The Queens Hotel	232	500	530	18	City Centre	0
Headingley Stadium	n/a	450	330	10	Headingley	2.3
Leeds Conservatoire	n/a	354	64	7	City Centre	0
Hilton Leeds City	208	350	250	14	City Centre	0
Oulton Hall Hotel	152	350	160	12	East Leeds	5.5
The Carriageworks Theatre	n/a	349		8	City Centre	0
Aspire	n/a	300	300	7	City Centre	0
Leeds Marriott Hotel	244	300	270	19	City Centre	0
Cloth Hall Court	n/a	300	200		City Centre	0
Doubletree by Hilton	333	252	180	18	City Centre	0
Horizon	0	250	160	7	City Centre	0
Leeds Trinity University	800	250	64	30	North Leeds	6
The Met Hotel	120	250	220	15	City Centre	0
Northern Ballet	n/a	230	200	5	City Centre	0
Park Plaza	187	200	100	12	City Centre	0
The Clayton Hotel Leeds	334	200	80	10	City Centre	0.5
Crowne Plaza Leeds	135	200	150	10	City Centre	0
Weetwood Hall Estate	114	200	120	22	Headingley	4
The Studio Leeds	n/a	180	162	12	City Centre	0
Nexus	n/a	100	28	6	City Centre	0.5



Social Programme Ideas

Whether your delegates have a few hours to spare during your conference, are able to stay on for a couple of days or return at a later date; Leeds offers a great combination of modern European energy with a strong heritage and a huge warm and friendly welcome.

Retail

Leeds is the third largest shopping destination in the UK outside London so you are never more than a few steps away from a great shopping experience. Fans of the high street can hit Trinity Leeds, or if you're looking for luxury treats head to the Victoria Quarter and Victoria Gate. Vintage goods and boutique shops can be found a plenty in Leeds Corn Exchange, or stop by Leeds Kirkgate Market, one of Europe's largest covered markets, to browse the vast array of independent stalls.

History & Heritage

You will experience stunning heritage no matter where you go in Leeds; the city has more listed buildings than any other English city outside of London. Famous landmarks include the stunning Victorian arcades such as the Victoria Quarter, the magnificent Corn Exchange, Leeds Town Hall, Civic Hall and Kirkgate Market. For a slice of British History, Leeds has plenty to offer with a number of historical houses and gardens, including Harewood House, Lotherton Hall and Temple Newsam. Kirkstall Abbey; one of the most complete medieval Cistercian Abbeys in Britain is also a 'must visit'.

Culture

Leeds' heritage as a city of entertainment is a long and illustrious one and continues to flourish today. The city boasts both its own opera and ballet companies in Opera North and Northern Ballet and four theatres. It has an ever changing calendar of events and festivals and is home to some highly acclaimed events including the Leeds International Film Festival, Leeds Indie Food Festival and Light Night. The award winning 12,000 seater first direct arena sees the city play host to a broad spectrum of international artists and events. In 2023 we are celebrating the cultural life of Leeds and bring the best global artists to the city in a year long international culture festival called Leeds 2023.

The Wider Region

Leeds is an excellent gateway to the north of England, with the Yorkshire Dales, North Yorkshire Moors, Yorkshire coastline and the cities of Liverpool, Manchester, Newcastle and York just a short drive or train journey away. Take time out exploring one of the many beautiful market towns such as Otley and Wetherby enjoying their weekly farmers markets, independent shops and friendly hospitality.

Sector Strengths

Healthcare & Medtech

As the UK's first city of health innovation, Leeds City Region has a unique health and social care eco-system. The city region is home to the headquarters of five out of the six NHS bodies, one of the largest teaching hospitals in Europe and the largest healthcare data platform in the world. According to a study by the What Works Centre for Wellbeing, Leeds is the highest ranked Core City for health and wellbeing. Leeds City Region also excels in health informatics and is home to the highest concentration of health informaticians in the UK along with leading research, development and production of cutting edge medical devices.

Financial & Professional Services

Leeds City Region is the UK's second centre for banking. Over 60 national banks are based here and Leeds is home to the UK Infrastructure Bank financing a green industrial revolution and driving growth across the country. The financial sector in Leeds is thriving with over 100 FinTech firms based here as well as the national Centre for Finance, Innovation and Technology (CFIT). It is also recognised as an important centre for the legal profession. The city region is also home to one of the largest concentrations of business and client support centres in the UK.

Digital and Information Economy

From creative outputs to digital content and the development of future technologies, Leeds City Region is fast emerging as a UK and international digital powerhouse. It is a leader in creative media, data analytics, cyber security, FinTech, telecoms, health and education technologies. Leeds City Region is a world class location for data management and has taken a firm lead in the 'data revolution', the UK's first internet service provider was born here, it is home to the only independent Internet Exchange Provider outside London.

Manufacturing

Leeds City Region is the UK's centre for innovative manufacturing, with a wealth of mid-sized firms driving the sector forward with technological advancements. The region boasts world-class research competencies, from bio-renewable development to innovative physical organic solutions. The University of Leeds is on the top 100 Global University Ranking with an annual research spend approaching £200million and is ranked in the top 10 in the UK for Advanced Materials Research. The Region has strengths in earth systems and environmental sciences, electrical and electronic engineering, metallurgy and materials and aeronautical, mechanical and manufacturing engineering. In addition, the UK's National Measurement Agency has its only facility outside London here, specifically chosen in order to be close to a concentration of high value engineering firms that can benefit from the agency's world leading research capacities.



LEEDS VISITOR ECONOMY IMPACT

LEISURE TOURISM

LEEDS WELCOMED

20.28 MILLION
DAY AND NIGHT VISITORS IN 2021
WORTH **£1.45 BILLION**
TO THE LOCAL ECONOMY

1.95 MILLION
PEOPLE STAYED IN LEEDS AS PART OF
A HOLIDAY OR SHORT BREAK IN 2021

ACCOUNTING FOR **4.77**
MILLION NIGHTS

WITH AN ECONOMIC IMPACT OF
£520 MILLION

IN 2019 LEEDS WELCOMED **388,000**
INTERNATIONAL VISITORS

18.33 MILLION
DAY VISITORS IN 2021 WORTH
£935 MILLION
TO THE LOCAL ECONOMY



VISITORS TO
LEEDS SUPPORT
14,552
FULL-TIME JOBS

2.5 MILLION

PAGEVIEWS IN 2022 TO
VISITLEEDS.CO.UK



BUSINESS TOURISM

ONE OF THE
TOP 10
RANKING UK CONFERRING
DESTINATIONS IN THE UK

WINNERS OF THE
miaList 2021
BEST DESTINATION TEAM

BUSINESS TOURISM WAS WORTH
£138 MILLION
TO THE ECONOMY IN 2021

26 AIM ACCREDITED
VENUES INCLUDING
2 GOLD AWARDS

13 GREEN ACCREDITED
VENUES

BEST UK
EVENTS DESTINATION



20,000
MEETINGS, CONFERENCES
AND EVENTS HOSTED IN 2021

LEEDS WELCOMED 1 MILLION
DELEGATES IN 2021

CONNECTIVITY

LEEDS

HALF WAY BETWEEN
LONDON AND EDINBURGH



LONDON
175 MILES
TRAIN: 2 HR



LEEDS
BRADFORD
AIRPORT

CONNECTED TO OVER
70 WORLDWIDE
DESTINATIONS

9.5 MILES
30 MINS
BY BUS

26 MINS
BY ROAD

MANCHESTER

43 MILES
50 MINS
BY TRAIN
AND ROAD



LEEDS AT THE
CROSSROADS OF THE
M62, M1
AND **A1M**



THE OFFER

LEEDS
YEAR OF CULTURE **2023**

A YEAR-LONG CITY WIDE
CELEBRATION OF CULTURE



LEEDS IS ACCESSIBLE TO THE
BREATH-TAKING YORKSHIRE DALES
AND NORTH YORKSHIRE MOORS
NATIONAL PARKS

OVER 16
MUSEUMS AND
GALLERIES



AWARDED
PURPLE FLAG
STATUS FOR 5 YEARS RUNNING, FOR
NIGHT TIME AND EVENING ECONOMY

3RD BEST PLACE TO SHOP IN THE
UK OUTSIDE OF LONDON

WORKING TOWARDS BEING
CARBON NEUTRAL BY 2030



NAMED 2022 MOST
VIBRANT CITY IN
THE UK



LEEDS HAS
4 MAJOR
THEATRES



LEEDS IS ONE OF THE ONLY ENGLISH
CITIES OUTSIDE LONDON WITH ITS OWN
REPERTORY THEATRE, RESIDENT OPERA
HOUSE AND BALLET COMPANIES



HOME OF PREMIER
LEAGUE FOOTBALL TEAM
LEEDS UNITED

LEEDS RHINOS
WINNERS OF THE
2020 RUGBY LEAGUE
CHALLENGE CUP

ONE OF THE **TOP 10** PLACES TO
VISIT IN 2023 IN THE WORLD
HIGHLY COMMENDED
FOR GOURMANDS,
GALLERY-LOVERS
AND THEATRE FANS



ACCOMMODATION



79 HOTELS
AND
7,224 ROOMS

75% AVERAGE HOTEL
OCCUPANCY IN 2022

£82 } **£61**
AVERAGE ROOM } REVENUE PER
RATE WHICH } AVAILABLE ROOM
EQUATES TO } IN 2022



21
HOTEL

DEVELOPMENTS IN THE PIPELINE
SUPPLYING A FURTHER
2,427 ROOMS

Leeds.

EXPERIENCE EXCEPTIONAL

Free of charge services include:

Impartial Venue location and planning

Bid production and budget planning

Sourcing hotel accommodation

Online accommodation booking facility for delegates

Event marketing, social media and PR support

Expert city knowledge

Dedicated coordinator

Delegate welcome and information

Familiarisation visits

For further information on
holding your meetings, incentives, conferences
and events in Leeds, please contact:

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Conference
Leeds.

VISITLEEDS