



Sheffield is one of the main cities in South Yorkshire and a friendly rival to Leeds. As England's greenest city, with friendly locals and rich heritage, Sheffield really is a fantastic place to live. There is plenty to discover, whether you are interested in shopping, culture, nature, sports, or food.

| Housing

Rental prices in Sheffield are reasonable, with £400-550 pcm affording a decent 1 bedroom flat or £600-750 pcm for a 2 bedroom flat, depending on which area of the city you want to stay in. Ecclesall Road, Broomhill and Crookes are popular with students and professionals alike and you find some nice properties in this area. House shares are also easy to come by within these popular areas, and the rental market moves quite quickly.



Sheffield City Centre

City centre living is affordable but slightly more expensive, costing around £500-600 pcm for a 1 bedroom flat and £750-900 pcm for two bedrooms. For those wishing to live further away from the centre, Walkley is a good alternative where three bedroom houses can be around £600-800 pcm. If it's peaceful luxury you're looking for, you can't go wrong in Dore or Totley. Meanwhile, Chesterfield is only a 10 minute train journey away and is a popular alternative to living in Sheffield.

| Things to do

Within the city centre, the Fargate area is the main shopping area, whilst Meadowhall, on the outskirts of Sheffield, is the ultimate indoor shopping destination, with over 200 shops. If boutiques are more your thing, you will definitely find what you are looking for on Ecclesall Road.

Sheffield also has an amazing arts scene! Snooker fans will know that Sheffield houses the Crucible, but



The Crucible Theatre

this theatre puts on many other shows throughout the year. Sheffield also hosts Doc/Fest, a yearly documentary festival, in addition to lots of other local festivals that take place throughout the year such as Tramlines in July. Sheffield MotorPoint arena, just outside the city, is home to a number of stadium gigs – from stand-up comedy to globally sold out concerts.

The city is steeped in sporting heritage and home to Olympian Jessica Ennis. With football, rugby, swimming and golf facilities, as well as multiple ice rinks, there really is something for everyone. Just make sure you don't confuse your United with your Wednesday as football club rivalry is fierce.

Living in Sheffield, you are also lucky enough to be within close proximity of the countryside, as the city is very close to the Peak District. If you can, make sure you visit the village of Bakewell to try a traditional Bakewell tart. It's delicious and not your typical Mr Kipling's. Matlock is also well worth a visit, home to the 'Heights of Abraham – cable cars that offer stunning views of the Derwent Valley & surrounding Peak District.



The 'Heights of Abraham' - Matlock

| Food and Drink

West Street is where most of the nightlife is located, though other clubs are dotted around the city, including Corporation, one of the top 3 alternative music and live band venues in the UK, hosting a variety of club nights for all music tastes. In addition,



Civil Service HR Fast Stream

Division Street has a good selection of bars, including both independent and chains such as Varsity and Vodka Revolution.

Sheffield is a food lover's paradise, with an abundance of trendy cafes, gourmet restaurants and high street favourites. Vito's serves delicious, authentic Italian cuisine, Zara's in Crookes is one of the city's top Indian restaurants, and Made by Jonty is highly recommended for a weekend brunch destination.

| Transport



A Sheffield Tram

Rail: Sheffield has great rail links, with the railway station just a couple of minutes walk from the city centre. You can be in London in just over 2hrs, or Leeds in 40 mins. There are also many local towns and areas of the Peak District, such as Matlock, which are easily accessible via train.

Bus/tram: The reliable bus services will take you around the city at a good price with the bus station conveniently located 5 minutes away from the railway station. Furthermore, Sheffield boasts an excellent tram network that will take you right across the city and even out to Meadowhall. An all day city-wide ticket including any bus and tram costs £4.30

Driving/taxi: Excellent public transport, both within the city and via rail, to other areas means that a car is not necessary. If you already have one, the city is relatively car friendly although the myriad of one way systems in the centre will take some getting used to, along with expensive city centre parking. One benefit of driving in Sheffield is easy access to the Peak District. Taxis are another cheap and convenient way to get around the city.

Sheffield

Cycling/Walking: It's easy to walk around Sheffield. It takes about 30 minutes to walk across the city centre, and many people walk to work. Just pay attention to the hills, as a downhill walk in the morning means an uphill walk to get you home!

These same hills can make cycling in Sheffield a challenge. Nevertheless, cycling is encouraged, with many dedicated cycle lanes, city-centre bike stands and a "cycle hub" at the railway station. This includes 24 hour free and secure bike parking and an attached cycle shop with a mechanic who will fix your bike while you're at work.

| Civil Service Community

Sheffield is a key Civil Service hub, and this means there is a good Civil Service Community. The city is home to the Department for Work and Pensions, Civil Service Employee Policy (based within DWP's building), Home Office, Department for Education and the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills.

The local Fast Stream group for this area is the Yorkshire and Humber Fast Streamer group, who regularly organise socials in Sheffield and Leeds. The most recent contact details can be found on One HR, to get more idea of the sort of social events they organise.

| Useful Links

All the necessary information for living in Sheffield:
<https://www.sheffield.gov.uk/>

A handy guide to all things Sheffield related:
<http://www.welcometosheffield.co.uk/visit/useful-info>

Great walking routes to help you get to know the area:
<http://www.walkingenglishman.com/peakdistrict.htm>

For finding your way around the city and surrounding areas: <http://www.travelsouthyorkshire.com/>



Civil Service HR Fast Stream

Leeds is a true success story- it has transformed over the last 20 years from a northern industrial city into one of the most vibrant and successful cities in the UK. Home to as many independent shops and eateries as big name household favourites, it really is the city with something for everyone.

| Housing

Housing in Leeds varies, depending on where you want to live. The best location to be in terms of distance from the main Civil Service hubs and the City Centre is around Clarence Dock, Brewery Wharf, The Calls, and Holbeck, as you can walk to Quarry House or City Office Park in 10-20 minutes. There are many other accommodation choices in the vicinity though, so it is worth exploring the city to find the area that suits you best. You will pay £450-£575 pcm for a studio, £500-£680 pcm for a 1 bedroom flat, and up to £950 for a 2 bedroom flat (only £475pcm if you find someone to share with!).

Further afield, places such as Hyde Park and Headingley are popular but tend to be more student orientated. This means that although there are plenty of opportunities to house-share you are more likely to have a longer commute – up to an hour at rush hour.

| Things to do



Leeds Trinity Shopping Centre

One of the best things about Leeds is the shopping! Everything you could wish for is compacted into the city centre. The new and very popular Trinity shopping centre offers an array of high street stores, including Apple store, Primark, Next, Superdry, H&M and Topshop/Topman. Leeds also has a thriving vintage community, with several vintage stores dotted

Leeds

around the side streets of the city centre. For more expensive taste, visit the Victoria Quarter or Harvey Nichols.

For a dose of culture- take in some exhibitions at the Henry Moore Institute, the Tetley Brewery, the Royal Armouries or one of the many smaller venues across the city. If you are a theatre goer, Leeds has three theatres to choose from, including the West Yorkshire Playhouse and The Grand, so you will always find something to see.



Leeds Town Hall

Leeds hosts an annual Christmas Market that is held in Millenium Square. Running for 3 weeks, you can feast on German delicacies, crepes, and mulled wine. After Christmas, it transforms into an ice rink! In the summer, Head to Hyde park for BBQs, outdoor fun, and live music! If you're a cinema buff, stick around the area to catch a film at Hyde Park Picture house- one of the oldest cinemas in the country. Leeds Festival, which takes place over the August Bank Holiday, is really popular and the organisers helpfully provide free shuttle buses to and from the city centre.

If you fancy getting out of the city, go further afield to the outskirts of Leeds. Roundhay Park is a beautiful green area that is easily accessible by bus and makes a great place for a picnic. Or try Kirkstall Abbey for more atmospheric surroundings.

| Food and Drink

Leeds is known for its nightlife, with people travelling far and wide for the eclectic music on offer. Trinity offers three extremely popular cocktail bars – the Botanist in the basement and the Alchemist, and Angelica on the top floor.



Call Lane is a major location for young professionals, with an L shaped street full of bars that cater for all music tastes. Head to Pryzym, Tiger Tiger, Space or Mission for mainstream club nights, and Canal Mills, Belgrave Music Hall or Brudenell Social Club for gigs.



West Yorkshire Playhouse

And beer fans are in luck- Leeds is home to a number of local breweries and their wares (along with other decent ales) are served across the city at the likes of Outlaws Yacht Club, North Bar and Tall Boys.

Food wise, Leeds is packed with little gems. Trinity Kitchen hosts an array of street food stalls in a canteen style eatery. There are also the usual Italian (try Viva on Bridge End), Indian (street food from Bundobust), Thai (Sukothai in Headingley or the city centre), BBQ (Red's True Barbecue) and French (Kendells Bistro) restaurants dotted around. For brunch you won't get better than Northern Monk Refectory or The Greedy Pig, and The Light complex near the Town Hall also holds many major chains including Nando's, Browns, and Prezzo.

| Transport

Bus/Walking: Getting around Leeds is very easy – pretty much everything in the city centre is within walking distance, so there isn't a huge need for public transport- but the local bus services are frequent, reliable and reasonably priced. Leeds Coach Station is situated opposite the West Yorkshire Playhouse and has coaches to all major destinations.

Rail: Leeds Rail Station is huge and provides direct links to all major cities with journey times to London around 2 hours 10 minutes; Manchester and Sheffield ~1 hour and Newcastle or Liverpool 1 hour 20 minutes. If you are based at the main DWP/Dept for Health hub, Quarry House, there is a free shuttle bus from the train station directly to and from the office.

Alternatively it's a 10-15 minute walk from the train station.

Driving: Parking around the centre is difficult if you wish to live centrally and have a car. Some multi storey car parks offer long term parking but can range between £70-£115pcm. If you drive in for work, the NCP next to the Market offers discount parking for Quarry House workers at £4.50 per day.

| Civil Service Community

Leeds has two main Civil Service offices (Quarry House and City Office Park) hosting DWP, CSEP and Department for Health, meaning there is a large and inclusive civil service community.

The city is home to a number of Fast Streamers from a range of schemes. Each month, this group gets together for a social which provides the opportunity to build a network in Leeds and also to have a bit of fun! Look on One HR for the latest contact details to find out what the group are getting up to.

| Useful Links

All you need to know about what's going on in Leeds: <http://leeds-list.com>

A website to get idea of what to do in Leeds: <http://www.leedsinspired.co.uk>

Some must dos and must sees: <http://www.timeout.com/leeds/things-to-do/20-great-things-to-do-in-leeds>

West Yorkshire Metro website for bus timetables and a helpful journey planner: <http://www.wymetro.com>