

**Population:**

993 000

**Currency:**

British Pounds, £1 = 100 pence

**Opening hours:**

Monday - Saturday 9.30 a.m.-6 p.m. Many larger stores are open until 8 p.m. and frequently between 10 a.m.-6 p.m. on Sundays and other public holidays.

**Internet:**

[www.visitbirmingham.com](http://www.visitbirmingham.com)

[www.mybirmingham.org](http://www.mybirmingham.org)

**Newspapers:**

Birmingham Post

Birmingham Evening Mail

**Emergency numbers:**

999

**Tourist information:**

Address: The Rotunda, 150 New Street

Tel: +44 (121) 202 5099

# BIRMINGHAM

PUBLISHING DATE: **2009-11-30** | COUNTRY CODE: **GB**

**Contents:** The City, Do & See, Eating, Cafés, Bars & Nightlife, Shopping, Sleeping, Essential Information, Maps

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**BIRMINGHAM**

Birmingham is a real gem! Excellent restaurants, good shopping, exciting nightlife and an architectural icon have transformed perceptions of the city. Last but not least – the landscape which inspired JRR Tolkien to write The Lord of the Rings.



## THE CITY



Like many other cities, Birmingham has a link with the Roman Empire. The city was mentioned as far back as 1086 in the Domesday Book, and developed into an important trade centre from the 12th century onwards.

During the 17th century, a large weapons industry grew up. Amongst others, Birmingham provided Oliver Cromwell's army with weapons, and later on they supplied Napoleon.

During the golden age of the Industrial Revolution, the city grew rapidly thanks to its supplies of iron, coal and labour. Birmingham subsequently became an important hub in England's canal and train networks, and these days the city has a network of over 60 km of canals and other waterways, which is more than Venice.

During the Second World War, large areas of the city were destroyed, and a relatively unlovely city centre was rebuilt. In recent years, however, an architectural renaissance has occurred and old squares, streets and waterways have been restored and renovated.

Many typical British brands, frequently world famous brands, have been created here, including Bakelite, Cadbury's, Brylcreem, HP Sauce and Typhoo Tea. The city's inhabitants include J. R. R. Tolkien and Ozzy Osbourne.

## DO & SEE



### Selfridges At The Bullring

This might be a department store, but Future System's shimmering and organically billowing design for Selfridges has nevertheless become an architectural landmark.

*Address: Bullring*  
*Phone: +44 121 632 1500*

### Chamberlain Square

The square is bounded on one side by John Madin's – in most people's opinion - ugly library building. At the other end stands the beautiful Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery.

*Address: Chamberlain Square*

### Jewellery Quarter

The Jeweller's Quarter is worth a visit, especially the museum on Vyse Street.

The Museum of the Jewellery Quarter

*Address: 75 - 79 Vyse Street*  
*Phone: +44 121 554 3598*

### Birmingham Town Hall

Designed by Joseph Hansom and inaugurated in 1832. The site of the premiere of Mendelssohn's Elijah. The magnificent building is undergoing far-reaching renovation, which will be completed in 2007.

*Address: Victoria Squar*

### St. Martin's

Originally dating from 13th century. The



contrast with the futuristic facade of the Bullring shopping centre is extreme, but this does not diminish the value of the church, either visually, historically, or as a meeting place.

*Address: Bullring*

### **Sutton Park**

Sutton Park is 9.5 kilometres north of Birmingham and is said to be Europe's largest urban park. It covers all of 9.7 square kilometres (2,400 acres).

*Address: Park Road, Sutton Coldfield*  
*Phone: +44 121 355 6370*

## **EATING**



It is quite easy to find something good to eat in Birmingham, especially if tasty, creative Indian food is high on your wish list. If you aim for Broad Street, there is a lot to choose from, and excursions to other districts such as the Jewellery Quarter may also be worthwhile.

### **Peppers Indian Restaurant**

Peppers is one of the city's very best Indian restaurants and the owner, Abdul Hoque, guarantees that the menu is genuine and that the service will be perfect. Malai Tikka is definitely the pièce de resistance.

*Address: 5b Fiveways Entertainment, Broad Street*  
*Phone: +44 121 633 4411*  
*Internet: [www.peppers-uk.co.uk](http://www.peppers-uk.co.uk)*

### **Jessica's**

One of the city's sons, Glynn Purnell, has

definitely earned his Michelin stars. The fact that the prices are also reasonable and the atmosphere is laid-back only increases its attraction. Ravioli with pork is popular, as is the goat's cheese with beetroot purée.

*Address: 1 Montague Road*  
*Phone: +44 121 455 0999*

### **Shimla Pinks**

Prize-winning Shimla Pinks attracts guests from all over the country. Anybody who misses the restaurant's Koh-E-Avadh, lamb with ginger and garlic, has definitely only himself to blame.

*Address: 214 Broad Street*  
*Phone: +44 121 633 0366*  
*Internet: [www.ShimlaPinks.co.uk](http://www.ShimlaPinks.co.uk)*

### **Zinc Bar & Grill**

Sir Terence Conran's Zinc is pleasantly situated beside one of the canals in the Glassworks Pavilion. On the menu, the Mediterranean flirts with Asia and the noise level in the bar rises when the music gets going in the evenings.

*Address: Regency Wharf, 266A-271 Broad St*  
*Phone: +44 121 200 0620*

### **Tarnished Halo Restaurant & Bar**

A pleasant meeting place in the Jewellery Quarter. Both the decor and menu make for an exciting mixture. Excellent bar, plus seven rooms for overnight stays.

*Address: 21 Ludgate Hill*  
*Phone: +44 121 236 7562*

### **Los Canarios**

Unpretentious, surprising and very simple but tasty. Probably one of the few restaurants outside Spain that serves food from Tenerife. Just celebrated its 30th anniversary.

*Address: 105 Albert Stree*  
*Phone: +44 121 236 3495*

### **Miyako Teppanyaki**

Japanese menu which is cooked right



beside your table by one of the chefs.

*Address: Arcadian Centre, Ladywell Walk  
Phone: +44 121 622 5183  
Internet: [www.miyakoteppanyaki.com](http://www.miyakoteppanyaki.com)*

### **Berlioz Restaurant**

Book in advance as Berlioz soon gets fully booked. Grand and traditional as well as tasty and well-cooked American and Continental cuisine. Located in the Macdonald Burlington Hotel.

*Address: Burlington Arcade, 126 New Street  
Phone: +44 121 633 1737*

## **CAFÉS**



### **Druckers Vienna Patisserie**

Viennese-inspired Druckers serves excellent cakes and buns.

*Address: 100 Great Western Arcade  
Phone: +44 121 236 6292*

### **Floating Coffee Company**

One of the more unusual cafés aboard a houseboat. Very friendly personnel (or should we say crew?).

*Address: Brindley Place, Broad Street  
Phone: +44 121 633 0050*

### **Cafe Giardino**

Small Italian cafe with lunch menu. Perfect for a quick cup of Java!

*Address: 30 Martineau Place  
Phone: +44 121 236 9205*

### **Puccino's**

Strong coffee and alert personnel. Also sandwiches and other snacks.

*Address: 11-12 Bennetts Hill  
Phone: +44 121 632 6104*

## **BARS & NIGHTLIFE**



### **Chi**

At Chi, mixing cocktails is a serious business. The best bar in Birmingham.

*Address: 61 Newhall Street  
Phone: +44 121 233 3150  
Internet: [www.chibar.co.uk](http://www.chibar.co.uk)*

### **Tarnished Halo Restaurant & Bar**

Agile personnel and quick service for relaxed guests. Pleasant environment and always good music.

*Address: 21 Ludgate Hill  
Phone: +44 121 236 7562*

### **Ink Bar & Salon Privé**

Minimalist cube which is quickly filled by well-dressed guests. Outdoor tables if weather permits.

*Address: The Mailbox, 117 Wharfside Street  
Phone: +44 121 632 1321*

### **52 Degrees North**

Hip, and a long guest list for the city's wannabees. Restrictive admission policy, but once you are inside, there is uninhibited partying.

*Address: The Arcadian, Hurst Street  
Phone: +44 121 622 0850*

### **The Living Room**

The actor Tim Bacon's bars have been more successful than his thespian abilities. Always a full house.





*Address: Regency Wharf, 2 Broad Street  
Phone: +44 121 616 6820*

### **The Medicine Bar**

Impressive conversion from factory to party hubbub. Crowded but varied, and the country's best DJs play here. Always worth checking out.

*Address: Custard Factory, 1 Gibb Street  
Phone: +44 121 693 6333*

## **SHOPPING**



In Birmingham, much of the shopping is concentrated in the Bullring mega-complex. This is where you will find the traditional chains such as Karen Millen, Monsoon, Miss Sixty and HMV. The exception is Apple's elegant computer shop, full of iPod accessories. The most interesting part, both the inside and the outside, is the highly self-assured Selfridges department store. If you are used to the London store, you should prepare yourself for a somewhat more focused, but still exciting range of goods. As usual, there is a couple of bars and restaurants, plus a grocery department with delicious and exciting products from countries including the USA and Japan.

A stone's throw from the Bullring is the flea market in Saint Martin's Market, locally referred to as The Rag. You can find both bargains and sin, especially early in the morning. Vintage clothes, magazines, goods and gadgets. With its 50 years of history, The Rag is still a must in Birmingham.

If you want to buy jewellery, you should head for the unique Jewellery Quarter. Here you can buy anything made from noble metals. "The Golden Triangle" between Warstone Lane and Vyse Street, is the right place to find bargains without ruining yourself. The shops in the area also sell antiques and clocks.

At The Mailbox, previously a mail sorting office on Wharfside Street, there are now fashion shops and galleries. This is where the city has its Harvey Nichols, and shops such as Hugo Boss, DKNY and Armani. On the subject of converted industrial premises, there is also The Custard Factory. About 30 shops of varying quality are housed in the premises on Gib Square. Boisterous but interesting.

## **SLEEPING**



### **EXCLUSIVE Malmaison Hotel**

The tiny Malmaison chain is the city's best boutique hotel. At the hotel you will find everything you need – food, drink and a good night's sleep – all in a very beautiful setting.

*Address: The Mailbox, Wharfside Street  
Phone: +44 121 246 5000  
Internet: [www.malmaison.com](http://www.malmaison.com)*

### **GOOD VALUE Macdonald Burlington Hotel**

The voluptuous Burlington has accommodated distinguished guests of the city for over 125 years. Choose between a room with traditional or more modern



furnishings.

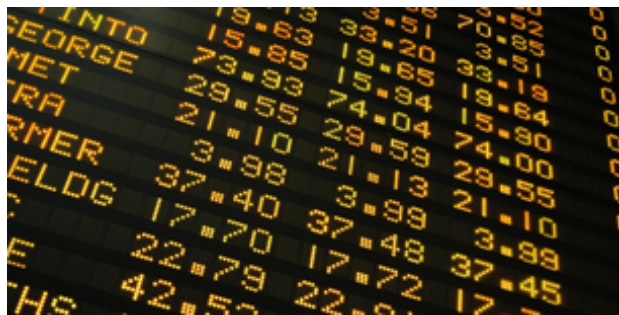
*Address: Burlington Arcade, 126 New Street  
Phone: +44 121 879 9019  
Internet: [www.burlingtonhotel.com](http://www.burlingtonhotel.com)*

### **Days Inn Birmingham**

Anyone who wants efficient and practical accommodation in Birmingham should opt for Days Inn. The hotel chain is neither luxurious or ostentatious but offers all the essentials. Furthermore, at a reasonable price.

*Address: 160 Wharfside Street  
Phone: +44 (0)121 643 9344  
Internet: [www.daysinn.com](http://www.daysinn.com)*

## **ESSENTIAL INFORMATION**



### **Airports**

Birmingham International Airport (BHX) is the fifth largest airport in the United Kingdom and is situated 13 kilometres east of Birmingham. The adjacent train station is reached via a short trip on the free Air-Rail Link bus. Trains then depart for Birmingham every 5-20 minutes all day long. Tickets can be purchased at the station and cost GBP 2.70 for the 12 minute long journey to New Street Station. Local bus 900 leaves from bus stop K outside the terminal every 20-30 minutes. The journey to Moor Street Station takes about 35 minutes and costs GBP 1.10. For more information, please visit [www.bhx.co.uk](http://www.bhx.co.uk).

### **Public transport**

In Birmingham, public transport consists of

an extensive bus network and the inner suburbs are linked by local trains and trams. There are several different types of travel passes from which to choose, including a one-day rover pass. More information and current prices are available from [www.centro.org.uk](http://www.centro.org.uk).

### **Taxi**

It is easiest to hail a taxi on the street, especially in the centre of the city or at the airport and train stations. Taxis can also be ordered from companies, for example, Radio Cars.

*Phone: +44 121 608 8888*

### **Post**

Stamps can be purchased from post offices and newsagents. Post Offices are generally open from Monday to Saturday from 9am or 9.30am to 5.30pm or 12.30pm.

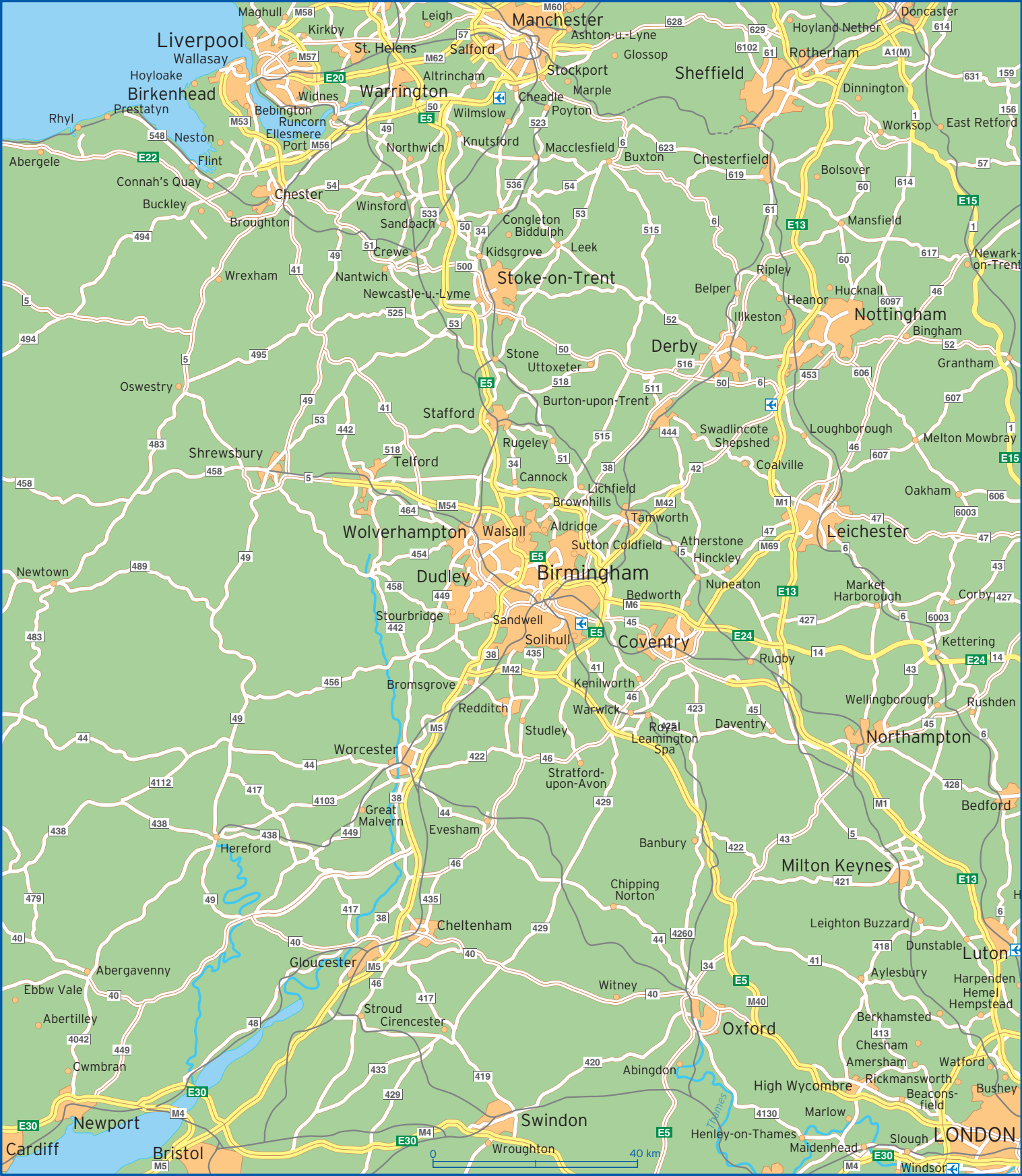
### **Pharmacy**

NHS Direct on +44 121 845 4647 can advise you about pharmacies with longer opening hours.

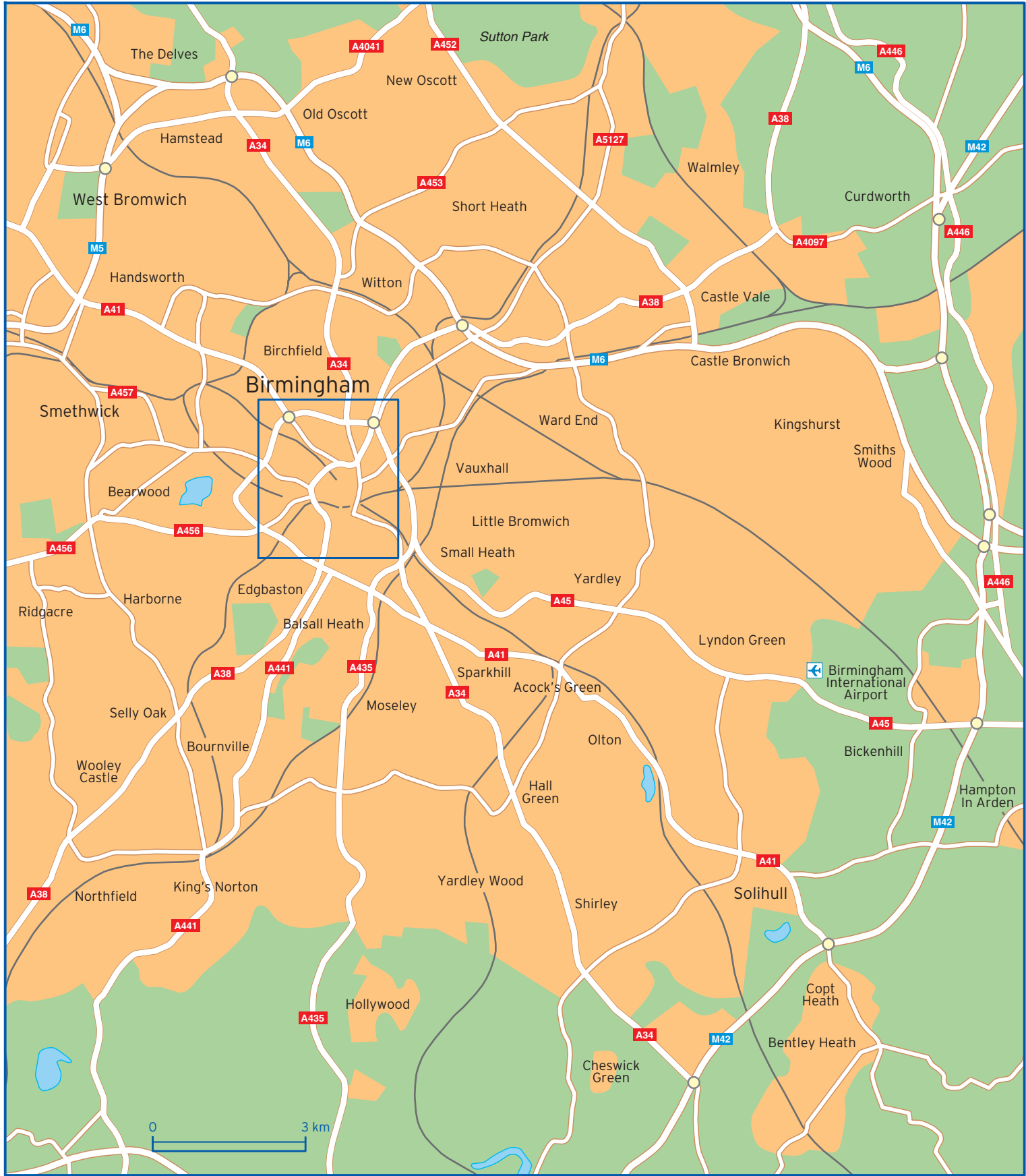
### **Telephone**

Country code: +44

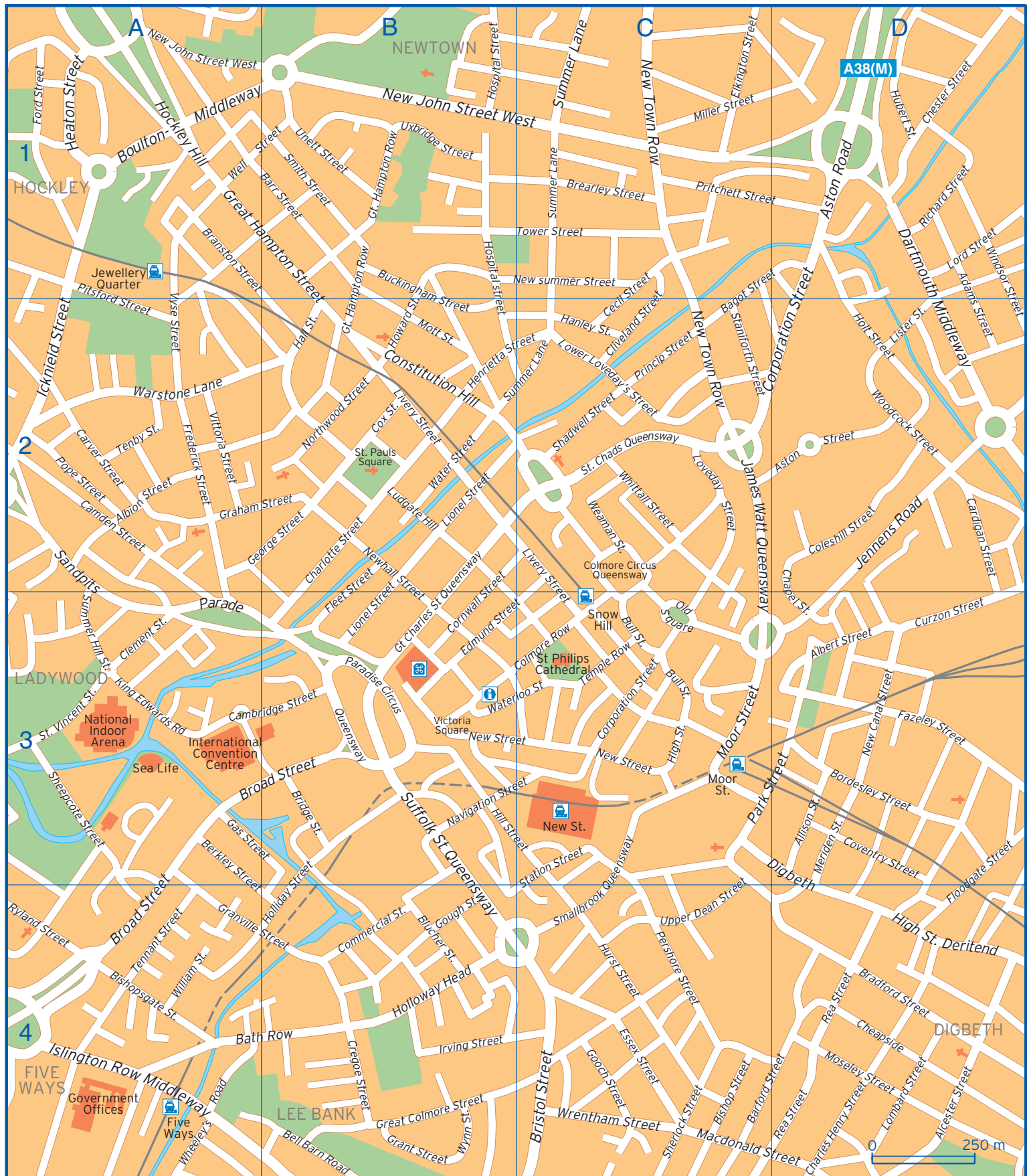
Area code: 0121













Adams Street	D1 D2	Gooch Street	C4	Richard Street	D1
Albert Street	D3	Gough Street	B4	Ryland Street	A4
Albion Street	A2	Graham Street	A2 B2	Sandpits	A2 A3
Alcester Street	D4	Grant Street	B4	Shadwell Street	C2
Allison Street	D3	Granville Street	A4 B4	Sheepcote Street	A3
Aston Road	D1	Great Colmore Stre.	B4	Sherlock Street	C4
Aston Street	D2	Great Hampton Row	B1 B2	Smallbrook Queensw.	C3 C4
Bagot Street	C2 D1	Great Hampton Stre.	A1 B2	Smith Street	B1
Barford Street	C4 D4	Hall Street	B2	St. Chads Queens.	B2 B3 C2
Barr Street	A1 B1	Hanley Street	C2	St. Pauls Square	B2
Bath Row	A4 B4	Heaton Street	A1	St. Vincent Street	A3
Bell Barn Road	B4	Henrietta Street	B2 C2	Staniforth Street	C2
Berkley Street	A3 A4	High Street	C3	Station Street	C3 C4
Bishop Street	C4	High Street Derite.	D4	Suffolk Saint Quee.	B3 B4
Bishopsgate Street	A4	Hill Street	B3 C3	Summer Hill Street	A3
Blucher Street	B4	Hockley Hill	A1	Summer Lane	B2 C1 C2
Bordesley Street	D3	Holliday Street	B3 B4	Temple Row	C3
Boulton Middleway	A1 B1	Holloway Head	B4	Tenby Street	A2
Bradford Street	D4	Holt Street	D2	Tennant Street	A4
Branston Street	A1	Hospital Street	B1 B2	Tower Street	B1 C1
Brearley Street	C1	Howard Street	B2	Unett Street	B1
Bridge Street	B3	Hubert Street	D1	Upper Dean Street	C3 C4
Bristol Street	C4	Hurst Street	C4	Uxbridge Street	B1
Broad Street	A3 A4 B3	Icknield Street	A2	Warstone Lane	A2
Buckingham Street	B1 B2	Irving Street	B4	Water Street	B2
Bull Street	C3	Islington Row Midd.	A4	Waterloo Street	B3 C3
Cambridge Street	A3 B3	James Watt Queensw.	C2 C3	Weaman Street	C2
Camden Street	A2	Jennens Road	D2	Well Street	A1
Cardigan Street	D2	King Edwards Road	A3	Wheeley's Road	A4
Carver Street	A2	Lionel Street	B2 B3	Whittall Street	C2
Cecil Street	C1 C2	Lister Street	D2	Victoria Square	B3
Chapel Street	D2 D3	Livery Street	B2 C2 C3	William Street	A4
Charles Henry Stre.	D4	Lombard Street	D4	Windsor Street	D1 D2
Charlotte Street	B2	Lord Street	D1	Vittoria Street	A2
Cheapside	D4	Loveday Street	C2	Woodcock Street	D2
Chester Street	D1	Lower Loveday's St.	C2	Wrentham Street	C4
Clement Street	A3	Ludgate Hill	B2	Wynn Street	B4
Cliveland Street	C1 C2	Macdonald Street	C4 D4	Vyse Street	A1 A2
Coleshill Street	D2	Meriden Street	D3		
Colmore Circus Que.	C2	Miller Street	C1		
Colmore Row	C3	Moor Street	C3		
Commercial Street	B4	Moseley Street	D4		
Constitution Hill	B2	Mott Street	B2		
Cornwall Street	B2 B3	Navigation Street	B3 C3		
Corporation Stre.	C3 D1 D2	New Canal Street	D3		
Coventry Street	D3	New John Street .	A1 B1 C1		
Cox Street	B2	New Street	B3 C3		
Cregoe Street	B4	New summer Street	B1 C1		
Curzon Street	D3	New Town Row	C1 C2		
Dartmouth Middlewa.	D1 D2	Newhall Street	B2 B3		
Digbeth	C3 D4	Northwood Street	B2		
Edmund Street	B3 C3	Old Square	C3		
Elkington Street	C1	Parade	A3		
Essex Street	C4	Paradise Circus Qu.	B3		
Fazeley Street	D3	Park Street	C3 D3		
Fleet Street	B2 B3	Pershire Street	C4		
Floodgate Street	D3 D4	Pitsford Street	A1 A2		
Ford Street	A1	Pope Street	A2		
Frederick Street	A2	Princip Street	C2		
Gas Street	A3 B3	Pritchett Street	C1 D1		
George Street	A2 B2	Rea Street	D4		