

An Improviser's Guide to Birmingham



Getting Around

The Birmingham Improv Festival is being held at the Midlands Arts Centre (or MAC), Cannon Hill Park, Birmingham, B12 9QH, located opposite Edgbaston Stadium on Edgbaston Road (off A441 Pershore Road and A38 Bristol Road).

Driving

There is a large car park outside the MAC run by Birmingham City Council, which costs between £2.70 (up to 2 hours) and £6.00 (over 4 hours) with a maximum stay of 17 hours. The main entrance is off Edgbaston Road.

Train

Nearest train station is our newly opened **Moseley Station** (1.2 miles away, 24 min walk). The line starts from the City Centre (**New Street Station**). It also covers Kings Heath, Stirchley and Kings Norton (South Birmingham).

Use Trainline (website or app) to book your tickets and see travel times.

Bus

There are many bus routes which come into Birmingham which can be found at the following link: <https://nxbus.co.uk/west-midlands/services-timetables>

We recommend the following routes to reach the MAC:

- **1** – Stop on Edgbaston Road (0.3 miles)
- **35** – Stop on Willows Road (0.5 miles)
- **41, 45, 47** – Stop on Pershore Road (0.5 miles) (catch from Birmingham city centre)
- **61, 63** – Stop on Bristol Road (1 mile) (catch from Birmingham city centre)

Both the Google Maps and Citymapper apps work well for navigating public transport in Birmingham.

Tram

There is a tram line that stretches from Edgbaston, all through the City Centre and further north (Wolverhampton, Jewellery Quarter)

Taxis

Along with the main taxi apps, you can try the following local companies:

- **Birmingham Taxis:** 0121 702 2000 • **Taxi Birmingham Ltd:** 0121 000 7777
- **St Pauls Cars:** 0121 236 1919

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Airport

Birmingham Airport is the closest airport with links to Birmingham International train station. Trains run from Birmingham International to the city centre frequently.

Cycling/Scooter

MAC is in the middle of National Cycle Route 5, as well as situated on the Rea Valley Cycle Road. MAC is readily accessible by bike from Birmingham City Centre and further afield.

MAC provides free bike racks near all entrances.

We also have Lime E-bikes and e-scooters you can rent, with docking stations nearby to The MAC. Check the Lime website or app for locations and to book ([Lime](#))

Where to Stay

Hotels

Birmingham City Centre has lots of affordable hotel options including:

- **Premier Inn:** 20 Bridge Street, B1 2JR
- **Ibis budget:** 1 Great Colmore Street, B15 2AP
- **Travelodge:** 230 Broad Street, B15 1AY

Closer to the MAC you might try:

- **The Bournbrook Inn:** 1273 Pershore Rd, Stirchley, Birmingham B30 2YT
- **Cotteridge Inn:** 1842 Pershore Road, Kings Norton, B30 3AS
- **The High Field Town House:** 23 Highfield Road, B15 3DP
- **Edgbaston Park Hotel:** 53 Edgbaston Park Rd, Birmingham B15 2RA

Hostels

Hostels are a great cheaper option at around £30 a night. Try the following in the city centre:

- **PH Hostel Birmingham:** 2-95 Livery St, Birmingham B3 1RJ
- **Central Backpackers:** 61 - 65 Coventry Street, Birmingham, B5 5NJ

Airbnb

We recommend looking in nearby boroughs of Moseley, Edgbaston, Kings Heath, Kings Norton, Cotteridge, Bournville, Stirchley. However, with the newly opened train station, City Centre is now also a good option.

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What to Do

Whilst there is a plenty to do and see at the festival itself, you might want to travel further afield to explore all that Birmingham has to offer. Here's a local's guide to what to do around Birmingham, in the style of one of our traditional improv warm up games: Name Five Things!

Name 5 Places to Be

- **Stirchley** - The "Indie Kid". Best for a bar crawl. Check out their breweries.
- **Kings Heath** - The "Bohemian Vibe". Best for varied night life. Check out York Road.
- **Moseley** - The "Village". Best for all your food needs. Check out The Hive.
- **Brindley Place / Mailbox** - "Venice". Best for the photos. Check out the canals.
- **Jewellery Quarter** - "Industrial Heart". Best for some history. Check out the museums.

Name 5 Places to Drink

- **Dark Horse** - Moseley - Best for local vibes - 145 Alcester Road, B13 8JP
- **Attic Brewery** - Stirchley - Best brewery - 29B Mary Vale Road, B30 2DA
- **Cherry Reds** - City Centre - Best for art deco feel - 88-92 John Bright St, B1 1BN
- **Bacchus Bar** - City Centre - Best hidden bar - Burlington Arcade, New St, B2 4JH
- **Old Joint Stock** - City Centre - Best stunning decor - 4 Temple Row, B2 5NY

Name 5 Places to Eat

- **Alfred Works**: Digbeth - Best for variety - Custard Factory, B9 4DJ
- **Eat Vietnam**: Stirchley - Best for great vibes - 1422 Pershore Road, B30 2PH
- **Zindiya**: Moseley - Best for Indian Street Food - 21 Woodbridge Road, B13 8EJ
- **The Bloom Cafe**: Moseley - Best for brunch - 19 St Mary's Row, B13 8HW
- **Original Patty Men** - Stirchley - Best for burgers - British Oak Pub, B30 2XS

Name 5 Places to Soak in Some Culture

- **The Library of Birmingham**: A modern, impressive library and home to the Shakespeare Memorial Room - City Centre, Centenary Square, B1 2ND
- **The Birmingham Botanical Gardens**: Beautiful gardens with impressive Victorian glasshouses - Westbourne Road, Edgbaston, B15 3TR
- **Back to Backs**: Back-to-back houses from the 1840s preserved by the National Trust - City Centre, 55-63 Hurst St, B5 4TE
- **Coffin Works**: A unique coffin-making museum - Jewellery Quarter, 13-15 Fleet St, B3 1JP
- **The Pen Museum**: A fascinating insight into the history of pens in an old steel nib manufactory - Jewellery Quarter, 60 Frederick Street, B1 3HS

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Name 5 Places to Have Fun

- **The Roundhouse:** Brindley Place – Kayak tours all year round on the canal!
- **Cadbury World:** Bournville – Visit the famous chocolate factory
- **Chance and Counters:** Digbeth – A brilliant boardgame café
- **Birmingham Wildlife Conservation Park:** Edgbaston – A collection of animals from around the world, right next to the MAC!
- **Selfridges:** City Centre – upmarket department store with a great food hall.

Name 5 Beautiful Spots

- Visit the **Floozy in the Jacuzzi** by the Town Hall
- Sit and admire the cathedral in **Pigeon Park** (officially “Cathedral Square”)
- Observe the fountains in **Centenary Square**
- Take in the sweeping Victorian Landscape of **Cannon Hill Park**
- Walk around the canals at **Gas Street Basin**