1. Coventry Cathedral

Coventry Cathedral is a place of celebration hosting events, concerts and exhibitions throughout the year. Coventry and its Cathedral were devastated by the Blitz on 14 November 1940, leaving the old Cathedral ruins behind. Sir Basil Spence, architect of the new Cathedral, suggested keeping the ruins as a memorial of that bitter night. The resulting design is a dramatic and moving reminder of Coventry’s outstanding features. The site has numerous tributes to peace and reconciliation, including the Chained Cross and the Statue of Reconciliation. Internationally recognised as a beacon of hope, Coventry Cathedral is an inspirational space for reflection.

Tel: +44 (0)24 7656 1200 | W: coventrycathedral.org.uk

2. St Mary’s Guildhall

St Mary’s Guildhall is one of the finest medieval guildhalls in England, an unexpected treasure in the narrow winding lanes of Coventry’s historic Cathedral Quarter. The Guildhall has stood at the heart of Coventry since 1340 and has witnessed events of both national and local importance, hosting monarchs, playwrights and writers and it continues to welcome visitors from all over the world. The Guildhall’s main attraction is the magnificent Great Hall, with its medieval stained glass, a ceiling of carved angels and one of the oldest and finest tapestries in the country. St Mary’s Guildhall is open to the public; please check the website for dates.

Tel: +44 (0)24 7683 3328 | W: stmarysguildhall.co.uk

3. Holy Trinity Church

The first known reference to Holy Trinity is in 1153, its beginnings tied to the history of the Benedictine Priory of St Mary which has long been associated with Earl Leofric and Lady Godiva herself. A lively, active and welcoming church, this extraordinary building has survived fire, reformation and the Blitz. The church houses many rare artifacts, perhaps the most essential being the famous, medieval wall painting of the Last Judgement which has undergone significant restoration and is on full display. Holy Trinity welcomes visitors free of charge, seven days a week.

Tel: +44 (0)24 7622 0418 | W: hollytrinitycoventry.org.uk

4. Coventry Transport Museum

Coventry Transport Museum houses the largest privately owned collection of British vehicles in the world, and tells the fascinating story of Coventry and its people through the lens of one of its biggest industries. Now fully open after a £9.5m redevelopment programme, visitors can experience some of the most amazing vehicles ever invented, including the fastest car in the world. Discover the real-life stories of Coventry’s innovators and entrepreneurs as you explore the history of road transport, or explore what you might be driving in the future. With a fantastic cafe and gift shop, and a site of the Art DECO museum, the museum has something for all the family.

Tel: +44 (0)24 7623 4270 | W: transport-museum.com

5. Herbert Art Gallery & Museum

Winner of the Guardian Family Friendly Award, this stunning FREE museum offers a wealth of hands-on opportunities to learn more about the history of Coventry. Immerse yourself in captivating art and crafts, and cultural activities with award-winning exhibitions, eight permanent galleries, a packed events programme and a cafe selling delicious food and drinks. The Herbert offers an entertaining day out for all the family.

Tel: +44 (0)24 7623 7521 | W: theherbert.org

6. Fargo Village

Fargo is your one-stop village for independent shopping, unique food, amazing coffee and incredible art, all in amongst artist’s studios, creative workspaces and unique markets. Fargo Village hosts events including live music and original exercise classes and large events including the Vegan Fair, Chocolate Festival, and CovPride throughout the year. With such a mix of creative offerings, and the different markets held over the weekend, Fargo Village is a space for everyone – come with your friends, your family or just to hang out, everyone is welcome.

Tel: +44 (0)24 7625 2434 | W: fargovillage.co.uk

7. Belgrave Theatre

The Belgrave Theatre is a key arts and cultural facility at Coventry, and remains one of the largest regional producing theatres in Britain. The Theatre offers a diverse, exciting production programme, from touring musicals, critically acclaimed plays, traditional music and comedy classics. With a cafe bar serving coffee and cake, the Barley Mow and the official theatre bar, there’s a warm and welcoming atmosphere, a place for friends to relax with a drink and a light lunch. Or why not book afternoon high tea in the place where stars such as Sir Ian McKellen and Michael Crawford have performed?

Tel: +44 (0)24 7655 3005 | W: belgrade.co.uk

8. SkyDome Arena

Coventry’s SkyDome Arena offers entertainment for the whole family. Visit Planet Ice and feel the excitement of watching the resident ice hockey team and four time Elite League Champions winners, the Denting Casino Coventry Blaze. Or how about taking to the ice yourself with Planet Ice offering skate hire, dedicated student events, themed skate evenings and family orientated sporting activities? You and the family could then warm-up and catch a showing of the latest movie, from the many events and films that are perfect to round off an exhilarating day out.

Tel: +44 (0)24 7643 0613 | W: planet-ice.co.uk

9. Coventry Music Museum

Coventry famously gave two gifts to the world – the car and the CVT. The CVT has taken the city to the forefront of the CVT world but Coventry Music Museum showcases the incredible history of Coventry and its music scene. Greg Page, Brian Johnson, and the late Andrew W.K. have all shared a gig at the museum. Coventry city centre has many excellent shops, ideal for a spot of retail therapy.

W: coventrymusicmuseum.co.uk

For Coventry to win, we need your help.

Visit the website www.coventry2021.co.uk to leave your words of support and find out how you can back the bid. Follow us on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram @Coventry2021 to leave your words of support and find out how you can back the bid.

Coventry is currently bidding to be UK City of Culture 2021.

Winning the title will transform the city forever and enable us to showcase the brilliant organisations that we have in the city, including the UK’s first Shop Front Theatre, the Tin Music and Arts, Coventry Cathedral and Herbert Art Gallery & Museum.

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Nestled at the heart of rural Warwickshire, Coventry is one of England’s great cities, with an inspiring and world-famous history.

Boasting rich, medieval heritage, Coventry has grown throughout the centuries, developing and improving to this day. Home to internationally renowned landmarks and legends, two award-winning universities, historic attractions, and a multitude of exciting, family-friendly museums and galleries, Coventry offers something for all.

For more details on all of the venues featured, plus upcoming events, activities and regional information, please check the website or follow us on Twitter today!

www.visitcoventryandwarwickshire.co.uk

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**Did you know?**

1. Legend has it that the city was the birthplace of St. George, dragon slayer and patron saint of England.
2. Coventry was the first city in the world to have a twin city, and now has 26, including Volgograd (formerly Stalingrad), Dresden and Jinan.
3. George Eliot lived and went to school in Coventry. Life in the city around 1830 was the model for Middlemarch, her most famous novel.
4. The great Victorian actress Ellen Terry was born in Coventry.
5. George Orwell wanted to use Coventry as the model for his study of poverty in England during the 1930s, but he found it to be too prosperous.
6. All modern bicycles are descended from John Kemp Starley’s Rover Safety Cycle, invented in Coventry in 1885.
7. The London black taxi cab, a global symbol of Britain, has always been made in Coventry.
8. The expression 'true blue' has Coventry origins and dates from the 14th century, when cloth dyed Coventry blue became very fashionable and expensive.
9. Sir Henry Parkes, five times Premier of New South Wales and the father of modern Australia, was born in Coventry in 1815.
10. The city was the birthplace of jet pioneer Sir Frank Whittle and the poet Philip Larkin.
11. Parts of Cheylesmore Manor, Coventry’s Register Office, date back to 1250. Various members of medieval royalty lived there, including George IV and Henry VI.
12. The expression ‘true blue’ has Coventry origins and dates from the 14th century, when cloth dyed Coventry blue became very fashionable and expensive.
13. William Shakespeare almost certainly visited Coventry numerous times and performed in St Mary’s Guildhall.
14. Did you know?