Leeds Conferencing Facts.
Leeds is the UK’s second largest financial centre and has a central role in other key business sectors. In addition, the city has 13 AIM accredited venues, with two gold awards.

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 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 compact 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 Départ of the Tour de France, the Rugby League World Cup, the national Teach First conference in 2014-2020 and three World Triathlon Series events, 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.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Conference venues at a glance</th>
<th>Bedrooms</th>
<th>Capacity T/S</th>
<th>Capacity Rounds</th>
<th>Meeting Rooms</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Distance from City Centre (MILES)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Leeds United Conference &amp; Events</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>1,500</td>
<td>1,100</td>
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<td>Royal Armouries</td>
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<td>New Dock</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Queens Hotel</td>
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<td>500</td>
<td>550</td>
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<tr>
<td>First Direct Arena</td>
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<td>Weetwood Hall Conference Centre and Hotel</td>
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<tr>
<td>Horizon</td>
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<td>250</td>
<td>180</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>City Centre</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Where to stay Leeds City Centre

4* Hotel rooms **2,792**    3* Hotel rooms **223**    Budget hotel rooms (2* & 1*) **1,442**    Serviced apartment rooms **347**     University accommodation **5,350** (*) OUT OF TERM TIME

TOTAL BED STOCK **10,154**
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 13,000 seater first direct arena see’s the city play host to a broad spectrum of international artists and events. In the year of 2023 Leeds will host an international cultural festival that will celebrate the cultural life of Leeds and bring the best global artist to the city.

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.

Secton 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 four out of the five 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 30 national banks are based here and Leeds is home to the Bank of England’s only note issuing centre outside of London. It is also recognised as an important centre for the legal profession with seven of the UK’s largest 25 law firms having a major presence here. 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 fulfilling its ambition to become the UK’s northern Digital and Information Hub. 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 and is also primed to be the first Northern England Fintech centre.

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.
**Leisure Tourism**

- **The City Welcomed**
  - 30.42 million day and night visitors in 2019, worth £1.89 billion to the local economy.

- **Visitor Numbers**
  - +4.3% between 2018 and 2019.

- **Economic Impact**
  - +42.6% between 2013 and 2019.

- **Leeds Welcomed**
  - 388,000 international visitors in 2019.

- **Top 6 Countries of Origin**
  - Poland, Ireland, USA, France, Germany and China.

- **Visitors to Leeds Support**
  - 21,520 full-time jobs.

- **27.96 Million** day visitors in 2019.

- **Leeds has**
  - 4 major theatres.

- **Leeds is one of the only English cities outside London with its own Repertory Theatre, Opera House and Ballet Companies.**

- **Leeds has**
  - Over 16 museums and galleries.

- **Leeds is accessible to the breath-taking Yorkshire Dales and North Yorkshire Moors National Parks.**

- **1 Million** visitors to visitleeds.co.uk.

**Business Tourism**

- **5th Most Popular Conference Destination in the UK.**

- **Leeds Welcomed**
  - 3.5 million delegates in 2019.

- **52,400 Meetings, Conferences and Events Hosted in 2019.**

- **£543.3 Million** worth to the economy.

**Connectivity**

- **Leeds at the Crossroads of the M62, M1 and A1M.**

- **London**
  - 175 miles, 2hr by air.

- **Manchester**
  - 43 miles, 50 mins by train and road.

- **Leeds Bradford Airport**
  - 9.5 miles, 30 mins by bus, 26 mins by road.

**The Offer**

- **Leeds has**
  - 75 hotels and 6,889 rooms.

- **79% Average Hotel Occupancy in 2019.**

- **£69 Average Room Rate which Equates to £55 Revenue Per Available Room 2019.**

**Accommodation**

- **25 HOTEL Developments in the Pipeline, Supplying a Further 3,292 Rooms.**

**Visitor Economy Impact**

- **£1.37 Billion** to the local economy.

- **28.42 Million** day visitors in 2019, worth £605 million to the local economy.

- **2.46 Million** people stayed in Leeds as part of a holiday or short break in 2019, accounting for 5.77 million nights with an economic impact of £605 million.

- **£69 Average Room Rate which Equates to £55 Revenue Per Available Room 2019.**

- **£1.37 Billion** to the local economy.

- **25 HOTEL Developments in the Pipeline, Supplying a Further 3,292 Rooms.**

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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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**w:** conferenceleeds.co.uk  
**twitter:** @conferenceleeds  
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