Manchester,
Highlight of the city heritage and representative revitalized cases, part 1

A general photographic record of Raymond Wong after a 5-day trip visiting the city for an international conference in May 2010

Manchester began expanding "at an astonishing rate" around the turn of the 19th century as part of a process of unplanned urbanization brought on by a boom in textile manufacture during the Industrial Revolution. The transformation took little more than a century.

The history of Manchester can date back to the Roman period. Manchester created quite a number of milestone record for Britain. Such as:

- Developed the first canal linking Manchester with Liverpool harbour (1760).
- Developed a national-wide canal network to all parts of England (1780).
- The first place on earth to use steam engine to drive textile machines (1780).
- Start operating the world's first passenger railway line (1830).
- Connected Manchester with London by rail (1838).
- Well developed financial service network including banking and insurance to support its manufacturing and trading.
- Strong engineering-based industry covering machine making and other R&D.

These milestone developments were important for Manchester, together with the natural resource nearby in particularly coal and iron ore, wool and cotton, had driven Manchester into an industry city and finally triggered the raise of the Industrial Revolution and the out-going of British for trade export (followed by colonization). During the early 19thC onward, Manchester became one of the major manufacturing and world-export centre until early 20thC.
Greater Manchester is a metropolitan county in North West England, with a population of 2.6 million. It encompasses one of the largest metropolitan areas in the United Kingdom and comprises ten metropolitan including Bolton, Bury, Oldham, Rochdale, Stockport, Tameside, Trafford, Wigan and the cities of Manchester and Salford. Greater Manchester was created on 1 April 1974 as a result of the Local Government Act.

Greater Manchester spans an area about 1,280 km2. There is a mix of high-density urban areas, suburbs, semi-rural and rural locations in Greater Manchester. It has a focused central business district, formed by Manchester city centre and the adjoining parts of Salford and Trafford. Greater Manchester is also a polycentric county with ten metropolitan districts, each has its major town centre and outlying suburbs. The Greater Manchester Urban Area is the 3rd most populous conurbation in UK.

A general view of the cityscape
A general view of the cityscape

Satellite map of the great Manchester

The city centre as seen from the tallest building in Manchester, the Hilton Hotel
General streetscape inside the city centre
As an old industrial city triggering the start of the Industrial Revolution, Manchester preserved quite a number of old factory buildings, warehouses, old railway lines and canals which become an important heritage to this city.
Condition of some of the buildings awaiting for their destiny – renovation, revitalization or demolition
The modern side of Manchester
Modern buildings in the city centre – The Urbis Centre, a museum about modern life

Manchester Civil Justice Centre
An international competition-winning design for the headquarters of the Ministry of Justice
Modern buildings in the newly developed financial zone known as the Spinningfields
Interior views of the Triangle Shopping Centre
The newly revitalized district – the Quay area in Salford
Classical building with eye-catching architecture features

New commercial district
The Lowry Centre, located with convention, community and shopping facilities

Residential zone

The Lowry Centre at twilight
Classical building with eye-catching architecture features

The newly developed zone in the Quay area