



111 Places in Birmingham That You Shouldn't Miss

Ben Waddington

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- The ultimate insider's guide to Birmingham for locals and experienced travellers
- Features interesting and unusual places not found in traditional travel guides
- Part of the international *111 Places* series with over 650 titles and 3.8 million copies in print worldwide
- Appeals to both the local market (more than 1.1 million people call Birmingham home) and the tourist market (more than 41 million people visit Birmingham every year!)
- Fully illustrated with 111 full-page colour photographs

Welcome to Birmingham, a super-diverse city with an ever-shifting identity. This is the quiet mediaeval market town that overnight became the centre of the industrial revolution, over the centuries rolling out leather wares, jewellery, steam engines, motor cars, fountain pens, gun smithery, toys, chocolate, heavy metal music and nanotechnology. The city's drive to successively reinvent itself as motor city, conference capital and shopping destination reflects that initial burst of energy. The result is a city of many layers, bold planning experiments, overlapping fragments and pockets of creative endeavour which can be tough to navigate without a guide. However, its many treasures coruscate more brilliantly for being lost. This book tells the story many would miss through the art, places, buildings, people and the dynamic mix of cultures that reveal the Birmingham identity, from the smallest architectural details to epic civic structures. Only here can you chill on a bench with local heroes Black Sabbath, will you be greeted at the museum by the fallen angel Lucifer, chance upon a golden Burmese peace pagoda, time travel in the Shakespeare Library and find the world's oldest surviving instance of railway architecture.

Ben Waddington is the director of Still Walking, a Birmingham-based festival with an annual programme of guided tours and walking events. His education is in Fine Art, a practice which informs his approach to curating and creating guided walks. He is also the city organiser for Birmingham's PechaKucha nights.