

FAST X SLOW FASHION

Shopping for Clothes in Leeds 1720 – 2020

Self-guided walking tour of Leeds



Introduction

Step in to the Fast x Slow Fashion exhibition and explore the objects and stories on display at Leeds City Museum.

Fast x Slow Fashion explores the relationship between clothes shopping and people in Leeds, from 1720 to the present day. The exhibit shows how clothes shops have changed, but also highlights how people have sought alternative ways to consume fashion.

This exhibition examines ready-to-wear clothing and bespoke garments. Most people today buy 'fast' mass produced clothing, which is widely available and not too expensive. In the past most clothes were made for an individual. This is a slower process and a more expensive way of making clothes.

Once you have explored the exhibition we invite you to go on a self-guided walking tour of Leeds, which takes in some of the historic clothes shops featured in the exhibition.



Walking Route Order

Follow the guide and use our dedicated [Fast x Slow Fashion Google Map](#) to walk the historical streets of Leeds.

[1. Leeds City Museum](#)

[2. Marshall & Snelgrove](#)

[3. John Craig Hatters](#)

[4. Frederick Forster's Mourning Warehouse](#)

[5. Legg & Millard](#)

[6. Schofields Victoria Arcades](#)

[7. Lewis's](#)

Map

We have created a [dedicated route map with Google Maps](#)

Fast x Slow Fashion Wa...

A self-guided walking tour of historical Leeds clothes shops featured in the Fast x Slow Fashion exhibition at Leeds City Museum
2 views
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Fast x Slow Fashion self-guided walki...

1. Leeds City Museum
2. Marshall & Snelgrove (now HSBC)
3. John Craig Hatters (now Park Plaza H...)
4. Frederick Forster's Mourning Warehou...
5. Legg & Millard (now Tesco Express)
6. Schofields Victoria Arcades (now The ...)
7. Lewis's (now The Light)

Directions from 1. Leeds City Museu...

- A 1. Leeds City Museum
- B 2. Marshall & Snelgrove (now HSBC)
- C 3. John Craig Hatters (now Park Plaza H...)
- D 4. Frederick Forster's Mourning Warehou...
- E 5. Legg & Millard (now Tesco Express)
- F 6. Schofields Victoria Arcades (now The ...)
- G 7. Lewis's (now The Light)

The map shows a blue route starting at point A (Leeds City Museum) and ending at point G (Lewis's, now The Light). The route passes through various streets in Leeds, including Woodhouse Ln, Rossington St, The Headrow, Upper Basinghall St, Burts Ct, Albion St, Mark Ln, New Briggate, Victoria Quarter, and Bishopgate St. Landmarks such as Leeds Cathedral, The Light, Leeds Art Gallery, and Leeds Grand Theatre are visible. The map also shows various shops and businesses like Morrisons, TK Maxx, Tesco Metro, and McDonald's.

1. Leeds City Museum



Leeds City Museum opened in 1821 and was originally housed in a building on Park Row. It became badly damaged by bombing in 1941 and in 1965 the Museum closed with only a few objects remaining on public view at the City Library. In 1999 the Museum went into storage and in 2005 the Leeds Mechanic Institute building began to be redesigned as Leeds City Museum, finally to reopen in 2008. It is home to six galleries which includes a regularly changing temporary exhibition space.

Directions: Head left out of the museum onto Cookridge Street. Continue straight across the crossings on to Park Row and stop when you reach Natwest. Have you found the intersection where Bond Street crosses Park Row? HSBC marks where Marshall & Snelgrove once was.

2. Marshall & Snelgrove



Park Row and Bond Street, Marshall & Snelgrove, c. 1950, image courtesy Leodis

Following the success of the London store, the Leeds branch of Marshall & Snelgrove opened in 1870. It was a grand department store that attracted upper-class shoppers.

They sold a range of items and the top floor restaurant gave customers a whole day-out experience. In 1970 the store was known as Debenhams.

Directions: Follow Park Row down towards Leeds Station and continue round to the left. You're now on Boar Lane. The Royal Exchange buildings no longer exist. The Park Plaza Hotel now stands in its place, this is the former site of John Craig Hatters.

3. John Craig Hatters



2 Royal Exchange, John Craig Hatters, c. 1885

You are stood at the original address of the store where John Craig 'commenced his business with the ambition of supplying good hats' in

1877. He was concerned with comfort as well as style and become a notable high street name throughout Leeds.

Directions: Continue to walk along Boar Lane and stop when you reach Briggate. Take a right onto Briggate and stop at Yorkshire Housing.

4. Frederick Forster's Mourning Warehouse



Forsters Mourning Warehouse, image courtesy Leeds Museums & Galleries

Warehouses responded to the trend of mourning clothes in the Victorian era. Founded in 1849, this shop specialised in quick services and black clothing. You could purchase a complete outfit to carry you through the mourning period. Mourning warehouses were popular in cities across the UK and Forster's existed well into the 20th century.

Directions: Go back the way you came. Cross Boar Lane using the pedestrian crossing and head up Briggate. Stop when you reach Tesco Express on the corner.

5. Legg & Millard



Legg and Millard, 1953, image courtesy Leeds Museums & Galleries

Opening in 1861, Legg & Millard were important tailors and hatters in Leeds throughout the second half of the nineteenth century. The family business had many addresses but settled here in the middle of the cities shopping district. They specialised in wool, waterproofs and hats, making them a go-to for outdoor clothing.

Directions: Turn left on to the Headrow and continue until you reach The Core. This building is where the Victoria Arcades once stood.

6. Schofields



Victoria Arcade, Schofields, 1910, image courtesy of Leodis

Opening in 1901, Schofields started as a single unit shop but soon expanded to a whole arcade. It included a hat, gowns and fur showrooms. Its eye-catching window displays showed off fashions in the most innovative ways. It was advertised in 1924 as “the house of fashion” and opened similar stores in neighbouring northern towns. The shop was considered a top destination for Leeds shoppers.

Directions: Turn around on the Headrow to face the next stop. Can you tell from the photo exactly where Lewis’s once stood? It is now The Light.

7. Lewis's



The Headrow, Lewis's, 1933, image courtesy The Thoresby Society

Founded in 1856 in Liverpool, the Lewis's brand built a reputation in the North as a pioneer department store. The Leeds branch opened in 1932. The motto 'Friends of the People' made for an inclusive shopping experience, rivalling Schofields which stood opposite. It was 40 feet higher than any other retail building in the city and employed around 1,000 members of staff.

That's the end of the tour, we hope you enjoyed it! Share it with friends and family, and let us know what you thought on our social media channels by tagging us in @leedscitymuseum #fastxslowfashion

Feel free to explore Leeds, or head back towards the Museum.

Get in touch on our website citymuseum.leeds.gov.uk