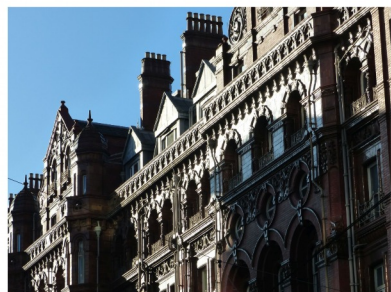




Manchester Town Hall



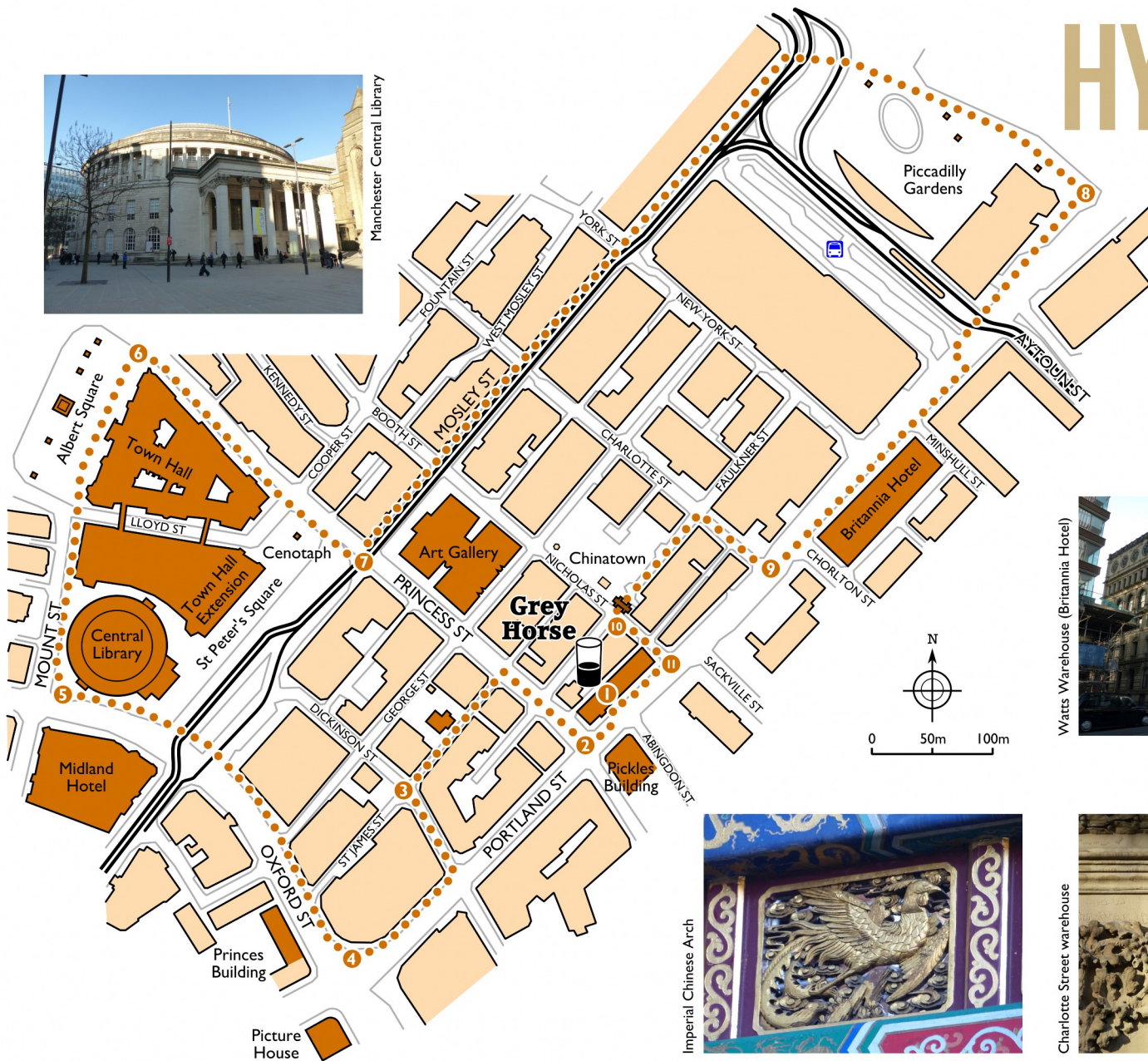
Manchester Central Library



Midland Hotel



The Picture House



# HYDES 1863



The Sentry



Watts Warehouse (Britannia Hotel)



Imperial Chinese Arch



Charlotte Street warehouse

**The Grey Horse Inn**  
**80 Portland St, Manchester M1 4QX**  
**Tel: 0161 236 1874**

**Opening hours**  
**Mon-Thurs: 11am to 12pm**  
**Fri-Sat: 11am to 1am**  
**Sun: 12am to 12pm**

**"...a little glimpse of what pubs used to be like." *The Guardian***

## A Manchester Mini-Trial from the **Grey Horse Inn** Portland Street



A short city-centre walking tour from a historic alehouse, featuring a mix of well-known landmarks and lesser curiosities.



Total distance 1½ miles: allow 1 hour, depending on visiting times to public buildings.

**1** From the front door of the Grey Horse, turn right along Portland St. Pass the Colin Jellicoe Gallery and the Circus Tavern, to the corner of Princess St.

The **Colin Jellicoe Gallery** is something of a Manchester institution and one of the least pretentious art galleries you'll ever find. Manchester-born Jellicoe has exhibited his and other artists' works here for over 40 years. The **Circus Tavern** claims to be the smallest bar in Europe. On the opposite side of the road, the **Pickles Building** of 1870 is typical of the Victorian former warehouses that characterise this part of Manchester.

**2** Turn right into Princess St, crossing Faulkner St then, beyond the Yang Sing, turn left into St James St.

A nondescript brick building and tower behind razor wire on the right conceals an entrance to the **Guardian Exchange**, a four-mile tunnel network built at the start of the Cold War to provide secure telecommunications. A major fire in 2004 cut off 130,000 Manchester phone lines and caused Internet outages as far afield as Sweden.

**3** At the junction with Dickinson St, turn left and return to Portland St. Turn right to the junction with Oxford St.

The Beaux Arts building opposite (now a McDonald's) is the former **Picture House**, opened in 1911 and one of the earliest Manchester cinemas. An open square tower once surmounted the entrance above the terracotta plaque.

**4** Turn right and walk up Oxford St to St Peter's Square.

The **Princes Building** on your left has a striking Art Nouveau facade of 1903. The inverted semi-circular parapets between its nine chimneys sparked tall tales that the builders had assembled the planned arches upside-down!

The slender Portland stone **memorial cross** in St Peter's Square marks the position of the former church of St Peter, demolished in 1907. The circular **Manchester Central Library** was opened in 1934 by Prime Minister Ramsey McDonald in the presence of George V. The **Midland Hotel**, on your left, is a dramatic Baroque building of pink

and brown granite and glazed terracotta. The first meeting of Messrs Rolls and Royce took place here in 1904.

**5** Beyond the hotel and library, turn right into Mount St and follow it to Albert Square, in front of the Town Hall.

Either side of the **Albert Memorial** are statues of **William Gladstone** (four times Prime Minister), **Oliver Heywood** (banker and benefactor), **John Bright** (Radical Liberal statesman and free trade advocate), **James Fraser** (Bishop of Manchester), and the **Jubilee Fountain**, erected to celebrate Victoria's Diamond Jubilee in 1897. **Manchester Town Hall**, built by Alfred Waterhouse, is considered a Gothic Revival masterpiece. The 280-foot tower houses Great Abel, the clock bell (named after Abel Heywood, mayor at the time of the opening). Statues of scientists John Dalton and James Joule guard the entrance hall, and within the Great Hall are twelve murals, the last major works by the pre-Raphaelite painter Ford Madox Brown.

**6** Beyond the Town Hall, turn right into Princess St. By the Manchester Art Gallery, turn left into Mosley St.

The **Manchester Cenotaph** was designed by Sir Edwin Lutyens, described by Gavin Stamp as "the greatest British architect of the twentieth (or of any other) century." It was erected in front of the Library in 1924 and moved to its present location in 2014. **Manchester Art Gallery** is the work of another architectural knight, Sir Charles Barry, who designed the Houses of Parliament. It is particularly renowned for its collection of Victorian paintings: works by William Etty, William Holman Hunt and Ford Madox Brown are among its star exhibits.

**7** Follow Mosley St (passing Booth St, Charlotte St and York St) to reach Piccadilly Gardens. Turn right and cross the gardens to Piccadilly and follow it to Portland St.

**Piccadilly Gardens** stand on the site of the Manchester Royal Infirmary (demolished 1910). The re-ordering of 2001–03 and the construction of the adjacent One Piccadilly Gardens office block was controversial, with only the original statues of Robert Peel, James Watt, Queen Victoria and the Duke of Wellington surviving, and Japanese architect Tadao Ando's curved concrete pavilion being nicknamed "the Berlin Wall".

**8** Beyond the Duke of Wellington statue, turn right into Portland St, crossing the tram tracks by the bus station entrance, then cross to the other side of the street to peek into the Britannia Hotel.

The **Britannia Hotel** occupies the former **Watts Warehouse**, built in 1851–56 in the form of a Venetian palazzo, with each floor in a different architectural style. It was the largest single-occupancy textile warehouse in Manchester. The entrance hall has a spectacular open staircase, and in the lobby is a war memorial including **The Sentry** by the renowned military sculptor Charles Sargeant Jagger (1885–1934). Apparently, the memorial was wryly nicknamed "St Bonus" by the workers whose bonuses were appropriated to pay for it.

**9** Cross Chorlton St then turn right into Charlotte St.

**Charlotte Street** has one of the most complete runs of 19th-century warehouses in Manchester, mostly built by Edward Walters (1808–72), whose best-known work is the **Free Trade Hall**.

**10** Turn left into Faulkner St and walk through Chinatown to the Chinese Arch.

The **Imperial Chinese Arch**, technically known as a paifang, was erected in 1987 and was the first such arch in Europe. It was built in Beijing and shipped over for assembly here. The traditional Chinese mortar – said to contain pig's blood – did not stand up well to Manchester's famously damp climate and the arch required restoration in 2013. The gilded decoration includes traditional Chinese dragon and phoenix motifs. The enormous **Betfred bookmakers** nearby attests to the Chinese fondness for gambling. A wall overlooking the Faulkner St car park is decorated with a **Chinese junk** in brick and two oriental **pagodas** provide shelter nearby.

**11** Turn left along Nicholas St, then right along Portland Street to return to the the Grey Horse.



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[www.walksfromthedoort.co.uk](http://www.walksfromthedoort.co.uk)

# The Grey Horse Inn



The Grey Horse Inn is a traditional alehouse occupying one of a row of Grade II listed former town houses, probably late 18th century in date. The upper storeys retain their garret windows, which suggests that the top floor once housed weavers' workshops.

The pub's name, along with that of the nearby Circus Tavern and Old Monkey, is thought to refer to a travelling circus that spent the winter here in times gone by.

In the post-Cold War period it is rumoured that the pub has been a meeting place for Russian and British spies, which adds to the intrigue of this already popular public house.

The Grey Horse is one of Manchester's smallest hostels but you are guaranteed a warm welcome within its cosy panelled interior. Historical photographs of the nearby streets line the walls.

This short tour introduces you to some of the sights, some famous, some less so, in the blocks surrounding the Grey Horse. We hope you enjoy this insight into this corner of central Manchester and we look forward to satisfying your thirst on your return to the Grey Horse.