



BOLTON LOCAL AREA GUIDE



Once known for its heavy engineering works and “dark satanic mills”, Bolton has moved on elegantly from its industrial past.

Today, this North West town offers stylish properties, excellent transport links and beautiful countryside, making it a top spot for families searching for a home within easy reach of road, rail and the bright lights of Manchester.

With a fascinating past and illustrious heritage, Bolton has a lot to offer. Read on to discover more about this former industrial powerhouse in our local area guide that will help you decide whether Bolton is the ideal place for you to live.



What's Inside

LOCAL HISTORY

PROPERTY TYPES

DEMOGRAPHICS

SCHOOLS

LOCAL
ATTRACTIONS &
LEISURE

TRANSPORT
LINKS



Bolton - A North West Powerhouse

With its name derived from the Old English 'bothl-tun' which means 'a settlement with a dwelling', Bolton has a long and illustrious history dating back to the Bronze Age, although it is perhaps best known as one of the North West's powerhouses during the industrial revolution.

This Greater Manchester town has been linked to the textile industry for over six centuries, but in the 1920s the cotton industry in Bolton declined.

Coal mining also began to decline in the 1930s. There is still a textile industry in Bolton today along with some bleaching and paper-making, and while it may once have been recognised by its smoking chimneys and mills, it is now a thriving and popular community with a fascinating heritage set in the spectacular countryside of the West Pennine Moors.

- Bolton has one of the oldest pubs in the country 'The Man and Scythe'
- Bolton Wanderers nickname is the Trotters as their former ground was near a pig farm and the stray balls kept ending up in the pig pen!
- Comedian Peter Kay was born in Bolton

From humble beginnings, Bolton has prospered and expanded over the years and is now a thriving town attracting new visitors keen to settle in the area.





Property Types & Demographics in Bolton

Whether you're searching for a new-build family home or a converted period property, you're sure to find what you're looking for in Bolton.

Former textile mills have now been turned into luxurious modern apartments that are perfect for professional singles and couples, while traditional terraces make ideal starter homes.

Bolton's industrial heritage still remains with old mill workers stone cottages scattered around the town and located in rural settings.

Whether you're keen to buy or rent, you won't be disappointed by all that Bolton offers.

Bolton Market Overview



Average Asking Price £178,180*



Percentage Change in Last 12 Months +6.00%



Average Price Paid £177,570*



Average Rent £804pcm



Population 217,886

*Across detached, semi and terraced properties

Data from Zoopla



bolton@cardwells.co.uk



01204 381281

Schools in Bolton

Top Primary Schools

- Sunning Hill Primary School
- Markland Hill Primary School
- The Valley Community Primary School
- Lever Edge Primary Academy
- St Paul's CofE Primary School

Top Secondary Schools

- Canon Slade CofE School
- Turton School
- Thornleigh Salesian College

Independent Schools

- Clevelands Nursery & Prep School
- Bolton School Senior Boys
- Bolton School Senior Girls

Special State Schools

- Firwood School
- Green Fold School
- Lever Park School

There are plenty of primary and secondary schools in Bolton.

Perhaps one of the best is Bolton School which has achieved national acclaim.

Further education has also benefited from major investment here, in the creation of the Bolton Education Zone where a sixth form, technical college and university are located.



Local Attractions

Bolton Steam Museum

The Bolton Steam Museum is home to more than 30 stationary steam engines. All have been rescued from former industrial sites around the North West. The oldest dates back to 1840, but most are over a century old. Most of the exhibits are still in full working order, and are demonstrated throughout the year.

Bolton Museum

Here, you'll learn about the story of this Greater Manchester Town. Housing fascinating exhibits, Bolton Museum is also home to the town's collections. Discover local life here over the centuries through displays and reproductions. There are also portraits, fossils and specimens to see.

Smithills Hall

This manor house dates back to the Medieval era. Surrounded by beautiful formal gardens and a country park, Smithills Hall was first constructed in the 1300s. Visitors can see period features and antique items. They can also learn how residents of the house lived throughout the ages.

Queen's Park

Located to the north west of the town, Queen's Park was first opened in 1866. Recently renovated, it offers something for all the family. Children can enjoy the play area while adults will appreciate the lake, sunken garden and tennis courts. There is also a central terrace featuring listed statues of important local figures.



Turton Tower

Originally, Turton Tower was a Medieval pele tower. Today, this half-timbered manor lies between Blackburn and Bolton. Having gone through many changes over the years, the tower offers plenty of historical features for visitors to enjoy. Top attractions here include the period paintings and furniture as well as the terrace garden.

Jumbles Country Park

Perfect for a day out at any time of year, Jumbles Country Park is located on the West Pennine Moors' southern cusp. Just a few miles from the town centre, this natural space is a quiet haven for visitors. The visitor centre and café are popular with tourists. Meanwhile, animal lovers come to glimpse the foxes and roe deer that have made this park their home.





Local Attractions

Hall I'the Wood

This half-timbered manor dates back to the 16th century. Named in the traditional Lancastrian dialect, this attraction was originally built for a wool merchant. A famous former tenant is Samuel Crompton, inventor of the 18th century spinning mule. Visitors can see interesting displays of antique items from the 17th and 18th centuries as well as an exhibition about Crompton himself.

Churchgate

This pedestrianised street in the heart of town dates back to the 13th century. Here, visitors can see many historical buildings and features. The churchyard here is home to Samuel Crompton's grave. Meanwhile, the Ye Old Man & Scythe pub is the oldest in Bolton, dating back to 1251.

Bolton Market

This stunning Victorian building is made from glass and iron and is a show-stopping sight. Restored in recent years, it was once the biggest market in the UK. Covering over 5850 square metres, it has cathedral-like proportions. There is something for everyone to enjoy including tempting cuisine in the Lifestyle Hall's food court.

Rivington Pike

This vantage point is one of the best in the North West. 6 miles north west of the town, Rivington Pike offers amazing views over the Lancashire Plain and Greater Manchester. Its summit is a former 19th century coal seam and stands 363 metres high. Visitors can enjoy pretty walking trails as well as panoramic vistas.





Bolton Shopping & Leisure

Shopping

Bolton offers a traditional market in its town centre as well as three shopping centres. Shoppers can find both chain stores and independent boutiques in and around the centre. Those looking for more extensive retail therapy can head to the Trafford Centre, just a short drive away.

Eating Out

Fans of all kinds of cuisine can find dining opportunities in Bolton. Fine dining establishments are scattered around the centre, while there are gastro pubs like the Strawberry Duck in the surrounding countryside. Lively pubs can also be found in and around the heart of town, with a vibrant nightlife, especially at weekends.

Cinema

There are three multiplex cinemas in the immediate area, making Bolton a mecca for movie buffs.

Theatre

The Octagon Theatre in town hosts a wide variety of shows throughout the year. Meanwhile, those looking for more extensive theatrical entertainment can head to Manchester, just a short drive away.

Gym & Health

Both David Lloyd and JD Gyms have facilities in Bolton, offering plenty of workout opportunities for people of all abilities.

For relaxation, head to The Last Drop Village Hotel and Spa with its range of treatments and leisure facilities.

Entertainment

There is no shortage of fun things for adults and children to enjoy in and around Bolton. Go Ape at Rivington offers a high ropes experience, while the Nevada Roller Rink is an energetic way to spend a day. Adults will enjoy the thrill of the local casinos. Meanwhile, the Amazonia mini golf offers laughter and entertainment for all ages!





Upcoming Developments

Many property developers have focused their efforts on creating new-build housing around Bolton thanks to the increasing popularity of the town.

Stone Cross House in the Church Wharf regeneration area is one of the most interesting, offering city-style living in modern apartments.

Meanwhile, Bolton at Home is committed to offering more affordable local housing with new developments at Rivington Grange and the Vistas at Westhoughton among others.



Bolton at Home is committed to providing up to 1200 new homes by April 2023



Travel Connections

Bolton is well-located for connections to road and rail. Just a few minutes' drive from Manchester, this popular town has its own train station and an impressive local bus service. With easy access to the motorway, Bolton is in an ideal spot for both long-distance travellers and commuters alike.



A direct train from Bolton to the heart of Manchester Piccadilly takes just 20 minutes on average.



Excellent road links. Bolton is on the edge of the M61 motorway, offering easy access North, South and East.



Bolton is served by numerous convenient bus routes including the 36 and 37 services into the heart of Manchester Piccadilly, the 125 into Preston and the number 1 service to Blackburn.



Bolton is located just 20 miles from Manchester International Airport from which flights depart to international destinations.



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Cardwells Estate Agents Bolton
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