

## READER SURVEY

# THE UK'S BEST CITIES, MUSEUMS & GALLERIES

Where to get your cultural fix when lockdown ends

BY CLARE GOGERTY

**W**hy do we fall in love with some cities and return time after time?

Liverpool may have the answers. It was the clear winner of our annual survey for the first time this year – and the only city or town to score five stars in three categories: value for money, shopping and cultural attractions.

And when we also asked you to rate the nation's best museums and galleries, we found that an impressive six were located within Liverpool's city limits.

That said, the country's top museums are spread far and wide, from the the popular open-air St Fagans in Cardiff and Beamish (near Newcastle), with their brick-by-brick reconstructions of historic buildings, to the awesome exhibits at the National Railway Museum in York.

More of us will be holidaying at home this year, so we've pulled out the highlights to help you explore the best of the UK. Check government rules before travelling, and remember some parts of the UK have different coronavirus guidelines.



## The UK's best city

### Liverpool 86%

The city on the Mersey emerges victorious. Its five-star ratings reflect what we all want from our cities: an affordable medley of culture, good food and shopping.

The refurbishment of Royal Albert Dock, after it was granted Unesco World Heritage status in 2004, triggered a general sprucing-up of

the city. Industrial and waterfront buildings were reborn as galleries, creative quarters and eateries, the open-air Liverpool One shopping centre sprung up, and the city's musical heritage was celebrated in the Cavern Quarter and The Beatles Story.

It's a cosmopolitan destination where you're

never far from an artisan bakery (head to Red Brick Market), a tasty brunch stop (try Camp and Furnace), a record shop (Probe, where Pete Burns once worked) or a world-class museum. All of this against a backdrop of the skyline-defining Three Graces buildings on the Pier Head, a mighty reminder of how it all started.