

Seven Reasons to choose to live and work in Wigan

In October 2017 Wigan was crowned the happiest place in Greater Manchester.

Conveniently located between the major cities of Manchester and Liverpool, Wigan is a great place to live and here are just a few reasons why you should make your home in the town.



1. Great commuter links

At the heart of the motorway network, Wigan has easy access to the M6, M58, M60, M61 and M62 within 15 minutes so as a commuter there is no better place to live.

Wigan boasts two rail stations, Wigan North Western and Wigan Wallgate. Our rail links are exceptional with frequent, direct services to London with a travel time of 2 hours and Manchester, Liverpool and Preston can be reached within 30 minutes. These travel times will be further reduced with the arrival of HS2.

Wigan is also well located for both Manchester Airport and John Lennon airport in Liverpool.

2. Value for money property

With average house prices below the national average, houses in the area provide excellent value for money.

Wigan Council is also committed to keeping their council tax rates as one of the lowest. It is currently the second lowest in Greater Manchester.

3. Local attractions

Wigan boasts excellent shopping centres, wonderful areas of natural beauty, and an abundance of activities and sports in the area including bowling and a roller skating.

Wigan has a vibrant and rich history and has two museums, Trencherfield Mill and the Museum of Wigan Life, meaning it's great for history buffs.

4. Shopping

Wigan town centre offers a superb shopping experience with major high street stores to be found in the Grand Arcade, this large shopping centre has plenty of high-street favourites. Wigan also has more than 80 independent shops and restaurants in the numerous Victorian and Georgian arcades including the Galleries. Wigan has had a lot of money invested in to its retail areas in recent years and the town centre has had further plans approved for a £60m regeneration project. The redevelopment will see the Galleries shopping centre revived into a modern retail destination including space for a cinema, gym, restaurants and leisure complex.



On the outskirts of Wigan is Robin Park, a sports, leisure and retail complex. Here you will find large retail stores, a cinema and a number of restaurants and eateries.

Manchester, Liverpool and the famous Trafford Centre are all also in easy reach.

5. Workforce and colleagues

With a population of round 323,000 residents Wigan is home to 11.6% of Greater Manchester's total population providing access to a skilled and varied work force.

A recent study by the Office of National Statistics showed that Wigan has a high employment rate (75.4%) which is the 3rd highest in Greater Manchester and above the national average. When you live in Wigan there are plenty of jobs and opportunities around.

Wigan's economy grew 2.4% between 2014-2016 faster than the Greater Manchester (2.1%) and UK (2%) average

6. Sport and leisure

70% of Wigan's 77 square miles comprise of open space. Mesnes Park, Worthington Lakes, Fairy Glen and Haigh Woodland Park are perfect spots for those who love the great outdoors. Haigh Country Park and Mesnes Park have recently been the focus of regeneration plans, and areas such as Alexandra Park hold Green Flags for their facilities.

The iconic Wigan Pier is set to be rebranded as the 'Wigan Pier Quarter' over the next 10 years with a new performance venue, shops and community garden.

Activities are in abundance as a result of the beautiful local environment and include golf, fishing, sailing and rambling.

Wigan also boasts world famous sports teams including Wigan Warriors Rugby League Club, Wigan Athletic Football Club, Leigh Centurions and Wigan Cricket Club so there is always plenty of action to watch.

7. Education

Wigan has a brilliant education network from primary schools right through to further education establishments.



In 2015 our schools were singled out for praise by the head of OFSTED, Sir Michael Wilshaw who highlighted the good work as part of his third annual report. Wigan has consistently excelled in education and has gained a reputation for recruiting and retaining high quality and effective teachers.



Winstanley College has been named in the top ten further education colleges in the country. St John Rigby College has recently been rated as outstanding by Ofsted and Wigan and Leigh college has achieved University Centre status and is able to offer a range of post 16 options including Higher Education. Wigan is also the base for ALRA, a nationally acclaimed drama school and a member of Drama UK.

Wigan is conveniently located for the internationally renowned universities of Manchester and Liverpool. The University of Manchester itself boasts 25 Nobel Prize winners. There are 20 universities within less than a one-hour drive of Greater Manchester, with in excess of 400,000 students.