



BISA (British International Studies Association) Annual Conference 2024: Birmingham Survival Guide



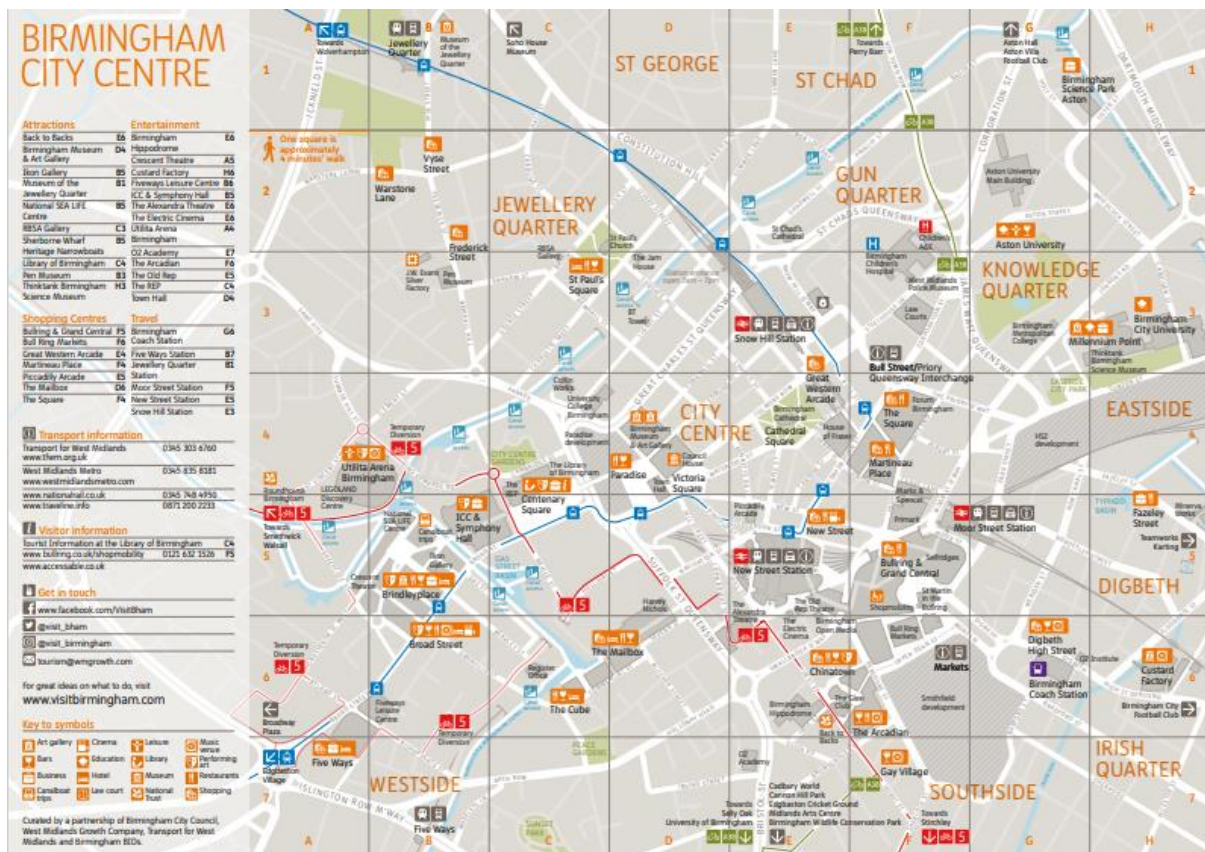
Source: [Website](#).

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Map of Birmingham City Centre & Conference Venues

The conference venues include the Hyatt hotel, the Exchange, Birmingham Library, and the Symphony Hall in Centenary Square, and there is less than a 5-minute walk between venues. All conference venues are all fully accessible. Centenary Square is a 10-minute walk from New Street Station, a 20-minute walk from Moor Street Station, and a 15-minute from Snow Hill Station. The conference venues are highlighted on the map below, which also indicates bus routes, train routes, and tram routes.



Source: [Website](#).



1. Hyatt Hotel
2. The Exchange
3. Birmingham Library
4. Symphony Hall

Recommendations

Hyatt Hotel & Centenary Square

The conference venues are in Centenary Square, which is the heart of Birmingham City Centre. There are ample coffee shops, restaurants, and bars in the vicinity as well as several landmarks and things to do.



COFFEE, CAKE, LUNCH

Faculty Coffee – 14 Piccadilly Arcade – [Website](#)

A small, independently owned coffee shop opposite New Street Station. Faculty coffee is in the historical Piccadilly Arcade and serves a range of brewed drinks and food. Their coffee changes every two-weeks.

York's Café & Coffee Roasters – 29/30 Stephenson St – [Website](#)

An independent coffee shop just a few minutes away from New Street Station and 10 minutes' walk to Centenary Square. Good selection of brunch options.

Medicine Bakery – 69a New Street / Also located in the Mailbox - [Website](#)

Located just 5 minutes away from Centenary Square and New Street Station, Medicine serves good coffee and a wide selection of brunch/lunch options as well as a great selection of pastries.

200 Degrees Coffee Shop – 21 Colmore Row - [Website](#)

200 Degrees is a coffee shop chain in the UK. This shop located in Colmore Road and is a 5-minute walk to Centenary Square.

Java Roastery – 124 Colmore Street – [Website](#)

Java Roastery is a small chain of coffee shops located in Birmingham; this shop is a 5-minute walk to Centenary Square.



RESTAURANTS

Asha's – 12-22 Newhall Street **££-£££** – [Website](#)

Award-winning restaurant serving an authentic taste of India's North-West frontier. A 5-minute walk to Centenary Square.

Dishoom **££-£££** – Chamberlain Square – [Website](#)

Less than 5-minutes' walk from Centenary Square. Great option for both brunch/lunch and dinner with many vegan and vegetarian options. Reservation is recommended.

Rudy's Pizza Napolitana ££ – Brindley Place – [Website](#)

Neapolitan pizzeria, and Birmingham-based chain. A 5-minute walk from Centenary Square.

Bonehead ££ – 8 Lower Severn Street – [Website](#)

American, BBQ, and a 10-minute walk from Centenary Square. Walk-in, no bookings. They operate an online waitlist when full.



BARS / PUBS

Fox and Chance – 45 Pinfold Street – [Website](#)

Cocktail and whiskey bar located close to New Street Station and Centenary Square.

Albert Schloss – Chamberlain Square Birmingham – [Website](#)

Large bar and drinking establishment and chain in Chamberlain Square.

Alchemist – Colmore Road – [Website](#)

A cocktail bar and restaurant chain on Colmore Row.

Lost and Found – 8 Bennetts Hill – [Website](#)

Classic British food, plus sandwiches and cocktails. Located in a grand Victorian building.

The Old Joint Stock Pub & Theatre – 4 Temple Row – [Website](#)

Serving beer, wine, and food in a former Victorian bank building.

Purecraft Bar & Kitchen – 30 Waterloo Street – [Website](#)

Pub and restaurant at the heart of the city with a wide selection of beers.



LANDMARKS / THINGS TO SEE AND DO

The Library of Birmingham – Centenary Square – [Website](#)

One of the conference venues. Make sure to check-out the roof gardens and the Shakespeare room!

Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery – Chamberlain Square – [Website](#)

Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery first opened in 1885 and housed in a Grade II*listed city centre landmark building. Make sure to check out the beautiful Edwardian tearooms!

Birmingham Repertory – 6 Centenary Square – [Website](#)

Birmingham Repertory Theatre, commonly called Birmingham Rep or just The Rep, is located on Centenary Square.

Birmingham Symphony Hall – Broad St – [Website](#)

Widely considered one of the finest concert halls in the world.

Back-to-Backs – Hurst Street Birmingham – [Website](#)

If you are interested in social history, this is the place to visit! The Birmingham Back-to-Backs are the city's last surviving court of back-to-back houses. All visits must be booked in advance, there is an entry fee, and it is guided tour only.

Ikon Gallery – Brindley place – [Website](#)

The Ikon Gallery is a gallery of contemporary art, located in Brindley place. It is housed in the Grade II listed, neo-gothic former Oozells Street Board School, designed by John Henry Chamberlain in 1877.

Birmingham Canal Network – [Website](#)

Birmingham Canal Navigations is a network of canals connecting Birmingham, Wolverhampton, and the eastern part of the Black Country. The BCN is connected to the rest of the English canal system at several junctions. Take a scenic stroll along the canal where there are several bars and restaurants or consider booking a boat trip [Website](#).

Bullring & Grand Central – Birmingham B5 4BU – [Website](#)

Located in the city centre next to New Street and Moor Street stations, Bullring & Grand Central is the place to go for shopping and dining.

Jewellery Quarter

The Jewellery Quarter is an industry hub, home to more than 100 retailers, diamond dealers, and workshops, as well as the Museum of the Jewellery Quarter, with a preserved 1980s workshop. Georgian buildings line grassy St. Paul's Square, surrounding 18th-century St. Paul's Church. Indie stores, trendy bars, and art galleries fill the area, along with modern Indian and Italian eateries.



COFFEE, CAKE, LUNCH

Coffee Tales Jewellery Quarter – 17-21 Warstone Ln – [Website](#)

A small cafe located in the Jewellery Quarter which offers a range of foods such as paninis, sandwiches, and salads.

Damascena Jewellery Quarter 17-21 Warstone Ln – [Website](#)

Birmingham chain serving Middle Eastern food and coffee.

Urban – The Big Peg Birmingham B18 6NF – [Website](#)

A cafe that serves both coffee and comfort food.

Tranquil 1992 Coffee House – 87 Vyse St, Birmingham B18 6JZ – [Website](#)

First independent Vietnamese Coffee House in Birmingham.

The Hive Cafe and Bakery – 43-47 Vittoria St, Birmingham B1 3PE – [Website](#)

A cafe training young adults with special educational needs.

Quarter Horse Coffee Roasters – 10 Kenyon St, Birmingham B18 6AR – [Website.](#)

Speciality coffee roastery also serving coffee and pastries.



RESTAURANTS

Otto Pizza ££ – 14 Caroline Street – [Website](#)

Excellent pizzeria located near St Pauls Square in the heart of the Jewellery Quarter.

Hen & Chickens ££ – 27 Constitution Hill – [Website](#)

A popular desi pub in the heart of Birmingham's famous Jewellery Quarter. Good food and atmosphere.

Trentina JQ £££ – 33 Mary Street – [Website](#)

Excellent Italian located in the heart of the Jewellery Quarter.



BARS / PUBS

Jam House – 3-5 St Paul's Square – [Website](#)

Jazz, blues and rock acts in an intimate 3-storey Georgian building with top-floor restaurant.

Rose Villa Tavern – 172 Warstone Ln – [Website](#)

British pub in the heart of Birmingham.

1000 Trades – 16 Frederick Street – [Website](#)

A small, independent Birmingham pub and kitchen in old jewellery workshop.

Button Factory – 25 Frederick Street – [Website](#)

Renovated Victorian factory now housing a contemporary venue featuring coffees and robata grills.

Lucky 7 – 53 Fredrick St – [Website](#)

Lucky 7 is a cocktail bar inspired by Izakaya culture from across East Asia.

Acapella – 50 Fredrick St – [Website](#)

Live music bar located in the heart of the Jewellery Quarter.

Txikiteo – 53 Frederick St – [Website](#)

Nestled in the Jewellery Quarter, Txikiteo specialises in Spanish-inspired, coal-fired delicacies.

LANDMARKS / THINGS TO SEE AND DO

The Jewellery Quarter is home to a group of unique museums, which bring to life the trades which made the city 'the workshop of the world'.

Pen Museum – 60 Frederick St – [Website](#)

The Pen Museum covers the history of Birmingham's steel pen trade. It is the only museum in the UK devoted to the history of the pen making industry.

Jewellery Quarter Museum – 75-80 Vyse St – [Website](#)

The Jewellery Quarter Museum is currently closed; however, they sometimes have special events that are worth keeping an eye out for.

Digbeth

Digbeth is one of the most distinctive parts of the city and is less than 10 minutes' walk from the Bullring & Grand Central. It has been named the 'Coolest Neighbourhood in Britain' by the Sunday Times, hailing the Custard Factory's cafes, independent shops, cinemas, and arts venues.

COFFEE, CAKE, LUNCH

Digbeth Works – 79A Digbeth Birmingham B5 6DY – [Website](#)

A fusion of a coffee shop, bar and pub; with a comfy, cosy and quirky philosophy.

Kanteen – 15 Gibb Street Birmingham B9 4AA – [Website](#)

An independent coffee shop serving breakfast, lunch and brunch at the heart of Digbeth.



RESTAURANTS

Baked in Brick ££ – Gibb Street – [Website](#)

Pizza and street food in the heart of Digbeth.

Original Patty Men ££ – 9 Shaw's Passage – [Website](#)

Popular burger joint.

670grams ££££ – 4 Gibb Street, Birmingham B9 4BF – [Website](#)

Michelin star fine dining serving contemporary British cuisine.



BARS / PUBS

Kilder – 5 Shaw's Passage – [Website](#)

Award winning bar in Digbeth. Next to Original Patty Men.

The Old Crown – High St, Deritend – [Website](#)

The Old Crown, a pub in Deritend, is Grade II* listed and claims to date back to c. 1368.

Passing Fancies – Custard Factory, 30 Gibb Street – [Website](#)

A community-focused venue in Digbeth serving great cocktails.

Chance & Counters - Custard Factory, Courtyard Unit 8 – [Website](#)

A unique pub with 600+ board games!

NQ64 Arcade Bar - Custard Factory, Gibb St, Deritend – [Website](#)

A bar with retro arcade machines and consoles and adult's laser quest.

Golf Fang - Custard Factory, Gibb Street – [Website](#)

A bar with an indoor 18-hole golf course for all skill levels.



LANDMARKS / THINGS TO SEE AND DO

Custard Factory – Gibb St, Deritend- [Website](#)

Just a short walk from the Bullring, the iconic Custard Factory is the heart of Birmingham's buzzing creative quarter and set in acres of beautifully restored Victorian factories. The former HQ of Bird's Custard (the famous egg-free custard powder) is now a creative hub home to many independent shops, cafes, bars, restaurants.

The Mockingbird Cinema – Custard Factory, Gibb Street – [Website](#)

Independent theatre in a restored Victorian factory showing arty & mainstream movies.

Edgbaston Village / Harborne

Edgbaston Village is a lively hub offering diverse dining experiences while Harborne Village, a vibrant Birmingham suburb, features a bustling High Street.



COFFEE, CAKE, LUNCH

Boston Tea Party – 30 Edgbaston Village Walk – [Website](#)

Cafe chain serving up breakfast, burgers, salads and baked goods with sustainable ingredients.

Coffee Tales – 17-21 Warstone Ln – [Website](#)

Family run coffee shop.

Paul @No. 41 – 41 High St, Harborne – [Website](#)

Cosy counter-serve cafe serving light fare & coffee, plus pies, pastries & other sweet treats.



RESTAURANTS

Harborne Tandoori Restaurant ££ — 10 South St [Website](#)

Good Indian restaurant in Harborne.

Raja Monkey ££ — 42-44 High Street – [Website](#)

Traditional cuisine of Indian roadside dhaba restaurants.

Rudy's Pizza ££ — 77 High Street Harborne - [Website](#)

A relaxed neighbourhood pizzeria, following the traditions and artistry of pizza from Naples - the birthplace of pizza.

El Buen Gusto £££ — 73 High St B17 9NS – [Website](#)

The place to experience vibrant flavours of Spain on a culinary journey that blends traditional and contemporary delights.

Cuubo ££££ — 49 High St, Harborne, Birmingham B17 9NT – [Website](#)

A seasonal restaurant by local chef Dan Sweet serving modern British cuisine with an Italian accent.

Tropea ££££ – 27 Lordswood Rd – [Website](#)

A bright, modern neighbourhood restaurant serving flavourful Italian sharing plates.

Simpsons ££££ –20 Highfield Road – [Website](#)

A Michelin-star restaurant by renowned chef Andreas Antona.



BARS / PUBS

The Hop Garden— 19 Metchley Lane, Harborne, Birmingham. B17 0HT – [Website](#)

A pub and beer garden in the heart of Harborne.

Loki Wine & Deli – 10 Greenfield Crescent, Edgbaston B15 3AU – [Website](#)

Loki has a wide selection of wines and beer and serves food.

The Physician – Harborne Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham, B15 3DH – [Website](#)

Restaurant and pub in the historic Physician building (commissioned in 1863).

The Blue Piano—24-26 Harborne Road B15 3AA – [Website](#)

Restaurant, pub and guesthouse serving Southeast Asian fusion food and hosting live music.

The High Field – 22 Highfield Road – [Website](#)

A unique pub with a beer garden and lodgings.



LANDMARKS / THINGS TO SEE AND DO

The Birmingham Botanical Gardens – Westbourne Rd – [Website](#)

15-acre site with exotic flora in elegant Victorian glass houses, Bonsai Garden & bird collection.

The University of Birmingham

The University of Birmingham is about a 10-minute train ride from Birmingham New Street to University Station. Alternatively, you can take a bus or take the scenic walk to the University along the canal. There are excellent museums and art galleries on campus that are well worth a visit!



LANDMARKS / THINGS TO SEE AND DO

Lapworth Museum of Geology – University of Birmingham – [Website](#)

The Lapworth Museum of Geology is a geological museum run by the University of Birmingham and located on the university's campus in Edgbaston. The museum is named after the geologist Charles Lapworth, its origins dating back to 1880.

The Barber Institute of Fine Arts – University of Birmingham – [Website](#)

The Barber Institute of Fine Arts is an art gallery and concert hall in Birmingham, England. It is situated in purpose-built premises on the university campus in a Grade I listed Art Deco building. The collection includes famous works by artists such as Vincent van Gogh, Claude Monet, Auguste Rodin, and J. M. W. Turner.

Winterbourne House and Garden – 58 Edgbaston Park Rd – [Website](#)

Winterbourne Botanic Garden is a heritage site and botanic garden in Edgbaston. Winterbourne's tearoom is open daily 10.30am to 4.30pm.

Farther Out

For those interested in visiting Greater Birmingham, you may want to check out **Bournville**, home of [Cadbury World](#), [Kings Heath](#), [Moseley](#) and [Stirchley](#), which have great places to eat and drink including three local breweries!

Getting Around

Getting around Birmingham and the region is easy thanks to the fantastic network of public transport, including buses, trams and trains. Despite being such a well-connected city, walking or cycling around Birmingham is often just as popular, as there is plenty of things to see and enjoy along the way. The conference venues are close to tram and bus stops located opposite the Library of Birmingham with connections to Harborne, Edgbaston, and surrounding areas.

Walking

Birmingham is a walkable city. All the locations highlighted around Centenary Square can be accessed by foot. It takes about 10 minutes to walk from New Street Station to the conference location. Further information can be found here: [Website](#).

Cycling

Cycle hire is available across the West Midlands, including Birmingham. Bikes are available 24/7. With docking stations at major bus, metro, and train stations. With miles of canals and a compact city centre, cycling is a great way to explore the centre and surrounding areas. Further information can be found here: [Website](#).

Trains

Birmingham International Station is Birmingham airport's own station stop for anyone looking to fly to and from Birmingham.

Eight local rail lines criss-cross the city to ensure quick links to all attractions and venues (as well as connecting to services to other UK cities and towns). There are three main train stations in the city centre:

1. **Birmingham New Street/Grand Central** – this is the closest station to the conference venue. It is about a 10-minute walk.
2. **Birmingham Snow Hill** – located about a 15-minute walk to the conference venue.
3. **Birmingham Moor Street** – located furthest away from the conference location and about a 20-minute walk.

A map of the network can be found here: [Website](#).

Buses

Birmingham is brilliant for buses. There's a huge network linking everyone to everything. Further information can be found here: [Website](#). Timetables and route maps for the most useful services for conference attendees can be found below. The easiest way to pay for bus journeys is to use a contactless payment card to scan yourself on each bus.

Bus no. 23/24

City Centre—Conference—Five Ways (Broad Street)—Harborne High Street

City Centre, Grand Central, Bullring	New Street Station
Conference	Library or Brindley Place
Edgbaston Village	Five Ways (Broad Street)
Harborne Village	Harborne High Street

Bus no. X21/X22

Moor Street Station--New St. Station--Five Ways (train) Station--University North Gate

City Centre/Train Stations	Moor Street Station, New Street Station
Edgbaston Village	Five Ways Station
University of Birmingham	University North Gate

Trams

The tram service is called the West Midlands Metro. The tram will link you directly from New Street Station/City Centre to the conference venue (see the route table below). Single, return and day tickets can be purchased from the Conductor on the tram. You can pay by cash, contactless or Swift pay as you go. Tickets can also be purchased on the My Metro App which can be downloaded from Apple and Google Play store. Further information can be found here: [Website](#).

Edgbaston Village	Edgbaston Village, Five Ways
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Conference	Library Centenary Square
City Centre	Grand Central, Corporation Street
Jewellery Quarter	Jewellery Quarter

Birmingham Central Coach Station

Birmingham coach station is in Digbeth, which is around a 15–20-minute walk to the city centre. Further information can be found here: [Website.](#)

Car Parks & Vehicle Hire

There is plenty of parking in Birmingham city centre, with some offering 24-hour parking for a variety of rates. Further information can be found here: [Website.](#)

Birmingham Airport

Birmingham Airport is a 25–30-minute train ride to New Street Station. Further information can be found here: [Website.](#)