

Girl About Birmingham's 48 hours in

# BIRMINGHAM

MY 2 NIGHT ITINERARY FOR A FUN-PACKED  
WEEKEND IN 'BRUM' WITH THE GIRLS



*"New restaurants and bars are springing up all the time and there's plenty of cosy corners in them all to gossip with your girlfriends in. And loads of luxurious spas for you all to relax in".*

**Tori - Girl About Birmingham**

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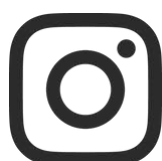
Birmingham is big, it's bold and there's tons of beautiful sights and bright city lights.

New restaurants and bars are springing up all the time and there's plenty of cosy corners in them all to gossip with your girlfriends in. And loads of luxurious spas for you all to relax in.

Birmingham is a shoppers dream - expect all the high street favourites, sassy boutiques, vintage markets and high-end stores such as Harvey Nichols. Birmingham is home the famous Bullring & Grand Central, the luxurious Mailbox Birmingham and the world-famous home of British bling - the Jewellery Quarter.

It's buzzing. It's the best city in the UK IMO.

You and your GFs are going to have a ball here in Birmingham. I promise.



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**There's a ton of cosy corners in Birmingham's restaurants and bars to gossip with your girlfriends in**



**Tori - Girl About Birmingham**



## Friday afternoon

Checking into an apartment with your girls is fantastic fun. Get your fizz in the fridge and compare notes on dresses, shoes and should-dos. I love Spire apartments - these apartments are a real home-away-from-home.

If you prefer an ultra-glam 'Carrie Bradshaw-style' girls' weekend away, then book into the Grand Hotel, which is located right in the city centre. Start by catching up with a Negroni at the Madeleine bar.

If you want to jump straight in with a spa treatment, I recommend you stay at the Malmaison or Hotel Indigo, both of which have gorgeous spas onsite.

For an awesome hen-style hangout that puts you and your girls right in the heart of it all, I recommend the 2 bedroom / 2 bath maxi rooms at Stay Cool at the Rotunda.

Fridays are all about the build-up. I love to get preened and pampered ahead of a night out, ideally with a pedicure and a prosecco.

If you are staying at the StayCity apartments on the edge of the Jewellery Quarter or if you're booked into the Grand, get yourselves booked into Bannatyne's spa in Brindley Place.

For something a bit different and for deep relaxation, try the Floating Spa on Hall Street. Get those treatments booked well in advance of your arrival. It gets busy.

If you are staying at the Spire apartments, you're only a minute's walk from the Malmaison Spa. The Hotel Indigo's pool is pretty special too.



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## Friday evening

Get that Friday feeling by feasting your eyes on the revolutionary cocktail menu at the Pineapple Club in the Great Western Arcade. Gaze at some eclectic window displays on the way to the bar as you stride down this long, high-end Victorian shopping hall.

Voted one of the top 50 new bars in the country, the Pineapple Club offers futuristic looking tipples – the ‘red light’ and the ‘green light’ to name just two!

Its signature cocktails support different organisations, from local independents to worldwide charities such as the ‘Veri Perry’ supporting the Birmingham Royal ballet and the ‘Haiti Fizz’ which donates a portion of sales to the national disaster area of Haiti. (Non-alcoholic cocktails are also available).

After your aperitifs, make your way over to the Oyster Club for a light evening meal. I would recommend sharing a mix of the small plates, to include the Tempura King Prawns and the Dressed White Crab.

Next stop is the fabulous Albert Schloss, where Fridays are for Frohlicking! You’re certain to find a dazzling and rousing affair taking place. Sit back and enjoy the free live entertainment or put in your own musical requests! After the final ‘Baby Grand Slam’ performance, head back to your apartment for a debrief, and the obligatory tea & toast!

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## Saturday morning

I LOVE a sunny Saturday morning in town. If you can emerge early enough, (and haven’t planned it in for later) do a spot of shopping before heading to Dishoom for brunch. One of the most Instagrammable locations in the city, Dishoom is a restaurant built on passion and perseverance.

The food is incredible and the views rival Rome. A gem in Birmingham’s crown, that is the newly refurbished Chamberlain square; it’s a stunning spot to start your day. Order a strong coffee and the sweet uttapam stack.



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## Saturday afternoon

Here's some of my suggestions for a fun-packed Saturday afternoon;

### **An active start:**

For a unique take on a tour of Birmingham’s canals I highly recommend one of the offerings from the fascinating Roundhouse. You can either Kayak or SUP as a group whilst learning some interesting facts about the city of a thousand trades.



### Saturday afternoon continued

Alternatively, Captain your own Go Boat for up to 8 people – it's BYOB and you'll need snacks and selfie sticks. If the sun is shining, you'll definitely feel like you're on holiday.

Or fancy a bit of friendly rivalry?

Burn off your breakfast whilst shooting each other in the butt with rubber tipped arrows. I'm not even joking. Trick shot archery is a new and fun-filled activity that will have you gasping for breath and crying with laughter.

### Creative chocolates

I experienced a wonderful chocolate-filled morning at the Chocolate Quarter in the Jewellery Quarter quite recently, so a nice idea for a more relaxing pursuit on a girls weekend. Check my Instagram post for a video preview. Included in the two-hour workshop is information about chocolate making from bean to bar, plenty of tasting (dipping crushed cookies in chocolate – yes please!) and the chance to make your own luxury truffles to take home.

### Personal shopping

You can't do a girls weekend away in this city without a trip to Selfridges in the Bullring. I love the atmosphere, the smell and the lure of a free makeover. Take the elevator to the fourth floor to marvel at the saucepan sculpture and Jimmy Choos.

Next, visit the Fumo bar to top up the bubbles count. Personal shopping experiences are available. If you want to make this one of your main activities then book the group in for fizz and fashion advice in one of the large and luxurious dressing rooms. *A minimum spend applies.*

### Bake a cake

In my opinion, the Big Bake is one of THE best concepts for a group activity in the city. Choose to spend a super fun couple of hours here and tick the creativity box for your girls weekend away.

It takes place in a luxury marquee in the popular Digbeth area. You will work against the 90 minute timer, following the instructions to make your cake which will be judged at the end for the chance to win a prize.

All utensils and ingredients are provided and you can take your cake away with you.

A variety of delicious cocktails, nibbles and bubbles are available to purchase at the bar too.



## Saturday afternoon continued

### Vintage vibes

Frenchie and Sandy eat your heart out. Grease! lovers are gunna love this. Hello Le Keux! This incredible vintage salon will transport you back to the fifties in style. They offer vintage makeovers with full hair and makeup, plus your pick from the fifties fashion.

Star in a photoshoot in front of many authentic backdrops including a home kitchen, milkshake bar and cafe, and old school car. The salon also sells vintage clothing, makeup and accessories.

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## Saturday evening

I don't subscribe to the concept 'eating is cheating' – in fact I see it as essential and the main part of my Saturday night out! I do like to find a nice private dining area when I'm with a bigger group so it's easier to make yourself heard and get served.

Find awesome rooms that also feel part of the action at Tattu, Gaucho or the Ivy.

If you are feeling a little more adventurous, you could take a taxi out to the vibrant suburb of Moseley, to dine at the Michelin recommended restaurant Chakhana, whose private dining room 'Vault' gives a glamorous nod to the bank that formerly stood on this lively corner plot.

Next stop is Digbeth – an exciting and must-see place on a girls weekend away. There are so many new places to experience, and again depending on how active you are feeling, there is something for all tastes from Ghetto golf to Chance and Counters.

My recommendation is to spend a nice hour or so at your pre-booked table at the classy Wine Freedom. Here you can sample some world-class wines whilst relaxing, chatting and taking some Insta-worthy group photos.

Be sure to capture those memories of your girls weekend. Dance the rest of the night away to some soulful tunes at the Night Owl. If you don't want the party to stop, you might find Dead Wax still with its lights on!



## Sunday morning

A firm favourite of mine for a final brunch stop is JuJu's cafe. Tuck into the divine house special - the Porky Hash. Made of crushed potato and onion hash mixed with chopped bacon and sausage. Topped with hollandaise, and paprika dusted fried eggs. YUM!

The menu states 'Legend has it that Ju Ju's hashes cure all hangover ailments when combined with a Bloody Mary. Give it a try!' (A vegan version is also available).

From here, take a wander down the canal to blow the cobwebs away and reflect on your girly weekend.

Perhaps sit out in Brindley place or a waterfront bar in the Mailbox to watch the world go by.

Alternative and irresistible brunch options are the Medicine Bakery in the Mailbox or York's Cafe at the Ikon gallery.

Lots of laughs and a million amazing memories come as standard on a girls' weekend away in Birmingham so get booking!

Don't forget to tag me in your pics on Instagram girls...

**@girlaboutbirmingham**

**#makingmemoriesinbirmingham**



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## My 6 favourite places to stay

- >> Spire Apartments Birmingham
- >> Stay City Apart-hotel Newhall Square
- >> The Grand Hotel Birmingham
- >> Hotel Indigo at the Cube
- >> Mal Maison Birmingham
- >> Staying Cool at the Rotunda