

NORTH ENGLAND

The Leven Manchester hotel review

This boutique hotel in Manchester city centre provides a fuss-free stay with all the perks of an apartment



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The Leven is housed in a handsome red-brick, former cotton warehouse on Canal Street. It's now a mix of an intimate boutique hotel and an aparthotel, with an industrial design that provides personality without fuss. This is the spot for the kind of person who might book an

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Airbnb but wants the services, style and location of a hotel. Many of the rooms come with handy kitchens and are great value for money if you want an apartment without the price tag. Bedrooms come with tone-on-tone greys, black Crittall windows, exposed brick, green velvet sofas and blue velvet bed frames.

Overall score 6/10

Main photo: the Leven (Mariell Lind Hansen)

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Many bedrooms at The Leven have exposed brick and high ceilings (Heiko Prigge)

Rooms and suites

Score 8/10

The bedrooms all vary, so request one with a kitchen. One of the most sought-after is Room 201 — a corner room level with the canopy of leaves of the tree outside, which augments the feeling of light, air and space. Another to plump for is Room 401, which is two floors above, with more extensive views over the warehouses. Room 206 is similar to a one-bedroom apartment — you enter into the open-plan kitchen-lounge, which has a wall-mounted TV that you can pair with your Netflix, iPlayer and Spotify apps.

There's a second huge TV in the bedroom and 15 of these suites have a modern bath in the bedroom, as well as a spacious walk-

in shower in the en suite. All Leven's 30cm deep, organic mattresses are by Naturalmat (the kind you find in a five-star hotel). Room 507 is called Living the Dream — a top-floor duplex with a balcony, sleeping four. The open-plan kitchen has a breakfast bar and it feels like a cool penthouse apartment (from £300 per night). Floors one and two have exposed brick and high ceilings, floors three and four have city views, and the top floor extension has duplex suites with balconies.



The Lobby bar (Heiko Prigge)

Food and drink

Score 3/10

The Lobby bar serves cocktails, coffee and snacks from noon until 1.30am from Wednesday to Sunday. There's currently no restaurant at the Leven, but you can ask the concierge service for a stocked fridge on arrival or request a takeaway. Otherwise, Nell's Pizza across the canal is on a piazza with white rhododendrons; El Gato Negro serves tapas; Idle Hands and

Ezra & Gil are great for brunch.

What else is there?

Score 3/10

As a city centre boutique hotel there are no extra facilities and no outdoor space, unless you have a room with a balcony.



This Manchester hotel is housed in a former cotton warehouse (Mariell Lind Hansen)

Where is it?

Score 9/10

This is where the Leven really scores. It's on pedestrianised Canal Street in [Manchester](#), alongside the Rochdale canal, lined with alfresco tables and chairs and strung with overhead lightbulbs — great for a glass of wine and people-watching. The Gay Village has a thriving LGBTQ+ community, where Saturday night spills over into Sunday afternoon. The Leven looks over the canal towards Kampus — a cluster of newly renovated warehouses on cobbled streets that's home to indie outlets such as Pollen sourdough bakery, Beeswing wine bar, Kampus General Store, and Madre for tacos and tequila.

Price Room-only doubles from £89

Restaurant N

Family-friendly Y

Dog-friendly Y

Accessible Y