

WHSmith expands across Manchester and Liverpool airports with new travel stores and artisan coffee shop

- New Grindsmith coffee shop opens at Manchester Airport Terminal 2 alongside new travel essentials store
- Liverpool John Lennon Airport sees the arrival of a WHSmith one-stop-shop bringing everything travellers need under one roof

5 February 2026: This week, WHSmith has officially opened three new spaces across Manchester Airport and Liverpool John Lennon Airport, marking continued investment in travel hubs across the North of the UK.

At Manchester Airport Terminal 2, WHSmith has opened its first artisan coffee shop, Grindsmith, alongside a newly designed WHSmith travel essentials store. At Liverpool John Lennon Airport, the travel retailer opened a brand new one-stop-shop - a larger travel retail destination offering the full range of categories and products – including a full range of health and beauty essentials, food and drink, tech, books, magazines and more.

Together, the openings reflect WHSmith's focus on creating modern travel spaces that meet the needs of today's travellers.

Manchester Airport Terminal 2

Located after security and before duty free, the new Grindsmith artisan coffee shop brings barista-made coffee and a breakfast and brunch-led menu to Terminal 2. Working alongside the much-loved Manchester coffee brand, the offer is designed for people on the move, balancing quality with speed.

The menu features Grindsmith coffee alongside popular breakfast favourites, including smashed avocado on toast topped with poached eggs and chilli flakes.

The move follows the successful launch of own-brand food range, Smith's Family Kitchen.

Next door, the travel retailer has also unveiled a new travel essentials store inspired by the city's industrial heritage and creative spirit. Exposed brick finishes, bold graphics and modern lighting give the store a strong Manchester feel, with a tailored range of food and drink, health and beauty, tech essentials, books, magazines and more.

Liverpool John Lennon

This week also saw the official opening of a WHSmith one-stop-shop store situated at Liverpool John Lennon airport, offering the full category and product range alongside premium gifting and souvenirs unique to the city.

The design draws on Liverpool's landmarks and neighbourhoods, from the sleek lines of the Museum of Liverpool reflected in the artwork above the food and drink space, to the iconic clock face of the Liver Building recreated on the ceiling. Exposed brickwork nods to the Albert Dock, creating a space that feels authentic and contemporary, while staying easy to shop for passengers on the move.

The three new openings form part of WHSmith's ongoing investment across travel hubs in the North, supporting major regional airports and rail stations that play an important role in connecting the region to the rest of the UK and beyond.

Andrew Harrison, Interim Group CEO at WHSmith said: "Manchester and Liverpool are airports millions of people across the North pass through every year. These openings, including our first artisan coffee shop, reflect our confidence in the region and our commitment to making every journey better. We're excited to bring quality food and drink; everyday travel essentials and the trusted brands people love to even more travellers on the move."

Lucy O'Shaughnessy, Commercial Director at Liverpool John Lennon Airport, said: "We are really pleased with the look and feel of this new WHSmith store within our Departure Lounge, as are our passengers and this completes the latest phase of our retail developments here at Liverpool Airport. This new store caters for the needs of today's passengers whilst also providing us with the capacity for future growth too."

Stephen Turner, Chief Commercial Officer at Manchester Airport, said: "Our brand-new £1.3bn Terminal 2 is nearing completion and is already offering a world class passenger experience with a mix of brands and offerings to suit all tastes and budgets. That includes well-known favourites like WHSmith as well as local brands with big aspirations.

"That's why we're so excited that WHSmith has brought Manchester's own Grindsmith to the airport, alongside its new store. It means passengers departing from Terminal 2 have even more options as they prepare for their trips and a local brand has been helped to reach a global audience."

As passenger numbers continue to grow across regional airports, WHSmith remains focused on being a leading global travel retailer, investing in busy travel locations, creating one-stop-shops that bring trusted, familiar brands and products into environments where travellers need them most.

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About WHSmith

WHSmith is a leading global travel retailer for the world's travelling customer. With more than 1,200 stores across over 30 countries worldwide, WHSmith offers passengers a wide range of food & beverage, health & beauty, books and tech to support their journeys. The Company has a fast-growing international business with over 600 stores primarily across the world's leading airports. This includes more than 300 stores in North America, the world's largest travel retail market.