



Beyond Bristol

Bristol offers a perfect base for exploring the wider region. Just a short trip away is the world heritage city of Bath, with its Georgian streets and iconic spas. Groups can also easily discover the nearby attractions of Wiltshire, including Stonehenge, the busy seaside and countryside towns of Somerset and the rural splendour of Gloucestershire and the Cotswolds. The attractions of Berkeley Castle, Edward Jenner museum, Avon Valley Railway, WWT Slimbridge, Westonbirt Arboretum and Cheddar Caves & Gorge are only a stone's throw away. While just

outside the city centre, you'll discover the Victorian country house of Tyntesfield and Oakham Treasures, a coach friendly and family run attraction with a unique collection of memorabilia from days gone by, historic stores, tractor displays, a café and farm shop. For those seeking the service of a Blue Badge guide, Bristol and South West Tour Guides offer a wide variety of informative and entertaining walks and coach tours including the popular 'Bristol Highlights' tour combined with the options of Cotswolds, Cheddar and Wells, Stonehenge and Avebury or Bath. www.bristolandsouthwesttourguides.co.uk

Coach Parking Facilities in 2011

A new coach parking leaflet has been produced by Bristol City Council and will be available to group organisers and coach operators throughout 2011. New coach parking locations include the NCP on Dalby Avenue, Bedminster:

- Just 5 minutes driving time of all central Bristol pick up and set down points
- Capacity of up to 20 coaches
- 24 hours
- Drivers' toilet facility
- Up to 4hrs £4, over 4hrs £8
- Postcode: BS3 4HH

For the latest coach parking information and advice, please contact Bristol City Council:

Tel: 0117 922 2910

Email: publictransport@bristol.gov.uk

Web: www.bristol.gov.uk/coachparking

2011 Events

<p>MARCH 1 – 5 March Chess: The Musical The Bristol Hippodrome</p> <p>5 March Fairwear Fashion Show The Mall Bristol</p> <p>10 March onwards All About Us At-Bristol</p> <p>14 – 19 March Buddy The Bristol Hippodrome</p> <p>23 – 27 March Bristol Fashion Week The Mall at Cribbs Causeway</p> <p>APRIL 2 – 3 April Ultimate Fashion Weekender Cabot Circus</p> <p>12 – 30 April Hairspray The Bristol Hippodrome</p> <p>15 – 17 April Bristol Garden Life Show City centre</p> <p>29 April – 1 May Bristol Folk Festival St George's Bristol</p>	<p>MAY 5 – 15 May Mayfest Various venues</p> <p>13 – 22 May Bristol Festival of Ideas Various venues</p> <p>15 May 2011 Bristol 10K Run City centre</p> <p>20 – 22 May Bristol Motor Show Bristol city centre</p> <p>22 May The Downs 150th Anniversary Celebrations The Downs</p> <p>27 – 29 May Bristol Eco Veggie Fayre Harbourside</p> <p>28 May Dot to Dot Festival Various venues</p> <p>JUNE 11 – 19 June Bristol Green Week Various venues</p> <p>13 – 18 June Footloose The Bristol Hippodrome</p> <p>17 June Simple Minds Concert Westonbirt Arboretum</p>	<p>18 – 19 June Bristol Festival of Nature Harbourside</p> <p>18 June – 29 August Beryl Cook: Larger than Life Bristol Museum & Art Gallery</p> <p>23 – 26 June Midsummer Music Festival St George's Bristol</p> <p>25 June International T20 Cricket: England v Sri Lanka Gloucestershire County Cricket Ground, Bristol</p> <p>26 June Migrations Global Garden Party St George's Bristol</p> <p>27 June Bon Jovi concert Ashton Gate Stadium</p> <p>JULY 2 July St Pauls Carnival St Pauls</p> <p>2 – 3 July Grillstock Festival Harbourside</p> <p>11 July 175th Anniversary Bristol Zoo Gardens</p>	<p>9 – 17 July Pride Bristol Various venues</p> <p>16 July Bristol's Biggest Village Fete Bristol Zoo Gardens</p> <p>29 – 31 July Bristol Harbour Festival Harbourside</p> <p>AUGUST 11 – 14 August Bristol International Balloon Fiesta Ashton Court Estate</p> <p>26 – 29 August Festival of the Tree Westonbirt Arboretum</p> <p>28 – 30 August Old Duke Jazz Festival King Street</p> <p>SEPTEMBER 3 – 4 September Bristol Festival of Kites and Air Creations Ashton Court Estate</p> <p>10 – 11 September Organic Food Festival Harbourside</p> <p>11 September 2011 Bristol Half Marathon City centre</p>	<p>17 – 18 September Chilli and Chocolate Festival Bristol Zoo Gardens</p> <p>24 – 25 September Ultimate Fashion Weekender Cabot Circus</p> <p>OCTOBER October – November 2011 Autumn Colour Westonbirt Arboretum</p> <p>NOVEMBER Mid November 2011 – early January 2012 Christmas in the City Festive markets and attractions City centre</p> <p>Mid November 2011 – early February 2012 Winter Wonderland The Mall at Cribbs Causeway</p> <p>20 – 27 November Bristol Festival of Music from the Natural World St George's Bristol</p> <p>25 November – 18 December Enchanted Christmas Westonbirt Arboretum</p> <p>DECEMBER Christmas in the City Various venues</p>
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2011 Bristol Hotel Rates for groups

All rates below have applicable terms and conditions. Log on to www.VisitBristol.co.uk/GroupTravel and click on 'offers' for a full list of rates, contact information and terms. Rates may be per person and/or subject to availability. Please clarify by visiting our website."

- Mercure Bristol Holland House Hotel & Spa:** Group rates from £30.00
- Ramada Bristol City:** Group rates from £30 per person per night
- The Grand by Thistle, Bristol:** Group rates from £30 per person, per night half board
- Novotel Bristol Hotel:** Group rates from £32 DBB
- Bristol Marriott City Centre Hotel:** Group rates from £40 BB/£45 DBB
- Bristol Marriott Royal Hotel:** Group rates from £45 BB/£50 DBB
- Aztec Hotel & Spa, Aztec West:** Group rates from £28 BB (based on two sharing)
- Clifton House Bristol:** Group rates from £52 for singles
- Brooks Guesthouse Bristol:** Group rates from £40 BB per person

For further information on bringing your group to Bristol or to be added to the mailing list to receive regular issues of Bristol For Groups, please contact Destination Bristol:

Tel: 0117 946 2205
Web: www.visitbristol.co.uk/grouptravel
E-mail: grouptravel@destinationbristol.co.uk

Bristol for groups

Welcome to the fourth edition of Bristol For Groups, an informative newsletter dedicated to group travel organisers and travel operators planning a trip to the bustling city of Bristol.

Dynamic, stylish and welcoming, Bristol offers award-winning attractions, fantastic events, great shopping and stunning nightlife – in fact, the perfect choice for a group break or day trip.

Bristol is the UK's greenest city, with over 450 open spaces and easy access to surrounding coast and countryside. There are hundreds of events and festivals throughout the year, from waterfront regattas to fresh food markets, concerts to carnivals, wildlife to ballooning

spectaculars. The historic harbourside has been rejuvenated with bars, cafes, galleries and museums, and the cobbled streets of the Old City are dotted with medieval churches and bustling farmers markets. Bristol also offers the best shopping in the South West. In 2011

and 2012 groups have even more reason to visit Bristol, with new openings, activities and the 2012 Olympics on the horizon Learn more about group visits at – VisitBristol.co.uk/GroupTravel



Bristol's new £26m museum, M Shed, opens

A most significant addition to Bristol's list of exciting openings in 2011 is the city's new £26m social history museum, M Shed. Opening on 17 June, M Shed tells the stories of the city. Three galleries, over 3000 objects, exciting activities and extracts from over 150 archival films will enable visitors to discover the history of Bristol from prehistoric times to the 21st century. M Shed explores the history of the city by encouraging debate, challenging conceptions of who we are and using the city's past to understanding the present, allowing the public to contribute to it's future. Admission is free.

Visit www.mshed.org for further information about group visits to M Shed.

New Learning Lab for The Bristol Aquarium – see page 2

New flight routes to Bristol – see back page

At-Bristol launches "All About Us"

All About Us is At-Bristol's latest groundbreaking exhibition where groups can discover how amazing they are! With over 50 new exhibits about the human body and the brain, you can play music through your head bones, see your own veins under near infrared light, explore the wonders of the digestive system and watch dissections and DNA extractions in At-Bristol's new Live Lab. Plus, don't forget to book your group into the Planetarium and go star-gazing with a special presenter-led show of the seasonal night sky. Conveniently located on Bristol's harbourside, At-Bristol brings science to life for groups of all ages! Group benefits include –

- 20% savings on standard adult entry (groups of 10 or more)
- Free familiarisation visit for group organisers
- Free entry for coach drivers
- Free entry for group organiser (groups of 10 or more)
- Convenient on-site coach drop-off and pick-up.

For details see www.at-bristol.org.uk/groups or call bookings on 0845 345 1235. Sat Nav Ref: BS1 5LL



Bristol Zoo Gardens celebrates 175 years

Bristol Zoo Gardens celebrates its 175th anniversary in 2011, with a host of events and activities throughout the year to entertain groups. A new meerkat exhibit is now open, and April sees the opening of a Walk of Fame at the zoo, celebrating Bristol's icons, past and present. Throughout the summer, the zoo will also release dozens of life-size gorilla sculptures onto the streets of Bristol. Group benefits include –

- Discounts of up to 32% on entry prices for groups of 10 or more
- Free familiarisation visit and tickets for organisers
- Guided tours of botanical gardens and history walks
- Coach driver members club.

For more information contact us on 0117 974 7300, receptionist@bristolzoo.org.uk or visit www.bristolzoo.org.uk



New group tours from City Sightseeing

City Sightseeing is introducing three brand new guided tours in 2011 that are guaranteed to give groups a greater variety of choice in Bristol. The new tours include story-telling trips for children and adults, delivered by experienced storytellers behind Bristol Storytelling Festival. There is also a wildlife tour from a local expert about the surprising wildlife that lives alongside the city hustle and bustle, such as a herd of wild goats and peregrine falcons. Finally, a new religious history tour will be introduced to offer a multi-denominational insight into Bristol's past and present.

For private hire enquiries and bookings please contact Nicola Padden on: nicola@citysightseeingbristol.co.uk / 0117 367 0208



Home is where the heart is at Tyntesfield

The wraps are off! Unveiled for 2011, this extraordinary Victorian estate is ready to explore all year round. Tyntesfield's house, chapel, gardens and woodland make for an inspiring day of fresh air and discovery. This year Tyntesfield's new Home Farm visitor centre is open for the first time too – with a restaurant, shop, exhibition space and family play area, free to visit every day. Group admission is £9.75 per person (minimum 15 people) and Gardens are only £5.00.

Visit www.nationaltrust.org.uk and search for Tyntesfield House for further information on group visits.



Brunel's ss Great Britain – a favourite for groups

Groups can travel back in time when boarding Brunel's ss Great Britain, one of the UK's favourite visitor attractions. Designed by Isambard Kingdom Brunel, the ss Great Britain is the world's first great ocean liner and was named in 2010 as one of the world's top new museums by Museum ID Magazine. Throughout 2011, groups can enjoy a host of exciting events in celebration of food to experience the good, the bad and the yummy from Victorian days.

Highlights include descending under the glass 'sea' and discovering what life was like for Victorian passengers and crew. With audio tours available, a fantastic Dockyard Café Bar overlooking the stunning Harbourside, full wheelchair access and facilities for the deaf and visually impaired, Brunel's ss Great Britain makes an ideal visit for groups.

Groups and educational tours are welcome by arrangement. Contact Brunel's ss Great Britain on 0117 926 0680 or visit www.ssgreatbritain.org



Add Bristol to your group shopping list

As the shopping capital of the South West, Bristol offers the perfect destination for a group shopping trip. Bristol's city centre shopping area includes nearly 500 stores, two separate covered shopping centres, more than 50 cafes and restaurants and ample parking, making Bristol the shopping capital of the region. The city centre shopping area includes Cabot Circus, The Galleries and a further 300 stores in the surrounding area.

Offering the ultimate shopping experience, Cabot Circus brings together a host of high street and designer brands, confirming the city's status as

the region's style capital. With more than 120 stores stocking the latest trends, Cabot Circus lies underneath a striking glass roof, offering urban fashion brands and high street retailers. Adjacent to Cabot Circus, the upscale Quakers Friars is home to the only Harvey Nichols store in the South West. Linking seamlessly to Cabot Circus, the shopping area continues on to the high street, where a further 300 stores are located. Also located within the city centre shopping area is The Galleries, an attractive, three-storey shopping centre – home to a further 100 stores including a host of independent retailers. The city centre retail area also boasts a car park, along with a number of delicious dining options and gourmet delis for groups.



Clifton Suspension Bridge Visitor Centre welcomes groups

The world famous Clifton Suspension Bridge was designed by the great Victorian engineer Isambard Kingdom Brunel, to span the spectacular Avon Gorge. A visitor centre and gift shop on the Leigh Woods side of Bridge contains displays and artefacts explaining the history, construction and maintenance of this world famous symbol of the city of Bristol. Free guided tours are provided at 3.00pm every Saturday and Sunday afternoon from Easter until October (note that this is not suitable for large organised groups). Guided tours of the Clifton Suspension Bridge for organised groups are available at £2.50 per person (minimum £50.00 per group, maximum £100.00 per group).

Contact group co-ordinator, Mike Rowland on 0117 974 4664 or visit info@clifton-suspension-bridge.org.uk

Journey into a world of trees at Westonbirt Arboretum

Westonbirt, The National Arboretum in Gloucestershire, is internationally known for its vibrant autumn colour and makes a memorable visit for groups. Spectacular spring flowers, the Festival of the Tree, summer walks amongst lush woodlands and the Enchanted Christmas illuminated trail offer great reasons to visit the Forestry Commission managed National Arboretum throughout the year. Guided tours delivered by experienced Friends of Westonbirt Arboretum volunteer guides will help visitors to delve into the history and importance of Westonbirt. Costing £30 for up to 25 people, these tours are a fantastic way to discover more about The National Arboretum. Coaches can be parked in the designated coach area and a host can be arranged. On-site dining facilities are available.

Visit www.forestry.gov.uk/westonbirt-groups or call Helen Daniels on 01666 881200 for more details.



New Learning Lab for The Bristol Aquarium

The Bristol Aquarium and IMAX Cinema, formerly known as Blue Reef Aquarium, has unveiled a new 'Learning Lab' where visitors can find out more about the marine environment. The new feature includes a series of tanks which showcase the aquarium's captive breeding programmes with a variety of species including baby seahorses, pipefish and cichlids. The area also includes a recreated rock pool, which will be used for talks and presentations. Group benefits include –

- Great discounts for groups of 10 or more
- Group prices frozen for 2011
- Free entry and drinks voucher for coach/bus driver
- Brand new classroom sessions for educational groups (Keystage 1, 2, 3 and 4)

For group enquiries contact 0117 929 8929 or email bristol@bluereefaquarium.co.uk



Afternoon tea for groups at the Royal Hotel

With a fabulous location next to Bristol Cathedral and the historic waterfront, Bristol Marriott Royal Hotel offers the ideal location for afternoon high tea while enjoying England's South West charm. The Royal Champagne High Tea is served in the sumptuous Club Lounge or Drawing Room with exquisite decor, warm colours, soft furnishings as well as the marble and brass touches that will make your tea in Bristol one to remember. There is also an a la carte restaurant ideal for a quick group lunch.

For more information call 0117 925 5100 or visit www.bristolmarriottroyal.co.uk



Don't miss it

- **The Bristol International Balloon Fiesta** returns to Ashton Court in August. This world class weekend fiesta is free to attend and has become one of Bristol's most popular annual events.
- 2011 sees the 40th anniversary of the **Bristol Harbour Festival**. There are some exciting plans underway to mark the occasion, including an additional week of activity and increased indoor shows in the venues around the harbour.
- **The Bristol Hippodrome** remains a firm favourite for groups, proudly continuing to stage

New flight routes to Bristol

From March 2011, Aer Lingus will be operating a new three-times daily service between Bristol and Dublin. The new Aer Lingus Regional route will offer customers the convenience of flying from New York, Boston, Chicago and Orlando to Bristol via Dublin.

Visit www.bristolairport.co.uk for more information about flights to and from Bristol

major West End and Broadway productions. From musicals, ballet, opera, concerts, comedians or children's shows, the venue's busy programme has something to suit every taste. In 2011, major productions include Hairspray The Musical in April, and Evita which opens in June.

- **Christmas in Bristol's city centre shopping area** promises to be bigger and better than ever in 2011 with a range of festive markets, an outdoor skating rink in Quakers Friars, Santa's Grotto and a line-up for seasonal activities for the enjoyment of all age groups