



# Bristol & South West England

City, coast and countryside

[www.VisitBristol.co.uk/USA](http://www.VisitBristol.co.uk/USA)

Explore Bristol, England and its amazing coast and countryside. Ideally located for visiting Bath, Oxford, Stonehenge, the Cotswolds, Wales and London, Bristol is your perfect touring base for South West England. Enjoy four new flights from the USA into Bristol Airport starting March 2011!

New flights from New York, Boston, Chicago and Orlando on Aer Lingus!



## A guide for Americans visiting Bristol

With two royal weddings in 2011 and the 2012 Olympic Games on the horizon, all the eyes of the world will be on England over the next two years. Rich in heritage and surrounded by breathtaking coast and countryside in South West England, Bristol is ideally located for touring England and Wales.



For US visitors, 2011 offers an even greater reason to enjoy this dynamic and exciting city with the addition of a new Aer Lingus route from four US destinations to Bristol, via Dublin. Flying via Dublin to Bristol even provides the opportunity to tour Ireland along the way.

The largest city in South West England, Bristol is home to a wealth of attractions and is the ballooning capital of Europe. The historic and vibrant Harbourside in the city center features a major science attraction and a new aquarium. Nearby, is the world's first great transatlantic liner, Brunel's ss Great Britain.

This area is also home to the infamous Bristol-born pirate Blackbeard, notorious slave traders and a man who may have named America, Richard Amerike.

American visitors love touring the city's churches and cathedrals, while just taking in English life in this laid-back city. The world's first Methodist chapel in Bristol is a popular visitor attraction, drawing thousands of Americans annually to the city.

On arrival into Bristol, visitors are impressed by the city's collection of world-class museums, galleries, as well as some of the country's finest theaters. In June 2011, the city's new M Shed museum will uncover Bristol's thousand year history, including the city's trading past, its wartime experiences and the testimonies of ordinary Bristolians.



Bristol is the shopping capital of South West England with a city center retail area that features over 500 stores, two separate covered shopping centers, and more than 50 cafes and restaurants. Bristol has it all.

In Bristol, enjoy your pick of city, coast and countryside.

Visit **Bristol**

## New US flights to Bristol announced

[aerlingus.com](http://aerlingus.com)

Aer Arann and Aer Lingus have announced a new Aer Lingus route from the USA to Bristol, via Dublin starting in March 2011.

Customers can enjoy flights from New York, Boston, Chicago and Orlando to Bristol, via Dublin. Aer Lingus Regional, operated by Aer Arann, will fly 3 round trip flights on 6 days each week and 2 round trip flights on Saturdays between Dublin and Bristol offering new morning, afternoon and evening frequency options for business customers.

Welcoming the announcement the Chief Commercial Officer of Aer Lingus Stephen Kavanagh said "Aer Lingus is delighted to be extending our network into Bristol. This new route marks an expansion of the partnership between Aer Lingus and Aer Arann and we look forward to welcoming customers on board our Bristol to Dublin service and our transatlantic services in 2011."

Flights will be operated by Aer Arann ATR 72 aircraft and crew with the first flights on March 27th 2011. Flights are on sale at [aerlingus.com](http://aerlingus.com) and through travel agents.

Book your Bristol vacation online at [www.aerlingus.com](http://www.aerlingus.com)

Win a vacation to England! Log on to [www.VisitBristol.co.uk/USA](http://www.VisitBristol.co.uk/USA)

# Best bets in the South West

## Bristol



Bristol is ideally located for touring England and the wonders of the South West. Below you'll find some of these top visitor locations, with easy access from Bristol. The city makes a perfect base for traveling to the following areas and attractions.



### Distances to Bristol from major UK cities

Aberdeen, Scotland-	492 miles	Liverpool, England-	161 miles
Birmingham, England-	81 miles	London, England-	122 miles
Cambridge, England-	169 miles	Manchester, England-	161 miles
Cardiff, Wales-	45 miles	Plymouth, England-	122 miles
Dover, England-	202 miles	Southampton, England-	76 miles
Edinburgh, Scotland-	373 miles	York, England-	222 miles

## Bath



A UNESCO World Heritage Site, the vibrant city of Bath is rich in Roman and Georgian heritage and is nourished by Britain's only natural hot springs. This city presents some of the finest architectural sights in Europe such as the Royal Crescent and Pulteney Bridge.

## The Cotswolds



The Cotswolds is quintessentially English, renowned for its fine local food, rolling countryside and quaint villages. Once home to acclaimed American painters like John Singer Sargent and Francis Millet, this is where UK film stars such as Kate Winslet and Hugh Grant today have homes today.

## Agatha Christie Country



One of the world's best loved authors, Agatha Christie spent much of her life in Devon. Additionally, Devon boasts a number of spectacular buildings steeped in history, including Exeter Cathedral and Torre Abbey and is also home to one of the two national parks; Dartmoor.

## Stonehenge



Stonehenge is a designated UNESCO World Heritage Site, surrounded by the remains of ceremonial and domestic structures, some older than the monument itself. Altogether, the site covers some 6,425 acres and comprises over 400 scheduled monuments.

## Jurassic Coast



England's only natural UNESCO World Heritage Site, this stretch of coastline has joined the ranks of the Great Barrier Reef and the Grand Canyon as one of the wonders of the natural world, famous for fossils including exceptionally well preserved dinosaurs – you can even hunt for your own fossils on the beach.

## Land's End



Land's End is the most westerly point of the English mainland and the closest to the North American continent. Some of the most dramatic and spectacular sections of the South West Coast Path can be found near Land's End with dramatic cliff views of the vast Atlantic Ocean.

In addition to offering a range of touring options in the South West, Bristol is also a hop, skip and jump away from London, Oxford, and Wales. Bristol Airport even offers amazing links to travel throughout Europe on internal airlines like EasyJet and RyanAir, in addition to new flights to Dublin from Aer Lingus. Log on to [www.BristolAirport.co.uk](http://www.BristolAirport.co.uk) for a full list of flights.

## Vocabulary Fun:

Gas is petrol | Pants are trousers | Underwear are pants | A pacifier is a dummy | A stroller is a pram | A period is a full stop | Round trip means return | The first floor is the ground floor

# All about Bristol for Americans

## A taste of America in Bristol

There are many connections between Bristol and America. For a taste of The States in Bristol, here are some of the best highlights:



St Mary Redcliffe

**St Mary Redcliffe Church:** Here you can explore several unique ties to America. Ask to see the American Chapel and the monument to William Penn, Sr, along with the whale bone John Cabot brought back to Bristol from his journey to North America.



The Matthew

**The Matthew:** Take a tour of Bristol's historic Harbourside on John Cabot's replica ship, *The Matthew*. John Cabot sailed from Bristol to North America and there is a theory that John Cabot may have actually named America after the funder of his voyage, Richard Amerike.



Bristol Pirate Walks

**Bristol Pirate Walks:** To learn more about this possible naming of America, take a Bristol Pirate Walk and ask Pirate Pete who named America.



Brunel's ss Great Britain

**Brunel's ss Great Britain:** Visit this amazing ship, originally built as a sailing ship to New York, which was the largest ocean liner when it was built in Bristol by Isambard Kingdom Brunel.



The New Room

**John Wesley and Methodism:** The New Room (John Wesley's Chapel) is the oldest Methodist building in the world and draws thousands of Americans annually to Bristol. If you're active, take the Portishead cycle path from Bristol and stop in Pill to view the American Monument where John Wesley sailed to America to spread Methodism.

**Queen Square:** Visit Queen Square to see where the first American consulate in the UK originally stood in 1792.

**Best Option for American Food:** You must try authentic English food while in Bristol, such as Bristol's very own Pieminister Pies. Don't forget the Fish and Chips, along with Bangers and Mash. But if you're craving an American treat, RocoTillos is an American style diner near the Clifton Triangle. For other American treats, stop by Swinky's Sweets on Park St.



Bristol Marriott Royal

**Best American Hotels in Bristol:** If you'd like a hotel that feels like home, there are two Marriott hotels in the city. The Bristol Marriott Royal is a quintessential British hotel, where the Marriott City Centre is located right next to Bristol's main shopping area. Bristol offers an amazing range of hotel options.

## Who knew?

In 1497, John Cabot set sail in his ship, *The Matthew*, on a journey of discovery in which he reached mainland America. King Henry VI had ordered the then Sheriff of Bristol, Richard Amerike, who some believe America was named after, to find the funds for Cabot's journey.

On his return, Cabot gave thanks for the voyage by presenting a whalebone to St Mary Redcliffe, which remains in the church to this day. In addition, there is a brass monument in the church to Joanna Brook, Amerike's daughter and heir.



Pero's Bridge

### Did you know that Bristol:

- is located 120 miles west of London
- is the largest city in South West England
- is only 12 miles west of Bath
- is a 45 mile trip across the Bristol Channel to Cardiff in Wales
- is situated on the rivers Frome and Avon
- was known as a wealthy trading port since the Roman era
- is where John Cabot sailed from Bristol to help "discover" North America in 1497.
- played a vital role in England's maritime trade in tobacco, wine, cotton and more
- was involved in a major slave shipping industry from the late 1600s to early 1800s
- was the home of infamous pirate, Captain Blackbeard who once had a hideaway cave under St. Mary Redcliffe and his original Bristol home and birthplace still stands
- Pero's Bridge is named after Pero Jones, the African servant of a plantation owner
- is the home to John Wesley's 'New Room', the world's oldest Methodist chapel
- is home to Hollywood legend Cary Grant, whose first role in theatre was working at The Bristol Hippodrome
- is the only UK city to have been nominated for the title 'European Green Capital' (in 2010/11)
- is the birthplace of leading graffiti artist, Banksy, whose work is much sought-after by Hollywood A-listers

For more information about visiting Bristol, log on to [www.VisitBristol.co.uk/USA](http://www.VisitBristol.co.uk/USA)

A tramp is a homeless person | A resume is a CV | Cookies are biscuits | A zucchini is a courgette | A truck is a lorry | An apartment is a flat | A gas station is a garage | Garbage is rubbish | A line is a queue | An elevator is a lift |

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## Major 2011 Events

There are hundreds of events in Bristol every year: from sprawling, city-wide festivals and big-name concerts to boutique art fairs and local produce markets. Here's a taste of major events:

### MARCH

10 onwards, All About Us At-Bristol

14 – 19, Buddy The Bristol Hippodrome

### APRIL

12 – 30, Hairspray The Bristol Hippodrome

29 April – 1 May Bristol Folk Festival St George's Bristol

### MAY

15, 2011 Bristol 10K Run City centre

27 – 29, Bristol Eco Veggie Fayre Harbourside

### JUNE

13 – 18, Footloose The Bristol Hippodrome

18 – 19, Bristol Festival of Nature Harbourside

27, Bon Jovi concert Ashton Gate Stadium

### JULY

2 July, St Pauls Carnival St Pauls



2 – 3, Grillstock Festival Harbourside

11, 175th Anniversary Bristol Zoo Gardens

9 – 17, Pride Bristol Various venues

29 – 31, Bristol Harbour Festival Harbourside

### AUGUST

11 – 14, Bristol International Balloon Fiesta Ashton Court Estate



28 – 30, Old Duke Jazz Festival King Street

### SEPTEMBER

3 – 4, Bristol Festival of Kites and Air Creations Ashton Court Estate

10 – 11, Organic Food Festival Harbourside

11, 2011 Bristol Half Marathon City centre

### OCTOBER

October – November 2011 Autumn Colour Westonbirt Arboretum

NOVEMBER  
20 – 27, Bristol Festival of Music from the Natural World St George's Bristol

DECEMBER  
Christmas in the City Various venues

## UK shopping guide for Americans



Bristol's city centre area near Cabot Circus is the best place to find Bristol's name brands. Several American brands have made their way into Bristol, including Hollister and more. If you're not familiar with the major shopping brands in the UK, Harvey Nichols, House of Fraser and Ted Baker are the very upscale names. Ladies with mid-range budgets will enjoy Next, Dorothy Perkins and Monsoon. Major department stores are Debenhams, along with Marks & Spencer. Men and women on a budget will enjoy Primark or H&M.

House of Fraser even offers tax free shopping for American citizens. Learn more about Bristol shopping at [www.VisitBristol.co.uk/USA](http://www.VisitBristol.co.uk/USA).

## Getting Around Bristol

### Bus and Taxi

It's really easy to get around Bristol by bus, with plenty of fast and convenient services available from key locations such as Bristol Temple Meads train station, the city center and Clifton village. When in Bristol, visit the Tourist Information Center on the Harbourside for tickets and help with route planning.

### Local rail services

Visit [www.nationalrail.co.uk](http://www.nationalrail.co.uk) or book train tickets online at [www.thetrainline.com](http://www.thetrainline.com). The main rail station is Bristol Temple Meads.

### Sightseeing by Bus and Ferry Boat

Traveling on one of the bright red City Sightseeing buses is a great way to see Bristol. The service operates between mid March and October. Alternatively, explore Bristol's historic harbour using one of the distinctive river ferries.

### Walking & Cycling

Bristol's central area is well signposted for visitors on foot and most major activities are walkable. Bristol is a beautiful city to cycle around, with its extensive network of cycle paths.



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