

Destination Bristol

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PRESS FACT SHEET – BRISTOL OVERVIEW

Bristol is regarded as the capital of the South West of England. Lively yet laid-back, Bristol blends its rich maritime heritage with an innovative, dynamic culture, making it one of the most cosmopolitan centres outside London. It is a leader on the green scene and was proud to be European Green capital 2015 – the only UK city ever to hold the title. It also has an enviable cycling culture.

Compact enough to get around on foot, yet big enough to boast an exciting line-up of entertainment, Bristol has much to offer. The city's most celebrated sights include the Clifton Suspension Bridge – which was designed by Isambard Kingdom Brunel and celebrated its 150th anniversary in December 2014 - and Brunel's ss Great Britain in the thriving Harbourside.

There are fine museums and galleries here, many of which are free to enter including M Shed, Bristol Museum and Art Gallery, and Arnolfini - one of Europe's leading centres for the contemporary arts. Attractions such as Bristol Zoo Gardens, Bristol Aquarium and At-Bristol Science Centre make Bristol a particularly family-friendly destination.

Exceptional places to eat and drink are a highlight of Bristol. Michelin-starred restaurants include Casamia (occupying a new location on the harbourside from January 2016), Wilks restaurant in Redland and The Pony and Trap pub in the Chew Valley. The very popular and award-winning Bordeaux Quay brasserie and restaurant is in a beautiful waterside location, while globally-inspired street food can be found in St Nicholas Market, and independent cafés line Park Street and Gloucester Road. A full line-up of foodie festivals and events includes Bristol Food Connections and Eat Drink Bristol Fashion, a tipi village on leafy Queen Square from some of the region's top chefs, both in May.

The city is wonderful for shoppers looking for high street fashion and designer brands. The Bristol Shopping Quarter in the heart of the city centre has hundreds of shops including Harvey Nichols,

there are also great independent shopping areas like Park Street, Clifton Village, The Christmas Steps and Gloucester Road.

Bristol is well-known for its vibrant music scene and nightlife boasting retro nightclubs, live music bars, friendly pubs, sophisticated cocktail lounges, underground clubs, a classical music hall, and popular gig nights. There is also a daily line-up of live entertainment at the Bristol Hippodrome, Bristol Old Vic, Colston Hall and Tobacco Factory Theatres.

Not to be missed is Bristol's ever-evolving street art scene, made famous by the elusive graffiti artist Banksy whose original murals can be seen around the city. Also look out for the giant 'Breakdancing Jesus' created in Stokes Croft in 2013 by artist Cosmo Sarson. There are guided street art tours each Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday led by local guides at 'Where the Wall'.

Getting here

Bristol Temple Meads is the main railway station. It is approximately a 15-minute walk from the City Centre, or a 15-minute ride on one of the Bristol Ferry Boats. Bristol Airport is situated just 8 miles south of central Bristol and is easily accessed via the A38. Direct flights operate to Bristol Airport from across the UK and Europe, and routes operate between North American via Dublin and, from May 2016, Iceland. Bristol is easily accessible from the M5 and M4 motorways. For up to date travel information, visit <http://www.travelwest.info/>

For more information about getting around the city, including bicycle hire and ferry boat rides, visit the Tourist Information Centre at 1 Canons Road, Harbourside, contact 0906 711 2191 (calls charged at 50p per minute plus network extras) or go to www.visitbristol.co.uk