



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 Brunel's SS Great Britain in the thriving Harbourside.

There are fine museums and galleries here, in 2018 Bristol was named 'Museum Destination of the Year' in the Luxury Travel Guide Awards. Many are free to enter including M Shed, Bristol Museum and Art Gallery, and Spike Island. Attractions such as Aerospace Bristol, Bristol Zoo Gardens, Bristol Aquarium and We The Curious make Bristol a particularly family-friendly destination.

Exceptional places to eat and drink are a highlight of Bristol. Michelin-starred restaurants include Casamia, Paco Tapas, Wilks restaurant in Redland and The Pony and Trap pub in nearby Chew Valley. Eat by the water from one of the independent businesses housed in one of the re-purposed shipping containers of Cargo at Wapping Wharf. Globally-inspired street food can be found in St Nicholas Market and independent cafés line Park Street and Gloucester Road. As well as a full line-up of foodie festivals and events including Bristol Food Connections.

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 from Harvey Nichols to one of the biggest Primark stores in the country. There are also great independent shopping areas like Park Street, Clifton Village, The Christmas Steps and Gloucester Road alongside weekly and permanent markets across the city.

Bristol is well-known for its vibrant music scene and nightlife boasting retro nightclubs, live music bars, friendly pubs, sophisticated cocktail lounges, underground clubs and popular gig nights. There is also a daily line-up of live entertainment at the Bristol Hippodrome, Bristol Old Vic, St George's Bristol, 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. There are year-round guided street art tours each Saturday and Sunday led by local expert guides at 'Where the Wall' and 'Graft'.

Getting here

Bristol Temple Meads is the main city centre railway station. It is approximately a 15-minute walk from the central area, or a 20-minute ride on one of the Bristol Ferry Boats.

Bristol Airport is situated just eight miles south of central Bristol and is easily accessed via the A38 and Bristol Flyer bus. Direct flights operate to Bristol Airport from across Europe, and routes operate between North America via Dublin.

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 +44 (0)333 321 0101 or go to www.visitbristol.co.uk