

YOUR 10 PAGE GUIDE TO SHORT BREAKS AROUND BRITAIN

BEYOND LONDON

Visit
Bath's
Roman
Baths

Immerse yourself in the
history of Bath and Bristol



Have a relaxing time at
Bath's natural spa



Party in the street at
the St Pauls Carnival



Climb aboard the
ss Great Britain

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Clifton Suspension Bridge and the River Avon in Bristol

Bath & Bristol

Roman ruins, glorious Georgian architecture, staggering feats of Victorian engineering, historic theatres, world-class museums, boutique shopping – all are among the many reasons to visit Bath and Bristol.

Just 20 kilometres apart, the two west of England cities have contrasting sensibilities dating back to Bath's history as a spa resort on the one hand, and Bristol's noted industrial heritage on the other.

While Bath's architectural highlights include genteel neoclassical Royal Crescent and Queen Square, Bristol's star attractions range from the satirical street art of local hero Banksy



Street art by Banksy

(below) to the awe-inspiring Clifton Suspension Bridge, designed by Isambard Kingdom Brunel. You can get to know the work of the UK's greatest engineer at the bridge's Visitor Centre and at the ss *Great Britain*, an 1843 luxury liner in Bristol Harbourside.

Bath has its heroes too, with 19th-century novelist Jane Austen and 18th-century astronomer William Herschel

both former residents of the city. There are engaging museums dedicated to both of them.

Bristol and Bath's city centres are small enough to explore on foot, but you might want to hire a bike and travel between the two on the off-road cycle path that is built on the bed of a former railway line. However you choose to get around these picturesque cities, you've got a treat in store.

How to get there

- 1 Bath**
 London Paddington to Bath Spa in one hour 30 mins.
- 2 Bristol**
 London Paddington to Bristol Temple Meads in one hour 45 mins.





Relax in
Thermae
Bath Spa



Caribbean
culture at
St Pauls
Carnival,
Bristol



Bristol Harbour Festival fun

Event highlights

BATH

1 & 10 Jul: *Summer Party Racenight*, Bath Racecourse (bath-racecourse.co.uk)

From 19 Jul: *The Great War in Costume*, Fashion Museum (fashionmuseum.co.uk)

From 30 Jul: Drama in *Thérèse Raquin* starring Alison Steadman, Theatre Royal Bath (theatreroyal.org.uk)

BRISTOL

2-6 Jul: *Bristol Comedy Garden*, Queen Square (bristolcomedygarden.co.uk)

5 Jul: *St Pauls Carnival*, around St Pauls district (stpaulscarnival.co.uk)

5-12 Jul: *Bristol Pride Week*, various venues (pridebristol.co.uk)

18-20 Jul: *Bristol Harbour Festival*, Canons Road (bristolharbourfestival.co.uk)

THE
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BATHS
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this summer



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and a unique summer evening
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**Bath & North East
Somerset Council**

BEYOND LONDON

SEE
modern
and historic
artworks at this
1799 former
hotel



The Holburne Museum

Bath

1 The Roman Baths
Bath boasts the only hot springs in the UK, a natural wonder discovered by the Romans nearly 2,000 years ago. Explore the extensive ruins of the bath complex and learn about the Roman residents of Aquae Sulis (as the settlement was known at the time) through museum displays (romanbaths.co.uk). The Pump Room, a Georgian venue frequented by the cream of Bath society,

overlooks the centrepiece of the Roman complex, the Great Bath. It's now a modern British restaurant that's open all day. The baths complex is open daily until 10pm in July and August, with atmospheric torches lit as night falls. Ask about its *Twilight Tour & Dinner Package*.

2 Thermae Bath Spa
The Thermae Bath Spa, which combines the best of the 18th-century spa building with contemporary architecture, is fed by the same spring as the historic Roman Baths nearby. The Spa's packages include time spent in the open-air rooftop pool, with its views over the city. A range of options include the *Twilight Package* which offers spa bathing and supper at the Springs Cafe Restaurant, or try the signature treatment Watsu, which combines shiatsu massage and acupressure, performed in the natural thermal waters (thermaebathspa.com).



Outside Thermae Bath Spa

3 The Holburne Museum
Bath's first public art gallery dates back to 1882, when naval officer Sir Thomas William Holburne's collection of objects, pictures and books, including paintings by Thomas Gainsborough and JMW Turner, was bequeathed to the city. The museum opened in 1893 and moved into its current home in 1916. It's a former hotel set within Sydney Gardens, the only remaining 18th-century 'pleasure gardens' in the UK. Jane Austen was known to have walked here during her stays in the city (holburne.org).



An 18th-century porcelain plate from The Holburne Museum



4 No. 1 Royal Crescent

Bath was designated as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1987 not just for its unique Roman baths complex, but also for its abundance of sumptuous 18th-century architecture. The jewel in the crown of Georgian Bath is the neoclassical Royal Crescent, a row of 30 grand terraced houses built between 1767 and 1774. No. 1 Royal Crescent lets visitors see how life was lived in its heyday.



Royal Crescent, Bath

5 Bath Abbey

Construction of this magnificent cathedral began in 1499 and was completed in 1611. Tours of the abbey's 46 metre-tall tower take place several times daily. They offer fantastic views over the city and surrounding countryside, but pace yourself: there are

212 stairs to climb. Choral services take place every Sunday (bathabbey.org).

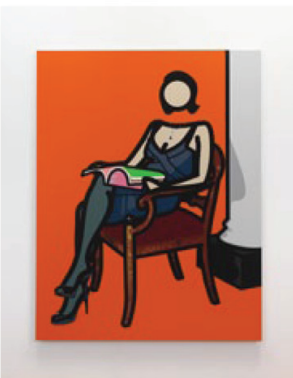
6 Jane Austen Centre

Jane Austen, one of the UK's best-known female writers, lived in Bath between 1801 and 1806 and set her novels *Northanger Abbey* and *Persuasion* there. Fans can

learn more about the author at this museum in a townhouse a few doors down from where she once lived. You can take a guided Jane Austen walking tour too (11am, Sat-Sun from the visitor information centre in Abbey Churchyard; janeausten.co.uk).

• **Go to visitbath.co.uk**

THE THERMAE BATH SPA © BATH PHOTO © VISIT BATH/COLIN HAWKINS 2009; ROYAL CRESCENT © ANTHONY BAGGETT/GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO



The Holburne Museum
Great Pulteney Street
Bath BA2 4DB

Julian Opie Collected Works

21.05.14 to 14.09.14



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MEDIA PARTNER
Bath Life

THE
HOLBURNE
MUSEUM
www.holburne.org



Bristol

7 Clifton Suspension Bridge

Bristol's most iconic sight is the 214 metre-long suspension bridge that spans the Avon Gorge. Designed by British architect Isambard Kingdom Brunel, it opened in 1864. Tragically, Brunel died before it was completed. Walk to the middle of the bridge and look down on the River Avon 76 metres below. Then explore the nearby visitor centre that tells its story (cliftonbridge.org.uk).

8 Brunel's ss Great Britain

Another Brunel triumph is his 1843 ship. The world's first great ocean liner is now an award-winning museum. Fully restored, explore its luxury passenger cabins, engine rooms and more, or Go Aloft! as you climb the rigging to 30 metres above deck (ssgreatbritain.org).



SUNK
in the South Atlantic in 1937, ss Great Britain was returned to the UK in 1970

9 M Shed

Learn about Bristol's industrial and maritime history at this fascinating harbourside museum (m-shed.org).

10 At-Bristol Science Centre

With over 300 multimedia exhibits, live shows and a Planetarium, this award-winning attraction is perfect for families. Kids can encounter a walk-in tornado, try TV presenting and learn to be an animator for a day (at-bristol.org.uk).



At-Bristol Science Centre

11 Arnolfini

This contemporary arts space in a Grade-II listed former tea warehouse in the historic dockyard presents visual art exhibitions, poetry, theatre and dance performances, films, concerts, talks, walks and family

events. The gallery presents temporary exhibitions by the likes of Louise Bourgeois and Rachel Whiteread. Visiting theatre companies have included Adventures in Motion

Pictures and the Philip Glass Ensemble. There's a bookshop and a café/bar with a harbourside terrace (arnolfini.org.uk).

• Go to visitbristol.co.uk

SS GREAT BRITAIN © MANDY REYNOLDS; AT-BRISTOL SCIENCE CENTRE © VISIT BRITAIN IMAGES



ACROSS THE UK

1 Glasgow

The 2014 *Commonwealth Games* will be the largest multi-sport event ever held in Scotland, featuring 17 sports across 14 venues (**23 Jul-3 Aug**). Cycling and swimming events, as well as the opening ceremony of the games, will take place in the city's East End, while events including squash and bowls will be held in the West End (glasgow2014.com).
 ☉ ➔ London Euston to ➔ Glasgow Central in four hours, 40 mins.



UK ATTRACTIONS

BLenheim PALACE

Famed as the birthplace of Sir Winston Churchill, this masterpiece of English Baroque architecture is set in 2,100 acres of Capability Brown parkland and formal gardens. Opening hours vary, please check website. Palace, park and gardens: Adult £21.50, child £11.80. *Woodstock, Oxfordshire, OX20 1PP*. 0199 381 0530. blenheimpalace.com.
 ☉ ➔ Paddington to ➔ Oxford (50 mins) and then take a bus.

DICKENS WORLD

Enjoy a 90-minute 'Grand Tour' with a costumed guide which brings the Victorian world of British author Charles Dickens' brilliant novels to life. Daily 10am-3.30pm. Admission £7.50 (first tour of the day, £5.50). *Leviathan Way, Chatham Maritime, Kent, ME4 4LL*. 0844 858 6656. dickensworld.co.uk.
 ☉ ➔ Victoria to ➔ Chatham (50 mins).

LEEDS CASTLE

This medieval fortress turned Tudor palace sits on the River Len. The castle has 500 acres of gardens. Daily 10.30am-6pm (last admission to castle 4.30pm). Admission £21, child £13.50. *Maidstone, Kent, ME17 1PL*. 0162 276 5400. leeds-castle.com. ☉ ➔ Victoria to ➔ Bearsted (one hour).

WINDSOR CASTLE

Windsor Castle has the distinction of being the world's oldest, largest inhabited castle, and it is also known as one of the Queen's official residences. Visit the beautifully decorated State Apartments, which are furnished with a selection of paintings that have been specially chosen for display from the Royal Collection. **To 25 Jan 2015: Treasures from the Royal Archives.** Rarely-seen letters, diaries and objects reveal the history of the British monarchy, providing an insight into the lives of monarchs and their families. Daily 9.45am-5.15pm (last entry 4pm). Admission £18.50, child £11. *Windsor, Berkshire, SL4 1NJ*. 020 7766 7300. royalcollection.org.uk.
 ☉ ➔ Waterloo to ➔ Windsor & Eton Riverside (approximately one hour).

2 Farnborough

The *Farnborough Air Show* is one of the biggest events of its kind in the world (**19-20 Jul**). This year, the show marks the centenary of World War One and is celebrating aviation history with a display of aircraft from the world wars (farnborough.com). ☉ ➔ London Waterloo to ➔ Farnborough in 50 mins, then a shuttle bus.



3 Yorkshire

This year the world's most famous cycle race, the *Tour de France*, starts in Yorkshire. The first stage of the Grand Départ 2014 (**5-6 Jul**) is a 190km near-circular route beginning in Leeds and ending in Harrogate. This is followed by a hilly 200km stage from York to Sheffield. There are free spectator hubs along both routes. Stage 3 is in London (p. 84, letour.yorkshire.com).
 ☉ ➔ London King's Cross to ➔ York in two hours.



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