

Published based on [A Brief History of Bristol](#)

A Brief History of Bristol

The ballpark population of Bristol is 433,100 in 2009, and in the greater urban area 1,070,000 in 2007. It is the 8th largest city in the UK and is seen as the informal capital of the West Country of England. It received the Royal Charter in 1155 and county status was given in 1373. Historic Bath, Gloucester and Cardiff are its nearest cities. Bordering Bristol are the counties of Somerset and Gloucestershire. Paleolithic archeological discoveries in the area have proven that there has been a living group of people in the Bristol area from approximately 60,000 years.

The city of Bristol was constructed around the short coastline of the River Severn Estuary and the River Avon. This thus created a substantial boating and shipping heritage. By the thirteenth century, the city was doing commerce in manufacturing and shipbuilding, which spread to Ireland and Iceland by the fifteenth century. Any by the sixteenth century, Bristol was doing commerce with Spain and the Americas.

Bristol Cathedral was once known as the Abbey of St Augustine and dates back to 1140. business in slavery amongst UK and the Americas was established in the seventeenth century. Slave trading was abolished in 1807. The city has a strong link with the Victorian engineer Isambard Kingdom Brunel who designed and constructed the Clifton Suspension Bridge and Bristol Temple Meads Station, in 2002 Brunel was voted as one of the most eminent citizens in Britain's history.

The formation of Bristol University was in 1909 and the city's polytechnic was later to follow in becoming the University of the West of England, in 1992. UoWE is now looked upon as one of the leading learning centres for media studies and design.

In the course of World War II, the centre of Bristol was heavily bombed by the German Luftwaffe in a try to cripple England's shipping routes in the south-west of the country. Bristol city was reconstructed in the 1960s, including tower blocks and road expansion.

Bristol is a culturally vibrant city, with a wide variety of attractions and events. In addition, it is an first-class foundation from which to explore the rest of the West Country.

* At-Bristol journeys through how our surroundings work. Plus explores is a mixture of particular exhibitions - from animation to flight, illusions and sport!

* Bristol Zoo Gardens is the 5th oldest zoo in the world and the oldest external to a conurbation.

* Blue Reef Aquarium - encloses sealife from seahorses and puffer fish to living corals and tropical sharks.

* Brunel's SS Great Britain is the world's original steam-powered, iron hulled, screw propeller-driven passenger liner. The ship was made by Brunel in 1843 and now preserved in a dry-dock alongside the city's floating harbour.

* Clifton Suspension Bridge: perhaps Bristol's most famous landmark, Brunel's 19th century suspension bridge stretches across the outstanding Avon Gorge at a height of 75m.

* Cabot Circus - the city centre of Bristol has over 120 shops, with 15 major flagship stores in the shopping area.

* Bristol Museum and Art Gallery Bristol's chief museum.

* Ferry Boat Company - options are throughout the day, including trip tour, getting from A to B or hopping on or off and to many harbour-side attractions.

* Pirate Walks is a 1 hour guided walking tour of Bristol's historical harbour-side. There are tours on foot of Bristol's Maritime History through the 16th, 17th and 18th centuries.

* Clifton Downs and Observatory is in The Downs, which is a large undeveloped spot inside Bristol, with vistas over the suspension bridge and the Avon Gorge. The top of the Downs is the position of the Observatory. It houses a camera obscura and inside has a cave leading to an observation point though a sheer cliff face.

*Bristol to Bath Railway Cycle Path - runs from Bristol to Bath on a disused railway line.

[B&B Bristol](#). The Langford Inn is an award winning village pub, restaurant and inn, situated in Langford just outside Bristol. The traditional country pub offers excellent quality food and a superb range of local cask ales. [Bed and Breakfast Bristol](#).

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