



# SUMMER *in the city*

Our guide to great things to see  
and do in Bristol this summer





picture: Global Shots



picture: Destination Bristol

Clifton Wood

While many British holidaymakers may be booking beach breaks for their staycations, this summer could be the best time to spend some time in the city and explore some of Bristol's best bits.

### BUCKET LIST BRISTOL

For those seeking to experience something unique, be it adventurous, cultural or something from a bucket list, Bristol has lots on offer. A recent addition to the city's list of adventurous attractions is The Wave, an inland surfing lake in the north of the city with pioneering technology which generates up to 1,000 waves an hour, at heights and speeds suitable for people of all abilities. Visitors can even stay on-site in a safari tent and wake up to the sound of waves lapping at the 'shore'.

If you prefer flat water to waves, try stand-up paddleboarding in Bristol's harbour with SUP Bristol and see the city from a whole new perspective on the water (or in the water, if you fall off). You'll be able to marvel at Brunel's *SS Great Britain* – the world's

first luxury liner and the city's premier attraction – as well as the beautiful, coloured houses of Cliftonwood all the while honing your paddleboarding skills with the expert team guiding your session.

There's the other of Brunel's masterpieces in Bristol, the Clifton Suspension Bridge, which you can stroll across at your own pace (one-way systems are in place to ensure social distancing), or, if you're looking for a thrilling activity, why not abseil down the gorge with Adventurous Activity Centre, or float above the bridge in a hot air balloon ride with Bailey Balloons? It's what the 'reckless engineer' himself might have done, after all. ▶



picture: Destination Bristol

Bristol is known as the home of Banksy

**LEFT:** Ride the waves at this new attraction in Bristol



**THE CREATIVE CITY**

Another new venture to be born in Bristol is online marketplace Yuup, with hundreds of new experiences led by local experts for the inquisitive visitor. From beekeeping to belly dancing, foraging to fox feeding, pottery to printmaking, sheep herding to soap making, weaving to wine tasting and vegan baking to vegetarian banquet making, the diverse range of experiences reflect the creative spirit Bristol is known for and is a must for people wanting to do something truly memorable on their staycation.

*For a really quirky visit, Brooks Guesthouse has silver rocket vans on its rooftop'*

Indeed, creativity is plastered across the city. Bristol is world-renowned as the birthplace of elusive street artist Banksy and home to the world's largest free street art festival, Upfest (August 28 and 29). There are many ways to experience street art legacy in the city year-round, from walking tours via your phone, to guided



Visit the animals at Bristol Zoo Gardens

picture: A Pattenden

group tours and new street art safaris (also available on your phone) from award-winning tour company, Where the Wall.

There's more contemporary art to see at Arnolifini, Spike Island and Bristol Museum and Art Gallery as well as a temporary display of the Colston statue at M Shed museum (on until September 5) marking a year since the statue was toppled during the Black Lives Matter protest in the city.

**FOOD AND FUN**

Close to M Shed is Wapping

Wharf, a collection of converted shipping containers with restaurants, bars and shops all overlooking the buzzing harbourside. Choose from bao buns at Woky Ko (an Asian eatery from Masterchef finalist Larkin Cen), bold flavours from Mexican restaurant Cargo Cantina, sophisticated vegetarian dishes at Root, or sample the superb menu at Box E (awarded a Michelin Plate). Just some of the reasons why Bristol was crowned the world's best food destination in 2019 at the Food Trekking Awards.

**EVENTS GALORE**

This summer sees many of the city's best events returning (many with limited capacity so do book ahead) including Bristol Film and Food fest, Bristol Craft Beer Festival and nearby Valley Fest. Although the Bristol International Balloon Fiesta will not be at Ashton Court Estate this year, a 'Fiesta Fortnight' is planned with flypasts and ballooning spectacles this August.

The city has many attractions open all season including Bristol Zoo Gardens and its sister attraction Wild Place (just north of the city), Bristol Aquarium, We the Curious science museum with its current exhibition, Project What If, Tyntesfield, or Aerospace



An aerial shot of the city

picture: Destination Bristol

picture: Gary Newman

**ABOVE:** Look out for balloons over Bristol in August

**RIGHT:** Spend some time around the docks and check out the many attractions around that area





Bristol where you can step aboard the last Concorde to fly.

But do leave time (and budget) to shop in one of the city's many shopping districts from boutiques in Clifton, independent stores in Park Street, big brands in Cabot Circus and Bristol Shopping Quarter and vintage shops in Gloucester Road, Europe's longest independent high street.

#### WHERE TO STAY

Bristol has a vast choice of accommodation. Avon Gorge Hotel by Hotel du Vin has spectacular views of Clifton Suspension Bridge and has

had a multi-million-pound refurbishment to transform it into a boutique and stylish hotel.

For an indulgent spa stay, try Bristol Harbour Hotel with its luxurious subterranean spa, or to stay by the water, The Bristol overlooks the harbourside. For views of Bristol Cathedral try Bristol Marriott Royal Hotel.

For a really quirky visit though, Brooks Guesthouse has silver rocket vans on its rooftop, right by St Nicholas Market, and is a great affordable option.◆

*For more information on how to make the most of your stay in Bristol, go to [visitbristol.co.uk](http://visitbristol.co.uk)*



Picture: Jim Casey