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# INTRODUCTION TO BRISTOL & BATH



By:  
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Located in the Southwest of England, Bristol and Bath are linked by the River Avon and are only an 11-minute train journey apart. The two cities lie in one of the most beautiful parts of the country, an area rich in history and culture, fast becoming a hub for growing businesses and innovation. Both cities have their own distinctive feel yet perfectly complement each other and with Bristol Airport close by and faster train links to London, the region is now a major gateway, with easy access from the rest of the UK and the world.

Home to Banksy's world-class street art and with the accolades of 'World's best culinary destination' and UNESCO City of Film, Bristol is renowned for its vibrant arts and culture scene. The city buzzes all year round from an outstanding range of independent restaurants, bars, pubs and cafés and an annual programme of events in an eclectic mix of venues and outdoor spaces, including Upfest - Europe's largest street art festival and the spectacular Bristol International Balloon Fiesta. With iconic sights including Brunel's Clifton Suspension Bridge and the historic SS Great Britain on the harbourside, Bristol's reputation for pioneering engineering and innovation is as relevant today as it has always been. Bristol is the only UK city to be named European Green Capital (2015) and was the UK's first cycling city. As one of the UK's leading cities for sustainable development it is home to leading environmental and ethical organisations such as the Soil Association, Triodos Bank and Sustrans.







Blending historic charm with cutting-edge technology, Bath is a business-ready city with a truly stunning backdrop. Built for pleasure and relaxation, beautiful Bath has been a wellbeing destination since Roman times. Strolling through the streets you will be surrounded by stunning honey-coloured stone and Georgian architecture – highlights include the iconic Royal Crescent and the majestic Circus. The waters are still a big draw, both at the ancient Roman Baths and the thoroughly modern Thermae Bath Spa, which houses the only natural thermal hot springs in Britain you can bathe in. As the only city in the UK designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site, Bath has many green spaces and parks to enjoy. The city also has a reputation for elite sports, with Bath University Sports Training Village hosting international teams in preparation for events in the UK.

The two cities are surrounded by the stunning countryside of the Mendips and Cotswolds, and the north Somerset coastline. The coastal towns of Weston-super-Mare and Clevedon, together with the historic market towns offer unique experiences, while being close to significant transport networks, providing easy access to the UK and beyond.



# SECTOR STRENGTHS

The Bristol and Bath area has one of the strongest economies in Europe and is home to globally recognised industry clusters. The region's key economic strengths are in Aerospace & Advanced Engineering, Clean Tech & Energy, Creative & Media, Digital & Tech, Financial & Professional Services, FinTech, Food & Drink Innovation and Life Sciences. These are supported by major global players, creative start-ups and four leading Universities.

## INDULGENT EXPERIENCES

- Take a champagne balloon flight across the city or countryside with one of the region's hot air balloon companies.
- Dine under the wings of the last Concorde to fly at Aerospace Bristol
- Enjoy a twilight tour and drinks reception next to The Roman Baths in the double UNESCO World Heritage City of Bath.
- Indulge in exclusive hire of award-winning hotels such as The Royal Crescent Hotel & Spa in Bath, Hotel du Vin & Bistro in Bristol or Thornbury Castle, once owned by Henry VIII.
- Enjoy horse riding, falconry or a twilight spa session at Lucknam Park, set in 500 acres of beautiful parkland.
- Relax and unwind in the naturally hot thermal water at Thermae Bath Spa, with the opportunity to hire the venue privately including the intimate Cross Bath.







## OUTSTANDING SPORTS

- Gate Stadium has both group dining and corporate boxes available for rugby and football. Watch horse racing at Bath Racecourse.
- Discover Bath's adventurous side with Original Wild or WildSwimBikeRun for group led cycling or water-based activities or paddle board or swim in Bristol's historic harbour.
- Take exclusive hire of The Wave and surf the inland 180 metre lagoon. Make a night of it and stay overnight at The Camp at The Wave.







# TEAM BUILDING INSPIRATION

- Watch, learn and try your hand at glass blowing with Bristol Blue Glass or Bath Aqua Glass.
- Take a street art tour with Where the Wall or create a graffiti masterpiece which Graft in the birthplace of Banksy.
- Wander through the pages of one of Austen's classic novels as you explore architectural masterpieces like the Royal Crescent and the Circus finishing with a visit to the Jane Austen Centre. Learn tricks of the animation trade with the world-renowned Aardman Animations.
- Visit Wake The Tiger. the world's first Amazement Park blurring the lines between an experiential art gallery, interactive theme park and detailed film set.
- Take behind the scenes and curated tours and workshops with the like of Bristol Old Vic, Bristol Hippodrome. The Holburne Museum and Royal West of England Academy (RWA).





# ACTIVE & OUTDOORS

- Climbing the rigging at Brunel's SS Great Britain
- Caving at Wookey Hole Caves,
- Surf The Wave, the inland 180 metre lagoon with surf breaks for all abilities.
- Horse ride in the stunning grounds of Lucknam Park at their Equestrian Centre.
- Take to the slopes with a ski, snowboarding or tobogganing experience at Mendip Activity Centre.







# BRISTOL INCREASES CONFERENCE AND EVENT CAPACITY WITH MAJOR VENUE EXPANSIONS AND DEVELOPMENTS

The Bristol area is set to significantly increase its capacity for large scale conferences, exhibitions and events following the announcement of three major developments in the city, with phased competitions between 2023 and 2026. Meet Bristol and Bath, the official Convention Bureau for Bristol, Bath and the surrounding region, anticipates that these increased capacities will put Bristol alongside destinations such as, Glasgow and Manchester for delegate capacity.

- In North Bristol, the YTL Arena Bristol will be the largest indoor arena and exhibition centre in the South. With a total 19000 capacity, the East Hangar will offer 6000sqm of pillar free floorspace and a 20m ceiling height, perfect for exhibitions and conferences. This is set to open in late 2025 / early 2026.
- Bristol Beacon will reopen on 30th November 2023 following a five-year transformation project. The refurbished music venue in the centre of Bristol has seen improvements to its spaces, with the 2000-plus capacity Beacon Hall, the 500 capacity Lantern Hall and the new 200 capacity Weston Cellar.
- The new Ashton Gate Sports and Convention Centre will sit alongside the current stadium with 4000m2 floorspace and a 232-room hotel, with work expected to start later this summer. The development will bring the Bristol Flyers Basketball team to the heart of BS3, alongside Bristol City and Bristol Bears, and will enable Ashton Gate to build on its success as a sports, entertainment and business events venue.







## DISCOUNTED DELEGATE RAIL FARES WITH GREAT WESTERN RAILWAY

Meet Bristol & Bath are pleased to offer reduced rail fares for conference delegates travelling at any time to Bristol and Bath's mainline stations (Bristol Temple Meads, Bristol Parkway and Bath Spa) from eligible Great Western Railway stations including London Paddington. Standard return travel between London Paddington and Bristol Temple Meads (central Bristol) and Bristol Parkway (North Bristol) is available at the reduced rate of £44.00 on any service, including peak trains and £41.00 to Bath Spa (central Bath).





# A SELECTION OF VENUES TO CONSIDER

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## APEX CITY OF BATH HOTEL

Boasting Bath's largest conference and events spaces for up to 400 delegates, Apex City of Bath Hotel offers a slice of luxury, just steps from the famous Thermae Spa and Roman Baths. The hotel offers the possibility of exclusive use of all 177 bedrooms, including 64 twin rooms featuring two king-size beds and has a dedicated coach drop off location available on-site.

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Sarah Jones, - [sarah.jones@suttonhotelcollection.com](mailto:sarah.jones@suttonhotelcollection.com)







## 2 THE ROMAN BATHS & PUMP ROOM

Inspiring and unique venues in the heart of a World Heritage Site. The collection includes Roman Baths & Pump Rooms, Victoria Art Gallery and Guildhall.

Tom Deller, Venue Hire Manager - [Tom\\_Deller@BATHNES.GOV.UK](mailto:Tom_Deller@BATHNES.GOV.UK)

## 3 HARBOUR HOTEL BRISTOL

Located in the heart of Bristol city centre, the Harbour Hotel Bristol is a luxury boutique hotel offering 42 contemporary bedrooms, 3 meeting spaces including the stunning Sansovino Hall and Bristol's only underground spa. The hotel has three exceptional meeting and event spaces, atmospherically set within different operational rooms of the old bank. The Sansovino Hall, one of Bristol's most impressive event rooms, is a spectacular setting for large events up to 350 people such as award dinners and is the perfect blank canvas for any events looking for that wow factor. Perfect for private hire, the hotel also boasts the Gold Bar which is a small speak easy styled bar, surrounded by a number of small lounges and the blue room a private dining room.

Kerry Watson, Sales Manager - [kerry.watson@harbourhotels.co.uk](mailto:kerry.watson@harbourhotels.co.uk)





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## MERCURE BRISTOL GRAND HOTEL

The four-star Mercure Bristol Grand on Broad Street, is a historic Grade II listed building boasting event space for up to 500 people and 182 bedroom drawing inspiration from the city's independent art scene. Mercure has worked with local gallery and street art festival Upfest to create the art and the new Bristol Grand Hotel features over 500 pieces by local artists, including bespoke commissioned installations by Gemma Compton and Cai Burton.

Karen Fry, Director of Sales - [karen.fry@accor.com](mailto:karen.fry@accor.com)

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## THE FRANCIS HOTEL

Show casing 98 impeccably curated rooms and 2 event spaces, inside an eye-catching Georgian building the hotel invites you to experience bygone grandeur made modern! Here you will enjoy dinner in Boho Marché, where Marrakech meeting the Mediterranean.







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## HOTEL DU VIN BRISTOL CITY CENTRE

Full of eye-catching detail, the Sugar House is a lovingly restored collection of Grade II listed former sugar warehouses, beautifully transformed into one of the finest boutique hotels in Bristol. From high ceilings and exposed brickwork that celebrates the city's industrial past, to the boutique chic of its décor, Hotel du Vin Bristol has its own sweet story to tell and looks the part.

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## THE AVON GORGE BY HOTEL DU VIN

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## AEROSPACE BRISTOL

The venue can host a variety of different events, from small meetings, large conferences, drinks receptions and evening banquets. Aerospace Bristol also offers smaller meeting rooms, which are named after key Concorde destinations plus there is also a 146-seat lecture theatre. With the Concorde hangar being over 2,000 sq metres, it is a perfect venue to fit over 500 guests in a banquet layout or over 1,000 guests for an exhibition.

Leanne Kesterton, Sales Manager - [leanne.kesterton@aerospacebristol.org](mailto:leanne.kesterton@aerospacebristol.org)







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## ASHTON GATE STADIUM

The Ashton Gate Stadium, Conference Centre provides state-of-the-art equipment and meeting spaces for both corporate and private hire. The Conference Centre can hold up to 1,000 people theatre-style or 850 for a dinner. There are plans to build a new Ashton Gate Sports and Convention Centre alongside the current stadium with 4000m<sup>2</sup> floorspace and a 232-room hotel, with work expected to start later this summer. The development will bring the Bristol Flyers Basketball team to the heart of BS3, alongside Bristol City and Bristol Bears, and will enable Ashton Gate to build on its success as a sports, entertainment and business events venue.

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Wiper and True are an independent craft brewery based in Bristol. The small team's focus is on creating beautiful beer in the most sustainable way possible. With two brewery & taproom venues within easy walking distance from the city centre, each focussing on inclusivity and quality, locally made food and drink, these unique sites are a must-visit on any trip to the South West. In 2022, Wiper and True expanded into a Sitting at the top of the Avon Gorge, this hotel has one of the best settings in the UK. With Clifton Village behind it, and the city centre (and the central business district) only minutes away the hotel is located perfectly to explore the wonderful city of Bristol. From the hotel, spectacular views of the Gorge, Brunel's Clifton Suspension Bridge and the city are there to be seen.

Aerospace Bristol offers the exclusive opportunity to stage your event under the last Concorde to fly or in one of the museum's purpose-built meeting rooms.

Whilst on-site, all delegates will also have complimentary access to go on board Concorde and visit the rest of the museum, which tells the story of more than a century of Bristol's aerospace history. Huge, bespoke new brewery and 500-person capacity taproom providing guided beer tastings and group brewery tours.

Alice Howells, Head of Marketing - [alice@wiperandtrue.com](mailto:alice@wiperandtrue.com)







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## 6 O'CLOCK GIN

Whether you're searching for ideas to entertain valuable clients, rewarding high-performing staff or celebrating a special occasion, 6 O'Clock we have some 'Ginspiration' for you. Group Distillery Tours & Cocktail Masterclass provide a full guided tour of the distillery, followed by a fun and interactive cocktails masterclass, cocktails and light bites. Alternatively create a bespoke experience by combining a distillery tour with any of our masterclasses - Gin, Sloe Gin, Cocktail or Blend Your Own Gin - or have our masterclasses come to you! We can host an event at your business premises or make arrangements with one of our local partners, and assist with transport, catering and gifts.

For more information please call us on 01454 418 046 or email [sales@6oclockgin.com](mailto:sales@6oclockgin.com)





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## THE GRAND PIER

The Grand Pier at Weston super Mare, boasts 14 thrilling rides and attractions including a giant Helter Skelter, a state-of-the-art Go Kart track and 500 arcade games. It also provides versatile spaces for private and corporate events with six unique and diverse rooms catering for intimate gatherings to large-scale celebrations accommodating up to 2,000 attendees.

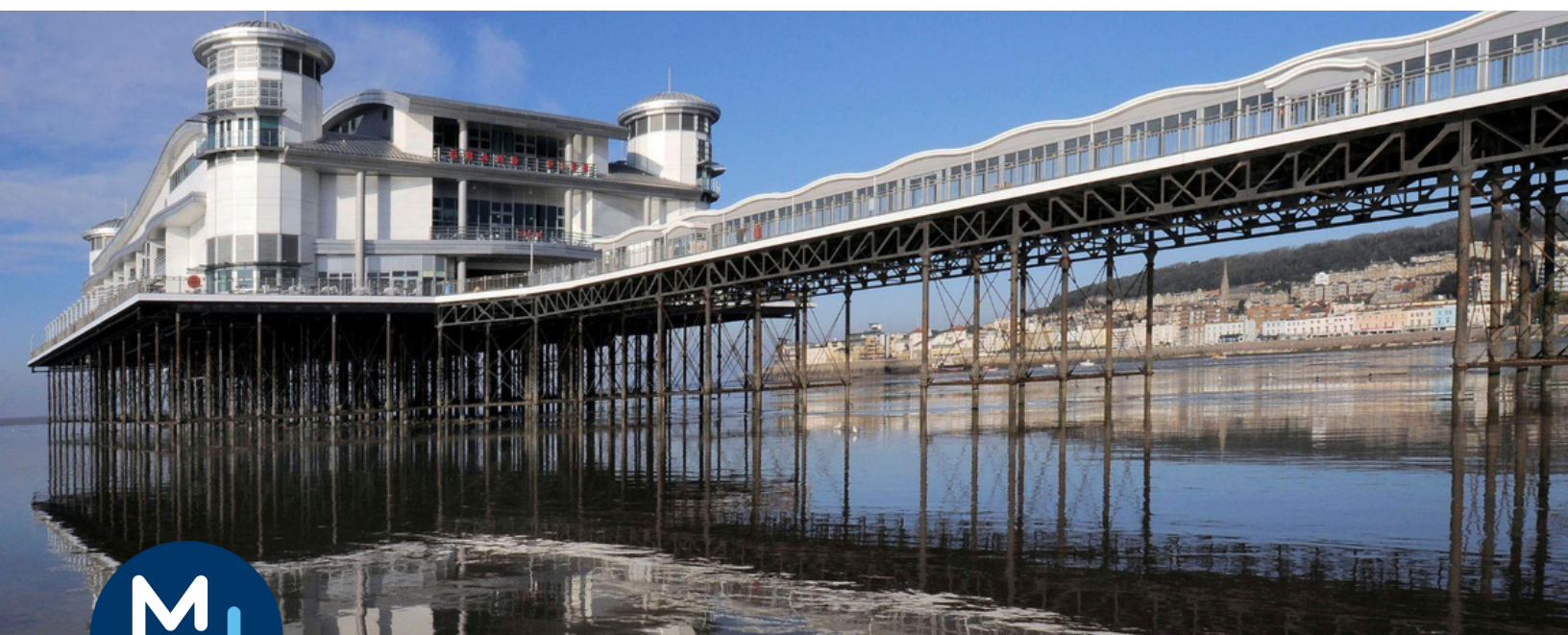
[info@grandpier.co.uk](mailto:info@grandpier.co.uk)

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## HARVEY NICHOLS

The corporate team at Harvey Nichols provide a concierge service to our business customers. Whether you wish to host a memorable event for clients or staff, or your preference is for gifting we can help with the everything from the most intricate orders to large scale functions. The iconic stores of Harvey Nichols are all available for private hire, whether it be for an event live on the shop floor, or takeover of one of our exclusive restaurants, bars or private dining rooms.

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# OTHER CONTACTS

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