



Best Bath attractions

Bath, 1 Day

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Guide Description



AUTHOR NOTE: Bath is famous for its Georgian architecture, and you can get so much from just wandering around the city's wide and elegant streets. Walk around The Circus and along The Royal Crescent and other lesser-known crescents such as Lansdown and Camden Crescent. Also be sure to wander across the stunning Pulteney Bridge, one of only four bridges in the world to have shops on either side of the road that crosses it. Break your walking up with a session taking in the waters of Bath at the decadent Thermae Bath Spa, and be sure to find out how Bath's first bathers liked to bathe at The Roman Baths.

Itinerary Overview

things to do
restaurants
hotels
nightlife

Day 1 - Bath



The Royal Crescent

The world's most famous Georgian address



The Circus

There's beauty all around the Circus



Thermae Bath Spa

Traditional meets modern in this world famous spa



Roman Baths

Splash about Roman style



Pulteney Bridge

A picture perfect bridge

contact:
tel: +44 1225 82 3333
<http://www.royalcriscentbath.com/>

location:
Crescent Lane
Bath BA1 2LS

1 The Royal Crescent

OUR LOCAL EXPERT SAYS:

Another must see when visiting Bath. No. 1 is open for touring.

DESCRIPTION: The Royal Crescent is the highlight of Bath's Georgian architecture. It rises above the city majestically, offering great views over the city that it dominates. The crescent was designed by John Wood the Younger, between the years of 1767 and 1775 and has remained unchanged ever since. Visitors who wish to discover what lies behind the crescent's 30 front doors can either check themselves into Von Essen's Royal Crescent hotel, or step inside No 1 Royal Crescent. While a stay at the former will cost you a pretty penny, a visit to No 1 Royal Crescent will cost no more than £12 per family. No 1 allows visitors to step beyond the Palladian façade to discover how the rich of the 18th century lived. If you are after opulence and money isn't an issue though, staying in The Royal Crescent Hotel will be the experience of a lifetime. One of the best things about the Royal Crescent is that you can enjoy it for free. It's easily accessible from Bath city centre, Royal Victoria Park and The Circus, so you can visit at several different times should you wish to. Head there first thing in the morning and you'll have it to yourself. At sunset however, you'll witness the honey-coloured Bath stone aglow as the disappearing sun sets this amazing site alight. © NileGuide



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contact:
tel: +44 870 444 64421

location:
North of Queen Square
Bath BA1 1EE

2 The Circus

DESCRIPTION: The Circus is a circular street that attracts hundreds of visitors daily. It is even home to a Hollywood star. John Wood the Elder designed The Circus but unfortunately passed away just three months after the first stone was laid. The work was completed by his son John Wood the Younger, who also built The Royal Crescent round the corner. There are three entrances to The Circus, and it is designed so that wherever you enter, one of the three elegant facades will be opposite you. The Roman Coliseum was Wood's inspiration, but he made The Circus his own by including symbols from the arts, sciences and even the Masons, being a member himself. In actual fact when viewed from the air the Circus, along with Gay Street and Queen's Square, all form a massive key shape, another Masonic symbol. If you're in Bath in December head to the Circus to sing carols by candlelight with the Salvation Army band. This is one of the most traditional carol services going and is a favourite with Bath residents. Otherwise head to the Circus first thing in the morning to beat the crowds. © NileGuide



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contact:

tel: +44 1225 33 1234
http://www.thermaebathspa.com/

location:

Hot Bath Street
Bath BA1 1SJ

3 Thermae Bath Spa

OUR LOCAL EXPERT SAYS:

Stop for coffee in the Springs Café and Restaurant and your allowed time will be extended. Your RDF wristband will "know" you've been there and so will allow you more time in which to enjoy the spa and to change. Avoid the spa on a Saturday if at all possible as it fills up with hen parties and day-trippers. If you have to visit on a Saturday make sure you get there early. The queues can be far from relaxing.

DESCRIPTION: Every Bath resident has an opinion about the Thermae Bath Spa, which eventually opened in 2006, four years later than planned. Most have nothing but praise for the sophisticated complex, although some complain that it is too modern for Bath. In fact the modernisation of the hot baths has been completed very successfully to a high standard and is enjoyed by residents and visitors alike. The Thermae Bath Spa caters to all needs and budgets. Those who are watching the pennies can pay £22 to enjoy an ample two-hour spa session that gives access to the famous roof-top pool, steam pods and foot spas, and the spacious Minerva bath. Those who want to splash the cash however can have an all-day spa session including meals, and can enjoy treatments from an extremely varied selection on offer. They range from the more traditional full body massage to the more unusual Chocolate Indulgence and foot massage. No matter how much time and money you choose to spend at the spa you will leave it feeling relaxed and rejuvenated. © NileGuide



Photo courtesy of rbrwr

contact:

tel: +44 (0)1225 47 7785
fax: +44 (0)1225 47 7743
http://www.romanbaths.co.uk

location:

Stall Street
Bath BA1 1LZ

4 Roman Baths

OUR LOCAL EXPERT SAYS:

If you're planning to visit the Roman Baths in July and August get there early. As Britain's school holidays fall in these months, the baths get extremely busy then.

DESCRIPTION: The Roman Baths pay homage to Bath's origins, so it's unsurprising that over a million visitors head here every year. Bath is home to three thermal springs of 46°C, that have been enjoyed by many cultures. Before the Romans built their impressive Baths, the Celts had a shrine on the site of the baths, and they continue to be enjoyed today at the Thermae Bath Spa. On arriving at the baths you'll be presented with an audio guide narrated by travel writer Bill Bryson (read his Notes of a Small Country for a satirical view of Britain). Follow Bryson's descriptions through one of the world's best-preserved Roman spas. Sights within the complex include the King's Bath, into which 1.5 million litres of hot water still flow daily, and you'll



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also see the mechanics behind the baths. The Great Bath is the one that is most likely to captivate you though. With its striking archways and the unusually green water, it transports you back in time so magically, that it's almost possible to forget you are in the 21st century. © NileGuide

contact:

tel: +44 870 444 6442 (Tourist Information)

location:

Pulteney Bridge
Bath North East Somerset
BA1 1EE

5 Pulteney Bridge

OUR LOCAL EXPERT SAYS:

Stand on the bridge on North Parade Road early in the morning to see Pulteney Bridge set against the background of regal north Bath.

DESCRIPTION: Pulteney Bridge is one of only four bridges in the world to have shops spanning both sides. This, combined with its graceful position over the river Avon, earns it the status of being one of the most elegant sites in England. It was designed by Robert Adam in the 18th century, and was based upon the Ponte Vecchio in Florence and the Rialto Bridge in Venice. The bridge can of course be enjoyed without spending a penny. Sit on a bench alongside the river, or hire a deck chair in the Parade Gardens and just sit and enjoy the view, not only of the bridge, but of Bath Abbey as well. On the bridge itself you can sample delicious baguettes and cakes in XXXXX, find the perfect engagement ring, treat your loved one to a beautiful bunch of flowers or buy a Bath rugby shirt. Either purchase would no doubt be remembered long after you leave Bath. As will the stunning view of Pulteney Bridge. © NileGuide



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Bath Snapshot

Local Info

Soon after you arrive in Bath, you will discover that it is a unique British city. Named after the hot springs that pour into its heart, Bath is a landscape of honey-coloured Georgian crescents. Royal Crescent is the finest example, but there are many more elegant streets lined with tall Georgian buildings for you to meander through.

Bath city centre is not just beautiful, but it is also extremely compact too. This makes it easy for pedestrians to navigate. In the city centre you will find The Jane Austen Centre, Bath Abbey, the beautiful Pulteney Bridge and the luxurious Thermae Bath Spa.

It was the Romans that put this Somerset city on the map, so find out exactly what they did for it at the fascinating Roman Baths. Follow your tour of the baths with afternoon tea at The Pump Room and you will be experiencing Bath exactly as the elite have done throughout the years.

The city of Bath is at the bottom of a hill-lined "bowl", and around the edges of that bowl you will discover rolling British countryside, beckoning you to lace up your walking boots and get exploring. Even within the city you can spend hours roaming through green areas in its cleverly laid out parks, such as Prior Park and Royal Victoria Park.

© NileGuide

History

History is the very foundation of Bath. You can see it in the Georgian buildings, in the Italian-style Pulteney Bridge, and of course in the elegant Roman Baths. Here are the key events in Bath's history:

• 836 BC

King Bladud and his herd of pigs discovers the healing properties of Bath's hot spring, after it cures him of a skin disease that had seen him ostracized.

• 44AD

The Romans come to Britain while they're building their empire, and found Bath, then called Aquae Sulis. They built the extensive Roman Baths, which you can still explore today.

• 944 AD

The Saxons built a monastery in the spot where the beautiful Bath Abbey now stands.

• Georgian era (1714 to 1830 AD)

Bath's heyday saw anybody who was anybody coming to Bath to take the waters. It was at this time that the elegant addresses (such as The Royal Crescent and Circus) that Bath is famous for were built. It was during this time that Jane Austen (writer of *Sense & Sensibility*, *Emma* and *Pride & Prejudice*) made her home in Bath.

• Victorian era (1837 to 1901 AD)

An 11-year-old Princess Victoria, who later became Queen Victoria, opened the beautiful Royal Victoria Park. This was one of the only times that she visited Bath, because after a Bath resident commented that she had chubby ankles she vowed to never visit the city again.

© NileGuide

Hotel Insights

On first impressions Bath comes across as an expensive destination. Although it's true that there are many cheaper places to visit in the world, it is certainly not prohibitively costly. There are several decent options for the budget traveller, besides many luxury Bath hotels for those with more cash to play with.

One option for those watching the cash is the central YMCA. Although its décor is a little on the bland side, it is excellently located in the north-eastern area of the city centre, and so within five to ten minutes walk of all the major sites. For a more interesting option, climb up Bathwick Hill (or get the number 18 bus) to Bath YHA Hostel. It's period exterior gives way to modern rooms, many of which boast views over the gardens.

If you're willing to spend a little more, look to the suburbs of Newbridge, a flat 20-walk from the city centre, or Oldfield Park, to the southwest of the city centre and slightly elevated. Here you will find numerous bed and breakfast options, such as Oldfields and Dorian House.

If you want the time of your life in Bath, splash the cash and book yourselves into one of the many luxurious hotels available. For the ultimate Bath experience step into

the polished lobby of The Royal Crescent Hotel, or shy away from the tourists in the central Queensberry Hotel, or the Bath Priory, near the west boundary of Royal Victoria Park.

Those who prefer to hotels in sweeping English countryside should opt for the grand Lucknam Park, indulgent Babington House (complete with Cowshed Spa), or child-friendly Woolley Grange. All are fabulous options within easy reach of Bath, and the finishing touch to a special break you will never forget.

© NileGuide

Restaurants Insights

There are many restaurants in Bath to choose from, and most of them are within walking distance of Bath city centre. Here is just a selection, organized by cuisine:

British

The Circus – fabulous food between The Circus and Royal Crescent in the heart of Georgian Bath

The White Hart – tuck into a Sunday roast here and you will leave so full that you won't need to eat for days

Sally Lunns – step back in time in the oldest restaurant in Bath and don't even think about not having a Bath bun

Indian

The Eastern Eye – step inside one of Britain's finest Indian restaurants to enjoy both classic Indian dishes and something a little different, while admiring the stunning decadence of the interior

Italian

Jamie's Italian – laid back but delicious pasta created by Britain's favourite celebrity chef

Martini's – atmospheric family-run Italian that will lure you in with garlicky smells

Pizza Express – fresh and delicious pizza and salads

Japanese

Yen Sushi – this popular sushi restaurant is small but perfectly formed, and has quickly become a firm favourite to Bath residents and visitors alike

Other

Bath Snapshot continued

Demuths – although this is a vegetarian restaurant the food is so delicious that carnivores won't even miss the meat from their plate

Hudsons – any red-blooded carnivore should not miss this delicious steak restaurant on the edge of Bath's artisan quarter, Walcot Street

Firehouse Rotisserie – this warm and hearty central restaurant serves innovative Californian fare presented with flare

©

Nightlife Insights

Bath is not a city to come to if you are looking for wild nights of debauchery, and it's so much better for it. There are plenty of places to enjoy a drink in Bath, several low-key entertainment options and a couple of clubs should you feel the need to strut your stuff however.

For an evening drink or two head to:

- The Hop Pole – Bath Ale opposite Royal Victoria Park
- Marlborough Tavern – wine in style round the corner from The Royal Crescent
- The Raven – pair your pint with a pie
- Sub 13 – for a swanky option head underground to sample the finest cocktails in Bath

For a fun night out:

- Komedia – laugh until your belly aches at Bath's comedy club
- Little Theatre – if you fancy a film opt for the Little Theatre over Odeon and settle down in a cosy seat with treats that didn't cost you the GDP of a small country
- Moles – the coolest bands in Bath play at Moles so it's the place for music fans to head to
- Theatre Royal – catch a show on its way to or from the West End, in one of the country's most beautiful theatres

© NileGuide

Things to Do Insights

No visitor to Bath can fail to notice the variety of tour buses circling the city, pointing out the main sights to the crowds. These run regularly from Orange Grove and the bus station and, for those with mobility problems, are a sensible and

affordable way to learn more about the history of the city. But Bath was made for walking, and if you take the time to explore on foot, you will more easily appreciate the riches that the city has to offer. There are numerous walking tours available, from the sublime 'Mayors Guides Walk' that leaves the Abbey twice daily and is free, to the ridiculous 'Bizarre Bath' that will leave you in stitches. If you prefer to enjoy a pint in the city's finest pubs, check out The Great Bath Pub Crawl. If you prefer to explore alone, then the tourist information office has leaflets with well defined routes that will take you past the main attractions and beyond.

Bath Abbey

Stroll along the canal for the short walk into the city centre and visit the beautiful gothic Abbey and courtyard before nipping around the corner for a 'Sally Lunn' bun and popping beneath the tearooms for a look around the Sally Lunn Museum and the medieval remains: £1.80. Back into the courtyard for a seat in the square and a chance to listen to classical musicians playing. Drop a few coins into the hat, and then book tickets for tonight's performance at the Theatre Royal. Make your way to the graceful Royal Crescent Restaurant for lunch. You've pre-booked the 'FT' lunch at £10 per person, and treat yourselves to a bottle of house wine at £9.

Royal Victoria Park

After a leisurely lunch, you leave the hotel, strolling back into the city through Royal Victoria Park. Just enough time for a quick visit to the Guildhall Market and a spot of bargain hunting. Then wander across Pulteney Bridge and into Beazers Garden for a cup of tea and splendid views of the weir: £5. What could be more romantic than a French restaurant? Candles adorn the tables at Tilleys and the food is beautiful. Rather than offering the traditional starter, mains, dessert option, Tilleys offers starters only! So those with a bigger appetite can order as many or as few as is required: £25.

Museum of East Asian Art

No self-respecting parent should be allowed to leave the city until their children have had the chance to experience the adventure playground at Victoria Park. This playground is the largest in the South West and is designed for children aged two to

twenty. Young ones love the crane, sand pits and train station. Older ones play on the ropes, tubes and slides. Teenagers bring bikes, skateboards and rollerblades and spend hours perfecting jumps on the half-pipes and ramps in the specially designed area. If rain stops play, then follow the Upper Bristol Road back into the heart of the city and stop at the Museum of East Asian Art. It's very child-friendly too, and often run competitions during the summer holidays and weekends that keep the little ones motivated and interested. Open-top tour buses will allow you to see most of the sights and children enjoy the ride too. Older ones who are not too exhausted at the end of the day will love Bizarre Bath, a comedy walk that leaves the centrally located Huntsman pub at 8p. Finally, don't forget to take a few minutes in the centre to watch the buskers, many of which have performed on television. The standard is high, and the price, a few coins.

High Street

Shopping in Bath is a real pleasure. The city has all the major High Street fashion stores, from French Connection and Karen Millen to Dorothy Perkins and Topshop. It also has a wealth of independent clothing retailers and second hand shops that offer the best in service and style. Serious shoppers should start from the top of Milsom Street and work their way down to Southgate. Without stopping at any shops, this route will take about four minutes. If you stop, then expect it to take four hours! The real joy here is that as you work your way down, the shops get progressively cheaper, almost by design. All your favorite High Street names run along this route, as well as a few independent shops. If you are looking for something a little more out of the ordinary, then avoid the pedestrianised area, and take a left towards the Podium, then left again into Walcot Street. This bohemian centre has everything you require for your new look. Check out Jack'n' Danny's, a retro-fashion store where a fashion designer will create a pair of jeans to your own design for the ultimate in individuality.

Jane Austen Center

Take a tour of the city that Jane Austen called her home. This Jane Austen Tour takes you off the beaten path and strolls you around the sites in Bath that Austen

Bath Snapshot continued

wrote about and encountered on a daily basis throughout her life.

Be sure to check out one of the various walking tours, as the guides can fill in the blanks to your questions about the ins and outs of Bath. If there is time, you may want to venture out-of-town, where the tours will leave you wishing you could extend your stay in Bath.

Walking Tours

Ghost Walks of Bath(+44 0 1225 350512/ <http://visitbath.co.uk/site/tours/guided-walking-tours/ghost-walks-of-bath-p42931>) Bath Parade Guides(+44 0 1225 337111/ <http://visitbath.co.uk/site/tours/bath-parade-guides-p47221>) Sulis Guides(+44 0 1225 852722/<http://visitbath.co.uk/site/tours/sulis-guides-p43041>)

Bus Tours

City Sightseeing Tour(+44 0 1225 330444/ <http://visitbath.co.uk/site/tours/tours-round-up/city-sightseeing-tour-p47251>)

Boat Tours

Bath Narrowboats(+44 0 1225 447276/ <http://visitbath.co.uk/site/tours/bath-narrowboats-p46361>) Bath City Boat Trips(+44 0 7974 560197/<http://www.bathcityboattrips.com/>)

Mobility Aid Tours

Ceredigion Shopmobility(+44 0 1970 630060/<http://www.ceredigionshopmobility.org.uk/>)

Outside the City

Mad Max Tours(+44 0 7990 505970/<http://www.madmax.abel.co.uk/>)
©

Travel Tips

Getting There

By Air

Bristol International Airport(+44 0870 1212747/ <http://www.bristolairport.co.uk/>) serves Bath and is located 15 min from the city center. Major Airlines Include:

Aer Arann(+44 0800 5872324/ <http://www.aerarann.com/>) Aer Lingus(+44 0845 084444/ <http://www.aerlingus.com/>) Air Southwest(+44 0870 2418202/ <http://www.airswsouthwest.com/>) Aurigny(+44 0871 8710717/ <http://www.aurigny.com/>) British Airways(+44 0870 8509850/

<http://www.britishairways.com/>) Continental Airlines(+44 0845 6076760/ <http://www.continental.com/>) Eastern Airways(+44 01652 680600/ <http://www.easternairways.com/>) Easyjet(+44 0870 6000000/ <http://www.easyjet.com/>) Flybe(+44 0871 7000123/ <http://www.flybe.com/>) KLM(+44 0870 5074074/ <http://www.klm.com/>) Ryan Air(+44 0871 2460000/ <http://www.ryanair.com/>) Skybus(+44 0845 7105555/ <http://www.skybus.co.uk/>) Brussels Airlines(+0902 51 600/ <http://www.brusselsairlines.com/com/home/>) Private Air Charter(+44 08451 206247/ <http://www.centrelair.co.uk/>)

If you prefer to travel through London, there are 2 airports serving the city.

Heathrow International Airport(LHR)(+44(0) 870 000 0123/ <http://www.baa.co.uk/main/airports/heathrow/>) is considered the hub of the aviation world and is the base for over 90 airlines. Gatwick International Airport(BAA)(+44(0) 870 000 2468/ <http://www.baa.co.uk/main/airports/gatwick/>) is the closest to Brighton. Major airlines include: American Airlines(+1 817 967 2000/ <http://www.aa.com/>) Air Canada(+1 800 776 3000/ <http://www.aircanada.ca/>) Air China(<http://www.airchina.com.cn/>) Air France(+1 800 871 1366/ <http://www.airfrance.com/>) Air India(<http://www.airindia.com/>) British Airways(+1 800 247 9297/ <http://www.british-airways.com/>) Iberia(+ 1-800-772-4642/ <http://www.iberia.com/>) Japan Airlines(+1 800 525 3663/ <http://www.ar.jal.com/ja/>) United Airlines(+1 800 241 6522/ <http://www.ual.com/>) Virgin Atlantic Airways(+1 800 862 8621/ <http://www.virgin-atlantic.com/>)

From the Airport

Taxi: The most convenient way to get to Bath from Bristol Airport is by taxi. The ride lasts about 40 minutes, the fare is approximately GBP25.

Train/Bus: The cheapest way to get to Bath is via train. Take a bus to Bristol's Templemeads Station(one of the oldest train stations in the world). From there, you can easily catch a train to Bath(Bath Spa). From London, you can transfer to the Bristol International Airport or travel to Brighton via rail, bus or motorway. It is a 90 min train ride from London's Paddington to Bath.

Rental Car Companies:
Alamo(800-522-9696/ <http://www.alamo.com/>) Auto Europe(888-223-5555/ <http://www.autoeurope.com/>) Hertz(405-749-4424/ <http://www.hertz.com/>) Thrifty(<http://www.thrifty.com/>)

By Car

Take the M4 which runs directly to Bath from London and Heathrow. You can also take the M5 from the North, Devon and Cornwall. For information on parking and other transportation information, visit<http://www.bathnes.gov.uk/BathNES/transportandroads/Parking/default.htm>.

By Rail/Bus/Coach

Travel line(<http://www.nexus.org.uk/>) provides all public transportation information. National Express Coaches(<http://www.gobycoach.com/>) National Rail(+44 8457 484950) First Western National(<http://www.firstgroup.com/>) offers train and bus transportation. Eurostar(<http://www.eurostar.com/>) The Trainline(<http://www.thetrainline.com/>)

By Sea

To reach Bath from mainland Europe, the closest ferry port is located in Portsmouth about 80 miles(130 km away) and from Ireland, the closest port is Fishguard approximately 140 miles(250 km away). The port of Dover is 190 miles(305 km) away from Bath.

Getting Around:

Public Transport

Park& Ride- bus connections(+44 0845 606 4446) Bath Bus Company(+44(0)1225 330444/ <http://www.bathbuscompany.com/>)

By Rail

Eurostar(<http://www.eurostar.com/>) The Trainline(<http://www.thetrainline.com/>) BritRail(866-BRITRAIL/ <http://www.acprailnet.com/britrail/>). Network Rail(+ 44 0 8457 11 41 41/ <http://www.networkrail.co.uk/>)

By Coach

National Express Coaches(<http://www.gobycoach.com/>) Eurolines(<http://www.eurolines.com/>)

Bath Snapshot continued

www.nationalexpress.com/
eurolines_microsite/index.cfm/
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Fun Facts

Bath State/Province: England **Country:**
United Kingdom

Bath by the Numbers:

Population: 80,000 Average Winter
temperature: 5°C/ 42°F Average Summer

temperature: 14°C/ 59°F Most precipitation:
782 mm/ 30.8 in Elevation: 181 m/ 595 ft

Quick Facts:

Time Zone: GMT Electricity: 240 volts AC,
50Hz; square three-pin plugs are standard
Country dialing code:+44 Area code: 01225

Did you know?

Since it is the only natural hot springs in
the country, Bath is Great Britain's leading

winter resort. It was first discovered by
the Romans in the first century A.D. who
named the city Aquae Solis or "Waters of
the Sun."

Bath is one of England's most popular film
location(especially the Roman Baths, the
Royal Crescent, and the Circus). Since
1931, over 100 films and TV productions
have been filmed in this picturesque town.
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