



nileGUIDE

ALL YOU NEED TO PLAN YOUR PERFECT TRIP



Best walking spots

Bath, 1 Day

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Guide Description



AUTHOR NOTE: Bath is a pleasure to walk around. The hills not only strengthen your legs out, but they also provide great views of the "bowl" that Bath sits in.

To see the Royal Crescent in its full glory head to Royal Victoria Park, and then walk on to its Botanical Gardens. For great views of the city head to Alexandra Park, and for countryside vistas hike through the fields and woodland near the American Museum on Claverton Down. If you would prefer to wander around an elegant central park head to Henrietta Park.

If it's the countryside you crave make your way to Castle Combe, many footpaths surround the village.

contact:

tel: +44 1225 46 0503
fax: +44 1225 46 9160
<http://www.americanmuseum.org>

location:

Claverton Manor
Bath BA2 7BD

hours:

Late Mar to Oct Tues-Sun
noon-5:30pm for the museum

1 American Museum

DESCRIPTION: The museum is housed in Claverton Manor, built by Jeffrey Wyattville in 1820 in neo-classical style, and was the site of William Churchill's first political speech in 1897. The building was converted into the museum and opened in 1961. The grounds are vast, and walking paths, picnic areas, as well as spacious parking make your visit a relaxed and varied experience. The Manor's rooms show American craftsmanship in textiles, glass, silver, and furniture from the 17th to 19th centuries. Access to the library of historical and period books is free by appointment. © wcities.com



Photo courtesy of American Museum in Britain

contact:

tel: +44 870 444 6442

location:

Henrietta Road
Bath BA2 1EE

2 Henrietta Park

DESCRIPTION: This beautiful park was opened to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Victoria in 1897. It covers seven acres and is blessed with mature trees and elaborate bedding areas. Take the time to explore the King George V Memorial Garden, now a garden for the blind complete with Braille labels. Each of the plants has been carefully chosen for scent and are particularly fragrant on warm summer afternoons. The Memorial Garden also boasts a wisteria-covered pool complete with fountain. Toilets available including facilities for the disabled. © wcities.com

contact:

tel: +44 8704 44 6442

location:

North side of Victoria Park
Bath BA1 1EE

3 Botanical Gardens at Victoria Park

DESCRIPTION: The Botanical Gardens can be found on the north side of Victoria Park. The gardens were formed in 1887 and house a huge array of plants over nine acres of land. The gardens include what is believed to be the largest collection of plants on limestone in the West Country, a scented walk, old shrub roses and a fine herbaceous border, along with many unusual examples of trees and shrubs. Within the garden a replica of a Roman Temple can also be found. This was originally part of the city's exhibit at the British Empire Exhibition at Wembley in 1924. © wcities.com

contact:

tel: +44 (0)1225 47 7010
fax: +44 (0)1225 48 0072

location:

Marlborough Lane
Bath North East Somerset
BA1 2NQ

4 Royal Victoria Park

DESCRIPTION: Bath residents and visitors alike love to while away a few hours in Royal Victoria Park. It is situated to the west of the city centre and the Royal Crescent borders its north side. The park was named after the 11-year-old queen that opened it. Today it consists of a boating pond, nine-acre botanical garden, an enchanting woodland area, a gigantic children's play area as well as a skate park, pitch and putt, tennis courts and a calendar of open-air events. If you're in Bath in the summer pack a massive picnic and spend a day in this beautiful park. And don't forget to enjoy an ice cream from the park's very own ice cream van. © NileGuide



wcities

contact:

tel: +44 8704 44 6442 (Tourist information)

location:

Off the M4
Bath Wiltshire BA1 1EE

5 Castle Combe

OUR LOCAL EXPERT SAYS:

Park upon entering the village along the river as spots are at a premium in the center.

DESCRIPTION: Voted the Prettiest Village in England, Castle Combe is tucked away in a valley. Not surprisingly the village is a favorite location for filmmakers, the most famous film being Doctor Dolittle. The impressive Dower House served as Dr Dolittle's house in the film. Every turn in the road shows a new and delightful vista, from the 14th century market, cross on down the street of centuries-old honey-colored stone houses (listed as ancient monuments!) to the little hump-backed bridge over the sparkling by brook. The village was once a center for cloth weaving, and by the bridge are weavers' cottages and the Weavers House, where it is said lived the Blanket brothers, who gave a new word to the language when they created a new type of warm bed covering. © wcities.com

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.airsouthwest.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/
©

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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