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For immediate release

PRESS RELEASE

2021 in Bristol

As the city at the western end of England's Great West Way looks forward to 2021 and recovering from the pandemic, Bristol leads the way with street art in the palm of your hands, COVID-safe and self-guided tour apps and the return of the city's iconic summer events and festivals.

Please note: event details are correct at time of writing, but are subject to change due to Government restrictions relating to Covid-19. Please keep checking relevant websites or contact press@visitbristol.co.uk with enquiries.



Images l to r: Harbour Festival photo by Colin Rayner; Greta Thunberg street art mural painted by Jody Thomas, photo by Neil James Brain; Bristol International Balloon Fiesta photo by Paul Box

England's Great West Way is a 125-mile touring route running between Bristol and London. Bristol makes a great base for further exploration along and alongside the Great West Way with a wealth of accommodation to suit every budget and more than its fair share of things to do.

What's new in Bristol in 2021

A Piece of Banksy: Where the Wall street art tour smart phone app

Award-winning street art tour operator Where The Wall has devised a new smart phone tour app for the ultimate Covid-secure self-guided street art experience. Narrated by 'the Godfather of graffiti' and Banksy mentor John Nation, the app has already featured in the [Telegraph](https://www.telegraph.co.uk) as a lockdown activity for locals, and will continue to be available for visitors in 2021. A Piece of Banksy uncovers the story of the elusive street artist and over 30 years of graffiti art history with 13 audio commentaries in 13 different locations around the city. The tour is downloadable on any smart phone and can be used by two devices at once, for 24 hours so users can go on the tour at their own pace.

<http://www.wherethewall.com/self-guided-tours/>

Bristol Open Doors tour app

On a similar thread of Covid-safe tours, Bristol Open Doors has launched a smart phone tour app for visitors to download and enjoy three self-guided audio tours of the city. The app was debuted in September 2020, instead of the usual annual Open Doors event, and has since been launched as a year-round offering as part of the Hidden Bristol app. The three tours include Vibrant Bristol which explores street art scene in Bedminster; Hidden Harbour which uncovers 1,000 years of Bristol history; and Historic Bristol which travels around the Temple Quarter area of the city. The immersive audio tours are narrated by over 100 Bristolians from street artists to craft beer brewers, ship captains to historians and take from 60-90 minutes each.

<https://bristolopendoors.org.uk/hidden-bristol-audio-walking-tours/>

Iconic Black Britons tour

A 90-minute guided tour of the Seven Saints of St Pauls murals, a collection of street art pieces celebrating Black Bristolians whose activism has changed the city. Easton-born artist Michele Curtis painted the murals to promote positive Black social history in Bristol, with murals depicting Carmen Beckford, Audley Evans, Delores Campbell, Barbara Dettering, Owen Henry, Clifford Drummond and Roy Hackett.

<https://www.iconicblackbritons.com/heritage-trail>

Project What If at We The Curious (date to be confirmed)

We The Curious, the educational charity and visitor attraction with a vision to “create a culture of curiosity”, will be reopening (date to be confirmed) with a bold new exhibition, *Project What If*. Inspired by 10,000 questions collected from people from every postcode of Bristol, *Project What If* will be the first major science centre exhibition in the UK inspired entirely by the curiosity of a city’s residents. Tickets for *Project What If* need to be booked, but are included within general admission. Opening date to be confirmed.

<https://www.wethecurious.org/projectwhatif>

Pink Lady® Food Photographer of the Year at The Royal Photographic Society (20 November – 12 December)

This prestigious event used to be held in London, but this year moves outside of the capital for the first time to the Royal Photographic Society in Bristol. View photos and videos capturing stories and cultures in the world of food at the exhibition’s tenth anniversary, with over 20 categories making up one visual feast. Entry is free.

What’s On in Bristol in 2021

Major festivals, events and openings

Bristol Comedy Garden (2-6 June)

This year’s special edition Bristol Comedy Garden moves to Durdham Downs for a series of open-air, socially-distanced and truly magnificent shows. Headliners include Dara O’Brain, Sara Pascoe, and Josh Widdicombe.

<https://visitbristol.co.uk/whats-on/bristol-comedy-garden-p2436323>

Upfest (5-6 June)

Despite Upfest 2020 being cancelled due to Covid-19, the Upfest crew still made headlines across the world with their ‘Hearts in the Park’ campaign. In association with Visit Bristol and Bristol City Centre Business Improvement District, the campaign saw street artists spray paint large hearts in the city’s green spaces all 2 metres apart, to encourage social distancing during the pandemic. In 2021,

after two years' break, the annual celebration of street art returns to the streets and parks of south Bristol with a new date in June (it's usually in July). Europe's biggest free street art and graffiti art festival, attracts 250 international artists and over 25,000 visitors.

<https://visitbristol.co.uk/whats-on/upfest-p2379983>

Bristol Harbour Festival (16-18 July)

The city's iconic festival takes place in July 2021 with the usual mix of music, maritime fun and markets based around Bristol's historic and beautiful harbourside. Expect live performances, family entertainment, circus acts, children's events, street food and market stalls, with hundreds of sailing ships in the harbour.

<https://visitbristol.co.uk/whats-on/bristol-harbour-festival-p2369253>

Bristol International Balloon Fiesta (12-15 August)

Bristol's largest free fiesta returns in August at Ashton Court Estate. Over 100 hot air balloons gather for mass ascents, tethered displays and the highly anticipated Night Glow spectacles at the largest event of its kind in Europe. Held over four days, there are market stalls, live music, fairground rides and street food stalls that also help attract over half a million people to the fiesta each year.

<https://visitbristol.co.uk/whats-on/bristol-international-balloon-fiesta-p1987343>

Planet Ice skating rink to open (Spring 2021)

Planet Ice is set to open the UK's largest ice skating rink at Cribbs Causeway, north Bristol in spring 2021. With capacity to seat 1300 spectators and kitted out with international standard skating facilities, the rink will host ice sports and become the new home for local ice hockey team, The Bristol Pitbulls, as well as be a welcome addition to the visitor attractions in the area (including Aerospace Bristol, The Wave, Wild Place Project and The Mall at Cribbs Causeway).

Other events:

Vanguard - Bristol Street Art: The Evolution of a Global Movement at M Shed Museum (5 June-31 October)

A must-see exhibition that celebrates Bristol's pivotal role in the development of British street art over the last four decades. The exhibit will include works previously not seen, and some not shown in public for 20 years in the city's M Shed Museum on the Harbourside. Expect works from Banksy, Henry Chalfant, Beezer and Bristol's earliest street artist, Massive Attack's Robert Del Naja. Booking essential.

<https://visitbristol.co.uk/whats-on/vanguard-bristol-street-art-the-evolution-of-a-global-movement-at-m-shed-p2857323>

Forest Live at Westonbirt Arboretum (10-12 June)

Forestry England presents Forest Live at Westonbirt Arboretum, a truly unique experience with The Arboretum providing a magical woodland arena for these live music events. In 2021, acts include Rag 'n' Bone Man (10 June), Keane (11 June) and Madness (12 June).

<https://visitbristol.co.uk/whats-on/ragnbone-man-at-westonbirt-arboretum-p2825793>

Bristol Craft Beer Festival (11-12 June)

With around 15 micro-breweries, numerous Bristol-born ales and a growing community of independent pubs and brewery tap rooms, Bristol is widely recognised as one of Britain's leading beer cities. The annual Bristol Craft Beer Festival celebrates all that it has to offer and more in June 2021.

<https://visitbristol.co.uk/whats-on/bristol-craft-beer-festival-p2436333>

Lionel Ritchie and Bryan Adams open-air concerts (26 June)

As part of their open-air tours of the UK, music legends Lionel Ritchie and Bryan Adams are set to play in Bristol on 21 and 26 June respectively (exact location to be announced).

<https://visitbristol.co.uk/whats-on/bryan-adams-p2911933>

<https://visitbristol.co.uk/whats-on/lionel-richie-in-bristol-p2912303>

Bristol Beacon Presents: Nile Rodgers and CHIC (14-15 July) and Belle and Sebastian (16 July)

Bristol Beacon (formerly known as Colston Hall) presents three nights of astounding live music with guitarist legend Nile Rodgers and CHIC at Lloyds Amphitheatre, Harbourside on 14 and 15 July, followed by Glasgow indie stalwarts Belle and Sebastian on 16 July. The events were rescheduled after being cancelled in summer 2020 and will run just prior to the Bristol Harbour Festival, bringing the best warm-up to one of the busiest weekends in the city's calendar.

<https://visitbristol.co.uk/whats-on/colston-hall-presents-nile-rodgers-and-chic-at-lloyds-amphitheatre-p2850953>

Valley Fest (30 July – 1 August)

This magical family-friendly festival celebrates, music, organic food and farming, in a stunning location overlooking Chew Valley lake. Music acts to be announced.

<https://visitbristol.co.uk/whats-on/valley-fest-p2398503>

Love Saves the Day (September)

Another important date for live music in Bristol is Love Saves the Day festival, set to return in September 2021. Acts are yet to be announced, but expect big name headliners in the dance, pop and electronic music world.

<https://visitbristol.co.uk/whats-on/love-saves-the-day-p2361653>

Tokyo World (18-19 September)

Urban and dance music festival Tokyo World returns to Eastville Park in Bristol, September 2021. Over 100 acts take to the stages in 5 fields for the annual festival, and while acts are yet to be confirmed, the event is always a big draw for dance music lovers and ravers alike.

<https://visitbristol.co.uk/whats-on/tokyo-world-p2260023>

If you would like additional information or high res images, please email press@visitbristol.co.uk

Additional information:

Famed for its passionate character, maritime history, and for the acres of parkland and sustainable approach that earned it European Green Capital 2015 status, Bristol has created its own distinctive identity. Visitors are attracted to the city's year-round festivals, award-winning cycle tracks, gastronomy in rejuvenated shipping containers and behind secret doorways, stunning cityscapes, inspiring street art and lively music scene.

Destination Bristol is the destination management partnership for Bristol & South Gloucestershire, a joint venture between Bristol City Council and Business West. The organisation works with over 600 major businesses and strategic partners with the aim of increasing business competitiveness within the city centre, supporting employment and growth within the visitor economy, and raising the profile of the Bristol city region as a world-class place to visit through the Visit Bristol brand.