

**2017
TOUR**

Severn Estuary

GUIDE

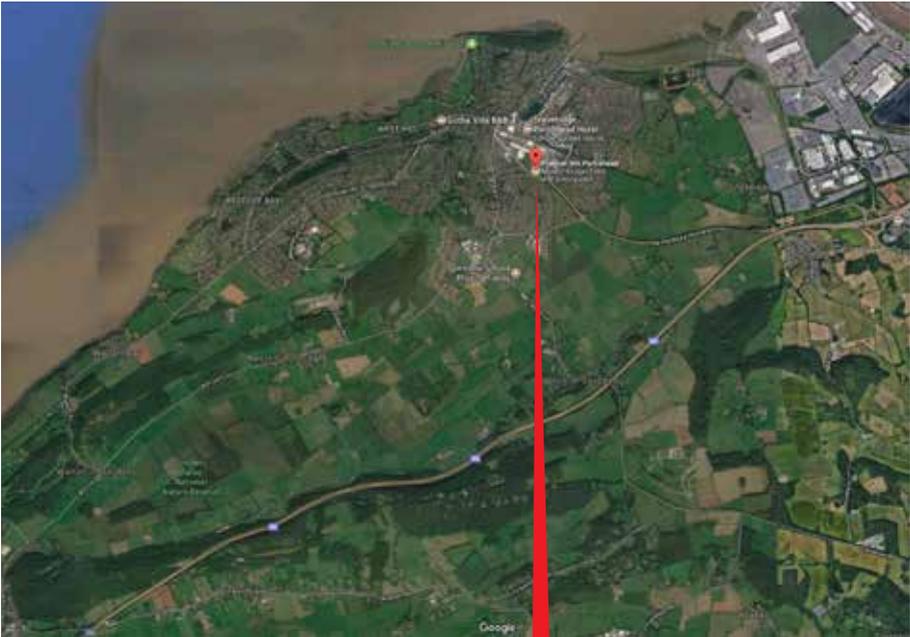


Welcome to the 2017 NOPS Kit Kat Tour

The Severn Estuary is at the mouth of four major rivers, being the Severn, Wye, Usk and Avon, and other smaller rivers. Its high tidal range of about 15m means high and low tides are dramatic and impact on the choice of location each day. The Estuary forms the boundary between Wales and England. On the northern side of the estuary are the Caldicot and Wentloog Levels which are on either side of the city of Newport; and, to the west, the city of Cardiff together with the resort of Penarth. On the southern, English, side, are Avonmouth, Portishead, Clevedon, and Weston-super-Mare. This guide covers this area and a little further into Somerset and into Bristol and Bath beyond too so hopefully there is something for everyone!

The locations listed in the guide have been selected as popular areas to photograph. I have tried to be accurate with the postcodes but as many locations are rural, they are an approximation. They are not intended as an itinerary but as a starting point for a trigger-happy weekend.

Please take care and be respectful of the landscape around you. If you intend climbing or doing any other dangerous activities, please go in pairs (at least).



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Abbots Waterfall

Map Ref 1 ST 536 734 · Postcode BS8 3RR

Walter Melville Wills, the tobacco magnate from Bristol, bought Abbots Pool in 1915 and had the three original mediaeval fishponds converted into a water feature for his hunting lodge. The 'Top Pond' was made bigger by raising the level of the dam, added an island and boat cave. A causeway was built across the top of the dam, over which the water cascades over three falls into the 'Middle Pool' in the valley below. It then flows through a narrow stream, under a small Pulham bridge, and into the 'Lower Pool' at the bottom.

Access

Abbots Leigh, Bristol BS8 3RR

There is a small car park off Manor Road. The Abbots Pool woodland has a public bridleway running through it which links Manor Road and Sandy Lane. This bridleway forms part of the National Cycle Network Route 334. The top of the woodland can be accessed on foot only by a public footpath off Manor Lane.



Arnos Vale

Map Ref 2 ST 606 716 · Postcode BS4 3EW

This is a beautiful, quirky, wild, Gothic, Victorian cemetery. It is a place to quietly remember the dead, but it's also a thriving testament to life, with something to appeal to all ages and tastes. There's plenty of history, local wildlife and rambles to enjoy.

Arnos Vale Cemetery was established in 1837. It was laid out as an Arcadian landscape with buildings by Charles Underwood. Within a few years of its opening it became the most fashionable place to be buried in Bristol. The cemetery includes a number of listed buildings and monuments, including the Grade II* listed Church of England Mortuary Chapel, Nonconformist Mortuary Chapel, and entrance lodges and gates and screen walls to main entrance.

Access

Arnos Vale cemetery is located on the A4, just before Edward Road and Brislington. Some parking on site: BS4 3EW. Open 9:00 to 17:00 every day. The café, gift shop and exhibitions are open from 10:00 to 16:00.



Ashton Court

Map Ref 3 ST 555 719 · Postcode BS41 9JN

Country park and mansion with 850 acres of woodland and grassland and many activities: courtyard café, golf course & café, woodland garden and deer parks.

Access

Ashton Court Estate, Long Ashton, Bristol, BS41 9JN. There is normally no charge for admission. You may have to pay for entry to some parts of the estate if a special event is running at Ashton Court. There is a wedding fair on Saturday 10 September so probably best to avoid the park then.

The estate is open Monday to Sunday from 8:00 to 20:00. There are three car parks in Ashton Court. The car parks open at 8am. Parking costs £1.20 per vehicle per day.



Bath

Map Ref 4 Postcode BA1 3NB

Bath is a beautiful city located and in 1987 the city was inscribed as a World Heritage Site. Founded by the Romans as a thermal spa, Bath became an important centre of the wool industry in the Middle Ages. In the 18th century, under George III, it developed into an elegant town with neoclassical Palladian buildings, which blend harmoniously with the Roman baths. Head to Alexander park for a great view of Bath.

Grand Regency Costumed Charity Promenade on Saturday 9 September. Participants congregate on the Royal Crescent Lawn at 10.30; Promenade through the streets of the city starts 11:00.

Access

The Roman Baths are open every day 9-5. £21.50/£18.50. There is a Saver ticket for entry to the Roman Baths, Fashion Museum Bath and Victoria Art Gallery. Newbridge Park and Ride BA1 3NB operates every 10–15 minutes from 06:15, every 20 minutes after 19.30.

<http://www.bathnes.gov.uk/services/parking-and-travel/car-parking/parking-bath>



Beckford Tower

Map Ref 5 ST 737 676 · Postcode BA1 9BH

Beckford's Tower was designed by Henry Edmund Goodridge in 1825 for William Beckford. The 120-foot neo-classical Tower was constructed as a study retreat and to house Beckford's precious collection of art and rare books. The surrounding Victorian Cemetery, containing William Beckford's tomb, was a beautiful pleasure garden known as 'Beckford's Ride', which ran from his house up to the Tower. The Tower is now home to a museum collection displaying furniture originally made for the Tower, alongside paintings, prints and objects illustrating William Beckford's life as a writer, collector and patron of the arts. Visitors can climb the 154 steps of the spiral staircase to the beautifully restored Belvedere and experience the panoramic view of Bath.

Access

Lansdown Rd, Bath BA1 9BH. Saturday and Sunday 10:30 to 17:00 (last entry 16:30)
Adult: £5.00 Concessions £4.00. Cash only. Unable to accept card payments.

Beckford's Tower has a small car park, a sharp turn off Lansdown Road by the Tower Cottage. Further parking is available in the cemetery lay-bys along Lansdown Road.

Groups are welcome by arrangement. +44 (0)1225 460 705 or tower@bptrust.org.uk



Brean

Map Ref 6 ST 2879 5903 · Postcode TA8 2RS

The 7 mile stretch of sand and dunes of Brean beach lies two miles down the coast from Weston-super-Mare. At low tide a vast expanse of mud flats are exposed (dangerous to walk too far out at low tide). Brean Down is a natural pier with views over the Bristol Channel and the Somerset Levels. The Down has been inhabited since the Stone Age. Roman temple remains can be found on the south side whilst an Iron-Age fort lies on the east side. At the summit are the remains of a 19th century fort, built to defend against a possible Napoleonic invasion.

There is also a Land yacht club which may also provide a great subject to photograph. Land yachting on Brean sands began in 1920, when locals made yachts from the remains of World War 1 aircraft. 70 years later the Brean Land Yachting Club is still going. <http://breanlandyachtclub.weebly.com/contact.html>

Access

Access to the beach is easy as there is plenty of parking both next to and literally on the beach in designated areas. Brean Beach car park near the land yacht club TA8 2RS ST 2958 5851. National Trust car park for Brean Down and Fort: 2 Brean Down Rd, Brean, Burnham-on-Sea TA8 2RS.



Bristol street art and graffiti

Map Ref 7 Postcode BS1 3LJ

Stokes Croft has plenty in a small area and is referred to as Bristol's cultural quarter. The area resembles an outdoor gallery with colourful graffiti that transforms its buildings. Keep your eyes open for some of Banksy's best known pieces, such as the famous *Mild, Mild, West*, which is next to The Canteen and also look out for the giant mural *Breakdancing Jesus* by Cosmo Sarson on the opposite wall. Both Gloucester Road and Stokes Croft are packed with exciting culinary experiences, with everything from a local Bath Ales brew from The Wellington at one end of the street, to a vintage afternoon tea at Cox and Baloney in the middle down to the spiritual home of popular pie-purveyors Pieminister at their store on Stokes Croft.

Access

Stokes croft is the A38!

Parking NCP Bond St, Bristol BS1 3LJ (expensive).

On street parking. May be restricted to a couple of hours.



Bristol waterfront

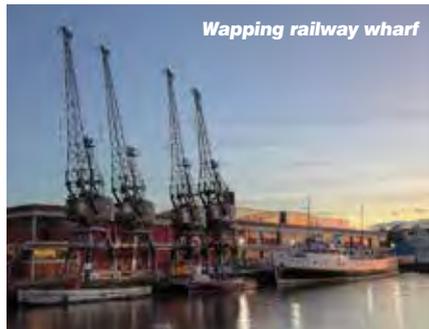
Map Ref 8 Postcode: various for car parks, see below

In 1809 Bristol was transformed by the opening of the Floating Harbour. 80 acres of tidal river was impounded to allow visiting ships to remain afloat all the time. Over the next two centuries the Harbour grew as a busy commercial port until it closed in 1975. Since then, it has been regenerated for leisure, commerce and residence. There are plenty of places to sit, refuel and enjoy the view.

- 1 Princes Wharf
- 2 Fairbairn steam crane
- 3 Wapping Railway Wharf
- 4 Bristol Packet for a tour of the harbour and river
- 5 Brunel's SS Great Britain, the world's first iron passenger liner. A fantastic museum to visit.
- 6 On the left are the former main offices and studios of Aardman Animations,
- 7 Albion Dockyard. Can you find a version of 'Girl with a pearl earring'?
- 8 Baltic Wharf
- 9 The Underfall Yard is named after the sluices ('underfalls') that control the level of water in the Harbour. This is where the tidal river Avon was originally dammed to create the Floating Harbour in 1809. The Yard is now a Scheduled Ancient Monument.
- 10 Junction Lock
- 11 Cumberland Basin
- 13 The flyover.
- 14 Fixed bridge and southern entrance lock
- 15 Remains of Jessop's northern entrance lock
- 16 Entrance lock and a great view of the Suspension bridge and the colourful houses of Clifton

Access

Euro Car Parks, Wapping Wharf, Wapping Road BS1 4RW
Maritime Heritage Centre BS1 6JL
Mardyke Wharf, Hotwell Road BS8 4UR
Britannia Parking, Canons Way BS1 5LF
Cumberland Road BS1 6YG 2 hours
Brunel Lock BS1 6XL 2 hours
McAdam Way BS1 6XL 3 hours
Long Ashton Park & Ride, BS3 2HB



Wapping railway wharf

Bristol waterfront



Burnham on Sea Lighthouses

Map Ref 9 ST 298 504 · Postcode TA8 1BU/TA8 1BT

Burnham is close to the estuary of the River Parrett where it flows into the Bristol Channel and boasts the charm of a traditional seaside resort. It is famous for the nine-legged wooden lighthouse, the only one of its kind in the country. The Low lighthouse is 11m high and is one of three lighthouses and the only one still active. The Grade II listed building is whitewashed with a vertical red stripe on the seaward side. It was built in 1832, in conjunction with the High Lighthouse ($51.248927^{\circ}\text{N } 2.999078^{\circ}\text{W}$), to replace the original Round Tower Lighthouse ($51.239978^{\circ}\text{N } 2.998627^{\circ}\text{W}$). Recommended to photograph at low tide and/or sunset. The number of legs appears to vary depending on the angle of view: from three to nine. Sometimes there are pools of water left by the tide and the combination of clouds with west coast sunsets produce all kinds of moods and colours.

Access

No problem its on a public beach. At junction 22, take the A38 exit to Burnham-on-Sea/Highbridge. Continue on B3140 to your destination in Burnham-on-Sea TA8 1BU/TA8 1BT for esplanade and beach. 15 minute walk to lighthouse. Alternatively you could find on road parking in a residential street or at the golf club.



Cabot Tower

Map Ref 10 ST 580 730 · Postcode BS1 5RR

Cabot Tower, set in the gorgeous parkland of Brandon Hill near Park Street in the West End, is a 105ft tower built in 1897 to commemorate John Cabot's famous voyage from Bristol and the continent of North America four hundred years earlier.

Brandon Hill is the oldest park in Bristol, where you can enjoy great views over the city and Harbourside area. It's free to climb up the steep, twisting steps of the tower, which is open daily.

Access

Brandon Hill Park, Great George St, Harbourside, Bristol BS1 5RR

Parking: West End Car Park, Jacob's Wells Rd, Bristol BS8 1EH

There is no charge for admission.

Cabot Tower opening times 08:15 to 20:30



Castle Combe Circuit

Map Ref 11 Postcode SN14 7EY

Forge Action Day, 9 September 2017. Supported by Forge Motorsport, the modified and performance car show follows the winning 'Action Day' formula which promises to bring a whole load of excitement both on and off the circuit. Around 1500 show cars are on display, along with a Show and Shine competition and the Forge Motorsport Exhibitor Village.

Track timetable: <http://forgeactionday.com/track-timetable/>

Access

Castle Combe Circuit, Chippenham, Wiltshire SN14 7EY 01249 782417

Access the Circuit via the B4039 following brown tourist signs with chequered flag from either Junction 17 or 18 of the M4. Parking is free, you will be directed by security on arrival but you will need tickets for the event: £12.00 adults, £8.00 concessions.



Cheddar

Map Ref 12 ST 466 539 · Postcode BS27 3QF

At almost 400 feet deep and three miles long, Cheddar Gorge is England's largest gorge, and one of our most spectacular natural sights. The gorge would have begun forming during the last Ice Age when water from melting glaciers formed a river, which over time carved into the limestone rock creating the steep cliffs. The Cheddar Yeo River gradually made its way underground, creating the Cheddar Caves.

Access

8 miles north-west of Wells, signposted from the M5, A371 Axbridge to Wells road and A38 Burnham to Bristol road. The B3135 road runs along the bottom of the gorge. There are parking places all along. Maybe a choice for a long exposure dusk shot. The National Trust own the north side and you can access the cliffs from dawn to dusk for free.

You need a ticket (£17.95!) to see the caves and it includes: Gough's Cave (includes audio guide, Dreamhunters at Cox's Cave, Cheddar Man – Museum of Prehistory, The Lookout Tower (you can do this for free), Cliff-top Gorge Walk (you can do this for free).

Parking: Cheddar Reservoir ST446535, BS27 3DR (Cheddar entrance) for free parking but it is quite a way back to the gorge. Pay and display are £5+ : BS27 3PT or BS27 3QH.



Cheddar cliff top gorge walk

Map Ref 13 ST 466 539 · Postcode BS27 3QF

- 1 Take the track called Cufic Lane, which is off The Cliffs, opposite the National Trust Information Centre. A short way up this track you'll see a National Trust omega sign and a gate leading up a steep path.
- 2 Go through the gate and keep to the path leading up through the woods. This is a very steep path, and the most strenuous part of the route, but worth the climb. Continue uphill until you get to the top of the path and go through the gate at the top.
- 3 Head towards the stone wall diagonally to your right. Keep the wall/fencing to your right at all times, the cliff edge is just below this area. Continue up the path until you reach a kissing gate. Go through and follow this path. At the bottom of the hill, turn right and follow the track to reach the main road (B3151).
- 4 Turn left and continue up the road for a short distance until you see a footpath on the right side of the road, heading steeply uphill through the woods. Follow this and on reaching the top of the hill, continue walking until the path divides.
- 5 Bear right rather than taking the route marked to Draycott, and continue until you see a very tall gate. This is now going into land owned by Cheddar Gorge, but this part of the attraction is free and open to the public. You'll quickly reach the highest point of the Gorge and can look across to the other side you've just walked along. Follow the path leading downwards until you get to Jacobs Ladder and Paveys Lookout Tower. Don't go down Jacobs Ladder but instead take the quieter path to the left, through the trees, which brings you out onto Lippiat Lane.
- 6 Turn right down the hill and right again at Shannaz Restaurant, onto the high street. Walk back up this road to arrive back at the National Trust Information Centre.



Clevedon

Map Ref 14 ST 400 720 · Postcode BS21 7TR / BS21 7RA

Clevedon is a Victorian seaside town overlooking the Severn Estuary. Popular features include Clevedon Pier, a grade 1 listed building, sea front with pebbled beaches, marine lake, ornamental gardens and Victorian bandstand. Next to the Marine Lake is the Salthouse Field with a light railway running around the perimeter. The town is also home to the Curzon cinema which is the oldest purpose built cinema in the world which is still in working order. The pier is an ideal sunset shot.

Hill Road offers a selection of unique and quirky locally owned shops for an afternoon of tea and browsing the shops just a 10 minute walk from the Pier.

For walkers there are some fantastic routes, including Poets walk, for a hillside walk or picnic with sea views.

Access

Junction 20 of the M5. Parking: long the beach front, Salthouse Fields Car Park BS21 7TR or Hawthorns Car Park BS21 7RA.



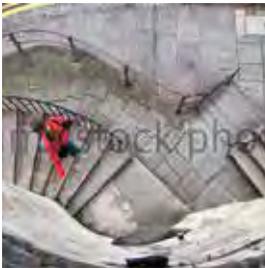
Clifton

Map Ref 15 ST 564 721 · Postcode BS8 3LT

Clifton Village is renowned for having the most iconic spots in Bristol, including Brunel's Suspension Bridge, the Observatory and Bristol Zoo. Clifton is a vista of Georgian and Regency architecture, most well-known is Royal York Crescent. Set on the hillside, it is elevated above the road so no cars. The Clifton Suspension Bridge's spectacular setting on the cliffs of the Avon Gorge has made it the defining symbol of Bristol. There are many views of the bridge including walking across it. Free tours at 15:00 every Saturday and Sunday. Meet at the Clifton Toll Booth. The lights on the Suspension Bridge are turned on every night half an hour before dusk and stay on until midnight. Clifton Observatory, Camera Obscura and Cave sit high up on The Downs and offer superb views from above the Clifton Suspension Bridge. The camera obscura projects a panoramic view of the area onto a surface inside a darkened room. The Observatory also offers the chance to see the underground passage to Ghyston's Cave.

Access

Litfield Road, Clifton Down, Clifton, Bristol BS8 3LT. The Clifton Observatory does not have a dedicated parking. On street parking is available near the Observatory in Clifton Village and the Clifton & Durdham Downs, pay and display. Park & Ride: 505 from Long Ashton and 901 from Shirehampton both stop in Clifton.



Deerleap and Ebbor Gorge

Map Ref 16 ST 521 486 · Postcode BA5 1EL

From this stunning vantage point there are sweeping views south across the Somerset Levels. On a clear day, looking east you can see Exmoor National Park and in a west south-west direction you can spot the Bristol Channel. Deerleap, one of the best locations for its panoramic views of Glastonbury Tor. Claimed as the site of the legendary Vale of Avalon and the final resting place of King Arthur, the tor rises up above the flat land surrounding it and is visible for miles around. You may also see buzzards and other birds of prey soaring on the thermals below.

Close by is Ebbor Gorge. Set within the ancient limestone Mendip Hills, Ebbor Gorge is a national nature reserve. The area has woodland, rocks, caves, and grassland.

Access

Deerleap car park (on the road between Wookey Hole and Priddy called 'Deerleap'), Saint Cuthbert Out, Wells BA5 1EL

Ebbor Gorge, Somerset, BA5 1EL ST 52649 48742



Dyrham

Map Ref 17 ST 747 758 · Postcode SN14 8HY

Sprawling, richly-furnished 17th-century country mansion in vast estate with formal gardens and deer park. An historic herd of fallow deer roams freely in the ancient parkland, full of magnificent trees and breathtaking view. The West garden is a 21st-century garden with echoes of the past, complete with splendid borders, idyllic ponds and a wildflower orchard. The house is in a state of transformation following a recent re-roofing project but you can get a flavour of 17th-century life in 'Mr Blathwayt's apartment'.

Access

Dyrham, Gloucestershire SN14 8HY. 10:00 to 17:00. Located 8 miles north of Bath on A46 and 12 miles east of Bristol on the M4 (2 miles south of M4 junction 18, Tormarton interchange). Parking: £2 two hours, £4 all day. Free parking for National Trust members. Last entry 1 hour before closing. Car park closes 17:30 or dusk, whichever is earlier.



Farleigh Down Tunnel

Map Ref 18 ST 799 673 · Postcode SN13 8AN

Farleigh Down is a tunnel connecting the Monkton Farleigh ammunition depot with the main line railway at Ashley. The tunnel is over a mile long and straight. A conveyor belt was used to move the ammunition underground between the top of the hill and the main line. The tunnel is so shallow in some places that it can be seen from across the valley as a strip of dry uncultivated grass.

Access

Ashley, Wiltshire, United Kingdom

Full access as this site is abandoned and disused.

Nearest postcode SN13 8AN, park down the track to the tunnel



Four nails

Map Ref 19 ST 588 729 · Postcode BS1 1JQ

The four Nails stand on the pavement outside the Corn Exchange in Corn Street. These round-topped pedestals were used by merchants when closing a sale. Money was placed on the surface of a Nail, signifying the bargain had been struck; hence the expression 'Paying on the nail.' It is likely that small samples of wares were also displayed on the Nails during the transaction.

The four Nails were made at different times, and this is reflected in their varying designs. One of the Nails bears the name John Barker on its rim. Barker was a wealthy merchant who owned houses and storehouses on the Quay, in Wine Street and in Small Street. He was Mayor during the reign of Charles I and represented Bristol in the 1623 Parliament.

Access

The Corn Exchange, Corn St, Bristol BS1 1JQ

NCP, Queen Charlotte St, Bristol BS1 4ES. NCP, Fairfax St, Bristol BS1 3BB. Grove Car Park BS1 4QY which is also good for the waterfront or on-road parking if you're lucky or the park and ride.



Glastonbury

Map Ref 20 ST 512 386 · Postcode BA6 9HY

Glastonbury is known for its ancient and medieval sites, rich in myth. Glastonbury Tor is a tower-topped hill linked to Arthurian legend, overlooking the marshy Somerset Levels. Once said to be King Arthur's burial place, Glastonbury Abbey is a ruined monastery dating to the 7th century. Nearby, centuries-old Glastonbury Tribunal.

Glastonbury Abbey have a special evening on Friday 8 September: Night at the Abbey is a blaze of light and music. Gates open 6pm. Tickets £5 Adults, £3 Concessions. Available from: http://www.glastonburyabbeyshop.com/view_event.php?event=1000052

Access

Tor is signposted from Glastonbury town centre, from where park and ride operates

Butt Close Car Park BA6 9HY

St Dunstan's Car Park, Magdalene Street, BA6 9E

Norbins Road Car Park BA6 9JE

Northload Street West Car Park, Feversham Lane BA6 9JJ

Silver Street Car Park BA6 8BS



Kilve Beach

Map Ref 21 Postcode TA5 1EG

Kilve beach is an area of Special Scientific Interest and part of Quantock Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Along this coast the cliffs are layered with compressed strata of oil-bearing shale and blue, yellow and brown lias embedded with fossils. The shoreline is mostly rocky with plenty of rockpools to explore towards low tide.

Access

Kilve Beach, Sea Lane TA5 1EG. Pay and display



Life Sciences, University of Bristol

Map Ref 22 Postcode BS8 1TH

Sheppard Robson's competition-winning design responds to the University's vision of creating a world-class research and teaching facility which will attract international students and academics. The architectural ambition of the project was to create a building that respects the neighbouring listed buildings and surrounding conservation area whilst also adding a confident piece of contemporary design to Bristol.

The building is arranged in two parallel wings, with the east-facing element housing the office accommodation and responding to the proportion and massing of the adjacent listed buildings. Distinctly different in form, the west-facing wing is designed as an undulating aluminium wall, signifying the cutting-edge laboratory space housed in that part of the building. The two elements of the building are linked by a full height atrium space, which forms the social heart of the building.

Access

Tyndall Ave, Bristol BS8 1TH

Parking: Trench St, Bristol BS1 5AN or Jacob's Wells Rd, Bristol BS8 1EH



Mendip Hills

Map Ref 23

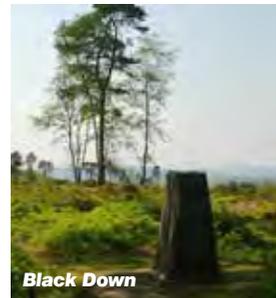
The limestone Mendip Hills with the lakes of the Chew Valley is a stunning landscape of steep slopes and undulating plateau punctuated by spectacular gorges and rocky outcrops. On the hilltops there are hundreds of ancient monuments, whilst on steeper slopes flower rich grasslands and wooded combes offer a wide variety of wildlife.

Black Down & Burrington Ham: Open heathland covers Black Down, with Beacon Batch at its highest point. Burrington Combe and Ham are a Site of Special Scientific Interest for the wildlife habitats. Today goats are on the steep slopes, with ponies and cattle roaming across the grasslands controlling the scrub. ST 476 587 postcode BS40 7AU car park at the bottom of Burrington Comb.

Crook Peak: The distinctive peak that can be seen from the M5. Iconic Mendip limestone countryside with gorgeous grasslands in the summer and rugged outcrops of stone to play on when you get to the top. ST 386 557. Kings Wood car park BS25 1DH.

Priddy: Historic village with its unique hurdle stack, are the essence of the Mendip plateau. This historic village and surrounding landscape reveal evidence of humans ST 526 509. Postcode park on the village green BA5 3BB.

Roman Lead mines: Parking for Ubley Warren is available at the roadside (ST 503 554) or behind the nearby Charterhouse Centre and Velvet Bottom is literally just across the road. ST 507 552 Ubley Warren Nature Reserve, BS40 7XR.



Nature reserves

Map Ref 24

Catcott Complex. At Catcott Lows you can enjoy views across the marshes to Somerset's iconic Glastonbury Tour. Great for bird watching. West Drove, Near Burtle, Bridgwater TA7 8NQ.

Westhay Moor is a beautiful nature reserve to explore with lakes and reed beds, birds singing and signs of life all around. North of the village of Westhay. Turn off the B3151 to Westhay Moor Drove. ST 456 437.

Draycott Sleights is high on Somerset's Mendip scarp. Grasslands rich in wild flowers, Draycott Sleights also feature some small areas of woodland. From Draycott, take the minor road leading north east out of the village. This Somerset reserve is just over half a mile away, on either side of the road. ST 485 505.

RSPB Ham Wall is a newly created wetland, which provides a safe home for many rare species including water voles and otters. In spring the reedbeds are alive with birdsong and in autumn you can see kingfishers flashing up and down the ditches. Bitterns are seen regularly all year-round. 89 Ashcott Rd, Meare, Glastonbury BA6 9SX, ST 449 397. Tickets £1.50 per car 2 hours, £3 per car all day, free to RSPB members.



Nornen Wreck

Map Ref 25 ST 280 532 · Postcode TA8 2NF

When the tide goes out at Berrow, near Burnham-On-Sea, the bones of a long dead ship stick out of the sands as a stark reminder of a savage gale and a gallant rescue at the end of the 1800's. It all started during the first days of March 1897 when a howling south westerly swept up the Bristol Channel, bringing with it high seas, driving snow and sleet. Norwegian barge SS Nornen which had tried to ride out the storm in the lee of the Lundy Roads but had found her anchors dragging. She was driven towards Berrow mud flats. Today, when the tide goes out, the timbers of the ship wreck can be seen just south of Brean, but when the wind blows and the big seas start to roll in, it doesn't take much imagination to see again that gallant rescue.

Access

Parking for wreck at St Mary's Church, Coast Rd, Berrow, Burnham-on-Sea TA8 2NF



Portishead and marina

Map Ref 26 ST 473 770 · Postcode BS20 7GA

Portishead is a picturesque fishing port in North Somerset that overlooks the Severn Estuary, five miles from Bristol, with stunning views of Wales on clear days. The Victorian High Street is full of unique local shops. Portishead Marina is a modern development with a variety of bars, restaurants and cafes situated with pleasant views of yachts and sailing boats. An art trail takes in 28 public art works around the marina and Ashlands development. Looking up the channel to the north has been recommended by Daisy from Portishead Camera Club: it gives 180 plus horizon glow. Battery Point Lighthouse is a favourite local spot for watching magnificent sunsets over Wales. It's also one of the best vantage points on the North Somerset coast for views of the Severn Bridge.

Access

Battery Point lighthouse. Parking at the open air pool

Black Nore Light House, Black Nore Point BS20 8GB (BS20 8EN for parking)

Open air pool Esplanade Rd, Portishead, Bristol BS20 7HD

Marina and town can be reached from the hotel so probably best keeping the car there



Portishead art trail map

Map Ref 27

public art map



Prior Park Landscape Garden

Map Ref 28 ST 761 630 · Postcode BA2 5AH

Beautiful and intimate National Trust 18th-century landscape garden overlooking Bath with follies, Palladian bridges, lakes and woodland. One of only four Palladian bridges of this design in the world can be crossed at Prior Park, which was created in the 18th century by local entrepreneur Ralph Allen, with advice from 'Capability' Brown and the poet Alexander Pope. The garden is set in a sweeping valley where visitors can enjoy magnificent views of Bath. A five-minute walk leads to the Bath Skyline, a six-mile circular route encompassing beautiful woodlands and meadows, an Iron Age hill fort, Roman settlements, 18th-century follies and spectacular views.

Access

10:00 to 17:30

£7.70

Ralph Allen Drive, Bath, Somerset, BA2 5AH

No on-site parking, disabled parking only. Parking is available in Bath city centre.



Purton ships graveyard

Map Ref 29 SU 093 877 · Postcode GL13 9HP

Daisy Bickley from Portishead Camera Club recommended Purton on the River Severn. One side of the hedge are wooden boat skeletons and remains of concrete barges and on the other side of the hedge is the Sharpness canal. The little church in Purton is quaint and the Purton Lower Bridge is a swing bridge and worth a visit. The banks of the River Severn have historically suffered from erosion by the tide. Between 1909 and 1965, redundant and unwanted vessels were beached on the foreshore and allowed to fill with silt. The various working boats now form one of the largest collections of historic inland waterway craft in Britain. The foreshore and river are part of the Severn Estuary SSSI and of international importance for birdlife, especially wildfowl and wading birds.

Access

Purton car park, Severn Way, Berkeley GL13 9HP. Also parking spaces on the far bank near the Purton Lower Bridge, which is a little closer to the wrecks. To get to wrecks walk the Severn way footpath which follows the canal for about 200m. After the small row of cottages cross over a small bridge and the wrecks are the other side of the hedge.



Quantock Hills

Map Ref 30 Postcodes TA4 3DX / TA4 3DY / TA5 1HY

The Quantock Hills are an area of wilderness and tranquility. Panoramic views lead you through coast, heath and combe. Explore and you will find rocky Jurassic coastline, exposed heathland summits, deep wooded combes, undulating farmland and attractive villages all within this protected Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). The heather may still be out too when we are in the area.

Cothelstone Hill has 360 degree views and is rich in wildlife, from rare fungi such as waxcap, bats, butterflies, dormice and birds, to larger mammals such as red deer and raptors. For the last 25 years the Quantock Hills has been home to a herd of Exmoor Ponies on Cothelstone Hill.

Access

Parking for Cothelstone Hill TA4 3DX or further west Lydeard Hill Car Park West Bagborough, TA4 3DY. For the line of trees: Inwood Farm, Nether Stowey TA5 1HY.



Queens Square

Map Ref 31 ST 588 724 · Postcode BS1 4LH

Queen Square is a magnificent Georgian park area in the heart of Bristol, surrounded by trees and cobbled streets. Until the beginning of the 17th century, the area on which Queen Square now stands was marshland that had been used as the city's rubbish dump and for weaponry practice. In 1622, it was remodelled as a tree lined promenade and a place to play bowls. The north side contains the Custom House (1835–37) by Sydney Smirke and a terrace (1833) by Henry Rumley. The east side contains some 20th-century buildings and the Port Authority Office (1889) by William Venn Gough. The Sailors Refuge, numbers 27–29 dates from 17011. The south side contains varied 18th century buildings, which are similar to those nearby in Queen Charlotte Street and King Street. Two are by R.S. Pope. The west side was rebuilt in the 1830s after the Bristol riots.

Queen Square Breakfast Club

Informally held meet up for car enthusiasts every second Sunday of the month on Bristol's beautiful Queen Square. Classic, unusual or interesting cars.

Starts at 09:00 but worth getting there early to see the cars coming in.

<https://www.facebook.com/BristolBreakfastClub/>

Access

Parking: NCP Prince St, Bristol BS1 4QF or

The Grove, Harbourside, Bristol BS1 4RB, Pay & Display



Second Severn crossing

Map Ref 32 ST 540 859 · Postcode BS35 4PE

The Second Severn Crossing is the M4 motorway bridge over the River Severn between England and Wales to supplement the traffic capacity of the original Severn Bridge built in 1966. The Second Severn Crossing was opened in June 1996 has three principal sections: a 25 span viaduct on the English side of length 2,103m, a 24 span viaduct of length 2,077m on the Welsh side and the bridge itself, a 948m structure. The bridge marks the lower limit of the River Severn and the start of the Severn Estuary. Best compositions can be found on the Severn Way

Access

Good short walk to see both bridges is part of the Severn Way, a 220 mile long-distance footpath following the River Severn from its source in the Plynlimon Hills to the Bristol Channel. Shaft road BS35 4NQ will get you close to the bridge and the Severn Way. Parking on Beach road BS35 4PE is also an option.



Slimbridge Wetland Centre

Map Ref 33 SO 720 048 · Postcode GL2 7BT

Huge variety of wildlife up-close. Slimbridge is an excellent place for photographing wildlife, no matter what your level of experience is.

Severn Wader Festival: Saturday 9 September and Sunday 10 September.

First ever Severn Wader Festival, a weekend with events and activities to celebrate wading birds. Book your place on the wader focused Bird Watch Morning Walks or a Land Rover Safari that heads out to the River Severn for the high tide. Make your way around the reserve's hides to meet our wader festival guides. Talks in the Wader Shore exhibit where you can see Avocet, Ruff and Redshank up close.

Access

Slimbridge Wetland Centre is located near to the M5. Exit at either junctions 13 or 14 and follow our brown duck signs. There is a large free car park. Newgrounds Lane, Slimbridge, Gloucester GL2 7BT. A great place to stop on the way down or the way home.



Somerset Lavender

Map Ref 34 Postcode BA3 5WA

Five acres of Lavender to explore where you can walk through the fields and absorb the sight of more than 50,000 Lavender plants with bees humming, collecting pollen to make our honey. Also an opportunity for macro photography as the lavender attracts many different kinds of butterflies and moths, from the humble cabbage white and common tortoiseshell to the more unusual peacock butterfly and the amazing humming bird moth. The bees are working all day, collecting nectar and pollen to make our honey. Swallows and swifts fly overhead with the occasional visit from buzzards.

Access

Open Friday, Saturday and Sunday during Kit Kat 10:00 to 17:00

Somerset Lavender, Horsepond Farm, Faulkland BA3 5WA. Based in the village of Faulkland, look for the small signs in the village.



Spike Island and Avon bridge underpass

Map Ref 35 ST 569 721 · Postcode BS1 6XH

Spike Island is home to three, Grade II listed, bonded warehouses built in Bristol during the early 20th century. Bonded warehouses were built securely because they stored imported goods 'in bond', without import duty having been paid, as though the goods had not yet entered the country. They were mainly used to store tobacco. C bond warehouse is currently used by a self storage company and B is partly used as council offices, Bristol Record Office and the local Create centre. A bond warehouse is a storage for Bristol city council.

Ashton Avenue bridge has recently been restored and links Spike Island with South side of river Avon. If you cross the bridge there is a skate park (Brunel Way Pump Track BS3 2LE) and graffiti on the underpass which would be good for urban portraits, street and action shots of the skate park visitors. Also maybe take a look at the White City Allotments further along, Clange road BS3 2JX.

Access

Parking on Spike Island: 1 Brunel Lock Rd BS1 6XH or Smeaton Rd BS1 6XN



Stanton Drew

Map Ref 36 ST 600 633 · Postcode BS39 4EL

Although this is the third largest complex of prehistoric standing stones in England, the three circles and three-stone 'cove' of Stanton Drew in Somerset are surprisingly little known. The Great Circle, 113 metres in diameter, is one of the largest stone circles in the country and has 26 surviving upright stones. Yet recent surveys have revealed that the circles and cove were just part of a much more elaborate and important ritual site than had previously been imagined.

Access

Open any reasonable time during daylight hours. A £1 fee is charged by the landowner to access the circles field.

Cove: in the garden of the Druid's Arms public house (BS39 4EJ).

Circles: East of Stanton Drew village (BS39 4EL).

There is limited free parking at the entrance to the stones field. Further free parking for the cove can be found adjacent to The Druids Arms.



The Flying Scotsman

Map Ref 37 (Bishops Lydeard) Various locations, research required

The Flying Scotsman is scheduled to be operating on the West Somerset Railway during Kit Kat. Tickets are sold out, but we will want to photograph it in full steam somewhere along its journey instead. There is a link of where to view it (no details loaded yet) and I suggest some research before the weekend: an uphill climb somewhere in the countryside or over a bridge etc (excellent page for bridge location at <http://www.wsr.org.uk/bridges.htm>). Journey times are as follows and the journey takes 70 minutes: Bishops Lydeard depart 1000; Minehead depart 12.18; Bishops Lydeard depart 14.13; Minehead depart 1700.

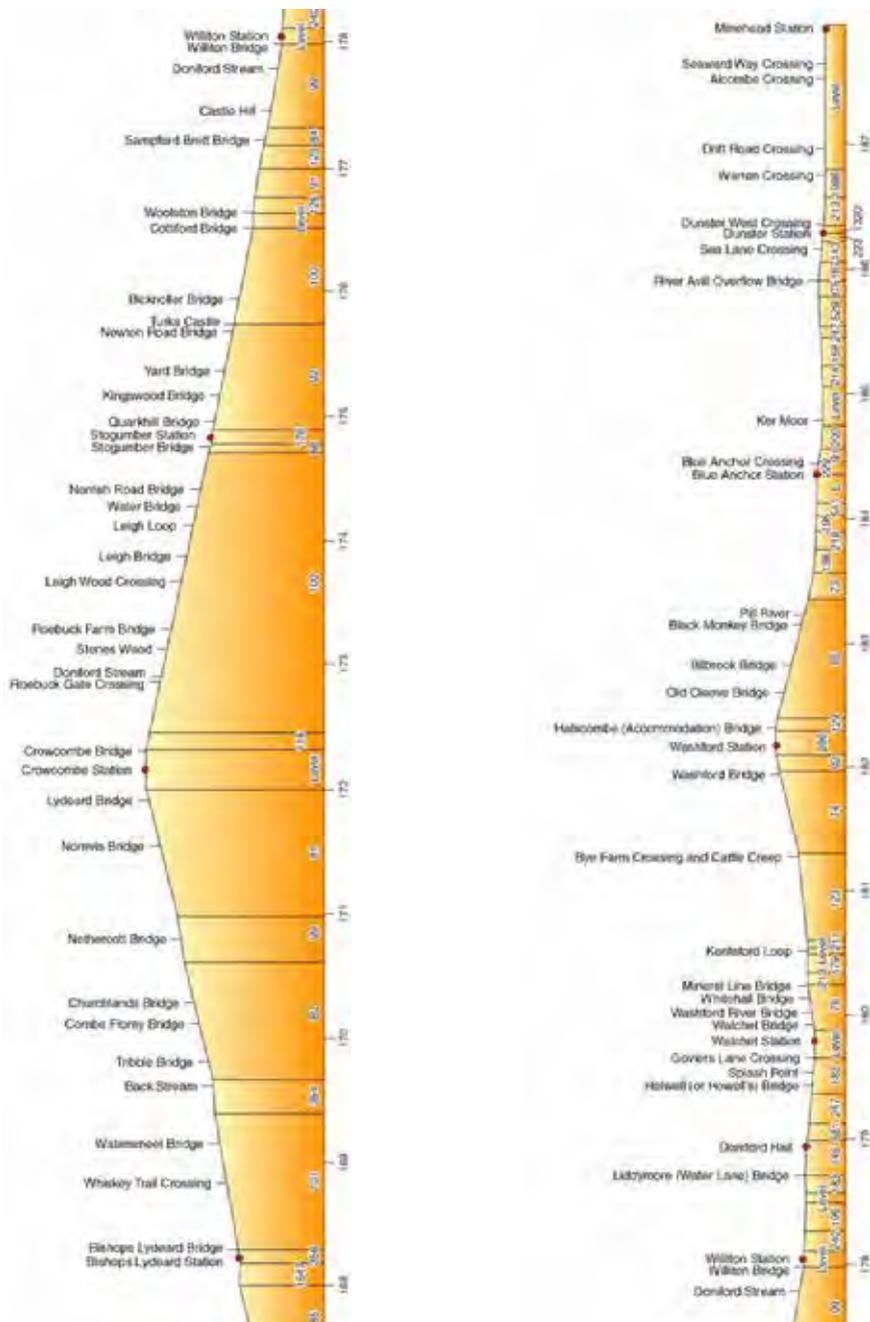
West Somerset Railway is a branch line of the old Great Western Railway and has ten stations linked by a twenty mile scenic journey. The surrounding countryside is beautiful with the gently rolling Quantock hills and distant Exmoor, unspoilt villages and farms nestling in leafy lanes, the coast of the Bristol Channel with views of distant Wales.

Access

You will need to research but <http://www.wsr.org.uk/r-spots.htm> offers a great choice.



West Somerset Railway Locations



Tyntesfield

Map Ref 38 ST 506 715 · Postcode BS48 1NX

Tyntesfield is a spectacular Victorian Gothic Revival house with gardens and parkland. Just a stone's throw away from Bristol, Tyntesfield was not built as an extravagant statement of wealth but as a family home. Once hidden and inaccessible, the lives of four generations of the Gibbs family are on display.

The garden and estate balance faded beauty and function with an abundance of nature; celebrated in ornate Gothic carvings that decorate the house. Flower filled terraces, an empty lake, woodland, champion trees and productive kitchen garden give further opportunities for exploration.

Access

Wraxall, Bristol, North Somerset, BS48 1NX.

Tyntesfield is on the B3128, follow brown signs to the entrance. Parking: 50m from ticket office, £3 per vehicle per day, free for National Trust members.



Wales

Google it

Obviously we are so close to the Welsh border that there are locations there you may wish to photograph. I have chose not to include them in this guide but below are a few close to the crossings for starters.

Urbex

Aberthaw lime works
Boys village
Bendricks Amusement arcade (Urbex)
Lavernock Battery
Ruperrra castle

Locations

Rhose point
Barry resort
Cosmeston Park Lakes
Penarth Pier
Grangemoor Park
Cardiff Bay Wetlands Reserve
Cardiff Bay
Penhow Castle
Chapel Rock
Caerphilly Castle
Severn bridge crossing from the Welsh side!
Wye Valley



Wells

Map Ref 39 Postcode BA5 2DT

The medieval City of Wells is the smallest city in England nestling on the southern side of the Mendip Hills with the mystic Somerset Levels stretching away to the south and west. Wells gets its name from the springs which can today be found in the gardens of the Bishop's Palace. The famous 13th century Cathedral remains remarkably unspoilt and has many other historic buildings including the moated Bishop's Palace, Vicars' Close, St Cuthbert's Church and a good local museum. The Wells Market Place, with lively markets twice a week (Saturday for us), the narrow streets and an eclectic mix of building styles all reflect on the continuing development of the town throughout the ages.

Access

Parking at Princes Road BA5 2DT or 19 Union St BA5 2PU.



Weston-Super-Mare

Map Ref 40 Postcode BS23 1BE

Weston-super-Mare is an elegant resort that grew out of the fashion in holidays and health cures changed from 'taking the waters' at inland spa towns like Bath, to sea bathing. Weston Bay has views over to Wales and down to Exmoor. The sea goes out a long way and that's why Weston-super-Mare has its piers. Originally they were deep water steamboat jetties. Weston's Grand Pier was newly rebuilt after a big fire. There's also a summer's worth of cafes to sit outside and watch the world go by (street shoot).

Weston Sand Sculpture Festival: every day of Kit Kat

Titan Weston Middle Distance Triathlon: 10 September 2017, 09:00 to 20:00

Weston Super Mare provides the perfect location for a triathlon with a sea swim, a bike route up the 'iconic' Cheddar Gorge and a run along the Weston promenade.

Weston Street Art Trail: a great way to see Street Art in action around the town, with everything from Danger Mouse to the Dark Knight... there's something for everyone!

Access

Parking is available on Weston-super-Mare seafront: Marine Parade parking from Royal Sands to its junction with the A370 (tar mac coloured red) and beach parking at Royal Sands BS23 1BE, Clifton Sands BS23 4NH and Uphill Beach BS23 4XY. Four hours £6.00. All day £8.00. After 6pm £1.50.



Useful websites

General

<http://www.bathnes.gov.uk/services/parking-and-travel/car-parking/parking-bath>

<http://www.visitsomerset.co.uk/explore-somerset/countryside/visit-somersets-360-s>

<http://www.strayoffthepath.co.uk/>

Attractions

<https://www.shothotspot.com/hotspot/severn-beach-south-gloucestershire-uk/under-the-severn-bridge>

<https://arnosvale.org.uk/>

<http://www.kateskitchenbristol.co.uk/kates-kitchen-at-arnos-vale/>

<http://www.discoverclifton.co.uk/attractions/royal-york-crescent/>

<https://www.cliftonbridge.org.uk/visit>

Walks

Map of street art

<https://www.google.com/maps/d/viewer?mid=18qp62wCRCQhJbhuXKaUfPtFI4w&hl=en&ll=51.463673389031676%2C-2.5928270330963414&z=15>

Banksy trail

<http://greatlittleplacecalledbristol.blogspot.co.uk/2013/05/walking-trail-banksy-1.html>

<http://www.bristolfloatingharbour.org.uk/harbour-trails/heritage-trails/along-the-harbour/>

http://www.publicartportishead.co.uk/Trail_Map_09_AW.pdf

<https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/cheddar-gorge/trails/cheddar-gorge-walk>

Events

<http://www.wwt.org.uk/wetland-centres/slimbridge/whats-on/2017/09/09/severn-wader-festival/>

<http://www.west-somerset-railway.co.uk/events/detail/flying-scotsman>

<http://www.west-somerset-railway.co.uk/where-to-photograph-flying-scotsman>

<http://www.visitsomerset.co.uk/whats-on/glastonbury-abbey-night-at-the-abbey-p2183053>

Stop Press... Bristol Doors Open Days

8 – 10 September 2017

Bristol Doors Open Days is a once-a-year chance to look behind closed doors and discover over 108 of the city's hidden treasures.

<http://www.bristoldoorsopenday.org.uk/venues/>

Our accommodation

Premier Inn Portishead
Wyndham Way
Portishead
BS20 7GA

www.premierinn.com

01275 409 919 Local

0333 321 3962 National

There are lots of places to eat around the marina and the boatyards Oceans Café has been recommended for breakfast but we may eat closer to locations anyway.



Tide times Weston-Super-Mare

	Low	High	Low	High
Friday 8	02:35	08:54	14:53	21:13
Saturday 9	03:16	09:32	15:33	21:51
Sunday 10	03:55	10:09	16:10	22:30
Monday 11	04:32	10:48	16:44	23:12
Tuesday 12	05:06	11:30	17:23	23:58

Sun Weston-Super-Mare

	Rise	Set
Friday 8	06:37	19:41
Saturday 9	06:38	19:39
Sunday 10	06:40	19:39
Monday 11	06:41	19:34
Tuesday 12	06:43	19:32

It would be worth checking tide times for the particular beach you may be visiting:
Clevedon – add 10 minutes, Portishead – add 18 minutes

2017 TOUR
Severn Estuary



2017 TOUR
Severn Estuary

