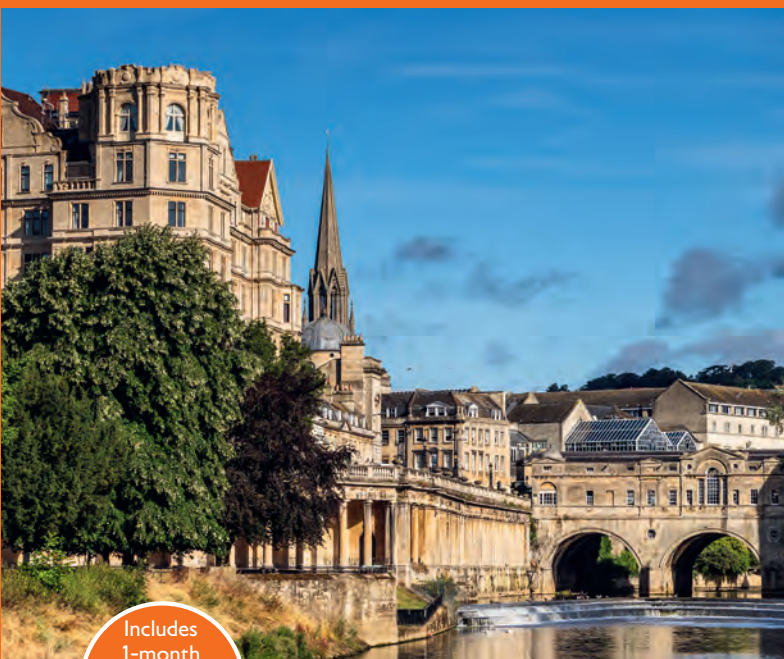


SHORT WALKS

MADE EASY

BRISTOL AND BATH

10 leisurely walks
across the outstandingly beautiful Avon Valley



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WALK 4



BRISTOL

HARBOURSIDE

This is an easy and very interesting walk around Bristol's Floating Harbour. The route passes marinas and moorings for pleasure boats, and several pubs, bars and cafés on the north side of the harbour, with views across the water to the M Shed cranes, *The Matthew of Bristol* and the *SS Great Britain*, before crossing the lock and sluice gates that maintain the water level. The return permits a closer look at these attractions from the harbour's south side.



OS information

ST 587724
Explorer 155

Distance
2.9 miles/4.7km

Time
1¼ hours

Start/Finish
Mud Dock, Bristol
Floating Harbour

Parking BS1 4QY
The Grove car park
(pay and display)

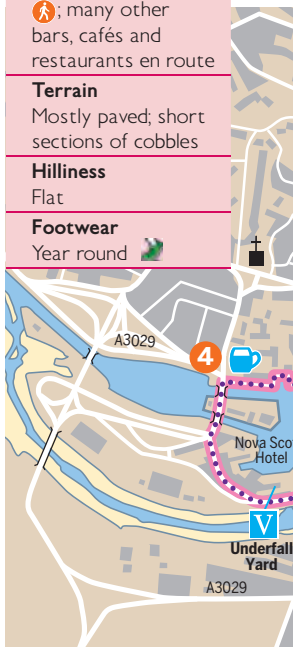
Public toilets
Millennium Square,
just off route
between **1** and **2**

Cafés/pubs
Mud Dock Café at
; many other
bars, cafés and
restaurants en route

Terrain
Mostly paved; short
sections of cobbles

Hilliness
Flat

Footwear
Year round





Public transport

Bus service 19, between Bath Bus Station and Bristol Parkway Station, to the Swineford stop on the A431, near : firstbus.co.uk



Accessibility

Grassy paths and kissing-gates along the route mean this walk is not accessible; steep steps down from the Bristol and Bath Railway Path

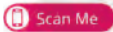


Dogs

Welcome but on a lead across farmland. One stone stile with no dog gate between 4 and 5 (see detour to avoid it)

Did you know? Floodplain meadows are rich in plant and animal life. The Severn and Avon valleys have over 10% of the remaining floodplains in England and Wales, and one of the largest curlew populations in the southern lowlands. The Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust is running the 'Flourishing Floodplains' project to create and restore these valuable habitats.

Local legend It is said that the legendary Prince Bladud was banished from court because he was suffering from leprosy. After wading through the muddy crossing of the Avon at Swineford, he noticed he was healed and returned to court. According to the legend, he went on to become king of the Britons and founded the city of Bath, inspired by the mineral-rich healing waters.



STORIES BEHIND THE WALK



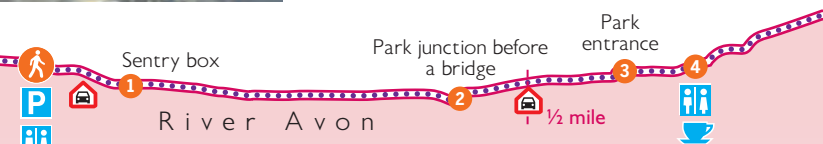
The Roman Baths

This building was more to the Romans than just a place to bathe. It was also a temple where they worshipped the goddess Sulis Minerva, and it included a gym and sauna. The thermal springs that provided them with hot water for bathing still flow through the Great Bath today. Visits to the temple were not always for positive reasons; people sometimes threw curse tablets into the water to request divine retribution on their enemies (romanbaths.co.uk).



☆ Pulteney Bridge and Weir

Pulteney Bridge was built by a property developer who wanted to convert the village of Bathwick into a fancy suburb of Bath. To do this, the river needed a bridge instead of a ferry. The bridge was designed by Robert Adam and opened in 1773. It was named after the property developer's wife, Frances Pulteney. The weir was used to provide water to two mills and was rebuilt in the 1970s with added flood controls.



Charlotte Street car park

- With your back to the car park toilets, take the path **downhill**.
- **Cross** Monmouth Place and continue ahead to a sentry box at the edge of a park.



- **1** Turn **right** and walk 200 yards to the river. On meeting the riverside path, bear **right**.
- Walk beside the river, pass under a bridge and keep **ahead** until a path junction just before the second bridge.



NATURE NOTES

This route starts at Bathwick Fields – a buttercup meadow. Traditionally, children hold these cheerful flowers under each other's chins to determine whether they like butter.

The woods on this walk have a thick carpet of ramsons – wild garlic – in spring. Ramsons are easy to identify by their pungent aroma and garlicky taste. Hazel trees are loved by dormice. They are often coppiced (cut to ground level) to produce lots of useful poles.

The woods are also home to speckled wood butterflies. They can often be seen basking in small patches of sunlight.

Nuthatches can sometimes be seen heading down the trunk of a tree. They are about the size of a great tit with blue-grey upper parts, chestnut sides, and a Zorro-style black stripe across their eyes. Blackcaps are small and greyish brown. The males have the black cap while the females have a chestnut one. They used to be summer visitors from Europe, but more are now choosing to stay for winter.



T-junction with a broad crossing path

1½ miles

5



6

Junction, where the path turns right



2 miles

Bath Turnpike Trust

5 Turn **left** onto the broad path along the ridge.

- Almost straight away, fork **right** soon passing a picnic bench by a tree.
- Go through a gap between walls, stay **left** beside a wall (left) to where the path bends right.



6 Turn **left** between walls, following the Bath Skyline waymarker.

- At the road, **cross over** and turn **downhill** to a National Trust Smallcombe sign, opposite the junction with Prospect Road.



7 Turn **right** then **left** through kissing-gates to cross a meadow, heading towards the abbey, to a water trough with a kissing-gate beyond.



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