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Top 5 Bristol Attractions by [Jesse Wallace](#)

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Bristol is a historic city, with many things to see and do. From historic architecture to unique modern festivals Bristol is an exciting city full of possibilities for the curious visitor. One of the furthest west cities in England, Bristol historically occupied a key position political and commercially, situated as it is between England and Wales. The union of the two countries helped to encourage Bristol's growth, securing its position as a major trade hub. There is much evidence of this historical heritage throughout the city of Bristol, from the architecture to the harbors.

One of the most enduring symbols of Bristol's historical significance is the SS Great Britain, once the largest steamship in the world. The SS Great Britain was the first iron steamship to cross the Atlantic, and it ferried many immigrants from Europe to the New World. The SS Great Britain is now dry-docked and carries on life as a tourist attraction, offering a glimpse into the naval history of the UK. For those of a nautical bent, or those just interested in history, Bristol's floating harbour also provides a fascinating insight into the history of Bristol as a trading port. The floating harbour once the central of trade in Bristol, allowed boats to dock without being draw onto land, and has now been renovated into a leisure and commercial centre, as well as a tourist attraction.

Tourist attractions in Bristol aren't limited to just the historical, there are also many other attractions for those visitors looking for something more exciting. Every year, on the second week in August, hot air balloon enthusiasts gather for the Bristol International Balloon Fiesta. Crowds of over one hundred thousand gather to attend mass launches of sometimes as many as one hundred balloons. A particularly popular exhibition is the night glow, where many glow in the dark hot air balloons are launched in time to music, this display is accompanied by a spectacular fireworks show, a highlight of the fiesta.

For those looking for a slightly-less flamboyant diversion, Bristol is also the home of Banksy, the world renowned street artist. Banksy rose to prominence in the 1980s, and is primarily famous for his politically and socially conscious art work which he graffiti's onto the side of buildings. Visitors can take walking tours of some of Banksy's most famous works, spotted as they are around Bristol, allowing them to view Banksy's art work as he intended, from street level.

The Clifton Suspension Bridge is a huge construction, designed in 1831 by architect Isambard Kingdom Brunei. The architect himself didn't live to see the bridge completed; it was finished after his death in memorandum. Though the structure was built in Victorian times and for a very different level of traffic, to this day it still bears many thousands of vehicles as they cross the Avon Gorge from Summerset to Bristol, and back.

There are many great reasons to visit Bristol, from its art and culture to its rich history and heritage. Visitors are guaranteed to find something they enjoy and there are many things to see and do. Naturally a city of this size may take more than a few days to explore and visitors looking to stay overnight are advised to find accommodation in advance. Finding a quality hotel in Bristol is easy, and there are many to choose from, offering a range of quality services.

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