

Brigstowe, Bristol, and beer

Bristol grew up on a rocky outcrop at the confluence of the rivers Frome and Avon when Saxons settled the area. Brigstowe, meaning 'a place of settlement by the bridge', became one of the pre-eminent ports in Western Europe. After the Norman Conquest, a castle was built in what is now Castle Park. Increased port capacity soon followed and over the next 700 years Bristol continued to grow becoming a centre for exploration, trade and commerce.

Brunel helped to define Bristol in the 19C by designing the Clifton Suspension Bridge and Temple Meads Railway Station. Around this time there were 21 independent brewers in Bristol. By 1914 there were only six. Modern Bristol is coming full circle with over a dozen successful breweries operating in and around the city at present.

By using this map we hope that you get to experience another side to our wonderful pubs. Stroll, cycle or sail your way around the city centre, enjoying a pint or two along the way, and discover the hidden heritage of our hostelryes.

Pub opening times and facilities

Please check whatpub.com for the latest opening times and facilities of all the pubs featured here.

This map has been created by Bristol Pubs Group and the Bristol and District branch of CAMRA. We believe that the pub has been a cornerstone of our lives for centuries and we want it to stay that way.

CAMRA has been campaigning for real ale and drinkers' rights since 1971. The Bristol and District Branch has one of the largest, active memberships across the UK and is responsible for numerous activities and events which continue to support and celebrate real ale.

We have made every effort to ensure the accuracy of the information presented here.

You can contact us @BrisTavernTrail or on Facebook: BristolHeritage Taverns Trail

This map has been made possible due to the generous support of the following pubs, breweries and local organisations:



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Bristol Beer Factory

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Wickwar

wickwarbrewing.co.uk

Bank Tavern

banktavern.com

Bridge Inn

bridgeinnbristol.co.uk

The Old Duke

theoldduke.co.uk

The Famous Royal

navyvoluteer.co.uk

Navy Volunteer

Golden Guinea

thegoldengueina.co.uk

Rose of Denmark

roseofdenmark.co.uk

Rummer Hotel

therummer.net

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7stars.co.uk

Designed and printed in Bristol:

MJT Design

mjt.design@blueyonder.co.uk

Doveton Press

info@dovetonpress.co.uk

camrabristol.org.uk

camrabristol.org.uk/pubsgroup



CAMPAIGN
FOR
REAL ALE

Central Bristol

Map & details
inside

Bristol Heritage Taverns Trail

Explore
Bristol's pub history
by bus, bike, ferry,
or on foot

1 Full Moon

1 North Street, BS1 3PR

One of the oldest pubs in Bristol, this was once a coaching inn acting as a terminus for horse-drawn carts and other transport. Sporting events, including boxing, used to take place in the surrounding fields. Note the listed archway as you enter the courtyard.

2 The Hare on the Hill

41 Thomas St N, BS2 8LX

This mid-19C pub was formerly known as the Masons' Arms, and some early licensees were themselves Masons. On nearby Nine Tree Hill lies the grave of a Royalist officer from the Civil War where his widow, known as Ma Pugleley, reputedly cared for the sick.

3 Highbury Vaults

164 St Michael's Hill, BS2 8DE

This pub boasts an impressive wooden interior, a long garden patio, and a small, original, but seldom-used, snug bar at the front. The exterior features 'Rapunzel' by Nick Walker, a local graffiti artist who influenced Banksy. Hangings were carried out nearby during the 18C.

4 White Bear

133 St Michael's Hill, BS2 8BS

There has been an inn and stables on this site since the mid-18C, and a brewery was housed at the rear. Opposite used to lie one of the stones marking the boundary of 18C Bristol. Its location atop St Michael's Hill on the old road to Wales made it an ideal rest point for travelers and horses.

When you're on St. Michael's Hill pause on the raised pavement for a splendid view of the 'U' shaped Colston's Almshouses. Dating from 1691, they are arranged symmetrically around a central chapel with bell tower and clock.

5 The Christmas Steps

2 Christmas Steps, BS1 SBS

Formerly known as the Three Sugar Loaves, the name refers to an 18C Sugar House, now the nearby Hotel du Vin, which burnt down in 1859. The steps themselves were constructed in 1669 on what was then a steep and muddy street, with funding from local wine merchant Jonathan Blackwell.

At the top of the delightful Christmas Steps (home to several traditional crafts and traders) you'll find the 15C Three Kings of Cologne Chapel and John Foster Almshouse of 1883. The almshouses are built in the impressive Burgundian Gothic style, with diaper brickwork, turrets, galleried balcony and spiral stair. A plaque on the Almshouses confirms "this streete was steppedre done and finished in September 1669...named Oveene Streete".

6 The Hatcher

27 Frogmore Street, BS1 5NA

Dated 1606, and largely rebuilt in 1967, the pub has a long history of sporting connections including cockfighting and boxing. There are a number of legends about the pub such as the presence of a rat pit and a front door featuring human skin.

7 The Commercial Rooms

43-45 Corn Street, BS1 1HT

Built in 1810, the Commercial Rooms originally housed a merchant's club and a bank vault below. A dial on the wall is connected to a weather vane, designed to show merchants when favourable winds would allow cargo vessels up the River Avon. The three statues outside represent Bristol, commerce, and navigation.

While you're in this area you can see four tables or 'nails' outside The Exchange. These were placed there between the Elizabethan period and 1631. Merchants traded on these and gave rise to the term "paying on the nail". The clock on the front of the Corn Exchange (now the thriving St Nicholas's Market) has two minute-hands to show both Greenwich time and Bristol time. When the clock was made cities were used to keeping to their own time based on their position in relation to Greenwich. The telegraph made it possible to agree to a single time based on GMT. This clock features both times with Bristol being 10 minutes behind London!

8 Elephant Inn

20 St Nicholas Street, BS1 1UB

The original 17C building, listed in 1853 as the 'Elephant Wine and Spirit Vaults and Slate Billiard Rooms', was demolished in 1863 when St Nicholas Street was widened and rebuilt by architect Henry Masters. A sculpture of a veiled lady next door is allegedly the original builder's signature.

9 Rummer Inn

All Saints Lane, BS1 1JH

There have been pubs on this site stretching back to the 13C. The current building was rebuilt as part of The Exchange in the 1740s. Bristol's first mail coach set out from here in 1784 when John Palmer of Bath signed a contract with the Postmaster General to trial the delivery of mail to London.

10 The White Lion

141 St George's Road, BS1 5UW

This very small pub was built adjacent to the city wall, a section of which can be viewed through a panel inside. The spiral staircase down to the gents' is said to have come from the city gaol. It was once known as the Cheese House due to the dairy products that were also on sale in the pub.

On Broad Street you can see St. John's Arch: the only surviving city gate. You can see portcullis channels at the outer end while gilt figures and the Bristol coat of arms are visible on the city elevation. The adjacent church was added in the 14th Century. Don't miss Edward Everard's spectacular tile-fronted former printing works of 1900 which is set back from neighbouring frontages.

11 Bank Tavern

8 John Street, BS1 2HR

This mid-18C pub is probably named for the first bank in Bristol, which stood on the corner of Broad Street. Opening in 1750, this bank was one of only a few outside London and rapidly became an important part of Bristol's position as a centre of trade and commerce.

12 King's Head

60 Victoria Street, BS1 6DE

Converted from a 17C house, this pub is listed in the National Inventory of Historic Pub Interiors. The long, one room bar has some of the oldest fittings in the UK with a 'tramcar' snug at the rear. The area once buzzed with small local traders, including glassmakers and engravers.

13 Seven Stars

1 Thomas Lane, BS1 6JG

This pub is famously associated with anti-slavery campaigner Thomas Clarkson who visited the pub in 1787 when investigating the transatlantic slave trade. The pub was popular with seafarers and Clarkson used their stories about the conditions aboard slave ships to inform his campaign.

14 Cornubia

142 Temple Street, BS1 6EN

This pub was named for a 19C paddle steamer. Its predecessor, The Rabbit Warren, was owned by a rabbit dealer in 1860. Hidden amongst office blocks, it is one of the last remaining original buildings in the area and was once brewery tap for the then nearby George's brewery.

15 Bridge Inn

16 Passage St, BS2 0JF

One of Bristol's smallest pubs and the last remaining on this street. In 1841 nearby St Philip's Bridge was built to replace a ferry. You can see the former Bristol Tramways power station on the other side of this bridge. On 11 April, 1940 the bridge was bombed cutting off power to the whole network and trams never again ran in Bristol.

16 Stag & Hounds

74 Old Market Street, BS2 0EJ

This former merchant's house features a fine oak staircase, a secret room with a trapdoor, a stone vaulted basement with barrel skid and a Victorian water pump in the rear court. It was the site of the last Pie Poudre (or Piepowder) Court in the country: a special tribunal that dealt with crimes committed during fairs and markets in the city.

17 Long Bar

70 Old Market Street, BS2 0EJ

The pub once featured a tap room at the front, a smoke room and bar, as well as a brewhouse and stables. In the early 20C it was frequented by actors and audiences of the now demolished Old Empire theatre nearby.

18 Volunteer Tavern

9 New St, BS2 9DX

Built to cater for the growing population of industrial workers nearby, the Volunteer has been a pub since before 1871, possibly as far back as the 1790s.

19 Palace Hotel

1-2 West Street, BS2 0DF

Designed as a railway hotel for a Midland Line terminus that was never fully realised. The interior has been restored and features impressive arcading with round, arched, twisted, hollow brass columns. The exterior is adorned with Assyrian-style figures, and includes a roof clock and balcony.

20 Barley Mow

39 Barton Road, BS2 0LF

Purpose built as a pub in 1828, and formerly known as The Duke of York, this is the only remaining pub in The Dings. Opposite is a Jewish graveyard established in the 1740s – the first in Bristol since the Edict of Expulsion in 1290.

21 Shakespeare Tavern

68 Prince Street, BS1 4QD

Once backing onto busy docks and warehouses, this pub is in an impressive Georgian terrace originally built for Bristol merchants, West Indies plantation owners, and slave traders. Prince Street was named after Prince George of Denmark, the husband of Queen Anne.

22 Hole in the Wall

2 The Grove, BS1 4QZ

Formally known as the Coach and Horses, the pub is named for the tiny window used to spot press-gangs and Excise Officers. It is one of a number of pubs often cited as the inspiration for the Spyglass Tavern in Treasure Island.

23 Old Duke

45 King Street, BS1 4ER

Once first in a row of three pubs, this converted 18C house has become a world famous jazz and live music venue. Probably first named for the Duke of Cumberland, the pub's sign now shows US jazzman Duke Ellington. In 2009, the pub was named as one of the UK's most important jazz venues.

24 Llandoger Trow

King Street, BS1 4ER

Originally part of a longer row of 17C timber-framed buildings this pub was named after the flat bottomed boats that came across the River Severn to Welsh Back. It is popularly thought to be where Daniel Defoe met Alexander Selkirk, inspiring the character of Robinson Crusoe.

25 The Famous Royal Navy Volunteer

17-18 King Street, BS1 4EF

Built as part of the development of King St. after the Restoration in 1660, this pub was well frequented by Bristol docks' clientele. At least one landlady insisted that customers deposited their 'dockers hooks' (handled claws used to grab big bales) behind the bar in case trouble broke out.

26 King William Ale House

20 King Street, BS1 4EF

Originally constructed as a refuge for poor women in 1652; it was converted into a pub later in the 17C. It retains much of its original design, including the rear back block, an important feature lost on adjacent buildings.

27 Graze

63 Queen Square, BS1 4JZ

Formerly a post office, Graze is on the corner of Queen Square, a restored Georgian residential square with an equestrian statue of William III at its centre. The building itself sits on the site of Excise Avenue, which was used as a rallying point by rioters in 1831.

Take a look opposite to see the Merchant Ventures' Almshouses built in 1696 for sick and elderly sailors.

28 Three Tuns

78 St George's Road, BS1 5UR

This corner pub was located near to a number of important businesses in 19C Bristol. One former licensee, Alfred Shellard, was also a rule and gauging instrument maker whose workshop upstairs caught fire in 1872. The name of the pub is based on the arms of two City of London guilds, the Worshipful Company of Vintners and the Worshipful Company of Brewers.

29 Bag o Nails

141 St George's Road, BS1 5UW

Formerly known as the American Eagle, the pub is thought to have been named for an emigrant clipper that ran between England and New York in the mid-19C. Opposite is the site of the former Limekiln Dry Dock: one of Bristol harbour's smallest docks.

30 Rose of Denmark

6 Dowry Place, BS8 4QL

Named after Alexandra of Denmark: the wife of Edward VII. It was once very popular with Bristol's dock workers who would visit the pub after finishing work nearby.

31 Nova Scotia

1 Nova Scotia Place, BS1 6XJ

Built two years after the completion of the Floating Harbour in 1809 the pub retains most of its original features. It absorbed the Docks Hotel next to it in 1899, all the while keeping the arched entrance to its yard, and thriving on the export cattle trade from Ireland.

32 Louisiana

Wapping Road, BS1 4RH

Situated on the edge of Bathurst Basin this former terrace has an ironwork veranda with cast iron columns around its front. There is a cellar below with a vaulted tunnel beneath the road. The nearby locks formed a connection between the Floating Harbour and the tidal River Avon in the New Cut.

33 Ostrich Inn

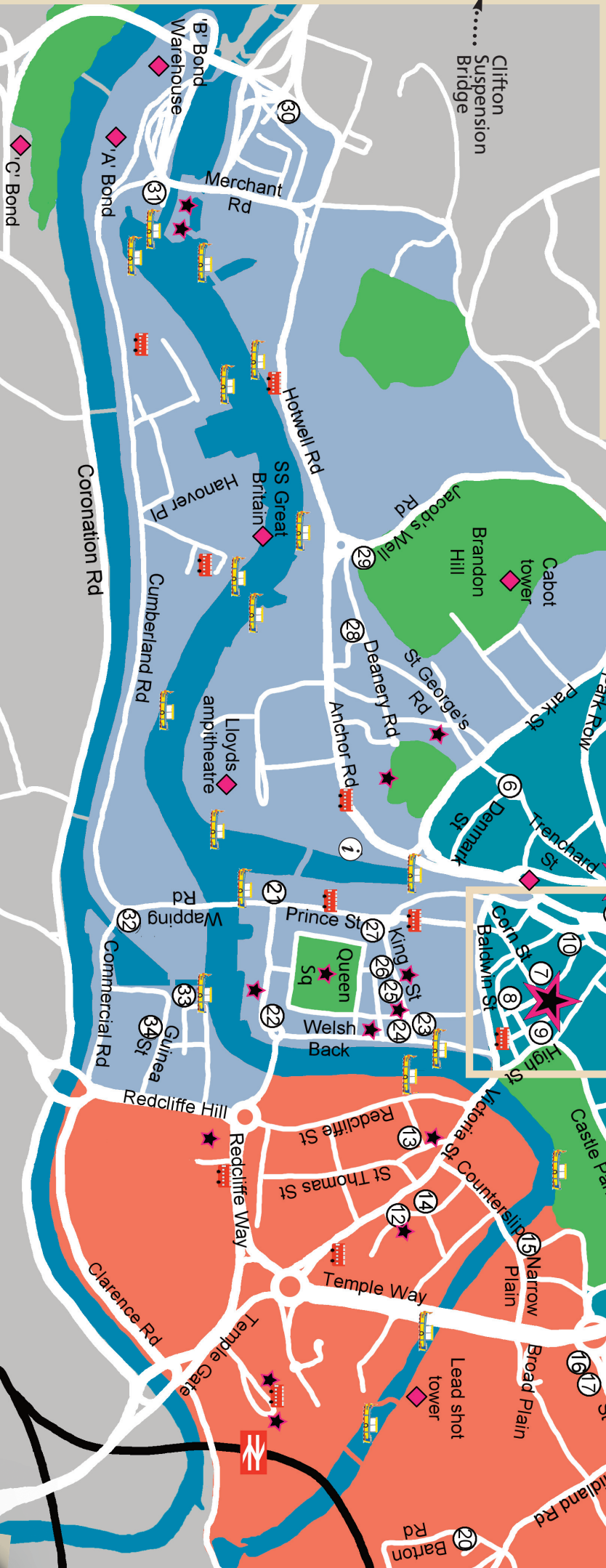
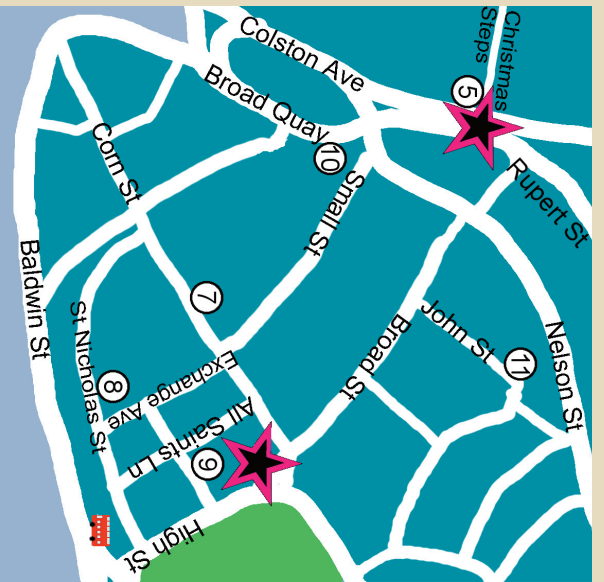
Lower Guinea Street, BS1 6TJ

This dockside pub once belonged to the Ashton Gate Brewery and has kept the same name since before 1775. Behind the pub lie Redcliffe Caves which were created when sand was excavated for use in the local glassworks and as ship's ballast.

34 Golden Guinea

19 Guinea Street, BS1 6SX

This early-18C pub is the last survivor of at least four public houses in what used to be a prosperous dockside street with connections to the Royal African Company. Many of the street's buildings were demolished to make way for the railway on the one side and the hospital on the other.



- ① Pubs
- ◆ Landmark
- ★ Item of interest
- ★ Area of interest
- ① Tourist Information Centre

- Temple Meads Railway Station
- Bristol Bus and Coach Station
- City Sightseeing Bristol stop
- Bristol Ferry pick-up point*

Some of the streets indicated on this map are pedestrian only

*Ferryboat timetables are available on the free Bristol Treasure Island App for iPhones or Android

Pub details over