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# THE BRISTOL FAQ UK NATIONALS 2024

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# INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL

## Fly to Bristol International

Bristol has its own out of town Airport with a moderate number of international connections.

The best way to get from the airport to the centre is via the Airport Flyer Bus. It takes around 40 mins to get to Bristol Coach Station and It will cost you:

Single £9

Return £15

## Fly to London Heathrow

The recommended London Airport if flights to Bristol are not available (or too expensive).

From Heathrow you can get a National Express Coach Direct to Bristol which takes 2.5hrs and costs ~£18 if booked in advance.

## COACH

Our recommendation esp. if travelling from London or Heathrow  
(Trains from London are unfortunately overpriced)  
National Express / Megabus (and other services) will drop you at Bristol  
Coach station, just around the corner from the venue itself!

## TRAIN

If Traveling to Bristol by train you want to head to **Bristol Temple Meads Station**  
(Not Bristol Parkway)

## CAR

Consider the planet and ask around for car share's!  
Bristol City Centre is part of a Class D Clean Air Zone – If you are planning to  
drive in please check if your vehicle needs to Pay a CAZ charge (£9 a day) –  
you can check using your Reg plate here: <https://www.gov.uk/clean-air-zones>  
For Parking see page 5

## PARK & RIDE

Bristol has a good park and ride system, particularly useful for people who  
don't have cars that pass the Clean Air Zone requirements, All of the  
services stop at Broadmead/Cabot Circus which is perfect for SPARKS –  
more info: [travelwest.info/park-ride](https://travelwest.info/park-ride)

# TRAVELLING TO BRISTOL

# TRAVEL AROUND BRISTOL CENTRE

SPARKS IS LOCATED IN THE BROADMEAD AREA OF BRISTOL,  
VERY CLOSE TO CABOT CIRCUS SHOPPING CENTRE.

## Getting to SPARKS from Temple Meads Train Station:

20-minute walk (flat, no hills)  
or  
#8 Bus (every 10-15mins) – Get off at Broadmead  
#71 or #72 Bus – Get off at Union Street

## BUSSES IN BRISTOL

You can simply tap on with any contactless card /  
Phone etc, If you are taking multiple busses in a  
day then you can also tap off and your daily  
charge will be capped at £6.  
Single Trip £2  
Day Ticket £6

## PARKING

You can book parking in advance using the Just  
Park App with Marlborough House Car Park,  
Wilder Street & Backfields Lane being the  
cheapest close by options at approx. £9 a day

Otherwise on the day Parking can be found at  
Cabot Circus shopping centre and The Galleries  
shopping centre for around £18-£20 a day

There is also an independent Car Park called  
Trojan Free Fighters car park (BS2 9DA) which is  
£6 all day – but is only open till 8pm – This is  
likely to be fine for Friday & Sunday but NOT for  
Saturday.

# AREAS OF BRISTOL

[visitbristol.co.uk/plan-your-visit/maps](https://visitbristol.co.uk/plan-your-visit/maps)

Map of the Areas that Bristol Centre is split up into

Pay attention to the areas with little yellow boxes, in particular:

**Broadmead:** The home of SPARKS (The Venue for UK Nat's 24).  
Highstreet Shops and Food outlets

**Cabot Circus:** Other Half of the shopping quarter, Highstreet  
Chain Shops and Food outlets

**The Centre:** Also known as "The Fountains", includes the areas  
from St Nick's Market to the Harbourside

**Stokes Croft:** Fiercely Independent, shop's, bars, pubs and  
restaurants, good (sometimes a little rowdy) late night venues

**King Street:** Pubs and Bars, particularly suited to Beer/Cider  
Drinkers

**Wapping Wharf:** Fantastic selection of small independent  
Restaurants (see recommendations below)

**Old Market:** Bristol's LGBTQ+ quarter with pubs, bars and  
venues.





# ACCOMMODATION

## HOTELS

Closet Hotels to the venue

(All within 5 mins walk of the venue, price per night is approx. at time of writing):

Premier Inn Bristol City Centre (Lewins Mead) hotel - £97

Future Inn Bristol Cabot Circus - £103

Holiday Inn Bristol City Centre - £126

Delta Hotels Bristol City Centre - £106

Moxy Bristol - £106

Artist Residence - ~£200 (highly recommended for anyone wanting a luxury stay)

## HOSTELS

Within 5–10 minute walk of the venue – for those on a budget:

Rock n Bowl: £25-£40

The Full Moon Pub & Hostel £30-£45

The Bristol Wing £30-£45

## AIR BNB

Plenty of options in the area.

Currently there are options for 2-3px at around £150 a night for a whole apartment.

for larger groups you could expect to pay somewhere in the region of £80-100 per night per person.



# RECOMMENDATIONS AROUND BRISTOL

## Games Shop:

(aka. Help, I forgot my sleeves/playmat/D17 dice!)

Excelsior Games is located at:  
32 Bond St, BS1 3LX, Broadmead

Less than 2 minutes from SPARKS and carries  
Dragon Shield Duel Matte Sleeves as well as a  
selection of board games and accessories.

## LGBTQ+ Options:

I have included a tag for venues that publicly advertise themselves as being a safe space for LGBTQ+ folks. I do not believe that any of the venues on this list would be unwelcoming or unsafe for anyone - not having the tag just denotes that the venue does not specifically advertise an LGBTQ+ friendly attitude



# COFFEE

## FULL COURT PRESS

St Nick Markets area (8 mins walk)  
Best coffee shop for serious coffee nerds

## FARRO BAKERY

Broadmead (6 mins walk)  
Great Bakery with excellent coffee to boot

## TASTE OF NAPOLI

Broadmead (1 minute walk)  
Authentic Italian Espresso & Coffee

## BUSY V BAKERY

(30 second walk) Downstairs in SPARKS  
(open from 11am), Coffee and Vegan Cakes

## WOGAN'S COFFEE ROASTERY

Just Past Cabot Circus (12 mins walk)  
Best place to pick up some beans,  
Nice coffee shop to drink in

# FOOD: CHEAP & CHEERFUL

All of the below are within 10 mins walking distance of SPARKS,  
and take walk ins

**Tuk Tuck:** Stokes Croft & The Centre:

Pan-asian Streetfood, Korean, Bibimbap, Good Vegetarian options, mains ~£10, [tuktuck.com](http://tuktuck.com)

**Oowee Burger:** The Centre & Stokes Croft

The Best Burger in Bristol - Comes with Brandon aka The King's Seal of Approval (and it happens to be Vegan!)  
(mainly takeout) LGBTQ+ [ooweevegan.com](http://ooweevegan.com)

**Left-Handed Giant Brewpub,** Finzels Reach:

Great Naples style pizza and craft beers brewed on site, Pizza's £10-£15, Large tables for groups, no bookings, LGBTQ+,  
[lhgbrewpub.com](http://lhgbrewpub.com)

**Crispy Dosa,** Broadmead: Indian Restaurant, Vegetarian, 2 mins walk from SPARKS, mains £8 - £12, [crispydosa.com](http://crispydosa.com)

**Franco Manca,** The Centre: Pizza Chain with low prices and lots of table space, Pizza's £7-£12, [francomanca.co.uk](http://francomanca.co.uk)

**Pieminister:** Stokes Croft and The Centre: Bristol Pie & Mash Chain, Good veggie options, Mains £10, [pieminister.co.uk](http://pieminister.co.uk)

**Saint Nicholas Market:** Selection of Independent Street Food Food Venders (Daytime only) £8-£12

# FOOD: OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS

10-15 mins walk from the venue and a bit pricier, but still very affordable, most take bookings via their websites

**Salt & Malt**, Wapping Wharf: The Best Fish & Chips in Bristol, Takeaway Fish & Chips ~£12 [saltandmalt.co.uk](http://saltandmalt.co.uk)

**Ramen Monster**, The Centre: Great Ramen & Yakisoba, open from 17.30, mains £13-16 [www.ramenmonster.co.uk](http://www.ramenmonster.co.uk)

**Small Bar**, King Street: Craft beer and the best Korean fried Chicken in Bristol, £10-14, LGBTQ+ [www.smallbar.co.uk](http://www.smallbar.co.uk)

**Four Wise Monkeys**, The Centre: Pan Asian, Dim Sum, Bao etc. LGBTQ+ [fourwisemonkeysbristol.com](http://fourwisemonkeysbristol.com)

**Cargo Cantina**, Wapping Wharf: Tacos, Tostadas and Margaritas! [www.cargocantina.co.uk](http://www.cargocantina.co.uk)

**7 Lucky Gods**, Wapping Wharf: Sushi, Tenpenaki & Korean small plates. [7luckygods.com](http://7luckygods.com)

**Berthas**, Wapping Wharf: Some of the Best Sourdough Pizza in Bristol, [berthas.co.uk](http://berthas.co.uk)

**Urban Tandoor**, The Centre: Traditional Indian dishes with a modern twist, Curry & Rice from £14, [urban-tandoor.com](http://urban-tandoor.com)

# FOOD: HIGH END

For those that fancy a treat whilst in Bristol  
Advance Booking recommended/required for all below

**BOX-E**, Wapping Wharf: Baa's Favourite Restaurant in Bristol.

Tiny, very seasonal, small menu, booking in advance essential, 3 courses £30-35, tasting menu £55, [boxebristol.com](http://boxebristol.com)

**ROOT**, Wapping Wharf:

Sharing / Small plates with an emphasis on local Vegetables (plus a little locally sourced meat & fish), [rootbristol.co.uk](http://rootbristol.co.uk)

**Pasta Ripena**, The Centre:

Top Notch, Inventive Pasta dishes & Italian, [pastaripena.co.uk](http://pastaripena.co.uk)

**Marmo**, The Centre:

Natural Wine Bar with a short seasonal menu, [marmo.restaurant](http://marmo.restaurant)

**Adelina Yard**, King Street:

For those wanting to go all out! Tasting menu only, an experience! [adelinayard.com](http://adelinayard.com)

# BARS, PUBS AND DRINKING DENS

## BARS:

**The Canteen**, Stokes Croft:  
Good selection of Drinks + Live music  
/DJ's, Free entry, LGBTQ+

**No 1 Harbourside**, The Centre:  
Locally sourced drinks, Free Entry  
House/Soul/Disco/Funk DJs, LGBTQ+

**The Old Market Assembly**, Old Market:  
Great Drinks Selection, excellent Vibe,  
Funk/Soul DJs, usually free, LGBTQ+

**To The Moon**, Old Market:  
Small, LGBTQ+ Pub/Bar with DJ's on the  
weekends, open till midnight.

## PUBS:

**Small Bar**, King Street  
Craft Beer & Korean Chicken, LGBTQ+

**The Llandoger Trow**, King Street  
Big Selection of Lager, Ale & Cider

**The Apple**, King Street  
The place to go if you want to try some  
genuine West Country Ciders

**The Phoenix**, Cabot Circus, LGBTQ+

**Left-Handed Giant Brew Pub**, Finzels Reach  
Craft Beer & Pizza, LGBTQ+

**Junction**, Wapping Wharf

## COCKTAILS:

Bristol has an incredible cocktail scene  
expect to pay around £12 for a cocktail in  
the below recommended venues:

**The Raven**, The Centre:  
Experiential Cocktail List, + live burlesque,  
magic, tarot readings most nights

**Milk Thistle**, The Centre:  
Speakeasy, Boozy Cocktails,  
Booking usually required.

**The Library**, The Centre:  
Hidden Bar, High End Cocktails



# LIVE MUSIC AND CLUB NIGHTS

## Live Music: Friday 15th

The Old Duke, King Street:  
Live Jazz/blues/bluegrass etc every night,  
free entry 8-12pm

Aircooled @ Dareshack, Broadmead:  
Psychedelic, Electro Rock, 8-11pm

Bloody/Bath @ The Lanes, Broadmead:  
Post Punk/Shoegaze, 7.30-10pm

## Live Music: Saturday 16th

K.O.G @ The Lantern, Christmas Steps:  
The master of Afrobeat Fusion 8pm-10pm

PROJECTOR @ The Lanes, Broadmead:  
Art Rock/Indie/Grunge 7.30-10pm

The Chase @ The Exchange, Old Market:  
Ska / Indie Rock 7.30-10pm

## Club Nights: Saturday 16th

Funk Addict @ The Jam Jar, Cabot Circus Area: Vinyl only Funk, Disco & Northern Soul, 11-4am, LGBTQ+

The Love Inn, Stokes Croft: Techno / House Dj's, 10-4am, LGBTQ+

Skream - All night long @ The Island, Broadmead: UK House, Garage, Bass music legend. 11-4am

Jungle Cakes @ Lakota, Stokes Croft: Breakbeat, Jungle, D&B, 10-4am



# AMUSEMENTS

## BOARD GAME CAFES

Chance & Counters, 2 locations: Stokes Croft & Christmas Steps  
I also recommend the food – good value and with Veggie / vegan options and good drinks selection (both alc. and non alc.)

## RETRO ARCADE'S

NQ64, The Centre: Arcade Machines and Retro Consoles, Open till 2.30am

Four Quarters, Park Street: 20+ Retro Arcade Machines, Open till 1am

## OTHER OPTIONS

The Lanes, Broadmead: Late night Bar with Bowling & Karaoke

Flight Club, The Centre: Drinks and Darts, what could go wrong?

# GYMS & PARKS

## GYMS

(FOR THOSE LOOKING TO 'FLEX' ON THEIR OPPONANTS)

Pure Gyms (locations including Broadmead and Harbourside)  
Offer single day passes without the need for a membership.

## BOULDERING / ROCK CLIMBING GYMS

Flashpoint, Temple meads (very close to the Train Station)

The Mothership - The Climbing Academy: 15mins east from the centre of town.

## GREEN SPACES

St Andrews Park, Stokes Croft:  
Lovely Park to chill, lots of space, hidden nature pond.

St Georges Park, St George:  
A bus ride east of the centre, lovely park, large pond, nice skatepark.

Ashton Court, 20min Drive/Bus from the centre,  
Perfect if you're looking for a place to really stretch your legs / hike / maybe see some deer!

Castle Park, Broadmead – The Closest Green space to SPARKS if you need to stretch your legs (I can't recommend it for much more than that though)