

School of Physics Visitors Travel Guide

We have designed this guide to make it as easy as possible for visitors to get to the School of Physics. If you are booking travel from outside of Bristol here are some links to get you started:

- [Flight booking through Expedia.com](#) (Destination Bristol BRS - Bristol Intl.)
- [Train booking through Trainline](#) (Destination BRI - Bristol Temple Meads)
- [Bus booking through National Express](#) (Destination BRISTOL Bus & Coach Station)

Once you have arrived at the airport, train or bus station we have provided all the information you need to easily travel from there to the Physics Buildings. As a school we are doing everything we can to reduce our carbon footprint and we therefore encourage you to travel sustainably wherever possible. However, if public transport or walking are not a viable option for you, we have also included information on how to drive and get a taxi.

Our main building address is:

HH Wills Physics Laboratory,
Tyndall Avenue,
Bristol,
BS8 1TL.

If you are visiting the NSQI building it is next to HH Wills Physics Laboratory (to the left) on Tyndall Avenue.

The South-West Nuclear Hub address is:

David Smith Building,
73 St Michael's Hill,
Bristol,
BS2 8BH.

Please click through to the section you need on the Contents list below:

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Bristol City Map

Whilst you are in Bristol, you can use [this City Map](#) to help you get around and explore local landmarks and attractions. You can also visit the [Visit Bristol webpages](#) for various other maps such as accommodation maps and regional maps.

From Bristol Airport

Bus:

[Bristol Airport Flyer - service A1](#)

Buses run 24/7, up to every 12 minutes throughout the day and hourly overnight. The service stops at both Bristol Temple Meads Train Station (30 minutes) and Broadmead, Lewins Mead (45 minutes).

We suggest getting off at Bristol Temple Meads if you wish to get a direct bus (see from Bristol Temple Meads for details) or if you get off at Lewin's Mead it is a 10-minute walk to the School of Physics.

Single tickets cost £9, returns are £15 and can be purchased using contactless card or cash on the bus. You can also buy digital tickets on the First Bus App.

Taxi:

[Arrow Cars](#) is the exclusive Private Hire partner at Bristol Airport, the only taxi company able to pick-up and drop-off customers on the terminal front; Arrow Cars are available 24 hours a day / 365 day a year.

Private Car Hire and pickup:

Bristol Airport also offers various [private car hire services](#) from the Car Rental Centre which is just a short, free bus ride from the terminal to the Silver Zone.

Additionally, private cars are allowed to pick up passengers from the airport using the Drop & Go or the Short Stay parking areas, details on the cost of these and where they are located can be found on the [Bristol Airport webpages](#).

From Bristol Temple Meads Train Station

Bus:

Single bus tickets cost around £2 and an unlimited day ticket valid on all First bus services in central Bristol costs around £5. Tickets can be purchased using contactless card or cash on the bus. You can also buy digital tickets for a reduced price.

The bus services run regularly from right outside the train station, at peak times they arrive every 10 to 15 minutes, running less regularly later in the evening. Please use the [First Bus Journey Planner](#) to see which bus operate at what time to get from Temple Meads to the campus.

The free [First Bus App](#) is very useful for journey planning, as well as buying tickets at a cheaper price, you can check bus timetables and follow live bus times so you know how long you will be waiting.

Walking:

The walk from Bristol Temple Meads takes 25-30 minutes is 2.25km, roughly 3000 steps and you can burn around 500 calories (250 on the return journey downhill). See our [guided tour section](#) below where we have a map with written directions and some useful landmarks and nice places to stop along your journey.

Taxi:

There is a taxi rank directly outside the train station on Station Approach Road. Official Bristol taxis have a blue livery, remember to make sure they are displaying their licence numbers. You can also use Uber throughout the city.

From Bristol Central Bus Station

Walking:

The quickest way to get here from the bus station is to walk, it is 1km and takes around 15-20 minutes (albeit mostly uphill). See our [guided tour section](#) below where we have a map with written directions and some useful landmarks and nice places to stop along your journey.

Bus:

Single bus tickets cost around £2 and an unlimited day ticket valid on all First bus services in central Bristol costs around £5. Tickets can be purchased using contactless card or cash on the bus. You can also buy digital tickets for a reduced price.

The bus services run regularly the bus station, at peak times they arrive every 10 to 15 minutes, running less regularly later in the evening. Please use the [First Bus Journey Planner](#) to see which bus operate at what time to get from the bus station to the campus.

The free [First Bus App](#) is very useful for journey planning, as well as buying tickets at a cheaper price, you can check bus timetables and follow live bus times so you know how long you will be waiting.

Taxi:

There is a taxi rank directly outside the bus station if you use the exit next to Bay 1. There is a second larger taxi rank if you follow the road to the left along lower Maudlin Street, next to St James Park.

E-Scooters

[Hop-on hop-off e-scooters](#) are available in Bristol to help residents and visitors to get around central areas at a set price per mile used.

To use these scooters, you will need to download the [TIER app](#) (users must be at least 18 years old and hold a provisional or full driving licence). All the information on how to use these scooters can be found on the [TIER website](#).

Driving

There are multistorey car parks about ten minutes' walk from the main campus as shown on this [Campus map](#). [Trenchard Street](#) car park postcode BS1 5AN is the closest to the Physics Building.

If you are a visitor and you need disabled parking, get in touch with the [School of Physics directly](#). Please note that the University does not offer visitor parking currently, there is plenty of pay and display spaces on Woodland Road and other streets around campus, local parking charges apply.

Taxis

There are hundreds of licensed Bristol Blue taxis in the city which can catch by either hailing (by holding up your arm or waving to a taxi with its light illuminated), waiting at a taxi rank or using the Braxi app. There are multiple taxi ranks across the city, locations and operating times can be found on this [interactive map](#).

Or you can use the **BRAXI app** - this app allows you to book taxis in Bristol and set the pickup point and destination in advance. You will be able to see the fare estimate and pay by card if you wish to. The app is very similar to other taxi hailing apps but with BRAXI, drivers will have to be licensed by Bristol City Council so you are directly supporting local people.

There are quite a few private hire taxi companies in Bristol. These include; V Cars, who also have their own app to pre-book taxis and Eurotaxi and AA Taxis. **Uber** and **Ola** also operate in Bristol.

Bristol Ferry Boats

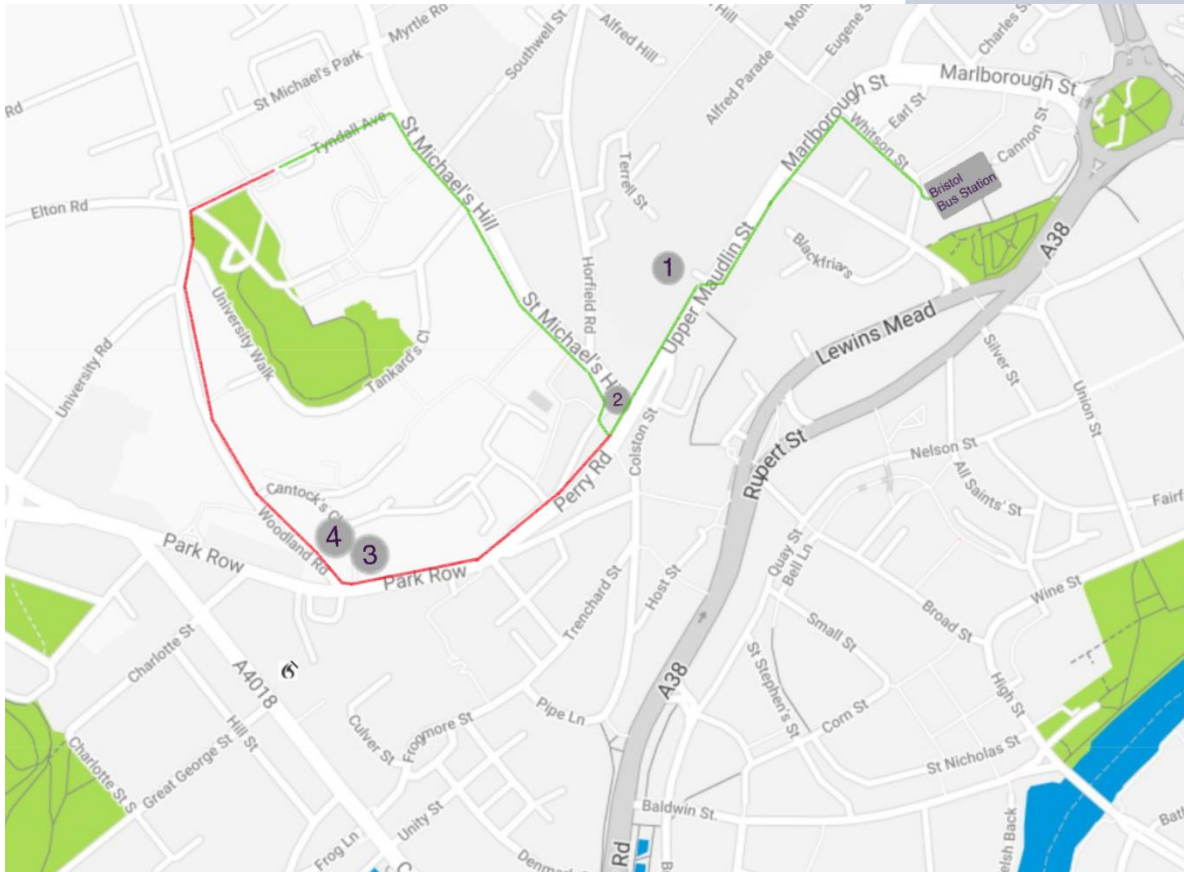
[Bristol Ferry Boats](#) provide a scheduled waterbus service around Bristol's unique Floating Harbour 364 days of the year come rain or shine and have done for 40 years. Visitors and locals alike can hop on and off their boats at any of their 17 stops. (Fares vary). Whilst these won't take you directly to Physics, they are a great way to enjoy the city. If you were to finish your journey at the harbourside you would be around a 15-minute walk from the Physics buildings.

Arriving by train at Temple Meads station? Hop on a ferry (the stop is just a couple of minutes' walk from the station) and take a leisurely trip to Bristol's Shopping Quarter, the City Centre, We The Curious, The Aquarium and of course what better way to arrive at Brunel's SS Great Britain than by water? The Harbour offers a huge range of bars, restaurants, markets and cafes too, as well as the bigger attractions. Why not

stay on board the heated covered boats for a forty-minute round trip and take in the sights and sounds of the vibrant City Centre? It is a fascinating way to see the city from a completely different perspective.

Guided Walking Routes

Bristol Bus Station to Physics:



Routes Shown: Direct (Green) - 15 minutes, Indirect (Red) – 18-20 minutes.

Accessibility: Both routes include a hill and some uneven streets. The Direct route is steeper and includes some steps.

Highlights: We have shared some useful/interesting things to see on your journey, the bold numbers in brackets correspond to numbers in circles on the map above.

Start: Leave the bus station at the exit next to Bay 1 and turn immediately right to walk up Whitson St. Around 100 yds. Turn left at the end of the road and walk along Marlborough Street. When you see the colourful sculpture outside Bristol Children's Hospital cross over at the traffic lights and carry on the other side of the road.

Keep going along the road past the hospital, you will cross another set of lights below St. Michaels Hill.

After this crossing you have two route options, the direct route is slightly quicker, but the hill is steeper:

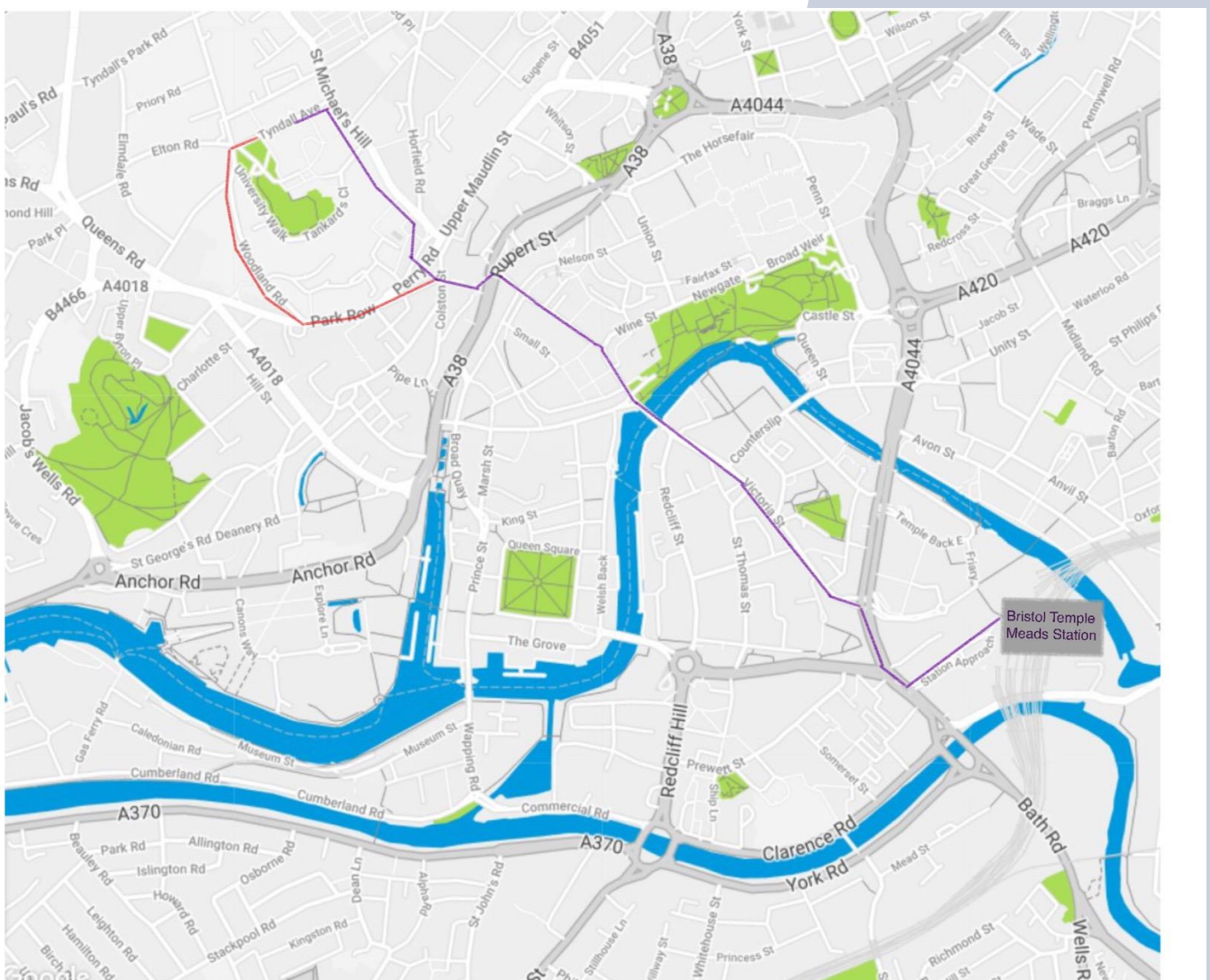
Direct route (Green) – look out for the shop Kimono on the right. Once you pass Kimono turn immediately right up the steps and keep going all the way up the hill.

You will see a red post box near the top with David Smith Building on your left. Stop here to take a breath and turn around to admire the view! Then keep going to the next left turning, turn into Tyndall Avenue, NSQI building is the second building on the left, HH Wills is 3rd on the left.

Indirect route (Red) - Keep going along Perry Road past all the shops. When you reach a corner opposite the Esso garage turn around to see mural by local artist [Lucas Antics, Uncertain World \(2015\)](#).

Turn right past the Cloakroom Cafe to head up Woodland Road. Keep going up the hill, you will pass the Fry building (School of Mathematics) on the left, shortly after this you meet a crossroads, turn right along Tyndall Ave. Walk past the entrance to Royal Fort Garden and HH Wills is the first building on the right. NSQI second on the right.

Bristol Temple Meads to Physics:



Routes Shown: Direct (Purple) – 25-30 minutes, Indirect (Red) – 30-35 minutes.

Accessibility: Both routes include a hill and some uneven streets. The Direct route is steeper and includes some steps.

Highlights: We have shared some useful/interesting things to see on your journey, the bold numbers in brackets correspond to numbers in circles on the map above.

Start: Head out the main exit, past the taxis and bus stop, down the slope. Turn right at the end of the car park, then in about 150 yards you'll get to a pedestrian crossing.

Cross the road then keep going right, shortly veering left down Victoria Street.

A couple minutes up the road you'll come across 'Ye Shakespeare', one of Bristol's oldest pubs. (You could take a very short detour here turning right just after the pub, exposing the ruins of Temple Church, dating back to the 12th century. Take the first left, then the next, to head under the arches, crossing the road to get back onto Victoria Street, continuing right.)

Continue up Victoria Street and cross the bridge over the River Avon, to your right you'll see Castle Park.

Continue straight, using the pedestrian crossing, then the next. Shortly you'll come across St Nicholas Markets to your left, known for some of the best food in Bristol, and its largest collection of independent shops!

Bear left down Broad Street, in about 500 yards you'll see the [Edward Everard building](#). Walk under the arches and continue straight, then use the pedestrian crossing on the right.

Once you've crossed the road, turn left and shortly you'll come to a small, cobbled area and a great bakery called 'Ahh Toots', which we recommend! Turn right past Ahh Toots and brace yourself for the Christmas Steps!

Once you've made it up, you can either take the next flight of stairs in front of you, to bring yourself across the road from Kimono Kimono, or (if you can't take any more stairs) turn right, then left at the end of the road and continue to find Kimono Kimono across the road on your right.

Useful Pit Stops and Things to See While You Are Here:

1. [Co-op Food](#) - our nearest corner shop if you need to grab any essentials while you are here. There is an ATM here if you need to withdraw cash.
2. [Royal Fort Gardens](#) - a perfect spot to sit and relax, these gardens are directly behind the School of Physics. The gardens host a small pond, trees and habitats, to increase the biodiversity. Visitors can also appreciate art installations including a mirror maze (called "Follow Me") designed by the internationally recognised artist Jeppe Hein and an installation called 'Hollow' produced by Katie Paterson (with the assistance of Zeller & Moye); which brings together samples taken from 10,000 species of wood that grow throughout the world.
3. [Cantocks Steps](#) - as you walk down the steps towards the Chemistry building they look fairly ordinary, but when you reach the bottom turn around and you will see a lovely rainbow where they were decorated for PRIDE in 2019. Cantock Steps are known as 'Indecision Steps' due to their awkward spacing. Each pace requires one and a half steps.
4. [Luke Jerram's Palm Temple](#) - In 2019, Luke Jerram was approached to create an artwork to celebrate the 600th anniversary of Brunelleschi's dome of Florence Cathedral. In response, he created the Palm Temple; a stunning art installation based on a spiralling lamella dome structure. The work changes minute by minute with the shifting weather patterns and time of day, and at night, the artwork becomes internally illuminated. You may also recognise this location from Sex Education series 4.

5. [Wills Memorial Building](#) - a neo-Gothic building designed by Sir George Oatley and built as a memorial to Henry Overton Wills III by his sons George and Henry Wills. Begun in 1915 and not opened until 1925, it is considered one of the last great Gothic buildings to be built in England. It is a landmark building of the University of Bristol that currently houses the School of Law and the Department of Earth Sciences, as well as the Law and Earth Sciences libraries. It is the fourth highest structure in Bristol, standing at 215 ft (65.5 m). [Guided Tours](#) take place on Saturdays.
6. [Bristol Museum & Art Gallery](#) - Free to enter, this museum includes sections on natural history as well as local, national and international archaeology. The art gallery contains works from all periods, including many by internationally famous artists, as well a collection of modern paintings of Bristol.
7. [Park Street](#) - Park Street and Queen's Road boast a great selection of trendy boutiques, music and book shops, bars, clubs and restaurants, as well as being perfect for sightseeing with their iconic buildings. It is a great place to grab lunch with local favourites such as Eat a Pita, Pinkmans, Taka Taka and Friska.
8. [Brandon Hill Park & Cabot Tower](#) – a hilly park 15 minutes' walk from Physics with green fields, a pond, lots of trees and pretty flowers. There are plenty of benches to sit and enjoy great views across Bristol. In the middle of the park there is Cabot Tower, a 105 ft tall tower which provides stunning panoramic views of the entire city. Access to the park and climbing Cabot Tower is free of charge.
9. [Lollipop Be-Bop](#) – an art installation is a series of entwining-coloured hoops installed in an attempt to make the BRI hospital a more welcoming place for sick children. Inside the hospital, patients can light up the sculpture using a machine.

Hotels for overnight stays:

We are very fortunate to have a wide range of hotels in the city and due to our campus location, many of them are within reasonable walking distance or accessible by public transport routes. Whilst we cannot recommend any hotels as an organisation, below are some that are in close proximity to the School of Physics that you may wish to use for your visit.

You can also [use booking.com](#) to find other nearby hotels as well as apartments that may also be suitable.

1. [Hotel du Vin](#)
2. [The Berkeley Square Hotel](#)
3. [OYO the Regency, Clifton](#)
4. [The Clifton Hotel](#)
5. [Radisson Blue Hotel](#)
6. [Bristol Marriott Royal Hotel](#)
7. [Holiday Inn Bristol City Centre](#)