



Bristol Cathedral



Berkeley Castle

TWO HISTORIC ATTRACTIONS...

...ONE GLORIOUS DAY OUT.

A visit to Bristol Cathedral and Berkeley Castle

Discover the history of the Berkeley's, one of the oldest families in England, with a day exploring two iconic sites: the magnificent Bristol Cathedral, founded in 1140 by the first Lord Berkeley, which boasts some of the most important medieval architecture in the UK and Berkeley Castle, the ancient fortress home of the family for almost 900 years, where the history played out within the walls makes it one of the most remarkable buildings in Britain.

On arrival at the **Cathedral** start with a cup of tea or coffee and then join your guide for a tour of this historic building. Bristol Cathedral stands in the middle of Bristol's vibrant city centre. One of England's great medieval churches, the Augustinian abbey was founded here in the 12th century.

Today the Cathedral boasts some of the most important medieval architecture in the UK – the exquisite Norman Chapter House and the soaring vaults at the medieval East End made Nicholas Pevsner declare that it “superior to anything else built in England or indeed Europe at the same time.” Look out for the medieval stained glass preserved in the cloister, the brightly coloured Eastern Lady Chapel, the Victorian Nave with World War II memorial windows and the Anglo Saxon *Harrowing of Hell* stone, the oldest object in Bristol.



After your visit join the M5 out of Bristol and drive north to **Berkeley Castle**, approximately 30 minutes away. Surrounded by glorious countryside and a deer park lies one of Britain's best kept secrets. If you have not visited before, this building will come as a revelation.

Although a medieval fortress, it is still a real home, lived in by the Berkeley family for nearly 900 years and comfortably furnished in the styles of many centuries. It has a warm and friendly atmosphere and, despite the fact that the flag on its battlements rises some 100 feet above the surrounding meadows, once you step through the Great Doors into the Inner Bailey the castle is still intimate in scale.



The Castle Butterfly House is open from the beginning of May until the end of September on the same days as the Castle. Visitors are welcome to wander among the plants and free-flying tropical butterflies and entry is included in your ticket price.

Berkeley Castle has stunning views over the River Severn to the Royal Forest of Dean.

The terraced gardens contain many rare and unusual trees, shrubs and herbaceous plants and time should be allowed to walk along the terraces to the Lily Pond, fountain and to enjoy the sights and the scents.

Itinerary

- 10.30am** **Arrive at Bristol Cathedral**
Welcome, morning coffee/tea
- 10.45am** **Guided tour.**
An experienced guide will lead you around, imparting fascinating facts about this inspiring cathedral church, including stories of the famous and historic people connected to it.
- 12.15pm** **Explore other parts in and around the Cathedral.**
There is often a free exhibition to see and more in depth information about the cathedral to be explored. Alternatively you can simply sit and enjoy some time in the beautifully landscaped Cathedral Garden or explore the Cathedral Shop.
- 12:45pm** **Depart for Berkeley Castle and Lunch in the The Yurt Tea Rooms - The Garden Room**
- 2:45pm** **Guided Tour of Berkeley Castle**
Enjoy a Tour of the Castle, being transported through time and soaking up hundreds of years of history. See the cell where Edward II was held before his gruesome murder at the Castle. Hear how Berkeley Castle became the inspiration for Shakespeare's A Midsummer Night's Dream and so much more! The Guided Tour takes approximately 1 ¼ hours leaving you a little time to browse in our Gift Shop and Plant Sales area.
- 4:30pm** **Depart**

Facilities

Disabled Toilets, Gift Shop, Café, Coach drop off point close by (Cathedral), Coach/car parking nearby
Plant & gift sales and a free car/coach park (Berkeley Castle)

Price

£25.00 per person, which includes Guided Tours of both Bristol Cathedral and Berkeley Castle, morning refreshments and a pre-booked afternoon lunch.

Tour Availability

Tour available for groups of 20+
Sunday to Wednesday 2nd April – 31st October 2017
(Cathedral tour availability is subject to other events in the Cathedral.)

Accessibility

The Cathedral aims to be as accessible as possible to all. Unfortunately due to the ancient nature of the building disabled access to the Cloister, Chapter House, garden and café is through a separate entrance. Guide and Hearing Dogs are welcome. Wheelchair access at Berkeley Castle is limited due to steps and staircases

How to Book

To discuss your visit, please contact Helen Berryman

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Location

Bristol Cathedral is situated in the middle of Bristol City
Berkeley Castle is approximately 20 miles from the Cathedral signposted off of the M5 Junction 14
Groups are required to use own coach/car transport between attractions