



BATHMUN 2023

City Information Guide

Welcome to Bath!

The Secretariat are delighted to welcome you to our historic and enchanting city of Bath! During your stay, we hope you and your delegation have a chance to explore our university and the wider city. Bath is a city that seamlessly blends the past and the present, offering a unique experience to every visitor. We hope you create wonderful memories during your time here and that you feel the warmth and hospitality that Bath is known for.

Staying in Bath

We recommend booking hotels well in advance, especially considering the Christmas rush. However, Bath has plenty of options to choose from:

Please do note that these are recommendations, and sadly we are not liable for any issues you may encounter within these accommodation options. Ultimately discretion for bookings is for you and your delegation.

Hotels:

Whilst by no means an extensive list, we hope the below hotels and hostels will give some indication of the accommodation available in and around the city.

Premier Inn Bath- 4 James St W, Bath BA1 2BX. **££**

A good choice for those looking for a central location. The hotel is fairly budget friendly and offers its own restaurant, as well as group booking discounts.

St Christopher's Inn Hostel- 9 Green St, Bath BA1 2JY. **£**

A modern budget hostel, located in the cultural part of the city centre. Direct bookings via the hostel's website promise 25% off food and a free drink at Belushi's bar on the ground floor. The area has great bus connections, a central location and a supermarket across the road. However, do be warned, the street outside hosts a few pubs, so could perhaps be loud in the evening.

YHA Hostel- Bathwick Hill, Bathwick, Bath BA2 6LA. £

Located halfway up the Claverton Downhill between the city and campus, the YHA is a great choice for those looking for a no-thrills, central location. The hostel has a range of rooms and private dormitories making it a great choice for delegations. Equally, the U1 bus stops just outside the front door.

Other options to explore in the city centre

Bath Backpackers- 13 Pierrepont Street, Bath, BA1 1LA £

YMCA Bath- International House, Broad St Pl, Bath BA1 5LH ££

Travelodge- Ether 6-10 Westgate Buildings or 1 York Buildings, George Street £££

Airbnb

Bath has a range of AirBnB options available, with choices to fit all budgets. When booking, we draw delegates' attention to the U1 bus map, which provides a good indication of the locations accessibility.

As a rule of thumb, the City Centre, Oldfield Park (the student area), and Bathwick Hill are all good options for safe, accessible accommodation.

Getting to Bath

Please allow yourself plenty of time to drop off your bags at your accommodation before arriving at the conference. Whilst we will try our utmost to accommodate, as we cannot guarantee that we will be able to hold bags for you and your delegation.

We recommend booking travel well in advance and using a railcard or group booking for the cheapest fares.

Train:

Bath Spa train station is easily accessible from most rail routes and is in the heart of Bath city centre.

The journey takes about 1 hour and 30 minutes from London, however, Bath has good travel links to both north and south. Most Bath students use the station to get home for the holidays.

Air Travel:

Bristol Airport is the closest air link to the city, located about an hour away from Bath city centre. We recommend the A4 Air Decker for reaching the city from Bristol, a bus ride which takes around an hour, costing under £20.

Coach:

Good deals can often be found when travelling by coach (especially from London). Bath coach and bus station are very central, with the university bus stopping just outside the building.

Travelling around bath

Bath is a very easily navigated city, and most find they manage to get their bearings within a couple of days. However, we have compiled a list of travel options for delegates:

Walking

Bath is a brilliantly walkable city, with the vast majority of our attractions within a half-hour radius. We would however advise delegates to check the elevation of their location on google maps, as well as the distance, to ensure they're not embarking on an accidental hill climb!

Please be advised, walking from the city to the university campus is not recommended. It takes around 30 minutes, and is perfectly manageable, however, is rather steep and not really for those in conference wear. Most Bath students have an anecdote or two about walking up the hill (normally after missing the last bus!) but would typically use the bus for inexpensive day-to-day travel.

Bus:

The vast majority of students will use the U1 bus to travel between the city and campus. We recommend delegates do the same during their stay.

First Bus offers capped day passes at £4.20 on the app, however, a single is around £1.50. All U1 buses automatically apply a student travel rate.

The bus runs around every 10 minutes, even in late nights and early mornings, making it a good choice for getting to and from committees as well as socials and hotels.

Taxis

Bath also has a range of local taxi services as well as Uber and similar services. We advise delegates that these can be a little unreliable, due to poor data in some parts of the city centre, taxi apps can be a little slow.

Below we list a few local taxi companies:

Abbey Taxis- 01225 444 444

Bath Spa Taxis- 01225 313 131

Places to Eat

On Campus (During conference hours):

The campus has a range of food and drinks venues, all with affordable and fuss-free options, as well as the odd international dish and daily special. For the budget conscious, look out for the £1.50 dishes of the day. Equally, take advantage of the reusable travel mug discount when ordering hot drinks.

The Lime Tree

Our recommendation for the east side of campus. The lime tree canteen has a good selection of food and drink, with dedicated counters for pizzas, salads, and cooked meals of the day, the canteen also has its own coffee shop and bar. Most students with food credits will redeem them in the lime tree, so expect it to get a little busy around meal times!

The Student Union

The SU is right in the heart of the campus, and therefore easily accessible. On the ground floor, there's a public dining area, The Pitstop (a coffee shop with a good breakfast menu) and the SU shop, useful for vegan, gluten-free and organic lunches, as well as university merchandise.

Upstairs, The Bath Plug serves Starbucks coffee in the day, and a good variety of budget-friendly cocktails in the evening. Light bites, sandwiches and burgers can also be ordered from the bar.

Fresh (The Co-op)

Located on the west side of the main parade, Fresh is the go-to local shop for most students on campus. The shop offers a wide range of co-op branded goods as well as a good meal deal.

In the City

Cafes

Mokoko coffee branches- Best for independent coffee.

Mokoko Bakery is a local independent coffee chain and has several branches and counters around the city. Their coffee and pastries are a safe bet for delegates in need of a caffeine and sugar hit

For those with time to kill, Mokoko's bakery is located across the river from the Bath bus station. A nice enough location for a coffee, the glass partition lets you watch the bakery's prep area, perfect for the nosey/ curious!

Cafe au lait- Best for train delays.

Recognisable by its blue frontage, Cafe Au Lait is a great bistro and coffee shop right outside the train station. Far nicer than waiting in the station, The cafe is my go-to when the dreaded train delays hit.

Restaurants

Green park brasserie and Bath pizza co

A modern Bath staple. The Brasserie is built in the renovated Green Park train station and offers a great selection of pizzas, cocktails and occasionally a jazz band. For those not so keen to book ahead, or formal dining for that matter, the Pizza Co may be a good shout. Located behind the Brasserie and run out of the same kitchen, the heated terrace offers a casual setting with the same great menu.

The Bath Stable

The stable is located in the heart of the bath restaurant district. Offering mainly “pizza and pints”, it's good for unfussy, sharing food and a good range of local ciders. (Plus their Mac & cheese is pretty good!)

Southgate outdoor shopping district

Located at the bottom of the city, by the train station, Southgate offers a range of chain restaurants. Perfect for those seeking reservation-free dining, Nando's, Comptoir Libanais, and Giraffe can all be found, alongside a range of other brands.

Eat Live like a local- student favourites

Jimmy's vs Jason's- the ultimate rivalry

Rule one of Bath- don't trust anyone who doesn't have a preference in the kebab war.

For those late, post-pub, nights when chips and kebabs are a necessity, all must choose a side. Located by Pulteney Bridge, about 2 minutes walk from each other in almost identical white kebab vans- the two form a key part of the Bath nightlife. After much public consultation, I can confirm that Jason's is better for kebabs, however, Jimmy's is best for cheesy chips and has a tendency to give out lollipops to punters... so choose wisely!

Chai Walla

An easy to miss gem. Chai Walla is a hole-in-the-wall Indian street food joint in the centre of the city. Known for samosas, falafel and onion bhaji (all available separately or, as I would wholeheartedly recommend, in the same burrito) all their offerings are gluten-free, vegan and perfect for eating on the go. Be prepared for a little bit of a queue- its very popular with offices at lunchtime

The King of Wessex's Wetherspoons

By no means exclusive to Bath, but the King Of Wessex is a student staple for cheap drinks in the city centre. Look out for lots of Bath uni society socials, and the odd Uni of Bath vs Bath Spa rivalry!

The Grapes Pub/Wine Bar

The cutest little pub and wine bar, just off Main Street. The Pub is originally 17th century but with a cosy vibe and a brilliant selection of drinks. The Grapes has live music (usually folk or jazz) around 4 nights a week and attracts a brilliant range of people from students to true Bath locals. The Grapes is known for its house wine picks, but for those more into spirits, all single measures are 1.5x as standard.

Things to Do

The Parade Gardens and Pulteney Bridge

Located on the U1 bus route, students can be forgiven for becoming a little overfamiliar with the view over the bridge, but it's still rather scenic. The bridge itself was built in 1769 and hosts a range of tiny independent shops including the Bath Rugby Club merchandise shop. It also makes a great photo opportunity.

The Roman Baths

Located next to Bath Cathedral, the Roman Baths have stood at the heart of the city since the 1st Century AD. A UNESCO world heritage site, The baths boast an extensive collection of Roman artefacts, as well as the chance to walk around an authentic Roman thermae. Delegates are advised to book in advance for peak times, however tickets can be bought on the door.

Toppings and Co Bookshop

A Bath favourite, Toppings has recently moved into a 3-story Georgian townhouse opposite Bath Abbey. With a superb collection of books, Instagram-able decor and movable 8 ft ladders you're encouraged to use, it's well worth 10 minutes of your time! Non-fiction lovers shouldn't forget the basement floor, the philosophy section alone will keep a bookworm occupied for hours.

The Royal Crescent

The classic Bath photo location, keen observers may be able to spot the houses in much of BathMUNs marketing. The grade 1 listed buildings make for great backdrops, recently appearing in Netflix's *Bridgerton*. We recommend the spot for committee photos for delegations with a free hour, however, please be advised it's a good couple of minutes out of the city centre.

The Sham Castle

A truly local curio, the sham castle is just that, a sham. Commissioned by a city-dwelling 18th-century architect, a single castle wall was constructed to improve the views from the gentleman's balcony.

Around a 10-minute (partly off-road) walk from campus, it offers a brilliant vantage point overlooking the whole city. Not for the faintest of heart, the castle is best viewed at night.

Extra Tips

- On Wi-Fi and data, the Bath Campus uses Eduroam, and therefore should be accessible from your university account.
- Please note that the city can be a “black hole” when it comes to mobile data, so please be sure to make backup plans. This is especially true near the bottom of the city, around the train station
- Please bring a water bottle, water refill stations are readily available both on campus and in the city
- Consider bringing your reusable coffee cup. All coffee shops on campus offer a discount for anyone using a reusable cup
- If you're planning to explore the city, make sure you pack comfortable walking shoes.