

= Bath , Somerset =

Bath ( / ˈbæθ / or / ˈbæ? / ; Latin : Aquae Sulis ) , is a city in the ceremonial county of Somerset , England , known for its Roman @-@ built baths . In 2011 , the population was 88 @, @ 859 . Bath is in the valley of the River Avon , 97 miles ( 156 km ) west of London and 11 miles ( 18 km ) south @-@ east of Bristol . The city became a World Heritage Site in 1987 .

The city became a spa with the Latin name Aquae Sulis ( " the waters of Sulis " ) c . AD 60 when the Romans built baths and a temple in the valley of the River Avon , although hot springs were known even before then . Bath Abbey was founded in the 7th century and became a religious centre ; the building was rebuilt in the 12th and 16th centuries . In the 17th century , claims were made for the curative properties of water from the springs , and Bath became popular as a spa town in the Georgian era . Georgian architecture , crafted from Bath stone , includes the Royal Crescent , Circus , Pump Room and Assembly Rooms where Beau Nash presided over the city 's social life from 1705 until his death in 1761 . Many of the streets and squares were laid out by John Wood , the Elder , and in the 18th century the city became fashionable and the population grew . Jane Austen lived in Bath in the early 19th century . Further building was undertaken in the 19th century and following the Bath Blitz in World War II .

The city has software , publishing and service @-@ oriented industries . Theatres , museums , and other cultural and sporting venues have helped make it a major centre for tourism with more than one million staying visitors and 3 @. @ 8 million day visitors to the city each year . There are several museums including the Museum of Bath Architecture , Victoria Art Gallery , Museum of East Asian Art , and the Holburne Museum . The city has two universities : the University of Bath and Bath Spa University , with Bath College providing further education . Sporting clubs include Bath Rugby and Bath City F.C. while TeamBath is the umbrella name for all of the University of Bath sports teams .

Bath became part of the county of Avon in 1974 , and , following Avon 's abolition in 1996 , has been the principal centre of Bath and North East Somerset .

= = History = =

= = = Iron Age and Roman = = =

The hills in the locality such as Bathampton Down saw human activity from the Mesolithic period . Several Bronze Age round barrows were opened by John Skinner in the 18th century . Bathampton Camp may have been an Iron Age hill fort or stock enclosure . A long barrow site believed to be from the Beaker people was flattened to make way for RAF Charmy Down .

Archaeological evidence shows the site of the Roman baths ' main spring may have been treated as a shrine by the Britons , and was dedicated to the goddess Sulis , whom the Romans identified with Minerva ; the name Sulis continued to be used after the Roman invasion , appearing in the town 's Roman name , Aquae Sulis ( literally , " the waters of Sulis " ) . Messages to her scratched onto metal , known as curse tablets , have been recovered from the sacred spring by archaeologists . The tablets were written in Latin , and cursed people whom the writers felt had wronged them . For example , if a citizen had his clothes stolen at the baths , he might write a curse , naming the suspects , on a tablet to be read by the goddess .

A temple was constructed in 60 ? 70 AD , and a bathing complex was built up over the next 300 years . Engineers drove oak piles into the mud to provide a stable foundation , and surrounded the spring with an irregular stone chamber lined with lead . In the 2nd century , the spring was enclosed within a wooden barrel @-@ vaulted structure that housed the caldarium ( hot bath ) , tepidarium ( warm bath ) , and frigidarium ( cold bath ) .

The town was later given defensive walls , probably in the 3rd century . After the failure of Roman authority in the first decade of the 5th century , the baths fell into disrepair and were eventually lost as a result of silting .

In March 2012 a hoard of 30 @, @ 000 silver Roman coins , one of the largest discovered in Britain

, was unearthed in an archaeological dig . The coins , believed to date from the 3rd century , were found about 150 m ( 450 ft ) from the Roman baths .

== = Post @-@ Roman and Medieval == =

Bath may have been the site of the Battle of Badon ( c . 500 AD ) , in which King Arthur is said to have defeated the Anglo @-@ Saxons . The town was captured by the West Saxons in 577 after the Battle of Deorham ; the Anglo @-@ Saxon poem The Ruin may describe the appearance of the Roman site about this time . A monastery was founded at an early date ? reputedly by Saint David although more probably in 675 by Osric , King of the Hwicce , perhaps using the walled area as its precinct . Nennius , a 9th @-@ century historian , mentions a " Hot Lake " in the land of the Hwicce along the River Severn , and adds " It is surrounded by a wall , made of brick and stone , and men may go there to bathe at any time , and every man can have the kind of bath he likes . If he wants , it will be a cold bath ; and if he wants a hot bath , it will be hot " . Bede described hot baths in the geographical introduction to the Ecclesiastical History in terms very similar to those of Nennius . King Offa of Mercia gained control of the monastery in 781 and rebuilt the church , which was dedicated to St. Peter .

By the 9th century the old Roman street pattern was lost and Bath was a royal possession . King Alfred laid out the town afresh , leaving its south @-@ eastern quadrant as the abbey precinct . In the Burghal Hidage , Bath is recorded as a burh ( borough ) and is described as having walls of 1 @, @ 375 yards ( 1 @, @ 257 m ) and was allocated 1000 men for defence . During the reign of Edward the Elder coins were minted in Bath based on a design from the Winchester mint but with ' BAD ' on the obverse relating to the Anglo @-@ Saxon name for the town , Baðum , Baðan or Baðon , meaning " at the baths " , and this was the source of the present name . Edgar of England was crowned king of England in Bath Abbey in 973 .

William Rufus granted the city to a royal physician , John of Tours , who became Bishop of Wells and Abbot of Bath , following the sacking of the city during the Rebellion of 1088 . It was papal policy for bishops to move to more urban seats , and John of Tours translated his own from Wells to Bath . The bishop planned and began a much larger church as his cathedral , to which was attached a priory , with the bishop 's palace beside it . New baths were built around the three springs . Later bishops returned the episcopal seat to Wells while retaining the name Bath in the title , Bishop of Bath and Wells . St John 's Hospital was founded around 1180 by Bishop Reginald Fitz Jocelin and is among the oldest almshouses in England . The ' hospital of the baths ' was built beside the hot springs of the Cross Bath , for their health @-@ giving properties and to provide shelter for the poor infirm .

Administrative systems fell within the hundreds . The Bath Hundred had various names including the Hundred of Le Buri . The Bath Foreign Hundred or Forinsecum covered the area outside the city and was later combined into the Bath Forum Hundred . Wealthy merchants had no status within the hundred courts and formed guilds to gain influence . They built the first guildhall probably in the 13th century . Around 1200 the first mayor was appointed .

== = Early Modern == =

By the 15th century , Bath 's abbey church was dilapidated and Oliver King , Bishop of Bath and Wells , decided to rebuild it on a smaller scale in 1500 . The new church was completed just a few years before Bath Priory was dissolved in 1539 by Henry VIII . The abbey church became derelict before being restored as the city 's parish church in the Elizabethan era , when the city experienced a revival as a spa . The baths were improved and the city began to attract the aristocracy . A Royal charter granted by Queen Elizabeth I in 1590 confirmed city status .

During the English Civil War , the city was garrisoned for Charles I. Seven thousand pounds was spent on fortifications , but on the appearance of parliamentary forces the gates were thrown open and the city surrendered . It became a significant post for the New Model Army under William Waller . Bath was retaken by royalists following the Battle of Lansdowne fought on the northern outskirts of

the city on 5 July 1643 . Thomas Guidott , a student of chemistry and medicine at Wadham College , Oxford , set up a practice in the city in 1668 . He was interested in the curative properties of the waters , and he wrote A discourse of Bathe , and the hot waters there . Also , Some Enquiries into the Nature of the water in 1676 . It brought the health @-@ giving properties of the hot mineral waters to the attention of the country , and the aristocracy arrived to partake in them .

Several areas of the city were developed in the Stuart period , and more building took place during Georgian times in response to the increasing number of visitors who required accommodation . Architects John Wood the Elder and his son laid out the new quarters in streets and squares , the identical façades of which gave an impression of palatial scale and classical decorum . Much of the creamy gold Bath stone , a type of limestone used for construction in the city , was obtained from the Combe Down and Bathampton Down Mines owned by Ralph Allen ( 1694 ? 1764 ) . Allen , to advertise the quality of his quarried limestone , commissioned the elder John Wood to build a country house on his Prior Park estate between the city and the mines . Allen was responsible for improving and expanding the postal service in western England , for which he held the contract for more than forty years . Although not fond of politics , Allen was a civic @-@ minded man and a member of Bath Corporation for many years . He was elected mayor for a single term in 1742 .

In the early 18th century , Bath acquired its first purpose @-@ built theatre , the Old Orchard Street Theatre . It was rebuilt as the Theatre Royal , along with the Grand Pump Room attached to the Roman Baths and assembly rooms . Master of ceremonies Beau Nash , who presided over the city 's social life from 1705 until his death in 1761 , drew up a code of behaviour for public entertainments . Bath had become perhaps the most fashionable of the rapidly developing British spa towns , attracting many notable visitors such as the wealthy London bookseller Andrew Millar and his wife , who both made long visits .

= = = Late Modern = = =

The population of the city was 40 @, @ 020 at the 1801 census , making it one of the largest cities in Britain . William Thomas Beckford bought a house in Lansdown Crescent in 1822 , and subsequently two adjacent houses to form his residence . Having acquired all the land between his home and the top of Lansdown Hill , he created a garden more than 1 ? 2 mile ( 800 m ) in length and built Beckford 's Tower at the top .

Emperor Haile Selassie of Ethiopia spent the four years in exile , from 1936 to 1940 , at Fairfield House in Bath . During World War II , between the evening of 25 April and the early morning of 27 April 1942 , Bath suffered three air raids in reprisal for RAF raids on the German cities of Lübeck and Rostock , part of the Luftwaffe campaign popularly known as the Baedeker Blitz . During the Bath Blitz , more than 400 people were killed , and more than 19 @, @ 000 buildings damaged or destroyed . Houses in the Royal Crescent , Circus and Paragon were burnt out along with the Assembly Rooms . A 500 @-@ kilogram ( 1 @, @ 100 lb ) high explosive bomb landed on the east side of Queen Square , resulting in houses on the south side being damaged and the Francis Hotel losing 24 metres ( 79 ft ) of its frontage . The buildings have all been restored although there are still signs of the bombing .

A postwar review of inadequate housing led to the clearance and redevelopment of areas of the city in a postwar style , often at variance with the local Georgian style . In the 1950s the nearby villages of Combe Down , Twerton and Weston were incorporated into the city to enable the development of housing , much of it council housing . In the 1970s and 1980s it was recognised conservation of historic buildings was inadequate , leading to more care and reuse of buildings and open spaces . In 1987 the city was selected by UNESCO as a World Heritage Site , recognising its international cultural significance .

Since 2000 , major developments have included the Thermae Bath Spa , the SouthGate shopping centre , the residential Western Riverside project on the Stothert & Pitt factory site , and the riverside Bath Quays office and business development .

= = Government = =

== Historical development ==

Bath had long been an ancient borough , having that status since 878 when it became a royal borough ( burh ) of Alfred the Great , and was reformed into a municipal borough in 1835 . It has formed part of the county of Somerset since 878 , when ceded to Wessex , having previously been in Mercia ( the River Avon had acted as the border between the two kingdoms since 628 ) . However , Bath was made a county borough in 1889 , independent of the newly created administrative county and Somerset County Council . Bath became part of Avon when the non @-@ metropolitan county was created in 1974 , resulting in its abolition as a county borough and instead becoming a non @-@ metropolitan district with borough status . With the abolition of Avon in 1996 , the non @-@ metropolitan district and borough were abolished too , and Bath has since been part of the unitary authority district of Bath and North East Somerset ( B & NES ) . Bath was returned to the ceremonial county of Somerset in 1996 , though as B & NES is a unitary authority , it is not part of the area covered by Somerset County Council .

== Charter Trustees ==

Because Bath is unparished , there is no longer a city council ( or parish council ) ? Bath City Council having ended in 1996 with the abolition of the district of Bath . The City of Bath 's ceremonial functions , including its formal status as a city , its twinning arrangements , the mayoralty of Bath ? which can be traced back to 1230 ? and control of the city 's coat of arms , are maintained by the charter trustees of the City of Bath . The councillors elected by the electoral wards that cover Bath ( see below ) are the trustees , and they elect one of their number as mayor .

The coat of arms includes two silver strips representing the River Avon and the hot springs . The sword of St. Paul is a link to Bath Abbey . The supporters , a lion and a bear , stand on a bed of acorns , a link to Bladud , the subject of the Legend of Bath . The knight 's helmet indicates a municipality and the crown is that of King Edgar .

== Bath City Forum ==

Bath and North East Somerset ( B & NES ) Council has established the Bath City Forum , comprising 12 nominated B & NES councillors representing wards in Bath ( and representing a cross @-@ section of political parties ) , 1 cabinet member of B & NES Council , and up to 13 co @-@ opted members drawn from the communities of the city . The first meeting of the Forum was held on 13 October 2015 , at the Guildhall , where the first Chair and Vice @-@ Chair were elected .

== Parliamentary elections ==

Bath is one of the oldest extant parliamentary constituencies in the United Kingdom , being in continuous existence since the Model Parliament of 1295 . Before the Reform Act 1832 , Bath elected two members to the unreformed House of Commons , as an ancient parliamentary borough . From 1832 until 1918 it elected two MPs and then was reduced to one .

Historically the constituency covered only the city of Bath , however it was enlarged into some outlying areas between 1997 and 2010 . The constituency since 2010 once again covers exactly the city of Bath ( it is co @-@ extensive with the unparished area ) , and is currently represented by Conservative Ben Howlett , who replaced the retiring Liberal Democrat Don Foster at the 2015 general election . Foster 's election was a notable result of the 1992 general election , as Chris Patten , the previous Member ( and Cabinet Minister ) played a major part , as Chairman of the Conservative Party , in re @-@ electing the government of John Major , but failed to defend his marginal seat .

## === Electoral wards ===

The sixteen electoral wards of the Bath and North East Somerset unitary authority within Bath ( which are co @-@ extensive with the unparished area ) are : Abbey , Bathwick , Combe Down , Kingsmead , Lambridge , Lansdown , Lyncombe , Newbridge , Odd Down , Oldfield , Southdown , Twerton , Walcot , Westmoreland , Weston and Widcombe .

## == Geography ==

### === Physical geography ===

Bath is in the Avon Valley near the southern edge of the Cotswolds , a range of limestone hills designated as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty . The hills that surround and make up the city have a maximum altitude of 781 feet ( 238 metres ) on the Lansdown plateau . Bath has an area of 11 square miles ( 28 square kilometres ) .

The floodplain of the Avon , on which the city centre is built , has an altitude of about 59 ft ( 18 m ) above sea level . The river , once an unnavigable series of braided streams broken up by swamps and ponds , has been managed by weirs into a single channel . Periodic flooding , which shortened the life of many buildings in the lowest part of the city , was normal until major flood control works were completed in the 1970s . Kensington Meadows is an area of mixed woodland and open meadow next to the river which has been designated as a local nature reserve .

Water bubbling up from the ground as geothermal springs originates as rain on the Mendip Hills . The rain percolates through limestone aquifers to a depth of between 9 @,@ 000 to 14 @,@ 000 ft ( 2 @,@ 700 to 4 @,@ 300 m ) where geothermal energy raises the water 's temperature to between 64 and 96 ° C ( c . 147 ? 205 ° F ) . Under pressure , the heated water rises to the surface along fissures and faults in the limestone . Hot water at a temperature of 46 ° C ( 115 ° F ) rises here at the rate of 1 @,@ 170 @,@ 000 litres ( 257 @,@ 364 imp gal ) daily , from a geological fault ( the Pennyquick fault ) . In 1983 , a new spa @-@ water bore @-@ hole was sunk , providing a clean and safe supply for drinking in the Pump Room . There is no universal definition to distinguish a hot spring from a geothermal spring although , by several definitions , the Bath springs can be considered the only hot springs in the UK . Three of the springs feed the thermal baths .

### === Climate ===

Along with the rest of South West England , Bath has a temperate climate which is generally wetter and milder than the rest of the country . The annual mean temperature is approximately 10 ° C ( 50 @.@ 0 ° F ) . Seasonal temperature variation is less extreme than most of the United Kingdom because of the adjacent sea temperatures . The summer months of July and August are the warmest , with mean daily maxima of approximately 21 ° C ( 69 @.@ 8 ° F ) . In winter , mean minimum temperatures of 1 or 2 ° C ( 33 @.@ 8 or 35 @.@ 6 ° F ) are common . In the summer the Azores high pressure affects the south @-@ west of England bringing fair weather ; however , convective cloud sometimes forms inland , reducing the number of hours of sunshine . Annual sunshine rates are slightly less than the regional average of 1 @,@ 600 hours . In December 1998 there were 20 days without sun recorded at Yeovilton . Most of the rainfall in the south @-@ west is caused by Atlantic depressions or by convection . Most of the rainfall in autumn and winter is caused by the Atlantic depressions , which is when they are most active . In summer , a large proportion of the rainfall is caused by sun heating the ground , leading to convection and to showers and thunderstorms . Average rainfall is around 700 mm ( 28 in ) . About 8 ? 15 days of snowfall is typical . November to March have the highest mean wind speeds , and June to August have the lightest winds . The predominant wind direction is from the south @-@ west .

## == Demography ==

The 2011 census recorded a population of 88,859 for the city of Bath . ( This figure represents the combined populations of the 16 wards that are co-extensive with the unparished area that covers the city . ) An Office for National Statistics estimate of the population ( for mid 2010 ) for the urban area was put at 97,311 .

According to the 2001 census , Bath , together with North East Somerset , which includes areas around Bath as far as the Chew Valley , had a population of 169,040 , with an average age of 39 .9 ( the national average being 38 .6 ) . Demography shows according to the same statistics , the district is overwhelmingly populated by people of a white background at 97 .2 % ? significantly higher than the national average of 90 .9 % . Other ethnic groups in the district , in order of population size , are multiracial at 1 % , Asian at 0 .5 % and black at 0 .5 % ( the national averages are 1 .3 % , 4 .6 % and 2 .1 % , respectively ) .

The district is largely Christian at 71 % , with no other religion reaching more than 0 .5 % . These figures generally compare with the national averages , though the non-religious , at 19 .5 % , are significantly more prevalent than the national 14 .8 % . 7 .4 % of the population describe themselves as " not healthy " in the last 12 months , compared with a national average of 9 .2 % ; nationally , 18 .2 % of people describe themselves as having a long-term illness ; in Bath it is 15 .8 % .

An inhabitant of Bath is known as a Bathonian .

= = Economy = =

= = = Industry = = =

Bath once had an important manufacturing sector , particularly in crane manufacture , furniture manufacture , printing , brass foundries , quarries , dye works and Plasticine manufacture , as well as many mills . Significant Bath companies included Stothert & Pitt , Bath Cabinet Makers and Bath & Portland Stone .

Nowadays , manufacturing is in decline , but the city boasts strong software , publishing and service-oriented industries , being home to companies such as Future Publishing and London & Country mortgage brokers . The city 's attraction to tourists has also led to a significant number of jobs in tourism-related industries . Important economic sectors in Bath include education and health ( 30,000 jobs ) , retail , tourism and leisure ( 14,000 jobs ) and business and professional services ( 10,000 jobs ) . Major employers are the National Health Service , the city 's two universities , and the Bath and North East Somerset Council , as well as the Ministry of Defence although a number of MOD offices formerly in Bath have recently moved to Bristol . Growing employment sectors include information and communication technologies and creative and cultural industries where Bath is one of the recognised national centres for publishing , with the magazine and digital publisher Future Publishing employing around 650 people . Others include Buro Happold ( 400 ) and IPL Information Processing Limited ( 250 ) . The city boasts over 400 retail shops , half of which are run by independent specialist retailers , and around 100 restaurants and cafes primarily supported by tourism .

= = = Tourism = = =

One of Bath 's principal industries is tourism , with annually more than one million staying visitors and 3 .8 million day visitors . The visits mainly fall into the categories of heritage tourism and cultural tourism , aided by the city 's selection in 1987 as a World Heritage Site in recognition of its international cultural importance . All significant stages of the history of England are represented within the city , from the Roman Baths ( including their significant Celtic presence ) , to Bath Abbey and the Royal Crescent , to the more recent Thermae Bath Spa . The size of the tourist industry is reflected in the almost 300 places of accommodation ? including more than 80 hotels , two of which

have ' five @-@ star ' ratings , over 180 bed and breakfasts ? many of which are located in Georgian buildings , and two campsites located on the western edge of the city . The city also has about 100 restaurants and a similar number of pubs and bars . Several companies offer open top bus tours around the city , as well as tours on foot and on the river . Since the opening of Thermae Bath Spa in 2006 , the city has attempted to recapture its historical position as the only town or city in the United Kingdom offering visitors the opportunity to bathe in naturally heated spring waters .

In the 2010 Google Street View Best Streets Awards , the Royal Crescent took second place in the " Britain 's Most Picturesque Street " award , first place being given to The Shambles in York . Milsom Street was also awarded " Britain 's Best Fashion Street " in the 11 @,@ 000 @-@ strong vote .

= = Architecture = =

There are many Roman archaeological sites throughout the central area of the city . The baths themselves are about 6 metres ( 20 ft ) below the present city street level . Around the hot springs , Roman foundations , pillar bases , and baths can still be seen , however all the stonework above the level of the baths is from more recent periods .

Bath Abbey was a Norman church built on earlier foundations . The present building dates from the early 16th century and shows a late Perpendicular style with flying buttresses and crocketed pinnacles decorating a crenellated and pierced parapet . The choir and transepts have a fan vault by Robert and William Vertue . A matching vault was added to the nave in the 19th century . The building is lit by 52 windows .

Most buildings in Bath are made from the local , golden @-@ coloured Bath Stone , and many date from the 18th and 19th century . The dominant style of architecture in Central Bath is Georgian ; this style evolved from the Palladian revival style that became popular in the early 18th century . Many of the prominent architects of the day were employed in the development of the city . The original purpose of much of Bath 's architecture is concealed by the honey @-@ coloured classical façades ; in an era before the advent of the luxury hotel , these apparently elegant residences were frequently purpose @-@ built lodging houses , where visitors could hire a room , a floor , or ( according to their means ) an entire house for the duration of their visit , and be waited on by the house 's communal servants . The masons Reeves of Bath were prominent in the city from the 1770s to 1860s .

The Circus consists of three long , curved terraces designed by the elder John Wood to form a circular space or theatre intended for civic functions and games . The games give a clue to the design , the inspiration behind which was the Colosseum in Rome . Like the Colosseum , the three façades have a different order of architecture on each floor : Doric on the ground level , then Ionic on the piano nobile , and finishing with Corinthian on the upper floor , the style of the building thus becoming progressively more ornate as it rises . Wood never lived to see his unique example of town planning completed as he died five days after personally laying the foundation stone on 18 May 1754 .

The most spectacular of Bath 's terraces is the Royal Crescent , built between 1767 and 1774 and designed by the younger John Wood . But all is not what it seems ; while Wood designed the great curved façade of what appears to be about 30 houses with Ionic columns on a rusticated ground floor , that was the extent of his input . Each purchaser bought a certain length of the façade , and then employed their own architect to build a house to their own specifications behind it ; hence what appears to be two houses is sometimes one . This system of town planning is betrayed at the rear of the crescent : while the front is completely uniform and symmetrical , the rear is a mixture of differing roof heights , juxtapositions and fenestration . This " Queen Anne fronts and Mary @-@ Anne backs " architecture occurs repeatedly in Bath . Other fine terraces elsewhere in the city include Lansdown Crescent and Somerset Place on the northern hill .

Around 1770 the neoclassical architect Robert Adam designed Pulteney Bridge , using as the prototype for the three @-@ arched bridge spanning the Avon an original , but unused , design by Andrea Palladio for the Rialto Bridge in Venice . Thus , Pulteney Bridge became not just a means of crossing the river , but also a shopping arcade . Along with the Rialto Bridge and the Ponte Vecchio

in Florence , which it resembles , it is one of the very few surviving bridges in Europe to serve this dual purpose . It has been substantially altered since it was built . The bridge was named after Frances and William Pulteney , the owners of the Bathwick estate for which the bridge provided a link to the rest of Bath . The Georgian streets in the vicinity of the river tended to be built high above the original ground level to avoid flooding , with the carriageways supported on vaults extending in front of the houses . This can be seen in the multi @-@ storey cellars around Laura Place South of Pulteney Bridge , in the colonnades below Grand Parade , and in the grated coal holes in the pavement of North Parade . In some parts of the city , such as George Street , and London Road near Cleveland Bridge , the developers of the opposite side of the road did not match this pattern , leaving raised pavements with the ends of the vaults exposed to a lower street below .

The heart of the Georgian city was the Pump Room , which , together with its associated Lower Assembly Rooms , was designed by Thomas Baldwin , a local builder responsible for many other buildings in the city , including the terraces in Argyle Street and the Guildhall . Baldwin rose rapidly , becoming a leader in Bath 's architectural history . In 1776 he was made the chief City Surveyor , and in 1780 became Bath City Architect . Great Pulteney Street , where he eventually lived , is another of his works : this wide boulevard , constructed around 1789 and over 1 @,@ 000 feet ( 305 m ) long and 100 feet ( 30 m ) wide , is lined on both sides by Georgian terraces .

In the 1960s and early 1970s some parts of Bath were unsympathetically redeveloped , resulting in the loss of some 18th- and 19th century buildings . This process was largely halted by a popular campaign which drew strength from the publication of Adam Fergusson 's The Sack of Bath . Controversy has revived periodically , most recently with the demolition of the 1930s Churchill House , a neo @-@ Georgian municipal building originally housing the Electricity Board , to make way for a new bus station . This is part of the Southgate redevelopment in which an ill @-@ favoured 1960s shopping precinct , bus station and multi @-@ story car park were demolished and replaced by a new area of mock @-@ Georgian shopping streets . As a result of this and other changes , notably plans for abandoned industrial land along the Avon , the city 's status as a World Heritage Site was reviewed by UNESCO in 2009 . The decision was made to let Bath keep its status , but UNESCO has asked to be consulted on future phases of the Riverside development , saying the density and volume of buildings in the second and third phases of the development need to be reconsidered . It also demands Bath do more to attract world @-@ class architecture in new developments .

= = Culture = =

Bath became the centre of fashionable life in England during the 18th century when its Old Orchard Street Theatre and architectural developments such as Lansdown Crescent , the Royal Crescent , The Circus , and Pulteney Bridge were built .

Bath 's five theatres ? Theatre Royal , Ustinov Studio , the Egg , the Rondo Theatre , and the Mission Theatre ? attract internationally renowned companies and directors and an annual season by Sir Peter Hall . The city has a long @-@ standing musical tradition ; Bath Abbey , home to the Klais Organ and the largest concert venue in the city , stages about 20 concerts and 26 organ recitals each year . Another concert venue , the 1 @,@ 700 @-@ seat Art Deco Forum , originated as a cinema . The city holds the annual Bath International Music Festival and Mozartfest , the annual Bath Literature Festival ( and its counterpart for children ) , the Bath Film Festival , the Bath Fringe Festival , the Bath Beer Festival and the Bath Chilli Festival . The Bath Festivals occur at two and a half @-@ year intervals . An annual Bard of Bath competition aims to find the best poet , singer or storyteller .

The city is home to the Victoria Art Gallery , the Museum of East Asian Art , and Holburne Museum , numerous commercial art galleries and antique shops , as well as a number of other museums , among them Bath Postal Museum , the Fashion Museum , the Jane Austen Centre , the Herschel Museum of Astronomy and the Roman Baths . The Bath Royal Literary and Scientific Institution ( BRLSI ) in Queen Square was founded in 1824 from the Society for the encouragement of Agriculture , Planting , Manufactures , Commerce and the Fine Arts founded in 1777 . In September



1864 , BRLSI hosted the 34th annual meeting of the British Science Association , which was attended by explorers David Livingstone , Sir Richard Francis Burton , and John Hanning Speke . The history of the city is displayed at the Museum of Bath Architecture , which is housed in a building built in 1765 as the Trinity Presbyterian Church . It was also known as the Countess of Huntingdon 's Chapel , as she lived in the attached house from 1707 to 1791 .

= = = Bath in the arts = = =

During the 18th century Thomas Gainsborough and Sir Thomas Lawrence lived and worked in Bath . John Maggs , a painter best known for coaching scenes , was born and lived in Bath with his artistic family .

Jane Austen lived here from 1801 with her father , mother and sister Cassandra , and the family resided at four different addresses until 1806 . Jane Austen never liked the city , and wrote to Cassandra , " It will be two years tomorrow since we left Bath for Clifton , with what happy feelings of escape . " Bath has honoured her name with the Jane Austen Centre and a city walk . Austen 's Northanger Abbey and Persuasion are set in the city and describe taking the waters , social life , and music recitals .

William Friese @-@ Greene experimented with celluloid and motion pictures in his studio in the 1870s , developing some of the earliest movie camera technology . He is credited as being one of the inventors of cinematography .

Taking the waters is described in Charles Dickens ' novel The Pickwick Papers in which Pickwick 's servant , Sam Weller , comments the water has " a very strong flavour o ' warm flat irons " . The Royal Crescent is the venue for a chase between two characters , Dowler and Winkle . Moyra Caldecott 's novel The Waters of Sul is set in Roman Bath in 72 AD , and The Regency Detective , by David Lassman and Terence James , revolves around the exploits of Jack Swann investigating deaths in the city during the early 1800s . Richard Brinsley Sheridan 's play The Rivals takes place in the city , as does Roald Dahl 's chilling short story , " The Landlady " .

Many films and television programmes have been filmed using its architecture as the backdrop , including the 2004 film of Thackeray 's Vanity Fair , The Duchess ( 2008 ) , The Elusive Pimpernel ( 1950 ) and The Tittfield Thunderbolt ( 1953 ) . In 2012 , Pulteney Weir was used as a replacement location during post production of the film adaptation of Les Misérables . Stunt shots were filmed in October 2012 after footage acquired during the main filming period was found to have errors .

In August 2003 The Three Tenors sang at a concert to mark the opening of the Thermae Bath Spa , a new hot water spa in the city centre , but delays to the project meant the spa actually opened three years later on 7 August 2006 . In 2008 , 104 decorated pigs were displayed around the city in a public art event called " King Bladud 's Pigs in Bath " . It celebrated the city , its origins and artists . Decorated pig sculptures were displayed throughout the summer and were auctioned to raise funds for Two Tunnels Greenway .

= = = Parks = = =

Royal Victoria Park , a short walk from the city centre , was opened in 1830 by the 11 @-@ year @-@ old Princess Victoria , and was the first park to carry her name . The public park is overlooked by the Royal Crescent and covers 23 hectares ( 57 acres ) . It has a skatepark , tennis courts , a bowling green , a putting green and a 12- and 18 @-@ hole golf course , a pond , open @-@ air concerts , an annual travelling funfair at Easter , and a children 's play area . Much of its area is lawn ; a notable feature is a ha @-@ ha that segregates it from the Royal Crescent while giving the impression from the Crescent of uninterrupted grassland across the park to Royal Avenue . It has a " Green Flag Award " , the national standard for parks and green spaces in England and Wales , and is registered by English Heritage as of National Historic Importance . The 3 @-@ 84 hectares ( 9 @-@ 5 acres ) botanical gardens were formed in 1887 and contain one of the finest collections of plants on limestone in the West Country . A replica Roman Temple was built at the British Empire Exhibition at Wembley in 1924 , and , following the exhibition , was dismantled and rebuilt in Victoria

Park in Bath . In 1987 the gardens were extended to include the Great Dell , a disused quarry with a collection of conifers .

Other parks include : Alexandra Park on a hill overlooking the city ; Parade Gardens , along the river near the abbey in the city centre ; Sydney Gardens , an 18th @-@ century pleasure @-@ garden ; Henrietta Park ; Hedgemoor Park ; and Alice Park . Jane Austen wrote " It would be pleasant to be near the Sydney Gardens . We could go into the Labyrinth every day . " Alexandra , Alice and Henrietta parks were built into the growing city among the housing developments . There is a linear park following the old Somerset and Dorset Joint Railway line . Cleveland Pools were built around 1815 close to the River Avon , now the oldest surviving public outdoor lido in England , and plans have been submitted for its restoration .

= = = Bath and Queen Victoria = = =

Victoria Art Gallery and Royal Victoria Park are named after Queen Victoria , who wrote in her journal " The people are really too kind to me . " . This feeling seemed to have been reciprocated by the people of Bath : " Lord James O'Brien brought a drawing of the intended pillar which the people of Bath are so kind as to erect in commemoration of my 18th birthday . " .

= = = Food = = =

Several foods have an association with the city . Sally Lunn buns ( a type of teacake ) have long been baked in Bath . They were first mentioned by name in verses printed in the Bath Chronicle , in 1772 . At that time they were eaten hot at public breakfasts in Spring Gardens . They can be eaten with sweet or savoury toppings and are sometimes confused with Bath buns , which are smaller , round , very sweet and very rich . They were associated with the city following The Great Exhibition . Bath buns were originally topped with crushed comfits created by dipping caraway seeds repeatedly in boiling sugar ; but today seeds are added to a ' London Bath Bun ' ( a reference to the bun 's promotion and sale at the Great Exhibition ) . The seeds may be replaced by crushed sugar granules or ' nibs ' .

Bath has lent its name to one other distinctive recipe ? Bath Olivers ? a dry baked biscuit invented by Dr William Oliver , physician to the Mineral Water Hospital in 1740 . Oliver was an anti @-@ obesity campaigner and author of a " Practical Essay on the Use and Abuse of warm Bathing in Glutty Cases " . In more recent years , Oliver 's efforts have been traduced by the introduction of a version of the biscuit with a plain chocolate coating . Bath Chaps , the salted and smoked cheek and jawbones of the pig , takes its name from the city and is available from a stall in the daily covered market . Bath Ales brewery is located in Warmley and Abbey Ales are brewed in the city .

= = = Twinning = = =

Bath is twinned with four other cities in Europe . Twinning is the responsibility of the Charter Trustees and each twinning arrangement is managed by a Twinning Association .

There is also a historic connection with Manly , New South Wales , Australia , which is referred to as a sister city , and there is a partnership arrangement with Beppu , ?ita Prefecture , Japan .

= = = Formal twinning = = =

Aix @-@ en @-@ Provence , France  
Alkmaar , Netherlands  
Braunschweig , Germany  
Kaposvár , Hungary

= = Education = =

Bath has two universities , the University of Bath and Bath Spa University . Established in 1966 , the University of Bath was named University of the Year by The Sunday Times ( 2011 ) . It offers programs in politics , languages , the physical sciences , engineering , mathematics , architecture , management and technology .

Bath Spa University was first granted degree @-@ awarding powers in 1992 as a university college before being granted university status in August 2005 . It offers courses leading to a Postgraduate Certificate in Education . It has schools in the following subject areas : Art and Design , Education , English and Creative Studies , Historical and Cultural Studies , Music and the Performing Arts , Science and the Environment and Social Sciences .

Bath College offers further education , and Norland College provides education and training in childcare .

= = Sport = =

Bath Rugby is a rugby union team in the Aviva Premiership league . It plays in black , blue and white kit at the Recreation Ground in the city , where it has been since the late 19th century , following its establishment in 1865 . The team 's first major honour was winning the John Player Cup , now sponsored as the LV Cup and also known as the Anglo @-@ Welsh Cup , four years consecutively from 1984 until 1987 . The team then led the Courage league in six seasons in eight years between 1988 ? 89 and 1995 ? 96 , during which time it also won the renamed Pilkington Cup in 1989 , 1990 , 1992 , 1994 , 1995 and 1996 . It finally won the Heineken Cup in the 1997 ? 98 season , and topped the Zürich Premiership ( now Aviva Premiership ) in 2003 ? 04 . The team 's squad includes several members who also play , or have played in the English national team , including Lee Mears , Rob Webber , Dave Attwood , Nick Abendanon and Matt Banahan . Colston 's School , Bristol , has had a large input in the team over the past decade , providing several current 1st XV squad members . The former England Rugby Team Manager and former Scotland national coach Andy Robinson used to play for Bath Rugby team and was captain and later coach . Both of Robinson 's predecessors , Clive Woodward and Jack Rowell , as well as his successor Brian Ashton , were also former Bath coaches and managers .

Bath City F.C. is the major football team . Bath City gained promotion to the Conference Premier from the Conference South in 2010 . Bath City F.C. play their games at Twerton Park . Until 2009 Team Bath F.C. operated as an affiliate to the University Athletics programme . In 2002 , Team Bath became the first university team to enter the FA Cup in 120 years , and advanced through four qualifying rounds to the first round proper . The university 's team was established in 1999 while the city team has existed since before 1908 ( when it entered the Western League ) . However , in 2009 , the Football Conference ruled Team Bath would not be eligible to gain promotion to a National division , nor were they allowed to participate in Football Association cup competitions . This ruling led to the decision by the club to fold at the end of the 2008 ? 09 Conference South competition . In their final season , Team Bath F.C. finished 11th in the league .

Bath City narrowly missed out on election to The Football League in 1978 . Bath also has Non @-@ League football club Odd Down F.C. who play at Lew Hill Memorial Ground .

Many cricket clubs are based in the city , including Bath Cricket Club , who are based at the North Parade Ground and play in the West of England Premier League . Cricket is also played on the Recreation Ground , just across from where the Rugby is played . The Recreation Ground is also home to Bath Croquet Club , which was re @-@ formed in 1976 and is affiliated with the South West Federation of Croquet Clubs .

The Bath Half Marathon is run annually through the city streets , with over 10 @, @ 000 runners .

TeamBath is the umbrella name for all of the University of Bath sports teams , including the aforementioned football club . Other sports for which TeamBath is noted are athletics , badminton , basketball , bob skeleton , bobsleigh , hockey , judo , modern pentathlon , netball , rugby union , swimming , tennis , triathlon and volleyball . The City of Bath Triathlon takes place annually at the university .

= = Transport = =

Bath is approximately 11 miles ( 18 km ) south @-@ east of the larger city and port of Bristol , to which it is linked by the A4 road , which runs through Bath , and is a similar distance south of the M4 motorway . In an attempt to reduce the level of car use , park and ride schemes have been introduced , with sites at Odd Down , Lansdown and Newbridge . Paradoxically , a very large increase in city centre parking was provided under the new shopping centre , which necessarily introduces more car traffic . In addition , a bus gate scheme in Northgate aims to reduce private car use in the city centre . National Express operates coach services from Bath Bus Station to a number of cities . Bath also has a network of bus routes run by FirstGroup , with services to surrounding towns and cities . Wessex Bath and the Faresaver Bus company also operate numerous services to surrounding towns . The Bath Bus Company runs open top double @-@ decker bus tours around the city .

The city is connected to Bristol and the sea by the River Avon , navigable via locks by small boats . The river was connected to the River Thames and London by the Kennet and Avon Canal in 1810 via Bath Locks ; this waterway ? closed for many years but restored in the last years of the 20th century ? is now popular with narrowboat users . Bath is on National Cycle Route 4 , with one of Britain 's first cycleways , the Bristol and Bath Railway Path , to the west , and an eastern route toward London on the canal towpath . Bath is about 20 miles ( 30 km ) from Bristol Airport .

Bath is served by the Bath Spa railway station ( designed by Isambard Kingdom Brunel ) , which has regular connections to London Paddington , Bristol Temple Meads , Cardiff Central , Cheltenham , Exeter , Plymouth and Penzance ( see Great Western Main Line ) , and also Westbury , Warminster , Salisbury , Southampton , Portsmouth and Brighton ( see Wessex Main Line ) . Services are provided by First Great Western . There is a suburban station on the main line , Oldfield Park , which has a limited commuter service to Bristol as well as other destinations . Green Park Station was once the terminus of the Midland Railway , and junction for the Somerset and Dorset Joint Railway , whose line , always steam hauled , went under Bear Flat through the Combe Down Tunnel and climbed over the Mendips to serve many towns and villages on its 71 @-@ mile ( 114 km ) run to Bournemouth . This example of an English rural line was closed by Beeching in March 1966 . Its Bath station building , now restored , houses shops , small businesses , the Saturday Bath Farmers Market and parking for a supermarket , while the route of the Somerset and Dorset within Bath has been reused for the Two Tunnels Greenway , a shared use path that extends National Cycle Route 24 into the city .

The Bath Tramways Company was introduced in the late 19th century , opening on 24 December 1880 . The 4 ft ( 1 @,@ 219 mm ) gauge cars were horse @-@ drawn along a route from London Road to the Bath Spa railway station , but the system closed in 1902 . It was replaced by electric tram cars on a greatly expanded 4 ft 8 1 ? 2 in ( 1 @,@ 435 mm ) gauge system that opened in 1904 . This eventually extended to 18 miles ( 29 km ) with routes to Combe Down , Oldfield Park , Twerton , Newton St Loe , Weston and Bathford . There was a fleet of 40 cars , all but 6 being double deck . The first line to close was replaced by a bus service in 1938 , and the last went on 6 May 1939 . In 2005 a detailed plan was created and presented to the Council to re @-@ introduce trams to Bath , but the plan did not proceed , reportedly due to the focus by the Council on the government @-@ supported busway planned to run from the Newbridge park and ride into the city centre . Part of the justification for the proposed tram re @-@ introduction plan was the pollution from vehicles within the city was twice the legal levels , and the heavy traffic congestion due to high car usage .

A transportation study ( the Bristol / Bath to South Coast Study ) was published in 2004 after being initiated by the Government Office for the South West and Bath and North East Somerset Council . It was undertaken by WSP Global as a result of the de @-@ trunking in 1999 of the A36 / A46 trunk road network from Bath to Southampton .

= = Media = =

Bath 's local newspaper is the Bath Chronicle , owned by Local World . Published since 1760 , the Chronicle was a daily newspaper until mid @-@ September 2007 , when it became a weekly .

The BBC Somerset website has featured coverage of news and events within Bath since 2003 .

For television , Bath is served by the BBC West studios based in Bristol , and by ITV West ( formerly HTV ) with studios similarly in Bristol .

Radio stations broadcasting to the city include The Breeze on 107.9FM and Heart West Country ( formerly GWR FM ) as well as The University of Bath 's University Radio Bath , a student @-@ focused radio station available on campus and also online , and Classic Gold 1260 , a networked commercial radio station with local programmes .

Bath is sometimes covered by Bristol 's local media , including Bristol Live Magazine .