School of Physics Visitors Travel Guide

We have designed this travel 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 National Rail Enquiries (Destination BRI - Bristol Temple Meads)
- Bus booking through National Express (Destination BRISTOL Bus & Coach Station)

Whether you arrive by plane, train or bus, we have all the information here in this document for you to find your way to the Physics Buildings. Once you arrive, you may find this City Map helpful, as well as our section on useful pit stops and things to see whilst you are here.

Our main building address is HH Wills Physics Lab, Tyndall Avenue, Bristol BS8 1TL. If you are visiting the NSQI building it is right next door (to the left of HH Wills on Tyndall Avenue). The South-West Nuclear Hub is just around the corner in David Smith Building, 73 St Michael's Hill, Bristol BS2 8BH.

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 or take a taxi.

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Bristol City Map

Whilst you are here you can use this City Map to help you get around and explore local landmarks and attractions. The Physics building is opposite The Indoor Sports Centre on Tyndall Avenue (square H2).

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. If you are a student, tickets are cheaper, but you will need to show your student card. If you are paying with cash, it is preferable to the bus driver to use the exact fare in coins, or close to it. It is rarely possible for a driver to provide change for £10 and £20 notes, and we advise you not to attempt this!

From Bristol Airport

Bus:
Bristol Airport connect - service A2

Buses run 24/7, up to every 20 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 around £6.50 and can be purchased using contactless card or cash on the bus. It is better to purchase 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.

From Bristol Temple Meads Train Station

If you arrive at the station a little hungry for a great coffee and an even greater cake, Harts Bakery (BS1 6QS), arguably one of the best bakeries in Bristol, can be found one level below the station once you have exited the main station building. With the station behind you, locate the steps down, which are on the left hand side of Approach Road.

Bus:
Single bus tickets cost around £2.50 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.

These 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:

9 & 72 Both from T6: 10 stops, get off at Tyndall Avenue and you will be right opposite the Physics Building.
From T6 & T5: 7 stops, Park Street Top. Cross the road at the traffic lights, walk up University Road next to Browns, turn left at the top of the road then second right up Tyndall Avenue (8 minute walk).

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). Check our guided tour section below for our map with written directions and some useful landmarks as well as nice places to stop by along your journey.

Taxi
There is a taxi rank directly outside the train station on Station Approach Road.

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 for our map with written directions and some useful landmarks as well as nice places to stop by along your journey.

Bus:
Single bus tickets cost around £2.50. 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 on the free First Bus App.

These bus services run regularly from Bond Street, a short walk from the bus station. At peak times they arrive every 10 to 15 minutes, running less regularly later in the evening:

72 From Cabot Circus, Bond Street (S8) : 6 stops, get off at Tyndall Avenue and you will be right opposite the Physics Building.

72a & 8 From Cabot Circus, Bond Street (S8) : 3 stops, Park Street Top. Cross the road at the traffic lights, walk up University Road next to Browns, turn left at the top of the road then second right up Tyndall Avenue (8 minute walk).

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.
Voi E-Scooters
Hop-on hop-off e-scooters are available in Bristol to help residents and visitors to get around central areas.

To use these scooters, you will need to download the Voi 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 Voi website.

Cost: 99p unlocking fee then 14p per minute or £5 for a day pass (40 min locked per stop)

Driving
There are multistorey car parks about ten minutes' walk from the main campus as shown on this Campus map and key (PDF, 478kB). Trenchard Street car park postcode BS1 5AN is the closest to the Physics Building.

Our main building address is HH Wills Physics Laboratory, Tyndall Avenue, Bristol BS8 1TL. If you are visiting the NSQI building it is right next door (to the left of HH Wills on Tyndall Avenue). The South-West Nuclear Hub is just around the corner in David Smith Building, 73 St Michael's Hill, Bristol BS2 8BH

If you are a visitor and you need disabled parking, get in touch with your contact in Physics to book a space.

Taxis
There are hundreds of licensed Bristol Blue taxis in the city which can you 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.

The BRAXI app allows you to book taxis in Bristol and set the pick-up 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 numerous private hire taxi companies in Bristol. These include V Cars, who also have their own app to pre-book taxis, Eurotaxis and AA Taxis. Uber and Ola also operate in Bristol.

Bristol Ferry Boats (due to reopen 21st June 2021)
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 so for 40 years. Visitors and locals alike can hop on and off their boats at any of their 17 stops. Fares vary. Whilst these will not 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 water ferry! The closest stop is signposted and just a few minutes’ walk from the station. From one of these watery forms of transport, you can be transported on 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 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 brilliant way to see the city from a 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 Street for around 100 yards. 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 continue onwards on the other side of the road.

![Image](image1.png)

(1) The **Lollipop Be-Bop** art installation is a series of entwining coloured hoops installed in an attempt to make the hospital a more welcoming place for sick children. Inside the hospital, patients can light up the sculpture using a machine.

Continue along the road past the hospital, you will cross another set of lights below St. Michaels hill.

(2) You may wish to stop off at the Hatch at **404 Bristol** café to grab a drink or sit on their rooftop terrace for some lunch looking over Bristol.

![Image](image2.png)

**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 KimonoKimono on the right. Once you pass KimonoKimono turn immediately right up the steps and continue to the top of 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! Continue on to the next left turning which is Tyndall Avenue. The NSQI building is the second building on the left, HH Wills is third on the left.

![Image](image3.png)
Indirect route (Red) - Continue along Perry Road past all the shops. When you reach the corner opposite the Esso petrol station, turn around to see the Uncertain World mural by local artist Lucas Antics.

(3) The Uncertain World project was commissioned by the director of the Cabot Institute, Professor Rich Pancost. This marine-themed mural features an 8m high plesiosaur, a Metriorhynchus, and an Ammonite holding a spray can. Uncertain World artistically parallels a collision between a potential future world of rising sea levels with that of the very deep past, the Mid Jurassic period 160-150 million years ago, when carbon dioxide concentrations were as high as they might once again be, by the end of this century.

(4) If you are need of refreshments, you can find next to the mural the Cloakroom cafe. This cafe is unique having been converted from an Edwardian public loo. It serves fresh food & speciality coffee.

Turn right past the Cloakroom cafe to head up Woodland Road. Continue up the hill. You will pass the Fry building (School of Mathematics) on the left. Soon after you will arrive at a crossroads. Turn right onto Tyndall Avenue. You will pass the entrance to Royal Fort Garden and HH Wills is the first building on the right, and NSQI is 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 will arrive at a pedestrian crossing.

Cross the road, continue right, then veer left down Victoria Street.

(1) A couple minutes up the road you will come across ‘Ye Shakespeare’, one of Bristol’s oldest pubs which dates backs to 1636.

(2) You could take a very short detour here turning right just after the pub, to view the exposed ruins of Temple Church, which dates 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 will see Castle Park.

Continue straight, using the pedestrian crossing, then the next. You will walk past St Nicholas Markets to your left.
(3) St Nicholas Markets is known for some of the best food in Bristol, and its largest collection of independent and vintage shops under one glass arcaded roof.

Bear left down Broad Street. After about 500 yards you will see the Edward Everard building.

(4) The former Edward Everard’s printing works is known for its unique Art Nouveau façade which has been a feature of the city’s architecture since the turn of the 20th Century.

Walk under the arches, continue straight, and use the pedestrian crossing on the right.

Once you have crossed the road, turn left and you will soon reach a small, cobbled area and a great cake shop called ‘Ahh Toots’, which we recommend!

(5) Cakery and Biscuitier Ahh Toots is housed in a beautiful Tudor fronted building, located on one of Bristol’s oldest streets. Rumoured to date back to the 13th Century, the building previously housed a fish and chip shop for well over 100 years.

Turn right past Ahh Toots and brace yourself for the Christmas Steps!

Once you have made it up Christmas Steps, you may either take the next flight up directly in front of you which deposits you across the street from the Japanese shop KimonoKimono. Or should you wish to avoid any more steps, take a right along the road. At the end of this road, take a sharp left and continue onwards to find KimonoKimono across the road on your right.

At KimonoKimono you have two route options, the direct route is slightly quicker, but the hill is steeper:

Direct route (Purple) - Once you pass KimonoKimono turn immediately right up the steps and continue to the top of 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! Continue to the next left turning which is Tyndall Avenue. The NSQI building is the second building on the left, HH Wills is third on the left.

**Indirect route (Red)** - Continue along Perry Road past all the shops. When you reach the corner opposite the Esso petrol station, turn around to see the Uncertain World mural by local artist Lucas Antics.

(6) The Uncertain World project was commissioned by the director of the Cabot Institute, Professor Rich Pancost. This marine-themed mural features an 8m high plesiosaur, a Metriorhynchus, and an Ammonite holding a spray can. Uncertain World artistically parallels a collision between a potential future world of rising sea levels with that of the very deep past, the Mid Jurassic period 160-150 million years ago, when carbon dioxide concentrations were as high as they might once again be, by the end of this century.
If you are need of refreshments, you can find next to the mural the Cloakroom cafe. This cafe is unique having been converted from an Edwardian public loo. It serves fresh food & speciality coffee.

Turn right past the Cloakroom cafe to head up Woodland Road. Continue up the hill. You will pass the Fry building (School of Mathematics) on the left. Soon after you will arrive at a crossroads. Turn right onto Tyndall Avenue. You will pass the entrance to Royal Fort Garden and HH Wills is the first building on the right, and NSQI is second on the right.
Useful Pit Stops and Things to See While You Are Here:

1. **Co-op Food** - is our nearest grocery store if you need to purchase any essentials while you are here. There is also an in-store ATM, should you need to withdraw cash.

2. **Royal Fort Gardens** - is a beautiful spot in which to sit and relax. These gardens are directly behind the School of Physics. The gardens host a small pond, trees, and numerous habitats – including those of hedgehogs, to increase biodiversity levels. 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.

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 offers natural history exhibits as well as local, national, and international archaeology. The art gallery contains works from all periods of time, including many by internationally famous artists, such as woodblock works by Hokusai, as well a collection of modern paintings of Bristol.
7. **Park Street** - Park Street and Queen’s Road boast a great selection of boutiques, bookstores, second-hand clothing shops, as well as bars, clubs and restaurants. In addition, there are notable iconic buildings to see. Local favourite places to grab lunch include Eat a Pitta, Pinkmans, Taka Taka and Friska.

8. **Brandon Hill Park & Cabot Tower** – is a steeped hill park just 15 minutes walk downhill from the Physics buildings. There you will find stretches of open green fields and a pond with many trees and pretty flowers. There are plenty of benches and places on which to sit and enjoy great views across the city and beyond. Cabot Tower, a 105 feet-tall tower located in the middle of the park, offers stunning panoramic views of the entire city. Access to the park and ascending the Tower is free of charge.