

AGM/DINNER BRISTOL

Bristol is a busy and vibrant city with great motorway and trunk roads giving easy access to many climbing locations, although, in keeping with the local traditions, there is not a great deal for the sports climber. Additionally, the city offers a number of non climbing diversions for those who've seen the light, or for the hung over – hopefully the list below will offer some inspiration, whatever you decide to do on the weekend.

Our venue this year - The Holiday Inn, Filton Road, Hambrook, Filton, Bristol, BS16 1QX (ST 62876 78617) - is easily located – follow the motorway network from north, south, east or west to Jct 19 of the M4, then take the M32 towards Bristol. Leave the M32 at Jct 1, after just 1Km, and take the 3rd exit towards Filton. The hotel is on the left, within 1Km of the M32. The fleshpots of Bristol, commensurate with any major city, are just 8Km further along the M32.

The hotel is also about 1.5 miles from Bristol Parkway station – you could come by train!

10 Climbing venues to visit in/near Bristol – CC Guides to Avon/Cheddar, Wye Valley and that newly purchased South West Climbs, Vol. 1/2 should suffice

1. **Avon Gorge** - the country's premier urban crag, just a mile or so from the city centre. Hundreds of routes in all but the highest grades, but can be polished on the classics.
2. **Cheddar Gorge** – you're just in time to do that ascent of Coronation Street, before the restrictions kick in on Sunday 15/3/15. Likely to be busy if the weather is good and warm, but plenty of alternatives further up the Gorge if needed.
3. **Wintours Leap** – single pitch to multi pitch and an area you might not have been to – here is your opportunity to rectify that, but leave it until the afternoon to get any available sun.
4. **Wye Valley Crags** – a myriad of smaller, quieter crags dotted along the picturesque Wye Valley some of which you will not have been to. Try **Symond's Yat**, **Shorn Cliff** and **Wynd Cliff** for some natural single pitch routes, or **Tintern Quarry**, **Ban-Y-Gor Rocks** or **Wyndcliff Quarry** for some sport.
5. **Quarried Limestone** – aside from the Avon Gorge, we've a few, smaller quarries that are worth a visit. **Fairy Cave Quarry** and **Portishead Quarry** offer some relatively easy slabs and walls, both with some great little routes. Steeper fare can be found at **Split Rock Quarry** and **Uphill Quarry**, the latter of which dries quickly, and has some quality pitches.
6. **Natural Outcrops** – if you've a full tick list for the major crags in the area, **Goblin Combe** offers some single pitches in the HS to E1 range, if it's dry, but check the latest access situation. **Brean Down** weighs in with some historically important challenges in the easier grades and some high grade, bolted testpieces. The crag gets all the sun that is going and dries fairly quickly, so is often a good winter choice.
7. **Esoteria – Forest of Dean Sandstone** is as esoteric as it gets - if you are tempted, seek professional help.

8. **Further afield** – Bristol is handily placed to get further south, and North and South Devon are only a couple of hours away – Baggy Point, in particular, is renowned for a balmy microclimate in any dry weather, and some quality slabs.
9. **Climbing Walls** – we're well catered for here with two climbing walls in Bristol, both of which also have bouldering areas:
Undercover Rock www.undercover-rock.com - Undercover Rock is offering a deal to CC members - **on production of your CC membership card** climb at the off peak rate (£6) any time after 5pm on Friday 13th, and all day Saturday and Sunday. They are also waiving the £1 'day membership' fee. Approx 5-10 mins drive from the hotel, which is a bonus.
NOTE: There is a climbing festival being held there on Saturday 14th, see their website for details.

There is also Redpoint, on the south side of Bristol www.redpointbristol.co.uk

10. **Bouldering** – not a great deal to get excited about, I'm afraid, as it is an area we're sadly lacking. Two walls do an admirable job in making up for this - The Climbing Academy (TCA) www.theclimbingacademy.com have offered a **deal for free bouldering all weekend**, on production of membership card.

Another bouldering venue is Bloc www.blocclimbing.co.uk

Things to Do in Bristol if you're not climbing

1. **Go mountain biking.** Southwest of the Suspension Bridge and Avon Gorge is Ashton Court, which has all weather mountain bike tracks, as does Leigh Woods, just across the road. Bike hire is available.
www.bristol.gov.uk/page/leisure-and-culture/activities-ashton-court
www.lsw.org.uk
2. **Have a day at the Zoo.** Bristol Zoo is second only to London for its breeding programme for endangered species. There's a new gorilla enclosure, aquarium, monkey jungle, lions and lots more, all set in lovely gardens. Allow at least half an hour to watch the meerkats!
www.bristolzoo.org.uk
3. **Visit the SS Great Britain.** Isambard Kingdom Brunel's steamship was transported back from the Falklands as a complete wreck. Lovingly restored with the aid of a lottery grant, it has been described as one of the most important historic ships in the world. Berthed alongside (unless it's out on a visit somewhere) is the replica of **The Matthew**, the boat in which John Cabot discovered Newfoundland – you won't believe how small it is!
www.ssgreatbritain.org
www.matthew.co.uk

4. **Take a boat trip.** There are several ferry companies that ply to and fro around the floating harbour. A round trip takes approximately 45 mins, and you can get on and off as you wish – possible stops include the Arnolfini Gallery, MShed Museum, and the City Centre.

www.bristolferry.com

www.bristolpacket.co.uk

5. **Jump on a sightseeing bus.** The ideal way to get a feel for the city of Bristol, and can be enjoyed in the wet or the dry. Stops at or near all the major tourist attractions, and discounts are available with your bus ticket.

www.city-sightseeingbristol.co.uk

6. **Go for a walk.** No, really! Ashton Court, just across the Suspension Bridge, is vast, and has a deer park and a mansion house. You could brush up your navigation skills by doing the orienteering course (map available from the golf kiosk). And just across the road from the Clifton entrance gate is Leigh Woods, owned by the National Trust, and with many good walking paths – you can even walk the tow path to the mouth of the Avon. And it wouldn't be right to visit Bristol and not walk across the iconic Suspension Bridge.

www.cliftonbridge.org.uk

www.nationaltrust.org.uk/leigh-woods

www.bristol.gov.uk/page.leisure-and-culture/activities-ashton-court

7. **Be a culture vulture!** Bristol is home to the artist Banksy – check out his artworks in the real. Or visit Bristol Museum and Art Gallery, or MShed. Stacks of artistic stuff!

www.visit.bristol.co.uk/things-to-do/banksy-walking-tourP54013

www.bristol.gov.uk/bristol-museum-and-art-gallery.co.uk

www.mshed.org

And a little further afield

8. **Visit Chepstow Castle and Tintern Abbey** (nearest crags to Castle: Wintour's Leap, Ban-y-gor, Wyndcliffe. Nearest crag to Abbey: Shorn Cliff. The Wye Valley also has beautiful walks, and there's a vineyard to visit in Tintern too.

www.cadw.wales.gov.uk

9. **Check out Cheddar Caves or Wookey Hole Caves** (nearest crag: Cheddar). Wookey boasts a resident Witch, paid about £50,000 to 'go about the everyday business of being a hag ..' Nice work if you can get it!

www.cheddargorge.co.uk

www.wookey.co.uk

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