

Bath's elegant, golden-hued crescents and Regency townhouses are studded with plaques celebrating a host of famous inhabitants from its heyday as a spa resort, from author Jane Austen to painter Thomas Gainsborough. Today the city ranks as one of Britain's most visited, thanks to its hot springs – the only ones in the country – which the Romans developed into magnificent baths. The city also offers the highly impressive architecture of Bath Abbey and Pulteney Bridge, and a wealth of museums.



The Roman Baths

Visit the heart of the World Heritage Site. Around Britain's only hot spring, the Romans built a magnificent temple and bathing complex that still flows with natural hot water. See the water's source and walk where Romans walked on the ancient stone pavements. The extensive ruins and treasures from the spring are beautifully preserved and presented using the best of modern interpretation.



Georgian Bath

The impressive Georgian architecture is obvious throughout Bath. The striking Royal Crescent, built in 1767, is one of the finest achievements of 18th-century urban architecture and a visit to No.1 Royal Crescent reveals the exquisite Georgian interior design with authentic furniture, paintings and carpets. Close by is The Circus, another bold architectural statement from John Wood. Head down to the river to visit Pulteney Bridge; one of only four in the world lined by shops on both sides.



Bath Abbey

Begun in 1499, Bath Abbey is the last of the great medieval churches of England. The West Front is unique. It depicts the dream that inspired the Abbey's founder, Bishop Oliver King, to pull down the ruined Norman cathedral and raise the present building on its foundations. Over the past 12 and a half centuries, three different churches have occupied the site of today's abbey.



Jane Austen

Bath's most famous resident is the author of classic works such as *Pride and Prejudice* and *Sense and Sensibility*. The Jane Austen Centre offers a snapshot of life during Regency times and explores how this magnificent city affected Austen's life and writing. The centre is informative and illuminating with highly knowledgeable staff, a lovely period atmosphere, exclusive film, costume, contemporary exhibits, maps and books. It is the perfect starting point to an exploration of Jane Austen's Bath.

What else can I see and do?

The story of fashion over the last 400 years is brought alive at the **Fashion Museum**, the finest collection of fashionable garments in the world. Housed in Bath's magnificent **Assembly Rooms**, the museum's displays include 200 dressed figures to illustrate the changing styles in fashionable clothes.

Britain's original and only natural thermal spa, the **Thermae Bath Spa** at the Hetling Pump Room on Hot Bath Street is a great way to relax, and

the open-air rooftop pool boasts spectacular views over the city. At the **Holburne Museum** you'll find a beautiful and fascinating art collection in one of Bath's great buildings, with everything from Renaissance treasures to masterpieces by Gainsborough (free admission). No visit to Bath is complete without a trip to one of the oldest houses in Bath, **Sally Lunn's** (c.1483). Centrally located and home of the world-famous Sally Lunn Bun (light, semi-sweet bread), the house is now a living museum where visitors can experience a real taste of Bath.

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