

It's hard to beat a Christmas shopping trip to the beautiful city of Bristol. The abundance of quirky boutiques alongside well-known shop brands and a magical Christmas market make it the perfect festive getaway. Whether you're into tiny pop-up shops selling unique fashion designs or shopping complexes with everything you need under one roof, Bristol has it all.

Book direct flights to Bristol from Guernsey at aurigny.com



Peruse the pretty Regency streets and passageways of Clifton Village (includes the Mall, Princess Victoria Street and Boyces Avenue). Here, you can tick off your gift list at chic independent clothing boutiques Maze Clothing, 18 and Village Green, eclectic jewellery store John Titcombe and trendy stationery shop Papersmiths. Meander through the two-storey Victorian Clifton Arcade to discover vintage collections at the Vintage Boutique, interior design shop My English Home and Hidden Gallery, before resting your feet at the Ivy Clifton Brasserie with a cocktail in hand – head for the Orangery and order a Brunel Breeze. Or sip on an Americano, listen to Christmas songs and watch the world go by at the Primrose Café or Arch House Deli Café.

If you like to flit between high street favourites and one-off wonders, head to the Bristol Shopping Quarter in the centre of the city.



BRISTOL



There are two covered shopping zones – Cabot Circus and The Galleries – which are connected by Broadmead, a traffic-free zone full of independent shops such as Paul Richards and Mabboo Bamboo as well as well-known department stores House of Fraser and Debenhams. There's also a four-storey Primark for bargain hunters. Don't miss the boutiques and cafés of St. James' Arcade, with its historic and authentic Victorian vibe.

Looking for a truly independent shopping experience with some Banksy graffiti to top it off? Hop on a bus from the centre and head over to Stokes Croft and Gloucester Road in the northern part of the city – the latter of which boasts the longest street of indie shops in Europe! Start by grabbing breakfast at Bakers & Co before picking up locally made gifts, artwork, jewellery and specialist teas (El Colmado, Room 212, Fig and Grape & Grind). If it's shabby chic, retro, bohemian or vintage presents you're after, you'll hit the jackpot here. There's also a plethora of charity shops to peruse. End your trip with a rustic tapas-style supper at Bell's Diner. The Bristol Flyer is also a great place to catch a local cider and gets pretty buzzy as the sun goes down.

Get your heart pumping by walking up trendy Park Street, the student mecca of Bristol. Rest up briefly at Boston Tea Party Café and indulge in one of their sweet or savoury scones after midday (when they come out of the oven) – you can thank us later. Pick up stocking fillers including artisan chocolates and homewares from the Guild Gallery. They also stock unique cards and posters. While you're in the area, why not treat yourself to a new outfit for that upcoming Christmas party from one of the independent stores? If you're after gifts to pamper, pop in to The Body Shop – their Hemp Rescue Balm is a one-stop-shop to smoother skin. L'Occitane en Provence also has lots of gift sets to inspire.



ST NICHOLAS MARKET COURTESY OF VISIT-ENGLAND





MARKETS

There are year-round markets in Bristol, including St Nicholas Market (or St Nick's as it's known locally) as well as the infamous Harbourside Market (weekends and Thursdays). During the Christmas period, there's the Mile of Markets which stretches from Bristol Shopping Quarter right down to Brunel's SS Great Britain (worth a peruse) on the Harbourside. Bristol's Christmas Market can be found (it's hard to

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miss) in the pedestrianised area of Broadmead in the Bristol Shopping Quarter. Visitors can explore over 40 wooden chalet-style stalls full of unique gift ideas and sample authentic German food and drink along the way. It's open every day until Christmas Eve.



GIFT IDEAS



HAND LUGGAGE

Nothing speaks 'Christmas present' like a luxurious, slow-burning candle. Maison Louis Marie makes gorgeous candles and you can pick them up in Papersmiths in Clifton village for £35 each.

VISIT: PAPERSMITHS.CO.UK



IN THE SUITCASE

Artwork from Gloucester Road's Room 212 is the perfect addition to anybody's home. There's an amazing array of work by local artists and creatives including paintings, prints and illustrations. Prices range from £20-£80 and the staff will gift wrap your items to protect them on the journey home.

VISIT: ROOM212.CO.UK



WHERE TO BUY

Joules is a UK-based premium lifestyle brand. The Little Joule and Baby Joule collections cater for the smallest members of your family offering colourful and playful clothes which are loved by both children and their parents. Joules stores can be found in Bristol, Guernsey, Leeds and London.