



ACES President's Conference, 24 & 25 September 2025 – Bath

Bath

General

Bath is a city in the county of Somerset, known for and named after its Roman built baths. At the 2021 census the population of Bath was approaching 100,000, making it the largest city or town in the county of Somerset. Bath is situated in the valley of the River Avon, 97 miles west of London and 11 miles south-east of Bristol. The city of Bath became a UNESCO World Heritage site in 1987.

Brief History

The Baths date from 60 AD when the Romans built both baths and a temple in the Avon Valley. The original Bath Abbey was built in the 7th century. It was substantially rebuilt in the 12th century and again in the 16th century, the current structure being in the Late Perpendicular style. Bath became a popular Spa town in the Georgian era when many of its famous buildings were built by architect-builder John Wood the Elder, followed by his son. Famous residents over the years have included portrait artist Thomas Gainsborough, and novelist Jane Austin, whose 250th anniversary of her birth is being widely celebrated in Bath during 2025.

Government

Bath has formed part of the County of Somerset since year 878, becoming a county borough in 1889, independent of Somerset County Council. Bath became part of Avon in 1974 until Avon was abolished in 1996 when Bath became part of the Unitary Authority of the District of Bath & North-East Somerset. Bath elects one MP to Parliament.

Industry & Tourism

Bath was once the home of crane manufacturing, furniture manufacture, printing and brass foundries but these have mostly gone, to be replaced by software publishing and service-oriented industries. Tourism is a major employer in the city, which has over 1 million staying visitors per annum and some 4 million day visitors per annum.



The Royal Crescent



The Roman Baths



Bath Abbey



Pulteney Bridge



Roof-top Thermal Bath Spa



Celebrating the 250th anniversary of the birth of Jane Austen



The Roman Baths with Bath Abbey in background



St Ann's place – a classic Georgian street



Beckford Bottle Shop – venue for the post-conference informal dinner



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