

Ride: Two Tunnels (Bath)

Start/Finish: Bristol Parkway Station

Distance: 42 miles (4 hours plus stops)

Terraine: Mainly flat.

Map: OS 1:50,000 Sheet 172 *Bristol and Bath*

It's an hour and a half by train from Swansea to Bristol Parkway Station. *First Great Western* provide a direct service and they can take up to six bikes.

Apart from four miles to and from Bristol Parkway and a bit in Bath the ride is on cycle paths with a few miles on country lanes. You can enjoy the popular Bristol-Bath path (pictured) and experience the recently opened two tunnels. Both tunnels are well lit and in the longer one, which is over a mile, weird sounds emanate from the walls!

Consult the map for the detail of the best way from the station to the Bristol-Bath path. To summarise: on leaving the station turn left (south) under the railway, left again and after a mile right onto the B4508. After crossing the dual carriageway A4174 turn left and left again; cross a valley, a main road and at Mangotsfield right onto the A432. Turn left immediately past a roundabout. This road swings round to the right (south) climbs and then drops down to cross the cycle path at Staple Hill. To access the path turn left just before the crossing and it's on your right.

Follow the path for 10 miles towards Bath. You may be ready for coffee and cake in the café at Bitton Station, four miles from Staple Hill.

On entering Bath the path narrows to follow a canal. Immediately after the canal and the adjacent river Avon merge there is a footbridge. Leave the canal here to cross this bridge. "Greenway" signs then lead you to the path which goes through the two tunnels. First you climb a bit and then on entering the second tunnel it's gently downhill to Midford.

Midford is the turn round point. The path here crosses over the B4311, on the north side of which, below and to the left of the path, is the *Hope & Anchor* pub. A place to refuel?

To return get on to Tucking Hill Lane. This starts to the west of the cycle path, crossing over your earlier route, to take you through Monkton Combe to the Avon Valley. It's then along the canal to Bath. You leave the canal to go straight through the centre of Bath and pick up the Bath-Bristol path east of where you left it earlier. It's then back the way you came to Bristol Parkway.



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