The City of Bath

World Heritage Site

The hot springs – the only ones in Britain – are the reason for Bath's existence. They rise in the valley of the River Avon. The same springs provide the City's building stone and landscape setting. Natural heritage has attracted and inspired for thousands of years. This was a sacred place for the Celts, who worshipped Sulis, goddess of the springs. The Romans built a complex of baths, a temple to Sulis-Minerva, and the town of Aquae Sulis (Waters of Sulis) which sits on the Fosse Way, Roman Britain's first freight road. The Saxon monastery had one of the finest churches in England, where King Edgar was crowned in 973. Later, the Normans built a cathedral, new baths and hospices for the sick, and Medieval Bath was a centre of the wool trade. In the 18thC Bath became the country's most fashionable health resort, and was transformed by leading architects and designers. Consistent use of stone and style is an important feature of the townscape. This trail explains why Bath is a World Heritage Site - it takes about one and a half hours.

Further information

Bath and North East Somerset Council
www.bathnes.gov.uk/worldheritage

Bath Preservation Trust
www.bath-preservation-trust.org.uk

World Heritage Sites in South West England
www.worldheritagesouthwest.org.uk

UNESCO World Heritage Centre
whc.unesco.org

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