

# WELCOME

# Dear Hongkonger friend,



I write to welcome you on behalf of the district of South Gloucestershire.

South Gloucestershire has always played its part in helping to support people who have come to this country, and we are proud to be able to help people like yourselves.

Because this is such a great place to live, work and visit, I know that our residents and communities will hold out the hand of friendship and welcome to you as do all South Gloucestershire Councillors and Officers.

This welcome pack provides some facts about South Gloucestershire and information on transport links, places of worship, things to do and the surrounding area, job opportunities and includes a directory of local services.

It supplements the welcome guide provided by the UK government and the SW Councils Welcome Hub Page:

- 🌐 [Welcome: a guide for Hong Kong British National \(Overseas\) visa holders in the UK - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk)
- 🌐 [Hong Kong British Nationals \(Overseas\) Welcome Hub - South West Councils \(swcouncils.gov.uk\)](http://swcouncils.gov.uk)

If you have any questions that you cannot find the answer to in this guide or on the websites above, please contact one of the below organisations:

- 🌐 [South Gloucestershire Chinese Association](#)
- 🌐 [Chinese Community Wellbeing Society](#)
- 🌐 [Bristol Chinese Christian Church](#)

and they will do their best to help you.

Yours sincerely,  Cllr Toby Savage, Leader of South Gloucestershire Council

# Facts

## about South Gloucestershire:

South Gloucestershire is a district in the West of England, covering an area of

**536.6 sq km,**

with a population of

**287,800.**

**87%** of the population live in urban areas, largely on the northern edge of the city of Bristol and the towns of Yate and Thornbury.

The remaining **13%** live in the more rural areas of South Gloucestershire. With excellent road and rail links, South Gloucestershire is one of the best connected areas in the country.

## LOCATION



# Transport links



Visit Travel West for local public transport information and leisure walking and cycling routes. <https://travelwest.info>

travelwest+

## BUS & COACH



Many people travel daily on buses in the UK. The bus is a common way to get to work and for leisure activities. When you arrive, the people helping you settle in will find the relevant bus routes from where you live, to the shops, places of interest and worship etc. There are frequent buses into Bristol and in and around the main towns of South Gloucestershire.

[www.firstbus.co.uk](http://www.firstbus.co.uk)

[www.nationalexpress.com/en](http://www.nationalexpress.com/en)

## RAIL



Bristol Parkway train station in Stoke Gifford, provides fast links to London, Birmingham, Cardiff and Southampton. There are also smaller rail stations in South Gloucestershire providing good commuter connections. These include Filton Abbey Wood and Yate train stations serving the town and industrial area. People in the UK use the train frequently for work and leisure, although it can be more expensive than taking the bus.

[www.nationalrail.co.uk](http://www.nationalrail.co.uk)

## ROAD



South Gloucestershire is well served by the national and regional road network. The M4, M5 and M49 motorways run through South Gloucestershire providing easy access by car to London (two hours away), Birmingham (90 minutes), Cardiff in Wales (less than one hour). The M32 gives direct access from the M4 to central Bristol.

## AIR



Bristol Airport offers flights to more than 100 European and international destinations. The UK's major airports, Heathrow and Gatwick, are in London.

[www.bristolairport.co.uk](http://www.bristolairport.co.uk)

# Places of worship

## Churches

St Lawrence Church (Chipping Sodbury), St Augustine of Canterbury Church (Downend), St Teresa Catholic Church (Filton), St John Fisher Church (Frenchay), Our Lady of Lourdes and St Bernadette's (Kingswood), Holy Family Church (Patchway), Christ the King (Thornbury), St Paul's Catholic Church (Yate), St Saviours Church (Coalpit Heath), St Stephen's Church (Kingswood), Holy Trinity Church (Kingswood), St Anne's Church (Longwell Green), St Mary's Church (Yate), Eastern Orthodox Church of the Nativity of the mother of God (Clifton, Bristol), Greek Orthodox Church of Saint Peter & Saint Paul (St Phillips, Bristol).

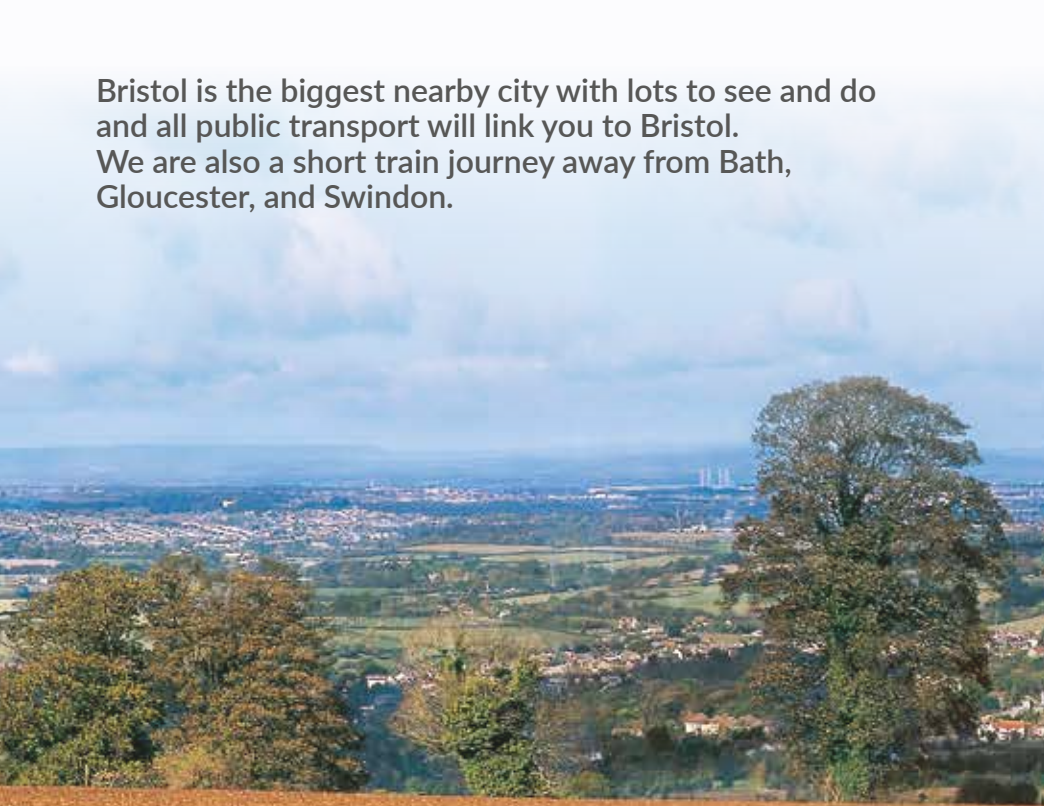
## Other places of worship

Eastern Central Mosque (Easton, Bristol), Bristol Central Mosque (Easton, Bristol), Darul Imann Hossenieih Foundation (Eastville, Bristol), Park Row Synagogue Bristol (Cotham, Bristol) The Hindu Temple (Redfield, Bristol) and Bristol Chinese Christian Church (Tyndale Baptist Church, Clifton, Bristol, and they hold some smaller sermons at Little Stoke Baptist Church or in the Bradley Stoke area).

# Things to do and the surrounding area

There is lots to do in South Gloucestershire. We have a large shopping centre and leisure area at Cribbs Causeway, a number of historic market towns such as Thornbury, Chipping Sodbury and Marshfield, some great leisure attractions such as Wild Place Project, Planet Ice and The Wave and beautiful countryside to explore, It's a lovely place to be!

Bristol is the biggest nearby city with lots to see and do and all public transport will link you to Bristol. We are also a short train journey away from Bath, Gloucester, and Swindon.



# Local services

You may be able to access initial support from the

- 🌐 South Gloucestershire Chinese Association, Chinese Community Wellbeing Society or the
- 🌐 Bristol Chinese Christian Church on what you need to do shortly after you arrive.



They will advise you where you can buy food - there are a number of small and larger supermarkets here in South Gloucestershire.



They will advise you on how to register with a doctor so you can access free NHS health services. There are two main hospitals local to South Gloucestershire - Southmead Hospital and the Bristol Royal Infirmary. There is also the Bristol Royal Hospital for Children.



They will be able to advise you on how you can access your own transport and what you need to do should you want to buy a bicycle or car.



They will advise you on how to enrol your children in local schools and where you can access classes to learn English yourself if you need to.



They will advise you to access your local job centre and arrange appointments with a job coach to help you find local employment.



If you need any additional support to help you with your day-to-day life, they will be able to point you in the right direction.



# Job Opportunities

There are lots of job opportunities within South Gloucestershire when you are ready to think about employment. The area has some really large, well-known companies located here such as Airbus, GKN Aerospace, Rolls Royce, Hewlett Packard and Royal Mail as well as lots of smaller companies. There are jobs in every sector including design and manufacturing, construction, computing, healthcare, retail, telecommunications and many more.

We also have a number of jobs in South Gloucestershire Council that might suit you, from jobs in social care to jobs in schools – you can search all our job opportunities here:

Careers | South Gloucestershire Council [www.southglos.gov.uk/jobs](http://www.southglos.gov.uk/jobs)





# Services to help you:

We have put together a list of support services that you may find useful or need to access whilst living here in South Gloucestershire:

SERVICE NAME	DESCRIPTION	WEBSITE
Active Lifestyle Centres	Have a range of gyms, swimming pools and other classes that you could attend. Paid membership required and there are a number of centres across South Glos.	<a href="http://www.activecentres.org">www.activecentres.org</a>
Ashley Community Housing	Can provide support in relation to English Language Classes and also entrepreneurship and business support if looking to set up your own business. They can also offer advice and guidance on housing related support if required.	<a href="http://www.ach.org.uk">www.ach.org.uk</a>
Bristol Chinese Christian Church	A Christian Church community that meets regularly in Bristol and South Gloucestershire. Support can be found within the community for signposting to services and support with settling into the area.	<a href="http://www.bristolccc.org">www.bristolccc.org</a> <a href="mailto:bristolccc.uk@bristolccc.org">bristolccc.uk@bristolccc.org</a>
Chinese Community Wellbeing Society	Registered charity supporting the Chinese speaking community throughout the south west of England. Established in 1989. Works in collaboration with public and independent service providers. Provide information and support to community members with language barriers, cultural barriers or requiring general help from Chinese speakers via Chinese Lantern Helpline. Further support is available from our Casework; Carer Support Service; Food and Nutrition; Health and Wellbeing project teams. Services are available to all adult aged community members.  Chinese Lantern Helpline for any queries you may have - 08088 020012	<a href="http://chinesecws.org.uk">chinesecws.org.uk</a> <a href="https://www.facebook.com/chinesecws">www.facebook.com/chinesecws</a>

SERVICE NAME	DESCRIPTION	WEBSITE
Breastfeeding Support Service	The service is available for all families wishing for support to breastfeed their babies, this can be through weekly clinics or group support.	<a href="http://www.breastfeedingsouthglos.co.uk/about-us/contact.html">www.breastfeedingsouthglos.co.uk/about-us/contact.html</a>
Carers Support Centre	Offer support and advice for people who provide care for others.	<a href="http://www.carerssupportcentre.org.uk">www.carerssupportcentre.org.uk</a>
Citizen Advice	Can offer support and help with applying for benefits and understanding your rights as a citizen. There are offices in Yate, Kingswood, and Thornbury.	<a href="http://www.citizensadvice.org.uk">www.citizensadvice.org.uk</a>
Community Learning Team – South Gloucestershire Council	Offers courses throughout the year for adults to access.	Community learning and skills service   South Gloucestershire <a href="http://www.southglos.gov.uk/communitylearning">www.southglos.gov.uk/communitylearning</a>
Community Support Helpline – Southern Brooks Community Partnership	Can link you to food banks or other community services that you may need.	<a href="http://www.southernbrooks.org.uk">www.southernbrooks.org.uk</a>
Covid-19 Vaccination Information	Age 12+. You do not have to be registered with a GP, have an NHS number or be documented in order to have a Covid-19 vaccination. If you are in this position, please attend a walk-in clinic or contact a GP to book your vaccination, explaining your situation. Further details of clinics and how to book an appointment for a vaccination can be found on the website.	<a href="http://www.bnnsghalthiertogether.org.uk/book-your-vaccine/">www.bnnsghalthiertogether.org.uk/book-your-vaccine/</a>
Find your local GP (General Practitioner)	You will need to register with your local General Practitioner Service to access other National Health Services.	<a href="http://www.nhs.uk/service-search/find-a-gp">www.nhs.uk/service-search/find-a-gp</a>
Groundworks – Impact Bristol	Provides support to you through educational classes and advice.	<a href="http://www.groundwork.org.uk/projects/impact-bristol/">www.groundwork.org.uk/projects/impact-bristol/</a>
Health visiting	Support for new mothers' antenatally until child starts schools. Support and information about becoming a parent, the emotional wellbeing of your family and the health and development of your child, until he or she starts school.	<a href="http://www.cchp.nhs.uk/cchp/explore-cchp/health-visiting/health-visiting-south-gloucestershire-0">www.cchp.nhs.uk/cchp/explore-cchp/health-visiting/health-visiting-south-gloucestershire-0</a>
Healthy Start	Get help to buy food and milk (Healthy Start) and free vitamins.	<a href="http://www.healthystart.nhs.uk/how-to-apply/">www.healthystart.nhs.uk/how-to-apply/</a>
Job Centres	Provide help with applying for benefits and searching for employment.	<a href="http://www.find-your-nearest-jobcentre.dwp.gov.uk">www.find-your-nearest-jobcentre.dwp.gov.uk</a>

SERVICE NAME	DESCRIPTION	WEBSITE
Libraries in South Gloucestershire	Where you can borrow books and use the internet for free	<a href="http://www.southglos.gov.uk/leisure-and-culture/libraries">www.southglos.gov.uk/leisure-and-culture/libraries</a>
Mind You South Gloucestershire	Supporting young adults and children with mental health support.	Mind you   A mental health and emotional wellbeing hub for young people in South Gloucestershire <a href="http://www.southglos.gov.uk/mindyou">www.southglos.gov.uk/mindyou</a>
NHS Bristol North Somerset South Gloucestershire Integrated Care Board	They are responsible for the day to day running of the NHS in the local area including South Gloucestershire. They are responsible for primary and secondary care services including; General Practitioners, Hospitals and communities health services like physiotherapists and nurses.	<a href="http://www.bnssg.icb.nhs.uk">www.bnssg.icb.nhs.uk</a>
One You South Gloucestershire	Virtual support if you are looking to improve your physical health.	Home   One You South Gloucestershire <a href="http://www.southglos.gov.uk/oneyou">www.southglos.gov.uk/oneyou</a>
SARI (Stand Against Racism and Inequality)	Link for support with issues individuals/families may experience and can provide support to them.	<a href="http://www.saricharity.org.uk/">www.saricharity.org.uk/</a>
School places in South Gloucestershire	How to apply for a school place in South Gloucestershire.	<a href="http://www.southglos.gov.uk/schooladmissions">www.southglos.gov.uk/schooladmissions</a>
School Health Nursing	This service is available to all children and young people living or at school/college in South Gloucestershire between the ages of 5-19 years School Health Nurses work with children, young people and families to: provide health information, in both groups and individually / Identify health promotion and health improvement initiatives, together with the child's school / Liaise and make referrals to other professionals. They offer advice and support around; emotional health, healthy eating, healthy relationships, dental health, drugs, alcohol and smoking, physical health concerns, LGBTQ+, sleep, continence.	<a href="http://www.cchp.nhs.uk/cchp/explore-cchp/school-health-nursing/bristol-south-gloucestershire">www.cchp.nhs.uk/cchp/explore-cchp/school-health-nursing/bristol-south-gloucestershire</a>
SGS College	Offers education courses for free for you in learning English, Maths, or other educational classes you may want to enrol in.	<a href="http://www.sgscol.ac.uk">www.sgscol.ac.uk</a>
South Gloucestershire Chinese Association	Offer of advice on how to live a daily life as Chinese People in South Glos and English/Chinese (Mandarin & Cantonese) translation and interpretation services. Assistance to access information and receive the services of statutory services providers, including local Councils, NHS, and Social Care etc. And can provide free English Classes.	<a href="http://www.sgca.info">www.sgca.info</a>

SERVICE NAME	DESCRIPTION	WEBSITE
South West Councils	Provide information and guidance on housing, employment, and regular drop in sessions for visa holders to attend to learn more about life in the South West.	<a href="http://www.swcouncils.gov.uk">www.swcouncils.gov.uk</a>
Well Aware	Provides information on a wide range of organisations, support groups, community groups, events, and activities in South Gloucestershire.	<a href="http://www.wellaware.org.uk">www.wellaware.org.uk</a>
Womankind	Offer counselling and befriending services to women in Bristol and South Glos who have been the victims of sexual or domestic abuse or trauma.	<a href="http://www.womankindbristol.org.uk">www.womankindbristol.org.uk</a>

If you have any questions that are not covered in this guide or on the council website:

 [www.southglos.gov.uk/hong-kong-british-nationals](http://www.southglos.gov.uk/hong-kong-british-nationals)

Please call South Gloucestershire Council general enquiries

 **01454 86 8009**

 [www.southglos.gov.uk/contactus](http://www.southglos.gov.uk/contactus)



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