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DISCOVER BRISTOL'S ARTY SIDE



Stylist's acting associate editor Gemma Crisp sleeps in a retro Airstream trailer, gets a street-art fix and relives her youth on a weekend in Bristol

It's Saturday morning and I'm staring at a naked man dangling precariously from a window ledge in full view of passers-by on Bristol's busy Park Street. He's gripping the ledge with one hand and cupping his genitals with the other as a suspicious-looking husband peers out through binoculars, his lingerie-clad wife lurking guiltily behind him. When I planned a weekend getaway in Bristol – birthplace of Cary Grant, Wallace and Gromit and, erm, Harveys Bristol Cream – friends assured me I'd love the flourishing art scene, hipster vibe and spontaneous goings-on in the West Country's largest city

– but I hadn't anticipated *quite* this sort of thing.

I also hadn't expected to be so blown away by Bristol's famous street-art scene. Because what I spied on Park Street was Banksy's iconic 2006 work *Well Hung Lover* – just one of the many impressive artworks by local and international artists pointed out during the brilliant WhereTheWall street-art walking tour (£9, wherethewall.com).

After a restorative cider at The Canteen in Stokes Croft, the formerly grotty area of Bristol given a generous lick of hipster paint (much to the disgust of some locals), we browsed the tightly packed stalls at central St Nicholas Market (established in 1743), clutching flat whites from Small Street Espresso (I'm still daydreaming about their salted caramel brownies).

With the sun sinking in the sky, we nipped across the street to our

accommodation – a gleaming 16-foot silver Airstream trailer parked on the rooftop of Brooks Guesthouse. Banish all thoughts of naff caravan parks, this comes with a 5ft-wide bed, flat-screen TV, iPod dock, goose-down pillows and, best of all, remote-controlled LED lights that you can colour-coordinate to your mood. If the view from the rooftop hadn't featured the tell-tale spire of St Nicholas, I could imagine I was in Austin, Texas. But maybe that was the prosecco sundowners we

quaffed on the front step of the 'Silver Bullet', as we christened our compact home for the weekend.

Later, we headed to The Urban Standard, a buzzing industrial-style bar where I witnessed my husband practically weeping over the sticky BBQ baby-back ribs with sweetcorn succotash. Later still, we found ourselves back in Stokes Croft, ensnared in an impromptu street party complete with an old-school beat-box and a series of amateur MCs. Given we both grew up listening to local acts such as Massive Attack and Roni Size, it was a fitting end to our night out in Bristol – albeit one that didn't end until 3am. See? You really don't know what you're getting into when you go to Bristol.



Rooftop Rockets at Brooks Guesthouse, St Nicholas St, Bristol BS1, from £109 per night including breakfast; canopyandstars.co.uk





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