

CLIFTON OBSERVATORY

Clifton Observatory
Litfield Road
Clifton Down
Clifton
Bristol
BS8 3LT

22/6/17

To whom it may concern,

An iconic piece of English heritage and important Bristol landmark, the Clifton Observatory, located high up on Clifton Down and above the Avon Gorge, is a must-see attraction for tourists and local residents alike.

Complete with one of the only Camera Obscuras open to the public in England and Ghyston's cave, it offers truly breath-taking views of the Clifton Suspension Bridge and outstanding panoramic views of the Avon Gorge.

Our Camera Obscura offers a historic and innovative way to experience this historic vista. With approximately 12,500 visitors in the high season, this popular tourist attraction is an icon of the Bristol area. Here are some examples of feedback from the general public about their visit to Clifton Observatory:

"Been here a few times with family and visiting friends, all of them have been impressed by the views of the suspension bridge and the gorge. But the camera obscura has really amazed them, very different from the usual tourist trips."

"Great experience - the camera obscura is fascinating, and one of only three still in existence in the UK. The climb up to the view point adds to the sense of anticipation; the view room is darkened, and the image itself is incredible - to think that this was the birthplace of modern photographic principles. All they needed was a means of capturing the image!"

"The camera obscura is amazing and gives 360 degree views. Great to go to the viewing platform to see the gorge and suspension bridge from a new angle."

"There are two paid attractions here. One is a genuine camera obscura, which I could've spend hours watching - just like CCTV before electronics!"

"We were a bit worried that it might not be high tech enough for the kids but they really loved the camera obscura. A 19th century curiosity can still thrill teens of today!"

"The Camera Obscura is a breath-taking work of Victorian ingenuity, giving you a detailed view of your surroundings."

Popular for school trips, photography and location filming, we see a lot of groups using the building for educational purposes as well as for entertainment.

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Our experience is that an obscura is a unique experience - offering a new way to see a view with old technology. Ours in particular is a celebration of the Clifton Suspension Bridge. The obscura is a key drawcard to bringing tourists to Bristol and a must-see experience. We are excited that a 'sister' obscura will be sited in Whangarei, New Zealand also celebrating a unique city bridge.

Kind regards,
Beth

Beth Betts

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