



## Behind the Walls:

Fortification, Military and Medieval  
Strongholds through the ages



The  
**Atlantic Adventures**  
Collection



# Plymouth

**Plymouth, Britain's Ocean City, is one of Europe's most vibrant waterfront cities, with so much to explore. There's something for every traveller to experience in this historic city, however long you have to stay.**

But there's also hundreds of years of history to uncover, from Sir Francis Drake and the Spanish Armada to the Mayflower sailing in 1620, to a city rebuilt following the Blitz during World War II.

In the Second World War Plymouth was one of the most heavily bombed cities in England. The 'Blitz' caused widespread damage; flattening large parts of the city centre, central Devonport and areas of Stonehouse. By 1943-4, before the War had ended, there was a revolutionary plan in place to create a new modern City. Plymouth City Centre was rebuilt following the war and is now one of the most striking examples of post-war architecture in the country.

Visit the Barbican and Sutton Harbour for quaint cobbled streets, a picturesque harbour and a wealth of independent shops and restaurants. History fans should stop by the Mayflower Steps to learn all about the departure of the Pilgrims on the Mayflower ship, who sailed from the UK to the US in 1620 in search of religious freedom.

A short walk from this historic heart of the city is Plymouth Hoe – to describe it as a park doesn't do it justice. The Hoe is home to the striking red-and-white striped former lighthouse, Smeaton's Tower and the art-deco, open-air swimming pool Tinside Lido.

It's also home to the Common War Graves Commission Plymouth Naval Memorial commemorating more than 23,000 naval personnel from the First and Second World Wars.

You can also find memorials for the National Armada, Koreans Veterans, Burma Star, Falklands War, Plymouth War Memorial, Royal Air Force and Allied Air Forces monument and South African War Memorial here on the Hoe providing striking reminders of Plymouth's involvement in military history.



Sir Francis Drake's Statue commemorating his global expedition

## Getting here

### Arriving by car

- Drive time from London is around 4 hours.
- Drive time from Manchester is around 4.5 hours.
- Drive time from Cardiff is around 2.5 hours.

### Arriving by train

Plymouth is easily accessible by train. Travelling from London takes around 3 hours with Great Western Railway, if you're coming from the north, the trip from Manchester can take 5 hours 15 minutes.

### Arriving by ferry

You can sail by cruise-ferry to Plymouth from France and Spain. Brittany Ferries run regular services from Roscoff in Brittany and from Santander in Northern Spain to the ferryport at Millbay – close to the city centre and waterfront.

### Arriving by air

There are 3 airports within an easy distance of Plymouth. These are Bristol, Exeter and Newquay.

## Military attractions to visit

### The Box

The Box is a major new cultural and heritage attraction. With a series of amazing permanent galleries filled with objects you'll be able to discover the city's human history, natural history, art, media, photographic and archive collections.

You won't be able to miss the striking naval figureheads, all lovingly restored. Once built to adorn the bows of naval warships, these icons of maritime history are suspended in a huge sweep in The Box's main entrance space. One of the first exhibitions at The Box will be 'Mayflower 400: Legend and Legacy' a major show that explores the myths and uncovers new meanings connected to the Mayflower's epic journey in 1620.

Travel trade tours include The Box Highlights, Tour, The Mayflower Experience and many other bespoke tours which can be tailor made for your group.

[www.theboxplymouth.com](http://www.theboxplymouth.com)



The Box

### Royal Citadel

A dramatic 17th century fortress built to defend the coastline from the Dutch, and keep watch on a recently rebellious town, the Royal Citadel is still in use by the military today and is the base of the 29 Commando of the Royal Artillery. (Due to its nature as an operational military establishment, tours may be suspended or cancelled without prior notice. There are strict regulations for entrance please ensure you read the before you go section for further details.)

**Group advance bookings only.**

<https://www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/places/royal-citadel-plymouth/>

### Mount Batten Tower

Take a self-guided tour at one of Plymouth's oldest and historic landmarks, the Mount Batten Tower. Make sure you have your camera or smart phone with you on your visit to enjoy and capture the 360 degree views of Plymouth and the surrounding area from the top of the Tower too!

This state-of-the-art gun tower of the mid-17th Century is a three-storey circular structure built largely of limestone quarried from the surrounding headland but with some use of local granite too.

Please note that due to the age and layout of the building, levels are uneven with steep, irregular steps to the top of the Tower and wheelchair access is not possible. Sensible footwear is required.

£75 per hour for a maximum of 25 people

#### Self Guided Tour.

To book a private self-guided tour of the Mount Batten Tower please contact the Mount Batten Watersports and Activities Centre on 01752 404567 or email [enquiries@mount-batten-centre.com](mailto:enquiries@mount-batten-centre.com)

<https://www.mount-batten-centre.com/about/mount-batten-tower/>



Mount Batten Tower



Plymouth Waterfront

### Walking Tour of Heritage Plymouth

The historic Barbican and Sutton Harbour are at the heart of the city's heritage with the oldest buildings and the greatest number of historical stories.

Around the Barbican, a vibrant place of cobbled streets, narrow lanes and more than 200 listed buildings – many of them Tudor and Jacobean – you'll find a range of cosmopolitan boutique shops, galleries, pubs, cafes and restaurants.

Visit the Mayflower Steps from where the Pilgrims are believed to have left England aboard the Mayflower for a new life in America in 1620, discover Plymouth's maritime heritage with the one-mile Sutton Harbour Trail, or take advantage of the two National Cycle Routes right on the harbour's doorstep.

Plymouth's waterfront is home to many historic stories, with the likes of Sir Francis Drake, Captain Cook and Charles Darwin all setting sail from our shores.

[www.devonandcornwalltourguides.com/tour/plymouth-walking-tour/](http://www.devonandcornwalltourguides.com/tour/plymouth-walking-tour/)

### Key events in Plymouth

#### Armed Forces Day

As a proud military city Plymouth hosts an annual Armed Forces Day event to celebrate the links with its military personnel. Find out more at [www.visitplymouth.co.uk](http://www.visitplymouth.co.uk)

### Accommodation in Plymouth

#### Crowne Plaza Hotel

[www.crowneplaza.com/crowneplaza/plymouth](http://www.crowneplaza.com/crowneplaza/plymouth)

#### Jurys Inn – 247 bedrooms

[www.jurysinn.com/plymouth](http://www.jurysinn.com/plymouth)

#### Duke of Cornwall – 72 bedrooms

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

#### New Continental – 99 bedrooms

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

### Food and drink in Plymouth

#### Plymouth Gin

[www.plymouthdistillery.com](http://www.plymouthdistillery.com)

#### The Boathouse Restaurant

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

#### Rockfish Plymouth

[www.therockfish.co.uk/restaurants/plymouth](http://www.therockfish.co.uk/restaurants/plymouth)



For more information on places to stay, things to see and do and events in Plymouth, please visit [www.visitplymouth.co.uk](http://www.visitplymouth.co.uk)



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