

## Guide for Groups

**The historic city of Southampton is a treasure trove of hidden gems.**

From its medieval walls, rich maritime heritage and important historical assets to its thriving cultural scene offering art, theatre and music in abundance, plus fantastic choice of shops and places to eat and drink, Southampton offers something for all tastes and interests.

This guide outlines just a few of the many attractions, places to stay and reasons to choose Southampton for your next group trip. For further inspiration see [visitsouthampton.co.uk](http://visitsouthampton.co.uk)

## Top attractions



### SeaCity Museum

Based in the heart of Southampton, SeaCity Museum tells the story of the people of the city, their fascinating lives and historic connections with Titanic and the sea through three interactive exhibitions: Southampton's Titanic Story, Gateway to the World and the new Southampton Stories exhibition in the Pavilion. The SeaCity Café has a wide range of fresh locally sourced food available.

**For the driver: free ticket and meal for coach drivers (T&Cs apply)**

■ [www.seacitymuseum.co.uk](http://www.seacitymuseum.co.uk)



### Southampton City Art Gallery

Southampton City Art Gallery holds one of the finest collections of art in the south of England, currently comprising over 5,000 works and spanning eight centuries. Regularly rotating displays feature works from the collection, national touring exhibitions and work by local artists.

■ [www.southamptoncityartgallery.com](http://www.southamptoncityartgallery.com)



### Tudor House and Garden

Southampton's most important historic building, Tudor House reveals over 800 years of history in one fascinating location in the heart of the Old Town. Tudor House gives a unique and atmospheric insight into the lives and times of both its residents through the years, and of Southampton itself. It appeals to visitors of all ages and interests, who find the family-friendly activities, interactive technology, fascinating displays and onsite café a winning combination.

**For the driver: free ticket and meal for coach drivers (T&Cs apply)**

■ [www.tudorhouseandgarden.com](http://www.tudorhouseandgarden.com)

### Group bookings

Guided tours and self-guided tours can be pre-booked on 023 8083 4536. There's also a range of creative workshops, talks and tours at each venue all year round, check websites for more details.

# SS Shieldhall

Heritage steamship SS Shieldhall celebrates her 65th birthday in 2020 with her busiest ever cruise programme between May and September, including a number of group packages.

The Southampton based attraction—recognised as one of the top 10 rated attractions in the country\*—has partnered with SeaCity Museum and Solent Sky to offer full day itineraries in and around the city, all culminating in an afternoon cruise.

Shieldhall is a regular sight on the Solent during the summer season, where she delights passengers who wish to experience the magic of 'steam at sea.' It is access all areas on the Shieldhall, with passengers encouraged to visit the Engine Room and Boiler Room, and also meet the Captain on the Bridge. There is a 10% discount for parties of 10 or more on all trips. Special group packages are available with a Titanic, Spitfire or Mayflower theme.

**For the driver: free sailing for coach drivers bringing groups onboard (T&Cs apply).**



## 'In The Footsteps of Titanic'

Includes a visit to Southampton's SeaCity Museum with its Titanic Gallery, a guided walk around Southampton's Titanic Quarter and Titanic Memorials, and a cruise on the Shieldhall.

## 'In The Footsteps of the Spitfire'

Includes a visit to Solent Sky Museum with its R J Mitchell and Spitfire displays, a guided walk around Woolston, once home to the Supermarine Spitfire Factory, and a cruise on the Shieldhall.

## 'In The Footsteps of The Mayflower'

Includes a visit to SeaCity Museum with its 'Gateway to the World' Gallery, a walk around Southampton's Old Town to see the towers and vaults known to the Pilgrim Fathers in 1620, and a cruise on the Shieldhall.

These are available on all Shieldhall's 2hr cruises (priced at £33 for the package) and 3hr cruises (priced at £41) during the 2020 season. Shieldhall has a Galley, Licensed Bar and Saloon, with a selection of hot and cold food and real ale available on all trips.

For more information, prices and to book tickets please visit [www.ss-shieldhall.co.uk](http://www.ss-shieldhall.co.uk) or call **023 8084 3310**.



# Visit God's House Tower...

an exciting new arts and heritage venue at the entrance to Southampton's beautiful Old Town.

Unveil GHT's dark history with Stories Behind the Stones, where each floor takes you on a journey in time, from the 14th century sacking of Southampton to stunning views over the modern-day city.

This major refurbishment project of one of Southampton's most important buildings includes two new galleries showing contemporary art and important works from prestigious collections. The historic gateway into Old Southampton is open once again—and we can't wait to welcome you!

## At GHT there is plenty to explore:

- Climb the Tower for stunning views across Southampton Water
- Enjoy excellent drinks and snacks in the Hoxton Bakehouse cafe
- See contemporary art and important works from prestigious collections

## For groups of 15 or more enjoy:

- A 10% discount on tickets
  - Free familiarisation visit to help you plan your trip
- For the driver: free coffee or tea in the café for the organiser and coach driver.**

## Group options:

- Self guided access to GHT and Tower
- A tour round GHT with a specialist white badge guide
- Combined GHT tour + a tour of Southampton Old Town, with guided walks from Southampton Tourist Guide Association. A combined ticket with STGA costs £10.00 when pre-booked

To book email [hannah@godshousetower.org.uk](mailto:hannah@godshousetower.org.uk) and include 'group visit' in the subject line or call **07733 092 291**

God's House Tower, SO14 2NY  
[www.godshousetower.org.uk](http://www.godshousetower.org.uk)



# Mayflower 400

On 15th August 1620, the Mayflower and her sister ship, the Speedwell, sailed away from Southampton bound for the New World.

As part of the international 400th anniversary, 2020 will see an ambitious programme of activity in Southampton matching grassroots activity with major cultural projects. The City's creativity and extraordinary maritime history will be showcased through a series of exciting arts, heritage, learning and community programmes running from February to November 2020.

Visit [www.visitsouthampton.co.uk/mayflower-400](http://www.visitsouthampton.co.uk/mayflower-400) or email [mayflower400@southampton.gov.uk](mailto:mayflower400@southampton.gov.uk)

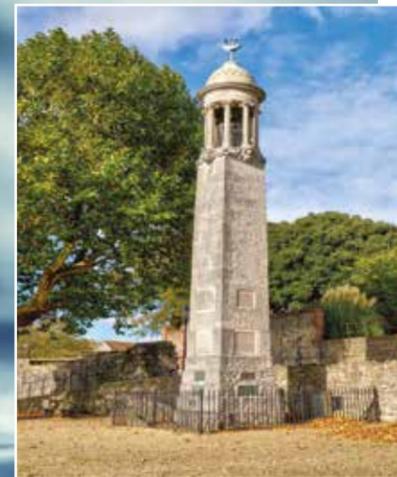
**New art commissions** from Turner Sims, ZoieLogic Dance Theatre, Art Asia, Requardt & Rosenberg, and Rachel Gadsden.

**Mariner: A Painted Ship Upon a Painted Ocean: May - July 2020** Exhibition at John Hansard Gallery. Plus, **Horizon**, a new immersive light-art installation inspired by both the Mayflower voyage and the Mariner exhibition.

**Wampum: Stories from the Shells of Native America: June - August 2020** A nationally touring exhibition which unites UK partners with Wampanoag artists and educators in the US. Featuring a newly crafted wampum belt, four historic wampum items, film footage, information and images.

**Mayflower Musicals: August 2020** Mayflower Theatre has commissioned three new productions to be performed at the theatre on Saturday 15 and Sunday 16 August. Community participants will join professional cast in two new musicals, Compass and Hourglass; and a dance show called Drift based on Mayflower stories.

**Festival of Light: November 2020** Light art commissions in the city centre and at Weston Shore, as well as a new exhibition, **Shadows and Light**, at City Art Gallery.



# Staying in Southampton

Southampton offers a range of accommodation options, from convenient city centre bases to retreats on the outskirts of the city, trusted chains to independent and boutique options.

In the heart of the city centre you'll find the Mercure Southampton Centre Dolphin Hotel, the oldest hotel in the city with a history of famous guests from Queen Victoria to Jane Austen. Today it's a 4 star hotel offering 99 bedrooms and a contemporary feel, while retaining its traditional appeal.

Also in a central location is the Leonardo Royal Hotel Southampton Grand Harbour, boasting fantastic views of the Solent. With 173 bedrooms, great leisure and spa facilities and a Marco Pierre White restaurant there's no shortage of on-site amenities. Further city centre options include The Star Hotel, Travelodge and Premier Inn (various locations), along with the new Moxy Hotel.

Slightly further afield, yet still within easy reach of the city centre, is the Best Western Chilworth Manor Hotel, set in 12 acres of beautifully landscaped grounds and offering excellent accommodation plus a state-of-the-art health club and spa.

Smaller groups may wish to consider a more boutique option, such as the 12-bedroom THE PIG-in the Wall, a stylish hotel set within Southampton's historic medieval walls.

For full details and more accommodation options see [visitsouthampton.co.uk](http://visitsouthampton.co.uk)

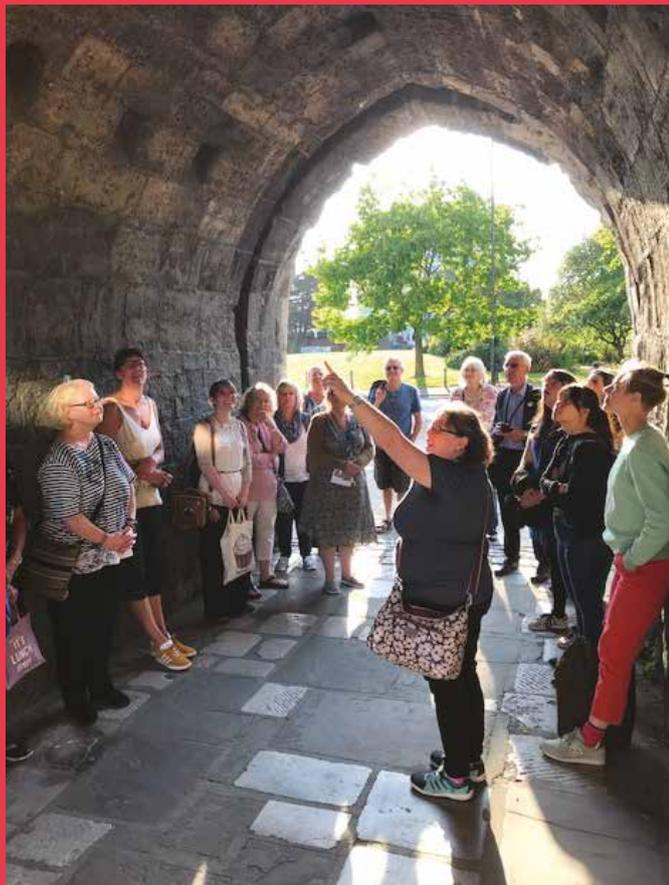
# Food for thought

Southampton has a vast range of restaurants and eateries with culinary options from across the globe and everything from popular food chains to award-winning independents. So whatever their taste, there will be something to whet your party's appetite.

# And relax...

Your group won't be short of ways to spend their downtime. Those seeking some retail therapy are spoilt for choice with two major shopping centres - Westquay and The Marlands - plus more household names on the main high street and a great collection of independent outlets, all within the city centre.

Those looking for their fix of arts and culture can enjoy the choice of two renowned theatres as well as an impressive collection of galleries and museums—with many offering discounts for groups.



# Guided tours

**See Southampton** are Southampton's top award-winning tour guides and provide a variety of interesting and enjoyable Hidden History public walking tours around Southampton's city centre each weekend starting by the lions at the Bargate. Private tours with a fully qualified tour guide can be quickly arranged for groups and designed to cover topics of particular interest. The most popular walks include the city's important Norman history, The Blitz and preparations for D-Day, the story of the Spitfire, The Titanic and the City's great loss, Jane Austen and her time in Southampton, Southampton's historic wine vaults and the wine trade, a chilling Ghost Walk, plus many, many more.

Details can be found at [seesouthampton.co.uk](http://seesouthampton.co.uk), by calling **07770 842728** or via email at [info@seesouthampton.co.uk](mailto:info@seesouthampton.co.uk)

The award-winning **Southampton Tourist Guides** can provide 90 minute guided walks for groups around Medieval Southampton as well as half and full day itineraries and meet and greets at Southampton Cruise Terminals and airport. Tours can be conducted in various languages including French, German, Russian, Cantonese and Mandarin.

Visit [www.southamptontouristguides.com](http://www.southamptontouristguides.com)  
Contact: [Southamptontouristguides76@gmail.com](mailto:Southamptontouristguides76@gmail.com)

# Coach parking

There are designated areas in Southampton city centre where coaches can be parked for a maximum of 10 hours free of charge and two areas for picking up and setting down passengers. See [visitsouthampton.co.uk/your-visit/group-travel](http://visitsouthampton.co.uk/your-visit/group-travel)