

Guide for Groups

Bargate

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

Top attractions



SeaCity Museum

Discover Southampton's Titanic story from 1912. Experience a 1:25 scale interactive model, hear powerful oral testimony from survivors of the disaster and more. You can also find out about Southampton's fascinating ancient and maritime past in Gateway to the World and Southampton Stories exhibitions. 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



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



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

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

Step aboard a Flagship of the National Historic Fleet!



Will Faulkner

Jamie Shadbolt

Groups are very welcome on board Steamship Shieldhall, a seagoing heritage time capsule, paying homage to steam power! A regular sight on the Solent during the summer months, 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's a 10% discount for parties of 10 or more on all excursion tickets booked. Shieldhall also offers a series of all-day packages in Southampton on its 2hr, 3hr and 3 1/2 hr sailings, incorporating a visit to one of Southampton's Museums, a guided walk with a local guide and an afternoon cruise on Shieldhall.

Themed packages 'In the Footsteps of...' cover The Titanic, The Spitfire, The Mayflower and Southampton's Towers and Vaults, and cost from £42 per person (with the 2hr cruise, group price). Shieldhall is also available to visit alongside for guided tours of the Bridge, Engine and Boiler Rooms, with the opportunity to view the working docks of Southampton from the open decks. Tea/coffee and biscuits or cream teas, served in the Saloon, are available. Please contact the Ticket Manager for more information.

New for 2024

Sunset music cruises, D-Day 80 cruises and a cruise to celebrate the Hampshire Food Festival

Why not start your weekend with a relaxing trip down Southampton Water to the Solent? New for 2024, Shieldhall will set sail on Friday's 5 July and 16 August with musical entertainment on board, ahead of further trips on the Saturday and Sunday. Also new for 2024 are D-Day 80 cruises on Sat 8 and Sun 9 June, showcasing the important role the Solent and its environs played in Operation Overlord. Shieldhall will also be supporting the Hampshire Food Festival, with a cruise inclusive of a two-course Hampshire inspired lunch on Sunday 7 July.

Back due to popular demand

Return trips to Portsmouth Harbour confirmed for 2024

Following recent sell-out trips to Portsmouth Harbour, Shieldhall's 2024 programme will see two trips into Portsmouth Harbour on Sunday 9 June (as part of D-Day 80 weekend) and Sunday 18 August. In addition to the naval ships, the trips give an exciting opportunity to view the dramatic skyline of Portsmouth, including Southsea; Clarence pier; Spice Island and the Spinnaker Tower, from the water.

Get a picture-perfect moment in 2024 on the Shieldhall

One of the beauties of steam propulsion is that Shieldhall does not tend to vibrate or roll, and as such makes a great viewing platform, perfect for photography. For 2024, Shieldhall will steam to the Solent to watch the spectacle of the Round the Island Race on Sat 15 June and the racing at Cowes Week on Sat 27 July. Then, in late August/early September Shieldhall plans to be in the very best position to see the impressive sights of the Bournemouth Air Festival.

Music and sea shanties for 2024

Shieldhall's volunteers welcome back the Selsey Shantymen for a performance on Saturday 4 May and Southampton's own 'Salty Sea Dogs' on Sunday 28 July, in addition to the Friday evening music trips. And don't forget Shieldhall's own in-house jazz band, The Stompers, who will provide entertainment on her positional cruise to Poole on Bank Holiday 26 August.

For more information, prices and to book tickets please visit www.ss-shieldhall.co.uk or call the Ticket Manager on 023 8155 0242.

Enjoy inspiring theatre experiences...

with Mayflower Theatre and MAST Mayflower Studios in Southampton.

Mayflower Theatre

Visit the largest theatre on the South Coast presenting the very best in live entertainment. Coming in 2024 is a full variety of showstopping theatre from West End smash hits including Come From Away, Chitty Chitty Bang Bang, Wicked and Disney's Aladdin to an eclectic variety of dance, opera, drama, plays and family shows. Topping the year off is the magical pantomime, Jack and the Beanstalk, featuring the return of Ashley Banjo & Diversity after a record-breaking year in 2023.

mayflower.org.uk



MAST Mayflower Studios

Explore what's new at Southampton's artistic hub, where three studios and a welcoming café provide a lively and engaging series of events from family fun with The Gruffalo's Child and There's a Monster in Your Show to musicals, drama, music and comedy with The School for Scandal, Macbeth, Disco Inferno and Guz Khan. Join in with community events and workshops run by resident arts partners and bring the kids along to our family fun days.

mayflowerstudios.org.uk



Visit God's House Tower...

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

Discover GHT's dark history in our heritage exhibition 'Stories Behind the Stones', where each floor takes you on a journey through time, from the 14th Century sacking of Southampton to its 17th Century use as a dismal debtors prisons, and taking in stunning views over the modern-day city.

This major refurbishment of one of Southampton's most iconic historic buildings also features two galleries showing contemporary art, as well as our welcoming cafe bar and courtyard.

Benefits for groups of 15 or more

- A 20% discount on tickets
 - Free familiarisation visit to help you plan your group trip
- For the driver: free snack and coffee or tea in the café for the organiser and coach driver.**

Group options:

- Self-guided access to GHT and the Tower exhibition
- Guided tour of GHT with a specialist White Badge guide (£6 each for 15+ people)
- Guided tour of GHT AND Hidden Histories walking tour (£8 each for 15+ people)

To book email info@godshousetower.org.uk and include 'group visit' in the subject line or call 07733 092 291 www.godshousetower.org.uk



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 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 Moxey Hotel.

Smaller groups may wish to consider more boutique options such as THE PIG-in the wall, Ennio's or The White Star Tavern.

For full details and more accommodation options see 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.

When it comes to independents, you are spoilt for choice. Home grown and family-run places to eat and drink are all over the city including Carlton Place, Oxford Street, Ocean Village, Westquay and in Old Town.



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 in West Quay Retail Park. Southampton also has a great collection of independent shops, all within the city centre.



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
- The Mayflower
- Jane Austen and her time in Southampton
- Southampton's historic wine vaults and the wine trade
- Parks Walk, an award-winning accessible walk

Tours available in English, Spanish, Portuguese and German. Details can be found at seesouthampton.co.uk, by calling **07770 842728** or via email at info@seesouthampton.co.uk

The award winning **Southampton Tourist Guides Association**, established in 1976 provides regular 90 minute walks with all guides trained by the ITG (Institute of Tourist Guiding) when we showcase our medieval walls and buildings as well as our treasured underground Vaults. We also offer talks and specialised walks by your request, all relating to Southampton's rich and important history from Medieval to our Spa period when Jane Austen resided here, the notable Mayflower departure and the tragic Titanic story. Just inquire and we try to oblige. We also cater for Meeting and Greeting at the cruise terminal as well as Escorts to Heathrow Airport. A German speaking guide is available.

Please visit us on southamptontouristguides76@gmail.com and on www.wegotickets.com/tourguides1976

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

