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PORT EXPLORER



SOUTHAMPTON

UNITED KINGDOM

Southampton has filled the role as one of Britain's major ports for hundreds of years. Located on England's southern coast, this city is the most important commercial center in the county of Hampshire.

The docks of Southampton have served the nation as far back as the Middle Ages. History has sailed to and from her wharfs. The city has seen its share of prosperity and expansion as well as trial, tribulation, tragedy and triumph. Potentates and Pilgrims have stepped upon her quay while conquerors, from the sea and from the air, have sought to claim her or raze her to the ground.

Over the decades Southampton has been the homeport for many great and famous vessels and her people take justifiable pride in the fact. From merchant fleets and mighty ships of war to many of the most luxurious cruise liners ever to sail the oceans, they have all come here. Today the people of Southampton continue to welcome visitors to share in her charm and historic connection to the sea.



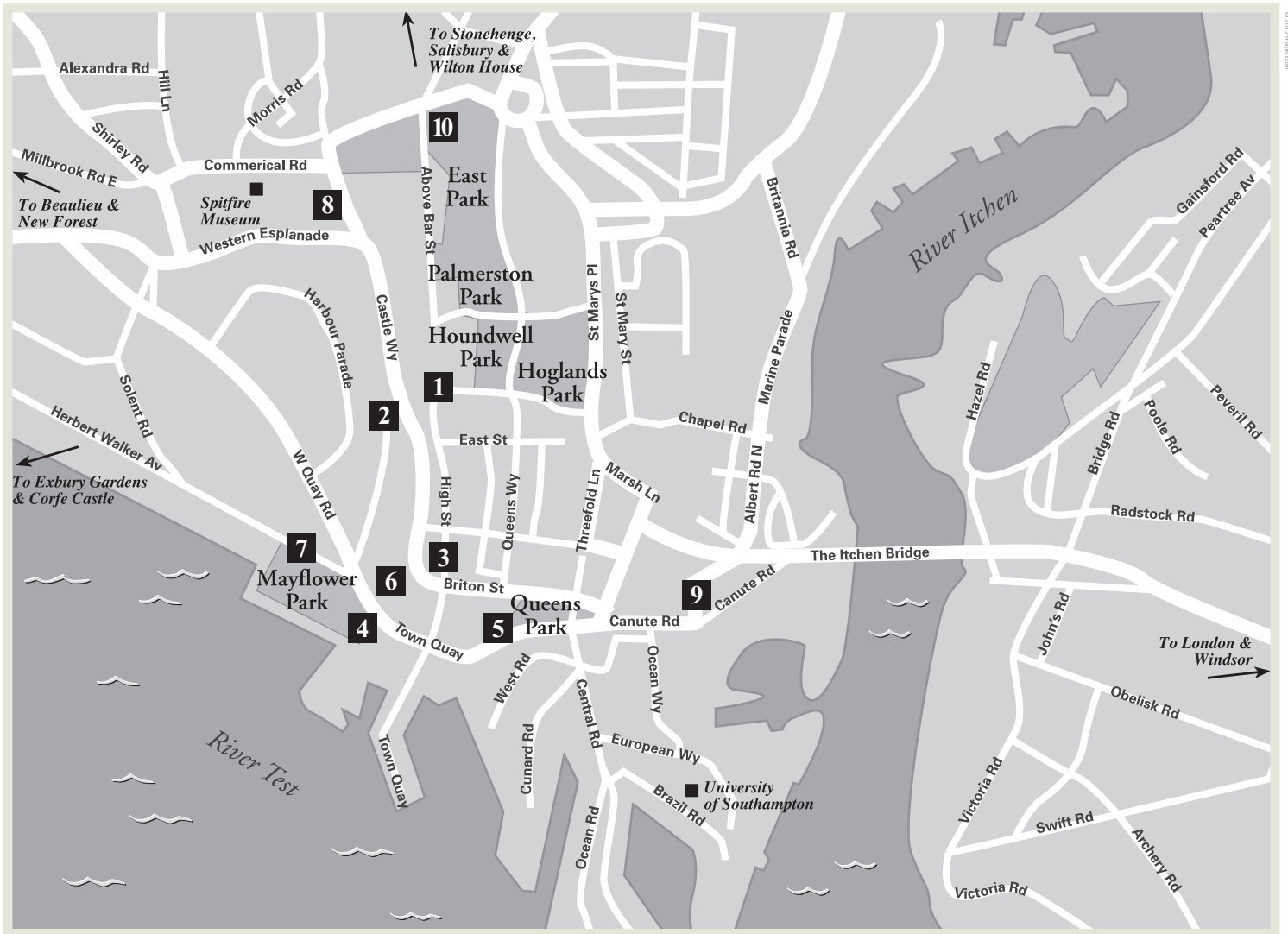
HISTORY

Archaeologists are confident this region of southern England has been inhabited since the Stone Age. After countless centuries of isolation from the European continent, life on the island changed forever when Roman General Gaius Julius Caesar stepped ashore in 55 BC. Following Rome's conquest of England in the 40s AD a small fortification and trading post was built near the present site of Southampton. When the legions withdrew from the island four centuries later the Romans were followed by the Angles and Saxons of northern Germany. The indigenous Celts were pushed further inland. It is from the Angles (Angle-land) that England derives its name. Today Saxon's artifacts discovered around Southampton are some of the most numerous and best preserved to be found anywhere in Britain.

Less than 100 miles east of Southampton William the Conqueror, Duke of Normandy (Northwest France), with the blessing and encouragement of Pope Alexander II, invaded England and capped his victory at the famous Battle of Hastings on October 14, 1066. From politics to prayers and property, the French speaking Catholic Normans (themselves descendents of Scandinavia Vikings) took power in England. From this period onward Southampton grew into a major port connecting England and France. The primary import was, understandably, French wine while the major export was English cloth and wool.

Southampton played a pivotal role in a number of historic events in England's history. In 1620, aboard the *Speedwell* and *Mayflower*, the Pilgrim Fathers (and Mothers) set sail from the Southampton docks on their voyage to England's American colonies. Seeking only freedom of worship, they in fact laid the foundation of a great republic.

Three centuries later, on April 10, 1912 the people of Southampton turned out en masse to watch the largest and most elegant cruise ship in the world, RMS *Titanic*, set out to sea on her maiden voyage.



Countless books and articles have been written. Numerous television documentaries and feature films have been produced. Yet little has ever been mentioned or portrayed of how the people of the port city of Southampton were rocked to their very core due to that which took place in the icy waters of the North Atlantic at 2:20 AM, April 15, 1912. Four out of every five members of Titanic's crew were from Southampton and literally hundreds of local families and thousands of friends lost loved ones; officers, staff and crew of the "unsinkable" ship.

Southampton played a vital role in the first and second World Wars. Her docks were the embarkation point for countless Allied soldiers and supplies destined for the battlefields of Europe. In World War II, a busy port combined with a particularly critical local industry, the city was a prime target and suffered tremendous damage from Luftwaffe bombing raids. The "particular local industry" was none other than the design, development and building of the famed British fighter, the Spitfire; one of the very planes in which a few young pilots flew to victory over the mighty German air armada in the Battle of Britain. With the help of Southampton's Spitfire a great invasion of England was thereby thwarted and the very course of history forever altered.

SOUTHAMPTON PLACES OF INTEREST

- 1 The **Bar Gate** was the main entrance to medieval Southampton and remained so for centuries. Construction began on the fortified gate in the 1100s and today it stands as the city's most recognizable structure. This is a good spot to begin a walking tour of the historic part of town.
- 2 The **Medieval Wall** is one of Southampton's defining architectural features. Centuries old, the remains of the bastion are some of the best to be found in England. Following the path of informative markers, visitors can easily trace a well defined route around the historic part of the city.
- 3 **Holyrood Church** dates to the early 1300s and was favored by seamen. It is said many soldiers of King Henry V worshiped here before sailing to France and taking part in the famous 1415 Battle of Agincourt. The church was heavily damaged by German bombing during WWII.
- 4 The **Southampton Maritime Museum** is housed in what was a wool storehouse during the Middle Ages. The museum relates the interesting history of the city's relationship with the sea.
- 5 The **Museum of Archaeology** has one of the best collections in England. Dating as far back as the Roman

conquest, the objects are displayed in a medieval building known as God's House Tower.

6 The **Medieval Merchant's House** dates to the late 1200s. The home belonged to a local businessman who was active in the importation of French wine. Fully restored, the home is maintained by the English Heritage organization.

7 The **Pilgrim Fathers (Mayflower) Memorial** is dedicated to the Protestant Pilgrims who, on August 15, 1620, seeking freedom of worship, sailed from the Southampton docks for a new start in England's American colonies.

8 The **Southampton City Art Gallery** is one of the most popular sites in the city. On permanent exhibit are thousands of paintings and art objects from the time of the Renaissance through to the present day.

9 The **Solent Sky Aviation Museum** covers the history of the aviation industry which developed in and around Southampton. From the earliest days of flight, this city and region was at the forefront of aircraft design and manufacture. Southampton is especially known as the home of the famous WWII fighter, the Spitfire.

10 The **Titanic Musicians Memorial** and **Titanic Engineers Memorial** are dedicated to the memory of those members of the staff and crew who went down with the ship early on the fateful morning of April 15, 1912.

Beyond Southampton

About 50 miles northeast of Southampton is the beautiful city of **Windsor**. The stunning castle and the surrounding town set along the River Thames, make for a visit never to be forgotten.

Approximately 40 miles northwest of Southampton is the ancient site of **Stonehenge**. Mysterious yet beautifully wondrous, this site is one of the most popular tourist destinations in all of Britain.

SHORE EXCURSIONS

To make the most of your visit to Southampton and surrounding area we suggest you take one of our organized Shore Excursions. For information concerning tour content and pricing, consult your Shore Excursion Brochure or contact the Shore Excursion Desk. When going ashore, be advised to take only necessary items and secure any valuables onboard.

LOCAL CUSTOMS

Bargaining: Prices are usually fixed.

Tipping: 10% is common.

LOCAL CUISINE AND DRINK SPECIALTIES

Some old and traditional English favorites include: Roast Beef and Yorkshire pudding, Bubble and Squeak: mashed potatoes and cabbage, Toad in a Hole: sausages baked in a milk and flower batter, Bangers and Mash: sausages and mashed potatoes with gravy, Poor Knights: strips of bread soaked in a mixture of milk, egg, cinnamon and sugar then fried till golden

brown

Worthington White Shield, Gale's Prize Old Ale, Newcastle Brown, and Morland Old Speckled Hen are considered to be a few of England's best ales ... among others.

SHOPPING

"Above Bar" Street is a nice shopping district in the center of town. The Bargate Center, the West Quay Shopping Center, the shops of East Street and The Mall Marlands are additional shopping area in Southampton.

CURRENCY

The unit of currency in the UK is the pound sterling (GBP). ATMs are plentiful. Major credit cards are usually accepted.

POST OFFICE

The closest Post Office to the ship is a small one located in the Tesco Express (a national convenience store chain), 106 Saint Mary Street.

TOURIST INFORMATION

A Tourist Information Center is located at # 9 Civic Centre Road.

TRANSPORTATION

Buses, taxis and car rentals are available.

USEFUL WORDS AND PHRASES

English - American

Barmy - Crazy

Best of British - Good Luck

Codswallop - A lot of baloney

Give us a bell - Call me sometime

Gobsmacked - Astonished

Wobbler - Throwing a fit

Lined writing area consisting of 21 horizontal lines.