

Itinerary

History & Heritage

visit
exeter

Exeter's 2,000 year long history means the city has plenty of historical attractions to show off. Immerse yourself in Exeter's fascinating past with our suggested three-day history and heritage itinerary



Day One:

- 9:00** If you're travelling to Exeter by train, hop off at Exeter Central Station where you'll be footsteps away from the award-winning Royal Albert Memorial Museum (RAMM). Spend a few hours here and discover history and culture from pre-historic times to the present day. Visit RAMM's café for a quick coffee and don't miss the gift shop to pick out a unique souvenir to take home with you.
- 11:00** Visit Exeter Cathedral in the heart of the city. Join a guided tour to learn more about the history of the building from the experts. Don't miss the minstrels' gallery, the impressive organ and the astronomical clock, and be sure to look up to see the beautiful stained glass windows set under the longest stretch of unbroken Gothic vaulting in the world.
- 12:00** Join a guided walking tour with Exeter's Red Coat Guides to discover more about the city's fascinating, and often turbulent 2,000 year history. Tours can be pre-booked at a date and time to suit your group.
- 13:00** Time for a break! There are plenty of restaurants, pubs and cafés which serve light lunches and afternoon teas to re-charge yourself. Visit the Cathedral Café, for lunch offering a calming atmosphere within the Cathedral grounds.
- 14:30** Book onto a tour at the fascinating Underground Passages, one of Exeter's most unusual visitor attractions. Dating from medieval times, these vaulted passageways were used to bring a supply of fresh drinking water into the city through lead pipes!
- 15:30** Head to Fore Street where you can take in the history of St Nicholas Priory, founded by William the Conqueror in 1087. The West range of the priory is presented as the home of a Tudor family who bought the building after the Dissolution of the Monasteries. Exeter's wealth in the 17th century was due to the woollen cloth trade, and you can find out more at nearby Tuckers Hall, home to the Incorporation of Weavers, Fullers and Shearmen, one of the ancient craft guilds of Exeter.
- 17:30** A short 10 minute walk from the city centre, will bring you to the Quayside - a must when visiting Exeter. Here you can browse in quirky shops housed in historic cellars and explore the Custom House Visitor Centre, before you finish your day with an evening meal on the riverside. Try one of the quirky restaurants including Puerto Lounge, The Waterfront or Samuel Jones for a unique dining experience.

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© Jan Penny

Visit Topsham Museum and Merchant's House on The Strand to discover Topsham's maritime history.

Day Two:

9:00

Head east out of Exeter to the beautiful estuary town of Topsham. Walk through the quaint streets to see the Dutch-style merchants houses, which stand as a legacy to Topsham's maritime past when the town exported wool and cotton to Holland. Take some time to relax on Topsham's historic Quayside, where goods were exported from the town in the 17th and 18th century. Visit Topsham Museum and Merchant's House on The Strand to discover Topsham's maritime history.

13:00

Topsham is a foodie's heaven. There are numerous independent cafes and restaurants here, some with an emphasis on fresh fish such as the Galley Restaurant.

14:30

This afternoon, head to Powderham Castle, the ancestral home of Lord of Devon. Here you'll discover beautiful grounds with stunning estuary views. Take a guided tour of the Castle to hear fascinating tales of this 600 year-old family home.

16:30

Head back in to Exeter and enjoy an evening meal at Queen Street Dining – Exeter's newest foodie hotspot offering cuisines from around the world.

Day Three:

- 9:00** Head to the University of Exeter's Streatham Campus this morning and visit the fascinating Bill Douglas Cinema Museum, housing an eclectic collection of artefacts and memorabilia relating to the history of the moving image.
- 11:00** Head out of Exeter to Killerton, a Georgian mansion now under the care of the National Trust, surrounded by idyllic hillside gardens. Take a tour of one of Devon's great estates, before enjoying lunch in their award-winning restaurant.
- 14:00** Return to Exeter and walk off lunch by enjoying a leisurely stroll on one of three self-guided heritage trails of the city. Choose from the Woollen Trail, City Wall Trail or Medieval Trail to discover different aspects of Exeter's fascinating past.
- 16:00** End your time in Exeter with a traditional Devon Cream Tea. A great choice is Tea on the Green, overlooking Exeter's picturesque Cathedral Green.



For further itinerary inspiration, go to:
www.visitexeter.com/things-to-do/group-visits

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