

In the Footsteps of the Mayflower Pilgrims

This is a circular route to beginning and ending at God's House Tower, Southampton, and will take approximately 90 minutes to complete.

1 God's House Gate

God's House Gate was an early medieval entry point to Southampton, particularly for pilgrims making their way to the adjacent Maison Dieu or God's House and the chapel of St Julien, where they could find lodgings before continuing along the Old Way to Canterbury. Geoffrey Chaucer's father worked in Southampton as the king's vintner 1348/9 and it is possible that the young Geoffrey may have been with his father and witnessed the pilgrims travelling through Southampton.

In 1620 St Julien's was known as the French Church and used as a place of worship by another group of religious dissenters, Protestants from the Low Countries and Huguenots from France.



Chapel of St Julien

Trade between Southampton and France, the Channel Isles and Low Countries meant there was a well-established route along which ideas and people could also travel. It was a natural route for the pilgrims on their return from the Low Countries on the Speedwell to meet with the other half of the party who were travelling from London to the Mayflower.

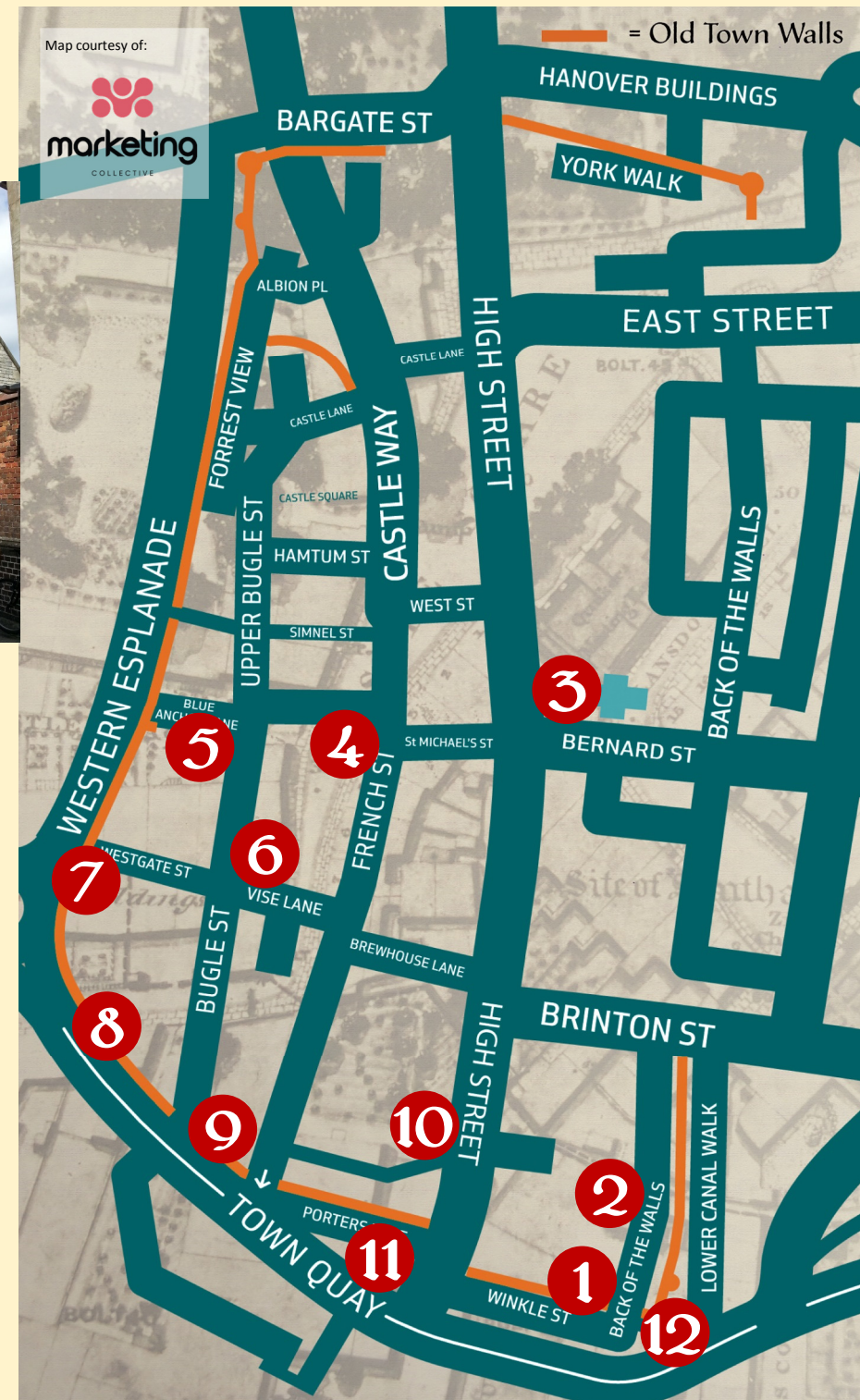
The pilgrims had expected that, when James I came to the throne from the resolutely Calvinist Scotland, religion in England would become more Protestant. James, however, was determined to maintain the Anglican Church in England. The pilgrims had migrated first to the Low Countries but still felt it was not the place to grow their community so the New World was decided upon.

As well as being connected to the trade routes throughout Europe and beyond Southampton also had long established connections with America. There was a well-established trade in fish, and the merchants of Southampton had invested in privateering, explorations and developing colonies.

Proceed along Winkle Street to Back of the Walls to reach Friary Gate

2 The Friary

The site of the friary, dissolved during the Reformation in the middle of the sixteenth century, was in 1620, the Butchers' shambles as the meat market was called. It was here that John Carver, one of the leaders of the pilgrims, had come ahead of the main group to gather provisions for the long



voyage. Here the pilgrims bought dry ox tongues known as neat's tongues, salt beef, spiced beef, smoked beef and pork that was then preserved to last the voyage. One of the butchers, Evans Culverdene, was renting part of God's House tower as a place to keep his pigs. This greatly annoyed his neighbours who complained to the Court Leet.



The Friary Gate

'1620 Evans Culverdene presented for keeping swine in God's House, causing a great stench to annoyance of passers-by and filth to issue through the town wall, fined 3s 4d and to remove or be fined 13s 4d'

Continue along Back of the Walls, turn left at Brinton Street then right onto High Street. Look out for the plaques in the pavement which record key events in Southampton's history including the sailing of the Mayflower. Cross Bernard Street to Holy Rood Church.

3 Holy Rood

Holy Rood Church was known as the Sailor's Church where those taking voyages would come to say a prayer and ask for a safe voyage. It may be that some of the pilgrims visited and very probably that members of the crew did. Ten years later in 1630, during the Great Migration, another group of a thousand colonists, headed up by John Winthrop and John Cotton, arrived in Southampton with the Arabella and eleven other ships.

The fleet, bound for Massachusetts, was assembled at Southampton Water in March of 1630. Winthrop went down to Southampton from London on the 10th of March to superintend the assembling of supplies and loading of the ships. It is likely that seven of the ships carried passengers with the others used to

transport freight and livestock. By the end of March the vessels had moved into the Solent and on March 29 Winthrop began his journal in which he recorded the voyage and the early history of the colony. He made an address to the colonists whilst in Southampton, possibly at Holy Rood, called "A Model of Christian Charity" and it is one of the most important early texts in American history. In it he calls for a community of individuals dedicated to one another and also expresses the hope that if they follow God's plan they will become "as a city upon a hill." That phrase has been commonplace among American political leaders to the present day.

Between 1620-1640 50,000 people left England for America.



Holy Rood Church

women, and others coming in from the country. Food that the pilgrims bought included, turnips, parsnips, onions, beans, cabbage, peas and pease pudding, oatmeal, ryemeal, wheat flour, pickled eggs and butter.

Looking north up the High Street is the Bargate. It was near here that the Alden family had their home. George Alden was possibly the father of John Alden a cooper who joined the pilgrim fleet in Southampton. George was a fletcher by trade and had married three times, to a Marie, a Gylman (the widow of his former

master) and finally to another widow Joan Biston. At the time of his third marriage George revoked his previous wills and made a new one making Joan his main heir. George died around 1620, and the probate of his will took place in 1621. John is not mentioned, likely because he had received his inheritance prior to sailing for America, or he could have been disinherited when George revoked all earlier wills.

Cross over the High Street and proceed in a westerly direction up St Michael's Street, cross Castle Way to St Michael's Square

4 St Michael's Church

In the 1620s the Churches in Southampton were of more Puritan leanings and every Thursday there was a religious lecture in St Michael's, at the same time, opposite the Church door, was the fish market which the congregation thought 'not fitting' with the locals accused of 'beastlines and disorder' the 'incivill inhabitants thereabouts and there children, growe verie odious and stinkinge'.

Market Day would be on a Thursday because Friday was a 'fish day' and even post the Reformation

people were still supposed to eat fish rather than meat on a fast day.

The pilgrims bought boxes of smoked herring and dried salt cod to take with them on the voyage as well as plenty of spices and salt for seasoning. Southampton as a port had access to these



St Michael's Church

types of goods. It could be that the cod they bought had actually been fished off Newfoundland and brought back to Southampton to sell. For example, in 1623, the Fisher, a ship of 80 tons and 32 crew, returned from the cod banks off Newfoundland with 106,000 dried fish, 5300 tons of wet fish and 9 tons of fish oil. The return trip had taken 16 days.

Captain John Smith, one of founders of Jamestown in Virginia, said in 1614 that the real wealth of North America was not from gold and silver but from fish

"Here every man may be master and owner of his owne labour and land... If he have nothing but his hands, he may...by industries quickly grow rich."

Captain Smith was the same man who was said to have been rescued from death by Pocahontas.

Cross the square to Bugle Street to Tudor House and proceed down Bugle Street to the yellow cottage next to Tudor House

5 Tudor House

Opposite the fish market was Tudor House which in 1620 was a prominent residence and the home of John Clungeon, whose family were originally

Huguenot refugees. Next to Tudor House is a small yellow cottage and another cottage of a similar size, which was its neighbour, the home of Esau Whittiffe a local shipwright. In 1606 Whittiffe built a sixty ton ship called the Speedwell. This ship is one of the contenders for the Speedwell that bought 30 passengers over from



Tudor House and cottage

Leiden and was due to take them across the Atlantic. Unfortunately it was not seaworthy and caused the voyage to be interrupted as the Mayflower and Speedwell were forced to put into Plymouth where the Speedwell was abandoned.

Carry on down Bugle Street to the Duke of Wellington on the left hand side

6 Duke of Wellington



The Duke of Wellington

The Duke of Wellington was originally built as a merchant's house but became, in the fifteenth century, a Beer House, a place for the making of beer in the industrial quantities that were required to provision the ships using the port. Beer was a staple food, especially as water was not always as fresh as people would like. The pilgrims would have carried empty barrels on the ship which they would use to catch fresh rainwater but would have relied on beer to sustain them during the voyage. They also shipped out with French brandy, wine and Holland gin.

Turn down West Gate Street to the West Gate

7 West Gate

The Mayflower and Speedwell were moored on the West Quay, the Mayflower was the larger of the two ships but was still only ninety feet long and weighed 181 tons. The first in-depth research about the size of the vessel was undertaken by two editors of the Southampton Record Society, J W Horrocks and R C Anderson. Conditions on board were very basic, with only limited room and you could not stand up fully below decks and a bucket over the side acted as a toilet. As the voyage progressed there would be a terrible stench from human effluent and rotting food and many people would be sea sick. Amazingly only one person died on the trip and one was born, a boy named Oceanus, by his parents Stephen and Elizabeth Hopkins.

Stephen Hopkins was a Hampshire man originally born in Upper Clayford from where he moved to Hursley. He was the only pilgrim who had experience of travelling to the New World; he had been shipwrecked off Bermuda before finally arriving in Jamestown. He returned to England on the death of his first wife Mary who was still running the family inn



West Gate

in Hursley. He remarried and returned to America with his new wife Elizabeth and their young daughter Damaris as well as his children Constantia and Giles from his first marriage

To strengthen the nerves of the pilgrims their pastor, John Robinson, who was not sailing with them sent them a prayer in a letter.

And the Lord in whom you trust & whom you serve even in this business & journey, guide you with His hand, protect you with his wing, and show you and us His salvation in the end and bring us in the meanwhile together in the place desired, if such be His good will.

Go through West Gate and then turn left follow the line of the walls down to Cuckoo Lane go up the steps to the little park, the site of Bugle Hall and the Mayflower memorial

8 Bull Hall

Bull Hall was the town house owned by the third earl of Southampton a promotor of colonies and founder of the Virginia Company. He funded voyages such as that of Bartholomew Gosnold in 1602, who was the first Englishman who went to New England

The Earl was also the patron of William Shakespeare whose play The Tempest was inspired by events around early exploration and the character Stephanus is said to be based on the pilgrim Stephen Hopkins who had been shipwrecked off Bermuda in 1609.

The Mayflower Pilgrims' voyage and colony was supported by the Merchant Adventurers and the agreement was for seven years. The Merchant Adventurers provided the money and licence and the pilgrims the people. One of the adventurers was Robert Alden, who may also have been a connection

of John Alden who joined the group in Southampton. A Robert Alden also appears briefly in Southampton records.

Opposite the site of the Hall is the Mayflower Memorial which was unveiled in 1913 by Walter Hines Page, the American Ambassador. The original plan for the memorial had to be downsized as only £600 was raised towards a target of £2000. It is made of Portland stone and stands fifty feet high. On the top is a model of the Mayflower forming a copper weather vane beneath which is a model of a fire-box. It was designed by R M Lucas and made by local masons Garret & Haysom.



Descendants of the original pilgrims, of which there are now thirteen million, can attach a plaque to the memorial. There is one to John Alden and Priscilla Mullen who married in the new colony of Plymouth in 1622. Their fame grew thanks to a poem about them written by Longfellow and the discovery of the original written compact made by the pilgrims which described the setting up of their colony.

John and Priscilla's son John Alden junior, later, whilst on a trip to Salem, was nearly executed during the witchcraft trials. He escaped and his account of the trials is a major source on that episode. One of the judges was Samuel Sewell originally of Bishopstoke,

not far from Southampton, he later regretted his involvement in the trials.

Carry on past the memorial, cross Bugle Street to the Dancing Man pub, the former Wool House

9 The Wool house



Most of the early English colonies were, at least in part, funded by privateering. Southampton was a centre for the privateers and the Wool House was rented out as a storage warehouse to the likes of Walter Raleigh who used funds he made to support colonies such as Roanoke. He had inherited his licence to set up a colony from his half-brother Humphrey Gilbert who, funded by Southampton merchants, had first claimed Newfoundland for Elizabeth I and which is seen as the founding act of what became the British Empire. These early colonists were economic migrants. Many of the privateering goods stored in the Wool House were spices such as ginger and sugar. Pilgrims took ginger, pepper, cinnamon, mace, nutmeg, wormwood as well as sugar, raisins and prunes on their voyage.

Continue in an easterly direction, cross French Street, go through Town Quay Park to Quilters Vault

10 Quilters Vault

In 1620 Quilters Vault was the site of the Virginia Inn, one of the innkeepers was the widow Olive Addison. It took its name from the new colony of Virginia where so many people who departed from town quay were heading. Virginia in turn was named in honour of Queen Elizabeth I, known as the Virgin Queen.



Quilters Vault

Carry on to the High Street and turn right and go down to the Watergate

11 Watergate

The Watergate leads out onto the town quay. It was here that John White landed in 1587, he had set up the settlement of Roanoke but returned to England for supplies and he was accompanied by a Native American. He made many maps, water colours of indigenous people, plants, and animals which can still be seen in the British Museum. When he returned to Roanoke the colony had completely disappeared.

The Watergate, which was near to the street of the porters and the Customs House was where many new

goods discovered in the New World arrived in England such as beaver and seal skins and a new vegetable called the potato. Southampton has the earliest recorded mention of potatoes in England in a document of 1593 when the town gave 10lbs of potatoes as a present to Lord Hertford.

Another new crop was tobacco. Many people thought tobacco had medicinal properties. Thomas Harriot said tobacco would purge superfluous phlegm, open pores & body passages, cure ague and gout, reduce fatigue and hunger, cool the system, and stop hangovers. It was also said to relieve headaches, toothaches, rheumatism, joint pain, swelling in wounds, snake bites and halitosis. However King James I thought otherwise and wrote a treatise or counterblast against tobacco which described the

death of a smoker whose body contained a bushel of soot.

Thomas de la Warr, first governor of Virginia, sailed from here in 1610 with 3 ships and 150 immigrants. In 1616 Thomas Dale docked his ship Treasurer here with a cargo of 2cwt tobacco and a passenger, Pocahontas, who had



The Watergate

married tobacco planter John Rolfe. She died in Gravesend in 1617 aged just 20-21. They had one son Thomas.

Cross the High Street at pedestrian crossing and proceed along Winkle Street

12 God's House Tower



God's House Tower was the last site the pilgrims would have seen as they left Southampton behind. They departed the town on the 5th August [by the old calendar, 15th August by the new calendar] and had only sailed a short way when they were forced to put into Dartmouth on the 12th August, setting off again on the 21st of August but, after sailing 300 miles, the Speedwell was leaking so badly that they had to return to Plymouth. Finally leaving for America on the 6th September, some of the passengers had already been on board for a month and a half. It took 65 days before land was spotted on the 9th November.

A model of Southampton in 1620 is housed in God's House Tower.

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