

Mayflower Explorer

Explore England & the journey of the Mayflower Pilgrims



What's included:



10 – day tour can be tailored to individual requirements



Tour may start and finish at any destination. The story begins in Nottinghamshire.



Independent traveller



Suitable for groups



Tour Guide Advised



There is rail access to most destinations. For the full national itinerary, we recommend escorted tours. Some areas would require a driver guide.



London Plus



All London and regional airports. Including East Midlands, Doncaster Robin Hood, Humberside, Birmingham, Exeter.

Follow the journey of the Mayflower Pilgrims from the beginnings of Separatism in rural England, their time in Holland and the story of the Mayflower Ship and her Master, through the south coast ports to Plymouth – their final departure point for the New World.

A story of courage and conviction, secret worship, growing persecution and the start of an epic journey that would establish the Mayflower Compact.

Tour Highlights:

- Visit the villages and churches of Scrooby, Babworth & Austerfield that were home to radical Puritan congregations and where Bradford and Brewster shaped their beliefs
- Explore Gainsborough Old Hall, one of the best preserved medieval manor houses in England
- Walk the cobbled streets of historic Lincoln, see King John's 1215 Magna Carta whose influence is seen in the Mayflower Compact and the American Bill of Rights
- Visit Boston Guildhall and the cells where the fleeing Pilgrims were held and tried
- Visit Immingham from where the Separatists escaped to Holland
- Travel to Leiden, Holland where the Separatists spent many years
- Go in search of Pilgrim Edward Winslow in Worcester & Droitwich Spa
- Explore the Port of Harwich where the Mayflower ship was built and her Master Christopher Jones lived
- Follow the journey of the ship to her home port in London and explore historic Rotherhithe and Southwark
- Explore the port city of Southampton where the Mayflower and Speedwell ships prepared for voyage
- Visit Dartmouth where the Mayflower and Speedwell ships stayed whilst undergoing repairs
- Stand on the Mayflower Steps in Plymouth, the city from where the Mayflower ship and her passengers finally departed on 16 September 1620.

1620—2020
Mayflower
400™

Steering our future,
inspired by the past.

Day 1 Mayflower Roots

Scrooby, Babworth,
Austerfield, Gainsborough



The leading religious Separatists who voyaged to Holland and then on to America in 1620 were originally from 'Pilgrim Country' – the counties of Nottinghamshire, Lincolnshire and Yorkshire where a culture of independent thinking, passion and tolerance shaped their beliefs. Discover the roots of the Mayflower voyage in the villages and towns where the future leaders of the Plymouth Colony and signatories of the Mayflower Compact, William Brewster and William Bradford lived, worked and worshipped with Rev Richard Clifton and learn how preachers John Smyth and Thomas Helwys, founders of the Baptist movement, met in secret with other non-conformists and eventually fled to Leiden.

Retford Town

Begin your day in Retford town (with a mainline railway station). Visit the Bassetlaw local history museum and pick up local information at the "Retford Hub" before travelling to the Pilgrim towns and villages.

Babworth Church

Discover many interesting items recalling the Pilgrim Fathers including a silver chalice and Geneva bible with annotations from 1603, both used by Richard Clifton. Closely connected with the origins of religious separatism this is where Richard Clifton preached.

St. Wilfrid's Church, Scrooby

Sit in the original wooden pews at St. Wilfrid's Church. Brewster had long been attracted by separatism and was fined for non-attendance at St. Wilfrid's Church where he was likely baptised and married.

The Manor House, Scrooby

Point of interest. The former home of William Brewster where the Scrooby Separatist congregation met in secret. Now a private home.

St. Helena's Church, Austerfield

William Bradford, the second Governor of the Colony was baptised in St Helena's Church in the font which can still be seen today. Austerfield Study Centre is adjacent to the church. 'Butten Meadow' is named after William Butten who sailed

on the Mayflower but did not live to reach the New World. A Delft tiled mural commemorates Butten. Explore nearby Bawtry, a 12th Century ancient port and today an attractive market town with places to eat, shop and stay.

Gainsborough Old Hall

Explore Gainsborough Old Hall. A fine example of a large timber framed medieval manor house, the Hall was home to the Hickman family who were sympathetic to the Separatist movement and allowed regular meetings to be held here. John Smyth preached at the nearby All Saints church before fleeing to Amsterdam along with non-conformist Thomas Helwys who was raised in nearby Nottingham and with whom he created the Baptist denomination. Helwys later returned to London where, incurring the wrath of the king, he died in prison. Time permitting, extend your stay and visit All Saints Church and the John Robinson Memorial Church – now a URC church built by the Congregational church in 1897. John Robinson was 'Pastor of the Pilgrims' and led them in Leiden.

Immingham

Discover the story of the Pilgrims' desperate flight to Holland, in 1608, from Killinghome Creek now Immingham Dock. Visit the Monument in Pilgrim Park and, in nearby St Andrew's Church, see the grave of Francis Hawkin who died before the boat departed. A Dutch ship and captain were commissioned for the voyage and when most of the men were on board, the captain, fearing the approaching troops, fled out to sea abandoning the women and children. Stranded the group were imprisoned until, with nothing left to cede to the authorities, they were released and finally arrived safely in Holland. Among the last to arrive in Amsterdam were John Robinson and William Brewster.



Lunch & Coffee Stops

The attractive towns of Retford and Bawtry offer a range of cafes, tea rooms and restaurants

The Pilgrim Fathers Inn, Scrooby

Ye Olde Bell at Barnby Moor – a famous old posting house

Gainsborough Old Hall – catering for groups and individuals.

Tours & Guides

Pilgrims & Prophets – Christian Heritage Tours – individually designed to suit your needs

Mayflower Maid – Guided tours with historian Sue Allen who has exclusive rights to access to the grounds of Scrooby Manor, William Brewster's home.

Brackenbury's Britain - Guided walks

Accommodation Suggestions

Ye Olde Bell Hotel and Spa at Barnby Moor

Best Western, Retford

The White Hart Hotel, Lincoln



Also nearby

Sturton Le Steeple

Visit the birthplace of the first Baptist, John Smyth, who attended the same school in the Church as John Robinson, Pastor of the Pilgrims.

Doncaster

Where it is thought William Brewster went to school. Doncaster has a range of facilities and services and is well known for its horse racing.

Epworth

Discover the fine Queen Anne style Epworth Old Rectory, childhood home of John and Charles Wesley, leaders of the 18th century Methodist Revival movement; the nearby St. Andrews church and St. Pancreas church at Wroot.

Day 2 Mayflower Roots & Magna Carta

Lincoln, Boston – Lincolnshire



Head to the nearby city of Lincoln to see 1215 Magna Carta, then onwards to Boston from where the Pilgrims made their first attempt to escape to Holland.

Lincoln City

Explore the cobbled streets of the historic city of Lincoln, see Lincoln Castle, home to King John's 1215 Magna Carta and visit the magnificent Lincoln Cathedral, once the tallest building in the world.

Boston Guildhall & Market Town

Visit the Guildhall in Boston where the Pilgrims were held and tried following their unsuccessful attempt to escape

from England in the Autumn of 1607; the memorial to their courage at Scotia Creek and the "Stump", St Botolph's Church.

Here the Rev John Cotton attracted people from far and wide to hear his sermons challenging the established church and inspiring the later 1630s migration of some 300 Bostonians to America.

This group of powerful and educated individuals shaped the colony and established the first American school, the Latin Free School, based on the original Boston Grammar School, as well as being involved in the formation of the college that grew to become Harvard University.

Lunch & Coffee Stops

Petwood Hotel, Woodhall Spa.

Between Lincoln & Boston steeped in history this timber framed hotel is the perfect lunch stop.

Tours & Guides

Blue & Green Badge guides available on request.

Tours of the Boston Guildhall & Boston Stump available (pre-booking required).

Accommodation Suggestions

The White Hart Hotel, Boston. Groups welcome.

Elms Farm, Boston. Luxury self-catering.

Day 3 The beginnings of the ship

Harwich, Essex



Travel from Boston to Harwich then on to London.

Harwich

Explore the historic port town of Harwich with a self-guided tour or meet with the Harwich Society guides who provide guided walking tours.

The port of Harwich is synonymous with ships and has provided access to and from mainland Europe for generations of travellers and traders and it was here that the Mayflower ship was built for Master Christopher Jones, an established mariner. See the Captain's House and the full-size replica ship being built by the Harwich Mayflower Project.

Tours of Harwich Guildhall are available with prior booking.



Lunch & Coffee Stops

Try some fresh Harwich lobster at The Alma Inn and Dining Rooms, serving since the 1850s but once the home of Master Jones' first wife or dine at the waterfront venue, The Pier.

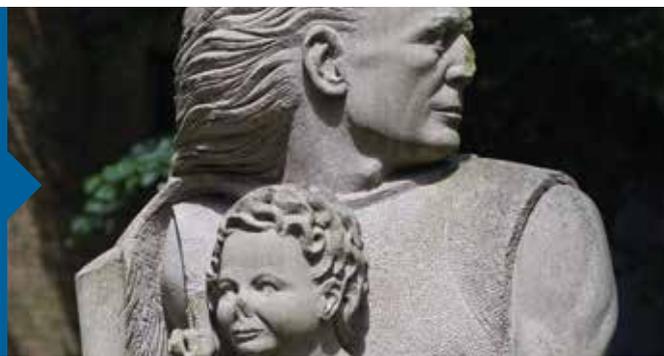
Tours & Guides

*Harwich Mayflower Society
Harwich Mayflower Project*

Accommodation Suggestions

Stay in London overnight or in Harwich at The Pier Hotel, Harwich. Boutique independent hotel and dining

Day 4 Mayflower and London



London, Rotherhithe & Southwark

Rotherhithe on the River Thames was the port of the Mayflower. From here she slipped her berth in 1620, close to the location of the present Mayflower Inn, en route to Southampton to meet up with the Speedwell. This is to where the Mayflower returned in 1621 and was finally broken up.

Visit St Mary's Church, Rotherhithe, where the reverend Thomas Gataker, a man of puritan leanings, may well have influenced Master Christopher Jones' decision to take on the perilous transatlantic voyage in his ship, Mayflower. Jones had based himself in Rotherhithe from 1611, his children were baptised at St Mary's and his body buried in the churchyard.

Relive the gruesome history of The Clink Museum, the prison where those refusing to obey the religious laws of Elizabeth I would find themselves.

Dissenters such as cleric John Greenwood and Henry Barrowe, whose ideas would have inspired the Pilgrims leaving London in 1620.

Spend time in stately Southwark Cathedral and see the tomb of Shakespeare's brother and the John Harvard Chapel, dedicated to the local boy who went on to endow Harvard University.

Experience the life of a 16th century explorer aboard the Golden Hinde, a full-sized reconstruction of the ship Sir Francis Drake used to circumnavigate the globe between 1577-80.

Join the "groundlings" at the reconstructed Globe Theatre and watch Shakespeare's timeless tales performed in the open air.

Lunch & Coffee Stops

The Mayflower Inn, Rotherhithe

Bustling Borough Market offers an eclectic range of restaurants and street food

Range of riverside restaurants and pubs near the Globe Theatre provide great value home-cooked food.

Coffee shops and restaurants in and around the Tate Modern

Southwark Cathedral Café

Tours & Guides

Blue Badge and Green Badge guides available

Self-guided walking tour of Rotherhithe.

River cruises

Walking tours

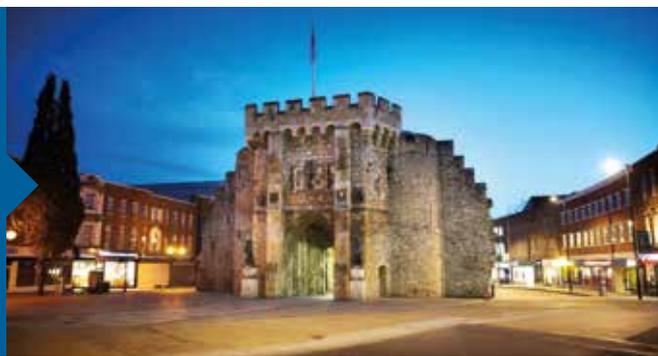
Accommodation Suggestions

Overnight in London.



Day 5 The Speedwell & Mayflower

Southampton



Travel from London to Southampton
(1 hours 30mins direct train or 1hour 45mins by road)

Southampton

Follow the Mayflower to Southampton, the Gateway City, where for centuries people have arrived or left England to trade, to fight wars, to seek refuge or flee from persecution. Now a vibrant and diverse city, it offers an impressive cultural experience.

See the Tudor House and Garden and the Medieval Merchants Hall. Visit the Seacity Museum, hear of the city's role in the tragic Titanic story and learn more about the port's status as the 'gateway to the world', with stories of Roman traders, Saxon settlers, Huguenots seeking refuge and glamorous ocean liner passengers heading across the Atlantic and around the world.

A thriving sea port in 1620 when the Mayflower and the Speedwell with its passengers from Leiden met here and prepared to set sail together directly to America.

Today, the city has very well-preserved town walls and an old town quarter which the Pilgrims would still recognise.

On into the evening, enjoy lively entertainment at the city's Mayflower Theatre – the largest in the south of England.



Lunch & Coffee Stops

The city offers an extensive range of cafes, pubs and restaurants from the Dancing Man micro-brewery through to the Grand Café where the first-class passengers on the Titanic took their refreshments before their departure.

Tours & Guides

See Southampton tour guiding group

Southampton Tourist Guides Association

Blue Funnel day or evening cruises around Southampton's busy docks including the departure point of the ill-fated Titanic.

SteamShip Shieldhall is open to visitors and runs sailings on selected dates through the summer.

Private Driving Tours

Accommodation Suggestions

Overnight in Southampton city centre in the Grand Harbour Hotel or the Holiday Inn. In contrast, the Hilton Ageas Bowl Hotel and Spa offers countryside views and an 18-hole golf course.



Day 6 & 7 The Mayflower Departure

Dartmouth & Plymouth



Dartmouth

On departing from Southampton the Pilgrims' journey was halted again when, the Speedwell 'leaking like a sieve' and the Mayflower were taken to Dartmouth to make good the damage, before setting sail again. The Mayflower was moored on the River Dart beside Pilgrim Hill while repairs were made to the Speedwell in Bayard's Cove harbour.

Discover Dartmouth, a town full of culture, history and heritage, dating back to 1147 with significant seafaring history.

Take a boat trip and see it from its impressive natural harbour, as the Pilgrims did. Walk its streets to see an eclectic mix of castles and forts, ancient buildings and museums many dating back to the 16th Century, such as the Royal Castle Hotel, the Butterwalk buildings and Bayard's Cove.

The port of Dartmouth is overlooked by the imposing Britannia Royal Naval College, where it is said Prince Philip met the then Princess Elizabeth.

This working military establishment training officers for the Royal Navy and forces from Commonwealth countries around the world. Guided tours are available on selected dates throughout the year and visitors can see the parade ground, quarterdeck, the elegant chapel and the Britannia Heritage Museum.

Take a ferry to Agatha Christie's holiday home, Greenway, which she called 'the loveliest place in the world'. You can see it just as the best-selling author and her family left it and hear of its role in WWII when the US Coast Guard requisitioned it prior to the D-day Landings when 4,000 American troops were living in the Dartmouth area.

Plan well ahead and visit during the annual Dartmouth Royal Regatta - this historic maritime festival which first took place in 1834 is based around a programme of rowing and sailing events. Advance booking is required.



Lunch & Coffee Stops

As befits its maritime heritage, Dartmouth is home to some wonderful historic pubs and a plethora of restaurants and cafés to choose from including:

The Cherub Inn, a back street 15th century pub

The Royal Castle Hotel

The Seahorse, a trendy riverfront seafood restaurant or bistro-style



Accommodation

If you wish to spend more time in the beautiful coastal town of Dartmouth:

Bayards Cove Inn – a quaint Inn offering comfortable lodgings and great food.

The Royal Castle Hotel – ideal for FITs and groups

Dart Marina Hotel - ideal for FITs and groups



Day 6 & 7 The Mayflower Departure

Dartmouth & Plymouth



Travel from Dartmouth to Plymouth (60 mins by road)

Plymouth

Having spent a total of six weeks at sea without making any progress, both ships turned about for Plymouth. Here the Pilgrims escaped ashore from the dank ships and received a warm welcome from locals with strong puritan sympathies. The Speedwell was declared unfit for the journey and finally the Mayflower set sail with up to 30 crew and 102 passengers on board.

Visit buildings, familiar to the Pilgrims which survive to this day: Island House where Pilgrims are thought to have lodged, The Elizabethan House and Gardens, Black Friars (a gin distillery since 1793 but prior to that 'The Refectory' is believed to be the room where the Pilgrim Fathers spent their last night before setting sail for the New World), the Mayflower steps, the Jacka Bakery, Custom House and the Mayflower Museum ('The Box' will open in 2020 telling the Mayflower story).

Lunch & Coffee Stops

A food lover's paradise, Plymouth city centre offers a range of quality places to eat and drink; fantastic food options with stunning ocean views. A wide range of Barbican and city centre restaurants and cafes are within easy reach.

A 20-minute walk or short taxi ride will take you to the Royal William Yard, once the Navy's post-Napoleonic victualling yard now with restaurants and cafes on the dockside.

Tours & Guides

One Small Candle – Walking tours of Plymouth's Mayflower story with Plymouth's Pilgrim Ambassadors and tour guides.

Blue Badge guides are available for a range of themed guided walking tours.

Boat trips are available around the city's docks.

Self-guided Mayflower trails are available from the Visitor Information Service.

Accommodation Suggestions

Overnight in Plymouth

City centre hotels include the Holiday Inn, Jurys Inn and The Copthorne. A more traditional option is the Duke of Cornwall, Plymouth's first luxury hotel built in 1863.

1620, a new 5 hotel will be open for 2020.*



Day 8 & 9 Plymouth to Worcester & Droitwich Spa



Droitwich & Worcester

Explore the historic City of Worcester and its magnificent Cathedral and the charming spa town of Droitwich Spa with its lovely "black and white" buildings - an excellent base for exploring the Heart of England.

Visit St Peters Church, Droitwich Spa where Pilgrim Edwards Winslow was baptised and see a replica of his portrait in the Town Council Chamber at the Droitwich Spa Heritage & Information Centre. Visit Worcester Cathedral where Winslow lived and was educated, book a private tour of the Cathedral Library and see Edward Winslow in the school records - as well as books and maps with detailed accounts of travellers from the early 1600's.

Visit Edward Winslow's Worcester, including The Tudor House Museum, Greyfriars House and Gardens and The Commandery. Experience what life was like in 1620, leading up to the Civil War when Worcester was a Merchant City using the river Severn to export its cloth.

Book a tour to the City Archives at The Hive and see Edward Winslow's Baptism record as well as the Marriage Bond of William Shakespeare and Anne Hathaway. Winslow is the only Plymouth colonist of which a contemporary portrait exists (in Pilgrim Hall, Plymouth, Mass).

Whilst in Worcestershire, follow the Elgar driving trail to see the countryside that inspired the work of another son of the city, Edward Elgar, the celebrated composer of "The Graduation March"



Lunch & coffee break stops

Private dining and group catering available at Worcester Cathedral. Afternoon Tea or seven course Taster Menu at Brockencote Hall

Dine in Feli's – with local celebrity Chef Felice Tocchini



Tours & Guides

Worcester Cathedral, Discover History, Worcester Walks



Accommodation Suggestions

Overnight in Worcester at Worcester Whitehouse Hotel or Droitwich Spa at St Andrews Town Hotel or nestled in the Worcestershire countryside, at The Wood Norton.



Day 10

Holland – in search of religious freedom

Extend your stay – the full story of the Mayflower Pilgrims extends into Holland where the Separatists spent some 12 years before travelling to the New World.



Ferries leave from Hull to Rotterdam and Harwich to the Hook and flights to Amsterdam from all airports indicated.

Leiden

The city of Leiden was known to be a city of free thinkers, relative religious tolerance and a long tradition of offering shelter to the dispossessed.

Visit the Leiden American Pilgrim Museum – a hands on collection of books and possessions of the time of the Pilgrims in Leiden. Situated in the oldest standing house in the city. Pieterskirk church - named after St. Peter, the patron saint of Leiden church was founded in 1121 and is mainly constructed in late-Gothic style.

The Pilgrims leader John Robinson, lived in the nearby Pieterskerkchoorsteeg (marked with a plaque). John Robinson is buried here, as are the physician Herman Boerhave and the painter Jan Steen (of Rijksmuseum fame). The church itself features a small exhibition on the Pilgrims in Leiden.

The cobbled streets of Leiden sit alongside the beautiful canals that wind through the city – often lined with markets selling cheese, flowers and fresh local produce.

Delft Haven, Rotterdam

Explore picturesque Delfshaven, now a neighbourhood just outside the centre of Rotterdam, but was originally, Delft's harbour until, at the end of the 19th century, this historical area became part of the ever-growing city of Rotterdam. It was from here, after a blessing from the preacher, Rev. John Robinson, that the small boat the Speedwell set sail with the Separatists on board, to meet with the Mayflower at Southampton.

The Pilgrim Fathers' Church, located on Aelbrechtskolk, houses the Pilgrim Presentation telling the story of the Pilgrim Fathers in words, pictures, reproduced documents, artefacts and a short audio-visual presentation. In the church's sanctuary see objects reminiscent of the Pilgrims, including a fine stained-glass window, and models of both the Speedwell and the Mayflower.

Accommodation Suggestions

Overnight in Leiden

City Resort Hotel – 4 star, ideal for groups. Central location.

Boutique Hotels van Leyden – Situated in historic, canal-side buildings with unique and luxurious interior decorating.

Villa Rameau – The former vergers house of the historical Pieterskerk. Unique and beautiful self-catering accommodation.



With extra time...

England is a small country with a big story. If you're time is flexible and you want to see more of England, here are some ideas:

- Travelling south towards London stop off at the university city of Cambridge where John Harvard was a student at Emmanuel College
- From Southampton take day trips to Salisbury and Winchester Cathedrals. The former, built in the 1300s, has the tallest spire in England and the latter has been an important centre for Christianity since the 7th century. Stephen Hopkins, hailing from near Winchester, was one of the few Pilgrims with previous experience of life in the "new world".
- From Southampton visit Portsmouth and its Historic Dockyard, step onboard Nelson's Victory and at the Mary Rose

museum hear the fascinating story of Henry VIII's ill-fated warship.

- Head west from Plymouth to Cornwall, the coastal destination famed for its fabulous sea food, exotic gardens, smugglers tales and Poldark and from where Cornish miners left to start new lives in the mining communities of California.
- Visit Hereford Cathedral and see the wonderful Mapa Mundi, dating from c1300 and the largest medieval map known still to exist and nearby Stratford upon Avon to see the home of William Shakespeare
- Nearby Gloucester boasts a Cathedral built on 1300 years of Christian worship and was the birth-place of George Whitfield, a founder of the Methodist movement who travelled throughout the American colonies preaching to large open air gatherings.

- Visit Nottinghamshire, home to the legendary Robin Hood and religious leader, William Booth founder of the Salvation Army.

