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GET TO KNOW PLYMOUTH



- Plymouth Original Strength Gin has been distilled at England's oldest working distillery, Black Friars, on Plymouth's historic Barbican since 1793
- Jackas Bakery, located on the Barbican, is reputed to be the oldest commercial bakery in the world still in operation.
- In 1919 Nancy Astor became the first woman Member of Parliament, representing the constituency of Sutton in Plymouth
- Plymouth became the first town in Britain to receive a fresh water supply from outside its boundaries thanks to Sir Francis Drake constructing a 14 mile leat from the River Meavy on Dartmoor in 1591. Parts of the leat are still visible today.
- The original Eddystone Lighthouse (1698 – 1703) was the first offshore lighthouse in the world and constructed of wood. The third Eddystone Lighthouse was re-erected on Plymouth Hoe in 1882 and is now a popular tourist attraction. The fourth lighthouse is still in use.
- Sir Francis Chichester left Plymouth on 27th August 1966 in his ketch Gipsy moth IV and circumnavigated the world single-handed, arriving back in Plymouth on 28th May 1967 after 266 days.
- Originally Plymouth Argyle Football Club was known as Plymouth Argyll as the founders of the club wished the team to emulate the style of football played by the Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders. The name was later changed to Argyle because the founding members had rooms in Argyle Terrace

- Sir Joshua Reynolds (first president of the Royal Academy) and Captain Bligh (of Bounty fame) were both born in Plymouth, in 1723 and 1754 respectively
- Plymouth sided with the Parliamentarians during the English Civil War and the Royalists, once returned to overall power, placed cannons facing both towards the sea and the town to remind Plymothians of the future consequences should they repeat their stance against the monarchy.
- The TV chefs Chris & James Tanner have two restaurants in Plymouth
- The main retail area of Plymouth was largely destroyed during the Second World War. Sir Patrick Abercrombie and James Paton Watson designed the 'Plan for Plymouth' and the resulting retail centre is now one of the best examples of 1950s architecture in the world
- Captain Cook left Plymouth on the Endeavour in 1798 on his first voyage
- Prior to the departure of the Pilgrim Fathers aboard the Mayflower in 1620, Richard Grenville had left Plymouth and set up the Roanoke Colonies in America
- In 1787 the convict ships 'Friendship' and 'Charlotte' sailed from Plymouth carrying men & women to Australia
- A young Charles Darwin left Plymouth Barbican on the Beagle in 1831
- Catharine of Aragon – first wife of Henry VIII – arrived in Plymouth in 1501
- In 1838, the Tolpuddle Martyrs landed on the Barbican
- Napoleon left Plymouth on the Bellepheron in 1815 on his way to exile in St Helena



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GET TO KNOW PLYMOUTH

PLACES TO VISIT IN & AROUND PLYMOUTH



WITHIN HALF AN HOUR OF IBIS PLYMOUTH



PLYMOUTH CITY CENTRE, PLYMOUTH HOE & THE BARBICAN.

All within easy walking distance of each other. Parking available on the Barbican & City Centre (follow signs) Also, Park & Ride and local bus services are both good.

The Hoe is on the seafront and is where Sir Francis Drake was reputed to be playing bowls when the Spanish Armada arrived to attack.

The Barbican is the only part of the City not bombed during the 2nd World War and has an Elizabethan House, the National Marine Aquarium (with the biggest shark tank in Europe), and the harbour.

The City Centre is good for shopping and has a shopping Mall development called Drake Circus.



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MOUNT EDGECUMBE

Historic Country house set in lovely gardens and parkland.

Travel across via Cremyll Ferry (small boat, every 15 mins). Ask Team for directions

Created in 1971, the park covers over 800 acres. Mount Edgumbe has been famous since the 18th Century for its landscape and gardens. Scattered throughout the Park are buildings - Thomson's Seat, Milton's Temple, the Folly, the Arch - consciously sited to create views and atmosphere. Individual trees and plantations are placed to enhance a magnificent setting above Plymouth Sound and the River Tamar.

The Coastal footpath runs along the shores of the Park from Cremyll to Whitsand Bay. Grassy lawns sweep down to attractive shingle beaches only a stroll away from the Cremyll Ferry



SALTRAM HOUSE

Historic Country House also set in gardens and parkland offering a circular walk of approximately 45 minutes. (children's playground and duck pond, take brown bread for children to feed ducks) As well as an on-site Café.

10 mins from hotel, towards Plympton.

The film Pride & Prejudice was filmed here.



BIGBURY BEACH & BURGH ISLAND (DEVON)

A beach with access by foot or by a water tractor which goes across the causeway at high tide to reach Burgh Island, site of an Art Deco hotel, fully restored and used to film Hercule Poirot for TV. Also, home to the Pilchard Inn, a very old (14th century) pub. Walk to the top of the island for a good view of the sea and Plymouth Sound.





LOOE & POLPERRO (CORNWALL)

Twin fishing villages beside the sea, a short walk through Looe town to the beach, narrow streets lined with cottages and shops.

Fishing harbour, possible to watch the fish being off loaded and weighed at certain times of day.



TOTNES (WITH BOAT ACCESS TO DARTMOUTH & STEAM TRAIN ACCESS TO PAIGNTON)

Totnes is a small riverside town, one of its attractions being regular boat trips to Dartmouth.

Dartmouth is home to the Royal Britannia Naval College and has a pretty park and quayside as well as a ferry across to Kingswear from where it is possible to get a steam train to Paignton and travel back to Totnes from Paignton by normal train or open top bus. Paignton is in Torbay (the English Riviera) and is a slightly old-fashioned seaside resort.

WITHIN ONE HOUR OF IBIS PLYMOUTH



THE EDEN PROJECT

The Eden Project is one of Cornwall's main tourist attractions. It is an enormous botanic garden housed in two Biomes, which plays home to over 100,000 plants. It was built with help from lottery money in a former quarry in the Cornish wilderness, and is run as a charity.

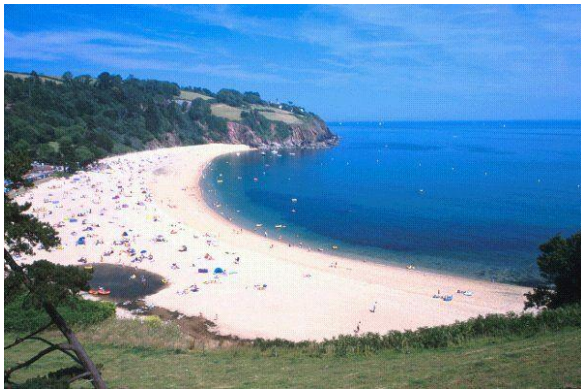


DARTMOOR NATIONAL PARK

Dramatic scenery and various pretty pubs and places by rivers as well as Dartmoor Prison at Princetown.

Places to look for include: Shaugh Bridge, Meavy, Dartmeet, Burrator, Brentor, Haytor, There are ten tors on the moor which are walked every year by local schools.





BIGBURY, DARTMOUTH, SALCOMBE, BLACKPOOL SANDS, SLAPTON SANDS

Leave Plymouth via the Kingsbridge road and pass or stop at any of the above. Blackpool Sands looks spectacular if approached from Slapton Sands. Slapton is a long narrow pebble beach famous for being the site of many American deaths during the practice for the D Day landings, there is a memorial between the beach and the nature reserve. (Slapton Ley)

WITHIN 2 – 3 HOURS OF IBIS PLYMOUTH



POLZEATH, DAYMER BAY, ROCK & PADSTOW

Park the car at Polzeath and walk across the cliff top to Daymer bay (1.5 miles) behind the beach at Daymer bay there is a church which had been buried in sand. Sir John Betjemen is buried there. It is possible at low tide to continue to walk on the beach around to Rock, this is quite hard going (walking on sand) and take extreme care regarding tides.



Alternatively, walk back to Polzeath and watch the surfers or continue by car to Rock and take the foot ferry to Padstow (home of Rick Stein's seafood restaurant). Or go to Padstow by car.

Many lovely beaches on both sides of this estuary.





LANDS END

Very scenic but the development is a bit commercial and expensive for what you get. Better to go nearby and walk the coast path.



TINTAGEL & BOSCASTLE

Tintagel has rugged coast and is home to the legendary King Arthur and the Knights of the Round Table. The village has the oldest post office in the country and a couple of nice pubs. The ruined castle is owned by the National Trust and there is an admission fee but the area around is worth seeing for the coast. Not good for people with vertigo!! Boscastle is the village which was flooded so badly in August 2004.



CROYDE BAY, SAUNTON SANDS, BIDEFORD, ILFRACOMBE

North Devon seaside places with stunning beaches, best for really good weather as not much else to do!

For other attractions see leaflets and map.

After all that exploring, a warm welcome awaits you at ibis Plymouth

Please note that the opinions expressed in this document are purely the personal perspective of the author.



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