

## Medieval Exeter

The Middle Ages were a period of rapid growth for Exeter. It became the religious, commercial, and administrative centre for the region. Throughout the period following the Norman Conquest in 1066 until the reign of Henry Tudor in 1485 (Henry VII), a complex relationship between the Crown, Cathedral and City developed.



Using this leaflet, guide yourself to 8 information panels. At each site find out about the buildings of medieval Exeter and key events that affected the people during this time. For children there are quizzes and puzzles to solve along the way so bring paper and a pencil with you.

## Find out more about Medieval Exeter

Join a guided tour of Medieval Exeter with Exeter's Red Coat Guides. For more information call 01392 265203.



Visit Exeter City Council's Time Trail at [www.rammtimetrail.org.uk](http://www.rammtimetrail.org.uk) and discover more about the medieval period and Exeter in general.

### Have you enjoyed this trail?

Why not weave your way through Exeter's industrial past on **'The Exeter Woollen Trail'**. Explore the key sites involved in Exeter's woollen cloth industry.



You can also explore many of the key events in Exeter's past on **'The City Wall Trail'**. Discover how this wall, which is almost 2000 years old, is linked with the city's past, having repelled rebellions, as well as being the scene for many civic ceremonies.



Trail leaflets are available from Exeter Visitor Information & Tickets and the Quay House Visitor Centre. Their locations are indicated on the map overleaf.

### Exeter's Heritage Attractions include:

**Exeter Cathedral:** One of the finest examples of the decorated Gothic style in the country.  
Tel. 01392 285983

**Quay House Visitor Centre:** Discover Exeter's 2000-year history with a fascinating film show.  
Tel. 01392 271611

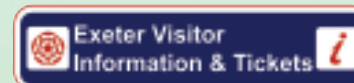
**Exeter's Underground Passages:** Explore beneath the streets of Exeter through these vaulted medieval passages.  
Tel. 01392 665887

**Red Coat Guided Tours:** To find out more about Exeter's rich history and heritage why not join one of a number of free guided tours.  
Tel. 01392 265203

**Guildhall:** Dating from 1330 Exeter's Guildhall is one of England's oldest municipal buildings.  
Tel. 01392 665500

**St. Nicholas Priory - A Tudor Home:** Tudor life in the heart of the City.  
Tel. 01392 665858

**Tuckers Hall:** The medieval guildhall of the only surviving trades guild in Exeter, the incorporation of Weavers, Fullers and Shearmen.  
Tel. 01392 412348



For information about Exeter contact  
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[www.exeterandessentialdevon.com](http://www.exeterandessentialdevon.com)



Exeter City Council



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## Exeter Medieval Trail



### Self Guided Walk



Discover Exeter's medieval past, find out about many of Exeter's surviving gems and the events that helped to shape this period of Exeter's past.

 **Exeter**  
It's a Capital City



Start your walk on Castle Street, just off the High Street.

### 1 Castle Street

The medieval period was one of growth for Exeter. In this time it established itself as the administrative, economic and ecclesiastic centre for the region. Within the city there is still much evidence of Exeter's medieval past, which can be further explored on this trail.

From here return to the High Street, turn right and continue along it until you reach Martin's Lane (fourth turning on the left). Continue to the end of Martin's Lane and turn right



Exeter Cathedral

onto Cathedral Yard. At the end of Cathedral Yard you will see St. Petrock's Church on your right, it is here you will discover more about:

### 2 The Cathedral Church of St. Peter

The Cathedral is the jewel in Exeter's crown. The area has been used as a place of worship since the 4th Century and eventually a Saxon Abbey was built. The Abbey became a Cathedral in 1050. From 1114 a new Cathedral was constructed, and in the 13th and 14th centuries the Cathedral was rebuilt in the decorated Gothic architectural style.

From here cross Cathedral Green on the path that runs along the left hand side of the Cathedral (stop to look at the Cathedral West Front). Turn right at the end and continue under the small iron bridge to the end of the cobbled street. Turn right and head towards the Southgate Hotel to discover more about the history of this area:

### 3 Southernhay

Exeter was a flourishing centre of trade, as well as an important player in the woollen cloth industry. The city held important fairs and was the home to several weekly markets. This area was once home to the Lammas Fair.

Cross the road onto Southernhay East, turn right and walk to the end of the street. Turn left onto Magdalen Street and after 100 metres you will be at Wynard's Almshouses (The panel is located on the railing of the driveway):



Wynard's Almshouses

### 4 Wynard's Almshouses

In the Middle Ages care for the sick and elderly was provided either by the church or financed by wealthy merchants. These Almshouses dating from 1435, were built by William Wynard, (recorder of the City) to house 12 infirm people.

Walk back along Magdalen Street and turn right into South Street. Cross the road using the pelican crossing by Palace Gate, turn right and then left onto Market Street. Follow the road round then take the second turning on the left onto Smythen Street. Continue to the car park:

### 5 Smythen Street

The street layout of this area remains very similar to how it would have been in medieval times. In this period workers of one trade or profession would often live in the same street, giving the street its name.

Return to Market Street, turn left and then right onto Fore Street. In the alley way on the right hand side between the shops (Milk Street) find out about:

### 6 The Carfax

In the Middle Ages, unlike most cities, Exeter had the luxury of a piped fresh supply of drinking water. In this area there used to be one of the public water fountains known as the Great Conduit

Return to Fore Street, turn right and cross South Street, head towards the gap between the shops and discover the intriguing story about:

### 7 The Gates to the Close

For over 500 years entry to the Cathedral Precinct would have been controlled by seven gates. The gates were erected following the murder of a member of the Cathedral clergy.

Continue along Cathedral Yard and at St Martin's Church walk straight ahead towards Catherine Square. Just past the raised area turn left and head for St. Stephen's Bow just behind the church:

### 8 St. Stephen's House

Behind you is St. Stephen's Church, which dates from the 11th Century. Exeter became a major ecclesiastic centre in the Middle Ages, not only was there a Cathedral, but within the city there were 32 parish churches, and in and around the area there were 7 monastic houses.



Underground Passages



St Nicholas Priory

**Exeter Medieval Trail** approx 1.75km (1.1 miles)

Board Locations			
1 CASTLE STREET	2 WYNARD'S ALMSHOUSES	3 CATHEDRAL PRECINCT	P PARKING
4 CATHEDRAL YARD	5 SMYTHEN STREET	6 CATHERINE SQUARE	I EASTON ARSON INFORMATION & TICKETS
7 SOUTHERNHAY	8 THE CONDUIT	9 GREAT CONDUIT	10 GREAT CONDUIT VISITOR CENTRE

Trial leaflets are available from the Exeter Water Information & Tickets and the Quay House Visitor Centre.