

U3a Heritage Tour 5th - 10th July 2026

Itinerary

Please note that some details in this itinerary may change.

Sunday 5th July 2026

Meet the coach at Guildford Road East, Farnborough, GU14 6PX, at 9.15 am for a 9.30 departure for Exeter.

On our outward journey after a brief stop we visit historic Shaftesbury



We then continue to Exeter where we spend 5 nights at the 4* Mercure Exeter Southgate Hotel.

Monday 6th July

am: Finch Foundry, Okehampton
(free entry for National Trust members)



pm: Museum of Devon Life and free time in Okehampton

Tuesday 7th July

am: Visit to Plymouth. Options for the morning include:

The historic Barbican. Plymouth's old port, full of narrow cobbled streets, Elizabethan warehouses, specialist shops, art galleries and cafes

<https://www.visitplymouth.co.uk/things-to-do/mayflower-museum>

Plymouth Gin Distillery

Elizabethan Gardens - small pretty box garden. Free

pm: Cruise on Plymouth Sound



Our 1-Hour Scenic Harbour Cruises depart from The Barbican Landing Stage, off the Mayflower Steps. Sail across the Plymouth Sound passing Plymouth Hoe, Drakes Island, with spectacular views of Mount Edgcumbe, Royal William Yard and heading for the river Tamar, pulling into one of the largest Naval Dockyards in Western Europe.

Wednesday 8th July



Option to visit Sidmouth. Spend the day by the sea, with the opportunity to visit the nearby Donkey Sanctuary for those that wish it.

OR spend the day exploring Exeter. Options include:

The Cathedral



The Historic Quayside - here there are cafes and craft shops, and the Custom House Visitor Centre

OR you may like to join one of the free Red Guide Walking Tours lasting around 90 mins. These leave from the Cathedral Green or the Quayside. Details of walks can be found on the Exeter City Council website.



Thursday 9th July

Drive to Dartmouth via the Higher Ferry.



Free time to explore Dartmouth. Visit the Harbour, Museum, shops and cafes. A short walk from the Promenade is Bayards Cove, where the Mayflower departed for America in 1620

Included is a 55 min cruise along the Dart estuary with views of Dartmouth Castle and Greenway, Agatha Christie's riverside estate.

Friday 10th July 2026

Return to Farnborough via Montacute House (free entry for National Trust members)



We will stay for 5 nights at the 4* Mercure Exeter Southgate Hotel in the centre of Exeter. Residents have access to a free gym. A spa with swimming pool is also available at a cost of £10.

The estimated maximum cost of the tour is £780 per person for single use rooms and £720 per person for double use rooms including all gratuities and scheduled outings unless indicated.

A non-refundable deposit of £80 per person should be paid on booking. Final payments will be calculated after the single and double room requirements are known and will be due by 20th May 2026.

To book your place please contact Jenny Murray at jkm0408@icloud.com

Deposits should be paid into the usual Farnborough U3A bank account (where you pay your membership fee) with the reference: IHSTUDY26

Please let Jenny know when your deposit has been paid, or if you need details of the U3a bank account.

Please state whether single or double occupancy is required, and also if you have any special dietary or room requirements.

Please supply both home and mobile phone number where possible.

The Study Tour is open to all U3a members

Your own travel insurance will be necessary in case of cancellation.

Everyone in the party should carry Next of Kin information.

People who are not National Trust members will need to pay for entry to NT properties

Geoff Baier Study Tour Leader