

Sustainable Plymouth

From Ocean to Plate



A one-day group itinerary exploring Plymouth's National Marine Park, ocean conservation, waterfront heritage and sustainable seafood

Ideal for:

Coach groups, special-interest groups, walking groups, environmental groups, travel trade and sustainable tourism programmes

Suggested duration:

Full day

Plymouth offers groups the opportunity to experience sustainability rather than simply talk about it.

This itinerary takes groups from the sea to the table – and shows why Plymouth's future is intrinsically linked to a healthy ocean.

From exploring the UK's first National Marine Park and discovering the importance of ocean conservation, to sailing across Plymouth Sound and enjoying locally sourced seafood, this itinerary connects visitors with the people, places and organisations working to protect Plymouth's marine environment.



9.30am – Arrive in Britain's Ocean City

Begin your day at The Hoe, one of Plymouth's most iconic waterfront locations.

Take a gentle guided walk along the Hoe, taking in spectacular views across Plymouth Sound towards Drake's Island and the wider National Marine Park.

This is an ideal introduction to Plymouth's relationship with the sea – from its maritime heritage to its future as a city focused on marine conservation, research and sustainable tourism.

Group experience:

- Guided Hoe walk
- Introduction to Plymouth Sound National Marine Park
- Views across the Sound and coastline
- Opportunity for photographs at Smeaton's Tower and the waterfront. Group entry can also be arranged for Smeaton's Tower.
- To book a walking tour of Plymouth, visit <https://plymouthwalkingtours.co.uk/>

11.00am – Explore Plymouth Sound by Boat

Head down to the Barbican and board a Plymouth Boat Trips harbour cruise.



The one-hour scenic cruise provides a fantastic way for groups to experience Plymouth Sound from the water, passing Plymouth Hoe, Drake's Island, Mount Edgcombe, Royal William Yard and the Tamar. Group and coach-party bookings are available.

This is more than simply a sightseeing cruise – it allows visitors to appreciate the scale and importance of Plymouth Sound and understand how the city's history, economy, communities and environment are all connected to the sea.

To book, visit plymouthboattrips.co.uk

For larger groups or a more exclusive experience, consider a private charter. Plymouth Boat Trips offers private cruises for groups and corporate events.

12.15pm – Sustainable Seafood Lunch

Return to the waterfront for a lunch showcasing the best of South West seafood.



Recommended group dining: Rockfish

The restaurant sources fish from trusted boats and fisheries, including MSC-certified sources, and its menu changes according to seasonal landings. Much of its fish comes from the Brixham fleet, making the connection between local fishing, the South West economy and the food on your plate particularly tangible.

It also has a strong group proposition and is located beside the National Marine Aquarium and Plymouth Fish Market – making it easy to link ocean, fishing, conservation and food together.

therockfish.co.uk/pages/restaurant/plymouth

Sustainability story: Plymouth Boat Trips has also been involved in the development of electric marine technology, working with universities and marine partners on the e-Voyager project to help create a cleaner future for passenger vessels.

2.00pm – Ocean Conservation Experience

Continue to the Ocean Conservation Trust and National Marine Aquarium for an afternoon focused on marine conservation. The Ocean Conservation Trust is a charity working to protect and restore nature for a thriving ocean, with a strong focus on inspiring people to connect with the marine environment.

For groups, there are opportunities including guided aquarium tours and behind-the-scenes experiences, subject to group size and availability. The Trust also offers business engagement experiences such as blue-space clean-ups, which could be particularly interesting for corporate or special-interest groups.

4.00pm – Plymouth's Historic Barbican

Finish the day with a walk through the historic Barbican, bringing together Plymouth's maritime past and its future relationship with the ocean.

Groups can explore the historic harbour, Sutton Harbour and the Mayflower Steps before enjoying some free time to explore the independent shops, galleries and waterfront. The Barbican is also home to the world famous Plymouth Gin Distillery.

This also provides a natural opportunity to highlight how Plymouth's historic fishing and maritime industries continue to shape the city's food, culture and visitor economy.

Optional Group Experience – Ocean Safari

For groups looking for something more hands-on, consider an Ocean Safari in Plymouth Sound. These experiences explore the National Marine Park while introducing visitors to marine life and conservation, including seagrass meadows, local marine species and plankton.

Possible group themes:

- Discovering Plymouth Sound's marine life
- Why seagrass matters
- Understanding marine conservation
- Ocean literacy
- The future of our oceans
- Ocean Safari availability, capacity and accessibility should be checked when booking.

Sustainable Seafood Options

For groups staying overnight, extend the experience with a sustainable seafood dinner.



The Bottling Plant

A unique dining experience in an historic setting. Our name pays homage to the building's heritage as the original bottling site for Plymouth Gin, and we are conveniently located directly opposite The Distillery.

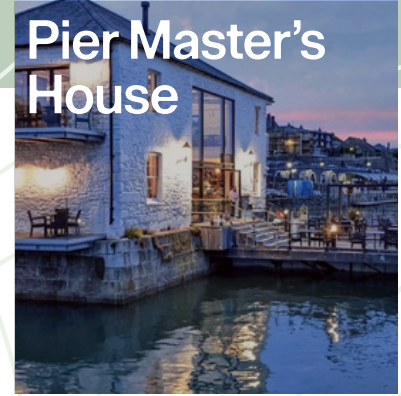
We specialise in locally sourced sea food and we have our famous seafood afternoon tea available for groups!



The Boathouse

Situated on Commercial Wharf, this offers another waterfront dining option and can work particularly well when combined with a Plymouth Boat Trips cruise.

Plymouth Boat Trips already promotes cruise-and-quayside lunch packages with The Boathouse.



Pier Master's House

Pier Master's House seats over 300 with 3 balcony areas, a large deck with ample outdoor covered seating and upstairs and downstairs indoor areas. This is supplied with two purpose-built bars, one on each floor, along with a state-of-the-art kitchen.

Disabled access throughout the downstairs indoor area and the lower balcony.



Platters

Located directly on the Barbican, Platters provides a waterfront seafood option and is particularly well positioned for groups wanting to dine within Plymouth's historic harbour.



The Harbour Seafood Restaurant & Takeaway

The classic fish and chip shop choice. Another Barbican/Sutton Harbour option for groups looking for a more informal seafood experience.

For more information on Group dining, accommodation and things to see and do for groups please visit <https://www.visitplymouth.co.uk/traveltrade>