

Visit magical Exeter during this year's festive season



Visit Exeter this Christmas for the wonderfully atmospheric Christmas Market on Cathedral Green, open from 16 November until the 17 December. Browse for unique and artisan gifts from local retailers housed in traditional wooden chalets, and enjoy festive food and mulled wine while listening to local bands on the bandstand at the foot of the magnificent West Front of Exeter Cathedral.

Join the Exeter Philharmonic Choir and the Cathedral Choir for candlelit carol concerts in the Cathedral in the run-up to Christmas, a truly fantastic spectacle. The Cathedral opens its doors for free between 7-8 November for its Winter Fair, with more than 60 stalls laid out in this beautiful building, home to the longest stretch of unbroken Gothic roof vaulting in the world.

All of the city's historic attractions are open year-round. Escape the hubbub of Christmas shoppers to explore beneath the city's streets with a guided tour of Exeter's Underground

Passages, built in medieval times to house the fresh water pipes serving the residents of the city. The Passages are dark and very narrow — not for the claustrophobic!

Join a free guided walking tour of Exeter with the Red Coat Guides to discover more about this fascinating city and its 2,000-year history. Tours run daily throughout the year, except 25-26 December, and there's no need to book, just turn up at the West Front of the Cathedral.

Exeter's compact city centre makes it ideal for Christmas shopping. An eclectic mix of shops can be found within easy walking distance of each other, from the big names in the High Street and Princesshay, such as John Lewis and Debenhams, to independent and vintage fashions, jewellery, crafts and gifts in the cobbled Gandy Street and quirky West Quarter. Arrive on a Thursday for late-night shopping surrounded by Exeter's Christmas lights, with the Christmas Market also open late every Thursday — Saturday.

On Saturday 2 December, the independent shops and restaurants of Magdalen Road spill out onto the street for the annual Christmas Fair, with the best street food, drink, Christmas shopping and live entertainment that the West Country has to offer. There will also be a weekend market on Castle Street in the run-up



to Christmas where local retailers will be showcasing their wares.

When you're shopped out, cosy up with a real ale in one of Exeter's historic pubs, such as the Ship Inn, reputed to have been frequented by Sir Francis Drake, or seek out one of the city's speakeasy-style cocktail bars for a seasonal concoction. This should get you in the mood for a festive singalong to this year's pantomime performance of *Cinderella* at the Exeter Corn Exchange, presented by a top-class West End cast from 9 December until 1 January.

Excellent road, rail, bus and air links mean Exeter is within easy reach of the rest of the UK, and the city is an ideal base for exploring the rest of Devon.

Find out about visiting Exeter this Christmas:
T: 01392 665700, visitexeter.com