

YOUR GUIDE TO

CHRISTMAS **City** **IN THE 25**



**'TIS THE SEASON
IN SOUTHAMPTON**

Christmas in Southampton

From twinkling lights around the rink to the bustling Christmas Markets, Southampton comes alive with magic, music and delicious food to enjoy all season long.

Whether you're hunting for unique gifts, enjoying family trails, or savouring festive cocktails, there's a festive treat around every corner. Skate across Westquay's ice rink, marvel at our Snow Windows Trail, or catch a show at one of our theatres. Southampton has that extra-special something to make your Christmas shine.

Discover the festive fun at visitsouthampton.co.uk/christmas

Special winter offers

In the centre of this guide, you can enjoy some exclusive offers from local businesses. To see all our offers, head to visitsouthampton.co.uk/special-offers



Christmas events

Snow Windows Trail

City centre
29 November – 4 January

FREE

Brought to you by GO! Southampton, the Snow Windows Trail returns for a second year! Over 20 windows will come to life with dazzling snowy winter displays across the city. Take the Snowflake or Star route, find the hand-crafted artwork and take the Southampton quiz along the way. Everyone who completes the trail will be rewarded with a free prize — so grab your trail map and explore the city this season.

Scan the QR code at each stop to unlock special offers, discounts and prize draws from local businesses. Find out where to get your trail map, or download your own at visitsouthampton.co.uk/christmas-trail



Christmas at Candyland Village

The Marlands
13 & 20 December



This December, families are in for a sweet treat as the Marlands transforms into a magical Candyland Village. Drop by between 11am – 4pm to meet their cheeky gingerbread



visitors and enjoy crafty workshops led by the team from Southampton's SeaCity Museum. There will also be a special prize draw for a chance to win vouchers for Mayflower Theatre.

marlandsshoppingcentre.co.uk/events

Mental Elf Fun Run

Southampton Common
7 December

Gather your squad – be it family, friends, co-workers, or even your furry friend – for this year's 5k charity fun run. Whether you opt for elf attire or deck yourself out in festive gear, you're in for an outdoor blast, all in the name of a great cause. Funds are raised for Hampshire's mental health support champion, Solent Mind. solentmind.org.uk/news-events



Westquay On Ice

Westquay Esplanade
On now until 4 January

Lace up your skates, because Westquay On Ice returns to the Esplanade! Perfect for families and friends, the covered rink invites you to glide and twirl under a canopy of lights. Situated just outside the historic town walls, every moment on the ice feels truly magical. Whether you're a seasoned skater or taking your first spin, there's a bit of icy fun waiting for everyone.

westquay.co.uk/see-and-do/on-ice-at-westquay



Saints Santa Dash

St Mary's Stadium
7 December

Join Saints Foundation and Mountbatten Hampshire for a magical day out as St Mary's Stadium is transformed into a Winter Wonderland! Take part in a 5K run around the stadium and enjoy live music and tasty seasonal treats – all while raising funds for two incredible local causes.

southamptonfc.com/en/saints-santa-dash



Markets

Southampton Christmas Market

Above Bar Precinct,
Bargate & Guildhall Square

On now until 4 January

Southampton's city centre will sparkle with the return of S&D Leisure's Christmas Market. Stroll through over 20 traditional wooden chalets selling handcrafted gifts including candles, jewellery, clothing, Christmas decorations and more.

This year, the city's Bargate will play host to thrilling rides, including the Ferris Wheel, Snowball Launcher and AtmosFear. New for 2025 is the breathtaking 60-metre Star Flyer ride in Guildhall Square along with family favourites that promise plenty of excitement.

Indulge in Dutch pancakes, doughnuts, Yorkshire pudding wraps and German sausages (including vegetarian and vegan options) or head to the pop-up bars for warming hot chocolate, mulled wine, beer and cider.

Don't miss the spectacular Bargate light show, transforming the city's historic landmark into a magical backdrop to tell a Christmas story. Showing every 30 minutes from 5pm-10.30pm until 24 December.

southamptonchristmasmarket.co.uk



Winter Makers Market

God's House Tower

6 & 7, 13 & 14 December

An independent Winter Makers Market in the heart of the Old Town, featuring works from local creatives. Shop unique handcrafted gifts and original artwork while supporting independent artists and makers

godshousetower.org.uk/exhibitions



Carlton Place Market

Carlton Place

6 December

Carlton Place Market is the perfect place to find artisan and bespoke gifts for Christmas. Browse stalls filled with local produce, candles, jams, chutneys and preserves, fun stationery for stocking fillers and so much more! Afterwards, stay in the area and enjoy a drink or a bite to eat at one of its many independent restaurants, bars or pubs.

During their December market, you can enjoy live music from 10am to 4pm with Christmas covers, traditional festive songs from Angling For Farthings and Christmas tunes from Ken Garrick playing saxophone.



Where to meet Father Christmas

Tudor House & Garden

6 & 7, 13 & 14, 20 - 22 December

Discover the magic of Christmas at Tudor House. Enjoy a visit to Father Christmas in the Banqueting Hall, complete with a gift. Get creative with a craft activity, then relax with a sweet treat in the café before exploring the museum with the Christmas Tudor House Mouse trail.

tudorhouseandgarden.com/whats-on



John Lewis & Partners

11 - 14 December

Join Santa for a Christmas story, whilst you enjoy a warming cup of cocoa and festive treat. Children will receive a special LEGO™ set to take home with each ticket.

experiences.johnlewis.com



Southampton Christmas Market

On now until 24 December

Children can meet Father Christmas this year in his grotto on the Precinct where he will be checking his list to see who's been naughty and nice.

southamptonchristmasmarket.co.uk

The Grand

21 & 25 December

Father Christmas will be making two very special visits this year to The Grand! Indulge in a delightful feast and a drop in from the man himself in this beautiful historic venue.

thegrandsouthampton.co.uk

IKEA

6 & 7, 13 & 14,
20 - 23 December

IKEA Family members are invited to join Santa for breakfast in their restaurant. Santa will be there to say hello to everyone and children can write a letter to him.

ikea.com/gb/en/stores/events



Shopping in Southampton

Southampton city centre is packed with all your favourite retailers, making it easy to tick everything off your Christmas wishlist. Many stores stay open later in the run-up to Christmas, giving you extra time to browse at your own pace.

visitsouthampton.co.uk/things-to-do/shopping/late-night

Westquay

From high-street favourites to festive pop-ups, Westquay is a fantastic place to start your Christmas shopping. With over 100 retailers, discover gift ideas at stores like Oliver Bonas, The Body Shop, Scribbler and Flying Tiger, or treat yourself at specialty spots such as Lush, Hotel Chocolat and Goldsmiths. Late-night shopping starts in Westquay from 15 December, where stores are open until 9pm.

westquay.co.uk

Marlands

The Marlands offers a mix of high-street essentials and quirky boutiques. Pick up stylish winter fashion at Roman Originals, Moss Bros, Lillies Fashion Boutique and Yours Clothing, or find unique gifts at Coconut Toys and Fancy Dress, Cool! Merch, GoGo Gadget, or CeX. The

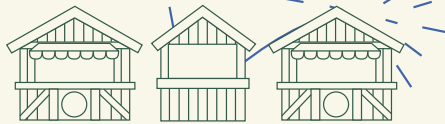
Marlands is also a great place to pause for a festive coffee or treat while you shop. Late night shopping until 8pm starts in December, check the website for more details.

marlandsshoppingcentre.co.uk

West Quay Retail Park

For larger stores and practical gifts, West Quay Retail Park has you covered. Explore Mamas & Papas, Decathlon, Mountain Warehouse, JD Sports, Smyths Toys and Currys PC World, or stock up on festive homeware and seasonal essentials at Matalan and Food Warehouse.

westquayretail.com



Shop the high street

Southampton's city centre is full of both major and independent brands. From putting together the perfect party outfit at River Island, Urban Outfitters and Primark to fun and affordable gifts at TK Maxx and The Works, there's plenty to delight everyone on your list.

For bespoke photo gifts, try Southampton Design & Print, Colour Company, Photogenic and Ryman or capture your own memories with a family portrait at Venture Photography.



Kales giortes **ハッピーホリデー**
Veselé svátky **Felices fiestas**
Joyeuses fêtes **Jiérì kuàilè**

Frohe Feiertage
Mutlu tatiller
Prettige feestdagen

Happy Holidays

즐거วน 휴일 되세요 **Glad helg** **节日快乐**

Boas festas **عيد عس تال طع**

Chagim Sameach

Chuttiyon ki shubhkamnayein

Wesołych Świąt

छुट्टियों की शुभकामनाएँ



12 Days of Christmas in Southampton

Keep these vouchers handy and enjoy a little extra sparkle when you shop locally this festive season.

Make sure you hand over the vouchers to receive these special offers.



For full T&Cs on each of the offers below scan the QR code or go to visitsouthampton.co.uk/christmas/terms-and-conditions



£5 OFF

when you spend £50 or more in-store at W.J French & Son

*On full-priced items only.
Valid until 31 Dec 2025.*

15% discount

on drinks at The Grapes

*Not valid with any other offer.
Excludes bottled wine/champagne.
Valid until 31 Jan 2026.*

FREE

Hahnel Lens & Camera Cleaning Kit with any purchase over £200 at London Camera Exchange (Civic Centre and High Street)

*Cannot be used with other offers.
Valid until 24 Dec 2025.*

Buy one get one FREE

on cocktails at Diego's

Monday – Friday, 12 – 5pm. Must be same cocktail. Valid until 30 Dec 2025.

£5 OFF

when you spend £30 or more in-store at Decathlon

Valid until 31 Dec 2025.

£5 OFF

when you spend £25 or more in-store at Sprinkles Gelato (Above Bar and Portswood)

Valid until 31 Dec 2025.

FREE

bottle of prosecco with a booking for a table of five or more at Kwackers

Valid until 9 Jan 2026.

FREE

bottle of Singha with a main meal at Thaikhun Southampton

*Available Sunday – Thursday only.
Valid until 31 Dec 2025.*

20% OFF

single general admission using code **SOTONCHRISTMAS** at High Score Arcades

Valid until 23 Dec 2025.

20% discount

at Locked In A Room with code **GO!XMAS**

Cannot be used on Wallace & Gromit experience. Valid until 1 Jan 2026.

20% OFF

January event tickets at The 1865 with the code **CHRISTMAS20**

Valid until 31 Jan 2026.

20% OFF

on food from the A La Carte menu at Las Iguanas

Valid until 31 Jan 2026.

What's On in Southampton 2026

Keep the celebrations going into the new year by ringing in 2026 right here in Southampton. For the latest event details, visit our New Year's Eve page at visitsouthampton.co.uk/newyear

February

Lunar New Year celebrations
Citywide (FREE)
City Reflections
Citywide,
18 - 21 February (FREE)



May

Southampton ABP Marathon
Citywide, 3 May
Wanderlust Festival
Heartbreakers, Joiners,
The 1865, 23 - 24 May



June

Southampton Summer Sessions
Guildhall Square
ICC Women's T20 World Cup
Utilita Bowl,
13, 16, 19 & 20 June



March

Holi Hungama
Guildhall Square,
7 March (FREE)
Southampton's Easter Trail
City Centre (FREE)



JANE AUSTEN 250

On 16 December, Southampton marks the 250th anniversary of Jane Austen's birth. As one of the city's most notable former residents, her legacy will be celebrated with special events in the lead-up to the day, including:

- Your Stories Exhibition: Creative Responses to Jane Austen at Southampton Central Library (on now until 19 December)
- Jane Austen's Regency Ball at Townhill Park House (13 December)
- Jane Austen: In Her Own Words with the Sarah Siddons Fan Club Theatre at The Masons Hall (16 December)
- Jane's Birthday Party: Drop-in Creative Tea Party at Southampton Central Library (16 December)

visitsouthampton.co.uk/jane-austen-250

Shows

The Pantomime Adventures of Peter Pan

Mayflower Theatre

13 December - 4 January

The South Coast's largest pantomime is back this festive season with **The Pantomime Adventures of Peter Pan**. Prepare for an unforgettable adventure with an all-star cast including Alexandra Burke (Captain Hook), Dr Ranj (The Magical Merman), Max Fulham (Smee), Rhannon Chesterman (Wendy Darling), Noah Harrison (Peter Pan) and Carly Joan Furlong (Tink). With spectacular special effects, dazzling sets, gorgeous costumes and laughter galore, Peter Pan will take the whole family on a swashbuckling trip to Neverland! Tickets from £19.50.



English National Ballet The Sleeping Beauty

Mayflower Theatre

26 - 29 November

English National Ballet returns to Mayflower Theatre this festive season, with the classic fairytale ballet **The Sleeping Beauty**. Watch as English National Ballet dancers bring this bewitching fairytale to life with beautiful choreography, stunning sets and Tchaikovsky's iconic score played live by the English National Ballet Philharmonic. Tickets from £27.



Counting Down To Christmas

Mayflower Studios

5 - 24 December

It's nearly Christmas, but Ebbie doesn't care. When a mysterious envelope arrives through Ebbie's letterbox, it starts a series of events that change how they feel about Christmas forever. With original music, colourful design and sensory elements, **Counting Down to Christmas** is full of surprises - an enchanting adventure for little ones and their grown-ups. All performances are relaxed and baby friendly. Tickets from £11.



A Christmas Carol

Mayflower Studios

21 - 31 December

Back by popular demand after a sell-out 2023 season, **A Christmas Carol** is a youthfully spirited musical which takes you on a journey of discovery and leaves you feeling uplifted. Featuring a cast of 50 young performers, this vibrant tale of Ebenezer Scrooge and one unforgettable night comes vividly to life in a festive show that will delight families this Christmas. Tickets from £14.50.



Pussy in Boots

The Stage Door

20 November - 20 December

Laughs, chaos and festive mischief await! The Stage Door's adult-only panto, **Pussy in Boots**, is perfect for a Christmas night out with friends or colleagues. Expect outrageous antics and a hilariously unforgettable evening at Southampton's beloved cabaret theatre.



Christmas concerts & live music

**SATURDAY
LIVE**
every Saturday
3 – 7pm
The Social
(FREE)

**Martin Kemp –
Back To The 80s
Christmas Party**
5 December
Engine Rooms

**Connaught
Brass at
Christmas**
16 December
Turner Sims

**Blue Christmas
with Elvis Returns**
18 December
The 1865

**Aurie Styla's
Christmas
Crackup Tour
2025**
12 December
Central Hall

**The Big 90's
Christmas
Tribute**
20 December
02 Guildhall
Southampton

**BSO
Voices: Winter
Wonderland**
13 December
02 Guildhall
Southampton

**The
Candlelight
Concert**
13 December
Central Hall

**Swing Into
Christmas with
Down for the
Count Orchestra**
20 December
Turner Sims

**Stand Up In
The Basement**
18 December
Heartbreakers

**Black Kat
Boppers**
20 December
Heartbreakers

**For all Christmas
events scan here**



Christmas parties

Festive food

Gather friends, family, or colleagues for a seasonal feast with delicious set menus at independents like Carnicero, George's Restaurant and La Regata or hit your well-known favourites like Las Iguanas, Red Dog Saloon and Bella Italia.

Looking for something a little different? Kick off your party with warming Thai dishes at Mango Thai Tapas, Thaikhun and Mama's Kitchen, or dive into a steaming bowl of ramen at Hokkaido, Sakura and Edo Asia.

For a Bavarian-inspired experience, head to Stein Garten, where you'll find hearty German-style fare, flowing steins of beer and a festive set menu.

Dancing in the city

Dance the night away at Popworld, Trilogy, Café Parfait, Buddha Lounge, Orange Rooms and the brand-new club - Circuit.

Enjoy live music, DJ sets and festive cocktails at a range of bars and lounges including Grumpy Monkey, Medbar and Rita's. Whether you're celebrating with friends or looking for a lively night out after a day of Christmas shopping, Southampton's nightlife has the perfect spot to toast the season.

The city proudly holds Purple Flag accreditation which recognises destinations for their safe, vibrant and welcoming nightlife for all.



Group experiences

Make your Christmas party memorable with a shared experience! Challenge your team to an escape room at Locked In A Room or The Dark Arts Potion Bar, score a strike at Hollywood Bowl, or enjoy a movie night at Showcase Cinema de Lux.

For something a bit more relaxed, places like Sharkeys, Rocket Ronnies, The Mayflower Village, O'Neill's and CRIB offer pool tables, interactive darts, shuffleboard and more.

Karaoke? Yes please! Belt out a tune or two at Boom Battle Bar, Slug & Lettuce, Yates or Shanghai 1814.



Take a bite

When it comes to food, nibbles and bubbly, the city is packed with flavours to savour. Looking for a Sunday roast this winter? Cricketers Arms, Papillon, Platform Tavern, Duke of Wellington, Scholars Arms or Porters are just a few of the places to feast on all the trimmings.

Try authentic Italian dining at Max's Brasserie and Soletto or Ottoman Kitchen for Turkish dishes coupled with fantastic entertainment. For a taste of India head to Tap & Tandoor, Mint Lounge, Padharo and Chennai Lounge or Kwackers for a Western/Asian street food fusion.



Sugar, spice and everything nice

If it's a sweet stop you're after, Southampton has plenty of delicious options to tempt you. Indulge in decadent desserts at Sprinkles Gelato, Heavenly Desserts or Chaiology or tuck into some sweet and savoury fluffy pancakes at Stakks Pancake House or Mettricks Guildhall Square.

For a chocolate fix, stop by Hotel Chocolat and Fredericks for gift boxes or grab a doughnut or two from Krispy Kreme, The Nest Coffee House, Greggs or Stone Ground Donuts.



Coffee, cocktails & more

Whether you're after a caffeine kick or something completely different, the city centre offers the perfect spots to sip and unwind. Start your day with a warming coffee at Mettricks, Muse or The Nest Coffee House — all much-loved local independents. If cocktails are more your style, enjoy creative serves at Rita's, XOXO, Heartbreakers, Mailroom or All Bar One.

Beer lovers can sip on craft brews at Dancing Man Brewery, London Road Brew House and Overdraft, while The Grapes, Oasis Bar and The Social are great for ciders, spirits and good company.

For a fun and refreshing twist, try one of Southampton's bubble tea spots including Bubbleology, Chatime, Happy Lemon, HEY Tea or Hi Tea.



Trails and tours

Whether you're exploring hidden lanes by lantern light or discovering festive landmarks with the family, these trails are a wonderful way to soak up the city's Christmas spirit. For all of the city's trails and tours, head to visitsouthampton.co.uk/things-to-do/trails-tours



Joy to the World!

Saturdays & Sundays 6 – 28 December
Meet at the Bargate at 1.30pm

Join the See Southampton heritage guides on a walk through the Christmas past of Southampton! Explore the Western Walls and Vaults, recounting tales of yesteryear, referencing historical characters, events and songs. Tours last approximately 90 minutes.

seesouthampton.co.uk



In the footsteps of Jane Austen

Southampton Tourist Guide Association has been celebrating the 250th year of Jane Austen's birthday (16 December 1775) with guided tours of locations Jane would have known and visited. These tours will be continuing into December, see website for times and dates.

southamptontouristguides.co.uk

Christmas Lantern Tours with Andy Skinner

20 December, 5pm & 7pm

Tudor House & Garden

Torches at the ready! Join local guide Andy Skinner for a lantern-lit walk through Southampton's Old Town. Hear tales of Jane Austen's Christmas, festive songs from the city and why Christmas 1945 was one to forget — with a peek inside hidden medieval vaults along the way.

southamptonmuseumsandgallery.co.uk/events

Don't forget our FREE Snow Windows Trail

running from 29 November – 4 January across the city centre.

Explore over 20 uniquely designed windows, featuring festive characters, winter scenes and even Jane Austen! Download your map at visitsouthampton.co.uk/christmas-trail



Arty activities

Families can enjoy festive crafts and seasonal workshops at the city's cultural venues including SeaCity Museum, Tudor House & Garden and Southampton City Art Gallery from gonk and wreath-making to painting and Christmas ornament creations.

southamptonmuseumsandgallery.co.uk/events



Paddington has a new home!

Everyone's favourite marmalade-loving bear has now settled in his new home in Guildhall Square. Find him between John Hansard Gallery and Mayflower Studios.



Travelling to Southampton

Getting into Southampton – and around it – is hassle-free. Walk, cycle, or hop on public transport to enjoy the city at your own pace.

Bus

Bluestar connects surrounding towns with single fares from £2.60 in the daytime and just £1 after 6pm! Contactless and paperless options available.

Train

Direct links from Bournemouth, Portsmouth, Winchester, and more. Southampton Central is a 10-minute walk to the heart of the city.

Car

Easy access via the M3 and M27, with parking conveniently located around the city centre. Plus, the city's new Park & Ride service at Adanac Drive runs on Saturdays, Sundays, and Bank Holidays (parking just £3). The PR1 shuttle takes you straight to Southampton Central and Westquay, making your trip easier than ever!

Ferry

Regular Red Funnel crossings from the Isle of Wight for pedestrians and vehicles, both day and night.

E-bikes & scooters





Voi bikes and E-scooters offer eco-friendly rides around town.

Plan your journey at myjourneysouthampton.com

Your Southampton

Your Community. Your City. Your Home.

LOVE local? Follow Your Southampton for local events, inspiration and community news.

 @yoursoton  @your_southampton  @visitsoton  @visit_soton



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