

Off to Plymouth – in the rain

Weather forecast in such a small land mass is a very difficult task evening with super computers so although the weather for the weekend was showing to be good we had to endure a couple of hours of rain storms on the way, so be it.

We stopped off at a long standing friend's who is it diagnostician and presenter of new methods of looking at the body and had a wonderful couple of hours with her before moving on to our hotel on the east side of Plymouth. I like Premier Inn hotels because they are all run the same way – to a good standard. We will have to put up with breakfast served at our table instead of the buffet which I so much love but that was a small price to pay.

I also like the very comfortable beds. Unfortunately the fan was a bit loud so we had to ask housekeeping to come and turn it off though the price for that was that you need to leave the back window open which was exposed to the noise from what I can describe as the busiest junction in the South West, busy night and day with trucks and cars.

I don't want to be rude to the residents of this town, bombed to pieces in the Second World war, but it's one of the ugliest towns I can recall. The centre is functional enough but there are too many featureless concrete buildings sitting there doing nothing apart from serving their purpose.

We were taken on a brief journey by our host and saw the testimony to our great naval history particularly in the wars.





A huge memorial commemorating 22,000 serving troops who died in the war.

WELCOME TO PLYMOUTH, HOE

History
The Hoe dates back to the medieval era when the first settlers arrived. This was long before the exploits of Sir Francis Drake, who played bowls here while waiting for the Spanish Armada in 1588. The colonnaded Belvedere, locally known as the "wedding cake" was once the site of a bull-ring where bull basting took place until 1815. As you walk around the Hoe, it's easy to see why the Victorians enjoyed the views and developed the park during the 1870s. The landmark lighthouse was built by John Smeaton to guard the Eddystone Reef. It was relocated to the Hoe in 1882 and is open to visitors.

Present day
The Hoe is hugely important to Plymouth as a civic memorial site and a major events space. For current information about events please go to www.visitplymouth.co.uk

The Sensory Garden south west of the promenade is a seating area for quiet contemplation. For something slightly more strenuous, try your hand on the putting green, boules pitch, or swim in the restored 1935 Art Deco lido, a wonderful natural sea water pool open from April to September. Visit www.everyoneactive.com for further details.

Along the waterfront there are numerous cafes, bars and restaurants with amazing views of the spectacular natural harbour and Drake's Island.

The Hoe has been awarded the prestigious Green Flag award for 13 consecutive years, a scheme which recognises and rewards the very best green spaces in the country.

Plymouth
Britain's Ocean City

Please respect the Hoe park and help us ensure it is a place for everyone to enjoy.

Please keep your dogs under control and clear up any mess, take your litter home.

Enjoy your music but please be considerate of others.

Automated External Defibrillator

Nearest Automated External Defibrillator is situated at

Liner Lookout Cafe

www.plymouth.gov.uk
01752 668000

CITY OF PLYMOUTH



One of the inlets of Plymouth but not the harbour as such.



We then went off to visit a tattoo parlour run by my friend at which his two sons work. These guys are totally in to art as well and here are some examples of their works for sale. (apart from the tattoo part which I did not feel comfortable photographing while the client was in the chair))



We ended the evening in Totnes sitting round a fire with 20 or so like minded souls talking about the world, 5G, COVID, campaigning etc. Totness is a little gem, a bit like Glastonbury, with its own distinctive style.

