

## A SHORT WALKING TOUR THROUGH SALISBURY

If you have a choice, a Tuesday or Saturday are good days to choose as these are market days.

From the Coach Park, cross the small bridge into the Central Car Park. Keep to the left hand edge taking the path that runs alongside the small river.

You will pass the public toilets and then Sainsburys on your right. Turn left and then right, keeping the river on you left; (do not go through the covered way on your left.)

You then come to Polly's Tea Rooms on your left, in St Thomas's Square. Ahead is St Thomas's Church entrance. The church was founded in 1238 but is now mainly 15<sup>th</sup> century, and inside, on the chancel arch, is the famous "Doom" painting, dated about 1475.

Leave the church by the same door, turn right and follow the path into the street. Cross over the roads and arrive in Blue Boar Row, and head for Debenhams. At the left hand end of their shop front is a plaque stating the spot where Henry 2<sup>nd</sup>, Duke of Buckingham was executed on 2<sup>nd</sup> November 1483.

From here, face the Market Place and head for the right hand corner of the Market, and there walk between the shops to bring you to the Poultry Cross, first mentioned in 1335. On the other side of the road is *The Haunch of Venison Inn*. This inn is one of the oldest in the city and has an old pewter bar area. It also has a mummified human hand on display, (someone in the 17<sup>th</sup> century cheated whilst gambling at cards?).

From *The Haunch of Venison*, cross over the road towards the Poultry Cross and follow the road round to the right. At the cross roads, turn left into High Street and walk straight ahead.

At the junction with New Street go straight on, noting Mitre House on the corner and the old building opposite, now a restaurant. Go straight on through the High Street Gate to the Cathedral Close.

On your left is the College of Matrons (1682), built to house twelve clergy widows, which it still does. Go straight on but turn left down North Walk, leading to St Anne's Gate (1333).

Walk to the Gate noticing on the left, en route, The Martyrs Memorial on the wall and Malmesbury House with its sundial. The room over the Gate is said to be where Handel held his first public concert in England.

At St Anne's Gate turn and walk up the other side of the North Walk. At 11 The Close, you come to Bishop Wordsworth School with a blue plaque on the wall noting that the author William Golding (*Lord of the Flies*) taught here.

When you reach the Close Green take the diagonal path across it until you reach the Cathedral west front. Turn left walking along the front, you come to the entrance to the cathedral (fee payable), but you can enter here and view the cloisters and visit the modern refectory free.

Inside the Cathedral (1220-1258), there is much to see including:

Old Cathedral clock in the nave, 14<sup>th</sup> century, made by local blacksmiths.

note how the four pillars at the central crossing are bowed under the weight of the spire.

tomb of William Longspree, died in 1226, the half brother to King John.

Chapter House which houses Magna Carta.

Visits to the top of the tower are available daily except in December, (332 steps) and take about two hours. For booking details on the website see [www.salisburycathedral.org.uk](http://www.salisburycathedral.org.uk) or tel. 01722 555156

Coming out of the Cathedral entrance turn left and continue into the road and then turn right. At the top of the road turn right again, following the Close low wall; you are now in West Walk.

You now come to Kings House on your left, now the Salisbury Museum, and further along you come to *Arundels*, the former home of Edward Heath. The next place of interest is *The Wardrobe*, which dates from 1254, now a regimental museum.

Continue on and turn right at the top where on your left is Mompesson House (1701), now National Trust.

You may now retrace your steps via the High Street Gate, High Street, straight across the road into St Thomas's Square, and then the footpath back to the Central Car Park.

P. J. B. Sept 2009

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**OLD SARUM**, the original Norman settlement in the area where the castle and first cathedral were built, is situated 2 miles to the north of Salisbury on the A345. It is now an English Heritage site. Further details can be found on their website at [www.english-heritage.org.uk](http://www.english-heritage.org.uk)

(Enter Old Sarum in the SEARCH BOX at the top of the home page.)



