

## The Trail



Start your walk at **1**

**The Bargate.** The plaque here reminds us of Jane's first visit to Southampton as a schoolgirl, aged seven, with her sister and cousin. The site of **2**

**All Saints Church** is down the High Street on the left at the corner of East Street. Because of wartime bombs and incendiaries, only a plaque marks the site of a very beautiful Georgian church where Jane worshipped.

Retrace your steps past the Bargate, turn left into Bargate Street and use the underpass signed to West Quay.



**3 The Spa Gardens**

site, Arundel Circus, is where the spa fountain and botanical gardens were located. The spa water was said to cure everything except a

broken heart. Jane and her family walked here almost daily. The gardens overlooked the tidal River Test. Walk down the steps and follow the Town Walls from Arundel Tower, past Catchcold Tower, and climb the forty steps to Forest View, a narrow street perched above the ramparts.



**4 Jane Austen's House, No 2 Castle**

Square, was where The Juniper Berry pub now stands. She lived here

from early 1807 until April 1809. The square in front of the pub is roughly the same shape and size as it was in Jane Austen's time. The tall block of flats is where the Marquis of Lansdowne built his mock gothic castle.



## Jane Austen

Author: 1775 – 1817

Only six novels completed by her own pen, yet Jane Austen stands as a giant in the history of English Literature

## Heritage trail



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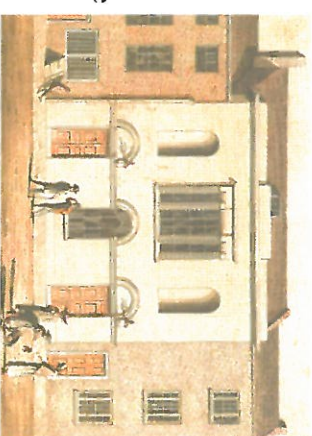




Proceed down Upper Bugle Street to the Simmel Street junction; turn right through the housing estate to Western Esplanade. Across the road, next to The Quays swimming baths, was where **5 The Long Rooms and Hot Baths** were built in 1767 by John Martin. Dances were held here on four nights a week. The Lance family invited the Austens to the Long Rooms in January 1807, shortly after they had moved into their new home in Castle Square.

Re-cross the road and follow the impressive Town Walls, turning through the second gateway to Blue Anchor Lane. This lane climbs up to St Michael's Square. Beyond the church is French Street (latterly Castle Way) and, by turning right, you reach the site of **6 the Theatre Royal**, just past the Mediaeval Merchant's House. Jane Austen and her family visited this theatre on 14 September 1807 to see two plays starring the comedian, John Bannister.

Carry on down French Street to the main road. Turn left to reach **7 The Water Gate**. Water Gate quay was where Jane Austen and her family set off to Hythe by boat on Tuesday, 15 September 1807. They took afternoon tea with Mrs and Miss Palmer, who were staying at Hythe. The crossing must have been calm, because "Mamma was not at all sick" wrote Fanny Knight (Jane's niece) in her diary.



Next, cross the High Street and walk down Winkle Street towards the arch of God's House Gate. Pass through the gate to God's House Tower: ahead us **8 The Platform**, commonly known as "The Beach". It was a promenade which curved round to Cross House Quay and was a popular tree-lined walk for all Southampton people, including the Austens. In the winter of 1807, Frank, Jane's brother, found the meadow land (now Queen's Park) sufficiently frozen to try out his skills as an ice-skater.



Retrace your steps through the archway and turn right to follow the Town Walls, passing the site of the Friary, to Briton Street. Turn left and then right at the traffic lights to enter the High Street. Cross Bernard Street and you will find **9 The Dolphin Hotel** on the right. It is said that Jane Austen's brother, Frank, took her to a dance at the Dolphin Hotel to celebrate her eighteenth birthday in December 1793. Her letters confirm two other dances she attended there in the winter of 1808-09. At last, you can enter a building which Jane actually visited! The ballroom, with its magnificent bay windows, is on the first floor.