

OFFICIAL VISITOR GUIDE

# PORTSMOUTH



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23-24-25 AUGUST 2024 - PORTSMOUTH

# VICTORIOUS 2024

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IN THE UK, FEATURING SOME OF THE  
WORLD'S BIGGEST ARTISTS.



"A tremendous three-day extravaganza featuring a plethora of spectacular performances."

**CLASH**

"The best place to be in the whole world right now is right here at Victorious."

**SERGE - KASABIAN**

 PORTSMOUTH  
HISTORIC  
DOCKYARD



THE  
NATIONAL  
MUSEUM



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# WELCOME TO PORTSMOUTH

## THE GREAT WATERFRONT CITY

**P**ortsmouth, the great waterfront city, is the perfect place for your next short break or day trip. Located in the middle of England's beautiful south coast, Portsmouth is packed with great experiences, just waiting to be discovered.

The city is home to a number of world-class attractions. The best start to any visit is at the top of Spinnaker Tower. Take in the amazing views of the city and beyond, spot the places you plan to visit during your stay and, if you feel brave, venture across the glass floor!

Head down to the ground and indulge in some retail therapy at Gunwharf Quays designer outlet shopping centre – the ideal location to pick up a gift or two.

Discover more than 500 years of fascinating maritime history in Portsmouth Historic Dockyard, a visit includes the Mary Rose, HMS Victory, HMS Warrior and the National Museum of the Royal Navy. Take a boat trip around the harbour and view any visiting warships from the water.

In Southsea you can pick up the Mary Rose tale with a trip to Henry VIII's Southsea Castle. Visit The D-Day Story in this special anniversary year including going onboard the immense landing craft

LCT 7074, immersive museum displays and the grand finale – the 83-metre-long Overlord Embroidery.

The seafront is also perfect for a stroll, bite to eat and is home to a range of attractions and activities to keep all ages happy.

Portsmouth has a proud literary heritage – the birthplace of Charles Dickens has open days throughout the year and Portsmouth Museum and Art Gallery includes an exhibition about Sir Arthur Conan Doyle who penned the first Sherlock Holmes stories in the city.

Check out the city's creative sector with a visit to one of the many artist galleries, including Hotwalls Studios in Old Portsmouth. An overnight stay means you can take in a show, gig, or comedy night at one of the city's venues. Plan your visit ahead of time online at [visitportsmouth.co.uk](http://visitportsmouth.co.uk) so you can coincide it with an event, entertainment or activity of your choice.

With a wide selection of places to stay and great food choices you are sure to find something to meet your taste and budget – accommodation can get very busy in the summer months so book early to avoid disappointment.



1 [map: C7](#)

The D-Day Story

2 [map: A3](#)

HMS Victory, Portsmouth  
Historic Dockyard

3 [map: A4](#)

The marina,  
Gunwharf Quays

4 [map: A4](#)

Spinnaker Tower

### D-Day 80

6 June 2024 is the 80th anniversary of the D-Day landings in World War Two. Portsmouth will commemorate this with a series of events on and around the anniversary and The D-Day Story will be central to these. For the latest news on this and other city events go to [visitportsmouth.co.uk](http://visitportsmouth.co.uk)



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**Portsmouth**  
the great waterfront city

### On the cover

This year's cover features one of Louise Braithwaite's figurative oil paintings of The Camber Docks in Old Portsmouth. You can find her studio at Hotwalls, along with many other inspiring makers and creators (see page 20). [madloupublishing.com](http://madloupublishing.com)

# MARITIME TREASURES



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Explore 500 years of naval history at Portsmouth Historic Dockyard, from Henry VIII's favourite ship the Mary Rose to Nelson's flagship HMS Victory. Discover the world's first iron-hulled warship HMS Warrior, see a genuine First World War monitor ship, HMS M.33 and roam around the galleries packed full of fascinating stories and objects.

Get up close and personal to the momentous Victory Live: The Big Repair and experience the multi-million-pound conservation of HMS Victory. Visitors can see the cutting-edge repair in real time from special viewing platforms. You can also step onboard HMS Victory, walk the same decks as Nelson and see how the 800 members of crew would have lived.



1 [map: A3](#)

Victory Live

2 [map: A3](#)

Dive the Mary Rose 4-D

Image by Harvey Mills

3 [map: A3](#)

Worlds Beneath the Waves

4 [map: A3](#)

Mary Rose Museum

Image by Hufton+Crow

5 [map: A3](#)

Actors aboard

HMS Warrior

6 [map: A3](#)

HMS M.33

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Submarine Museum,  
Gosport

Step through time again and put on your 3-D glasses to enjoy an immersive cinema experience, Dive the Mary Rose 4-D, showcasing the untold story of the finding, excavation, and recovery of the Mary Rose. It's brought to life with a combination of archive footage and CGI, as well as multi-sensory features including sounds, smells, bubbles, wind and movement.

Continue your underwater journey and take a 150-year voyage of scientific exploration from HMS Challenger to find out how the Royal Navy discovers the wonders of the deep sea today. Explore scientific ideas through interactive exhibits, see Boaty McBoatface and create your own AI sea creature.





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Take a hop, skip and jump from the Dockyard to Gosport and the Royal Navy Submarine Museum where you can step foot on the only surviving British submarine from the Second World War, HMS Alliance. Close by, the thrilling Explosion Museum of Naval Firepower with its exhibitions and immersive recreations will put a bang in your day.

There's a ticket to suit everyone, with the best value being the Ultimate Explorer, which gives entry to all nine attractions all year, including the Harbour Tour providing unrivalled views of Britain's modern navy. When you visit, expect to be surprised and delighted by the number of unexpected experiences you will have at Portsmouth Historic Dockyard.



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Find out more and book online in advance to save at [historicdockyard.co.uk](http://historicdockyard.co.uk)





# SPECTACULAR VIEWS, UNFORGETTABLE EXPERIENCES

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[spinnakertower.co.uk](http://spinnakertower.co.uk)



continuum  
attractions



# THE VIEW GUARANTEED



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The iconic Spinnaker Tower stands at a soaring 170 metres tall, offering awe-inspiring 23-mile views over Portsmouth, the Solent, the South Downs, and the Isle of Wight.

The experience starts in the high-speed lift and in 30 seconds you step onto the viewing decks where Portsmouth, the great waterfront city, is showcased in all its glory.

These are unmissable sights, seen from a 350-degree panorama, and each with its own story. Discover the rich history behind the view with informative touch-screen displays and take in the sea air from the open 'Sky Garden'.

For those brave enough, there's a thrilling 'Sky Walk', 100 metres above sea level or the opportunity to abseil down the Tower!

Right on the waterfront, The Spinnaker Bar & Kitchen is a relaxing spot to enjoy a drink or bite to eat made with locally sourced ingredients. For a real 'high' tea, head to the Clouds Café for a traditional afternoon tea or brunch.

From 8pm the Clouds turns into Sky Bar – the perfect setting to drink in the view. Enjoy sunset, evening and night views while sipping a classic cocktail or the signature 'Spinnaker Tower'.

A spectacular venue for events or your own special occasion, the Tower is available to hire for private events, corporate functions and wedding celebrations.

To guarantee your experience at this truly uplifting destination, advanced booking is recommended, and you can now save 10% on standard all day admission when you book online.

[spinnakertower.co.uk](http://spinnakertower.co.uk)



map: A4

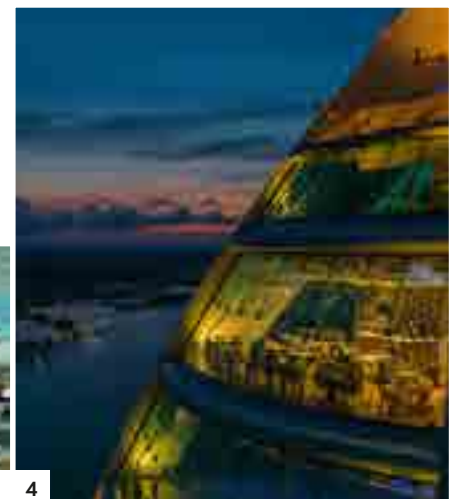
- 1 View Deck 1 glass floor
- 2 3 Clouds Café
- 4 Sky Bar



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Very high tea!





# Unforgettable *moments*

Treat yourself to some retail therapy at Gunwharf Quays, home to 90 brands offering discounts of up to 60% off RRP.



The perfect place to explore, shop and dine in this historic coastal city

[gunwharf-quays.com](http://gunwharf-quays.com)

**GUNWHARF QUAYS**

WATERFRONT OUTLET SHOPPING



# THE HEIGHT OF FASHION



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- map: A4
- 1 2
- The marina, Gunwharf Quays
- 3
- Kate Spade



**G**unwharf Quays' relaxed approach to shopping makes it the perfect outdoor waterfront destination, with over 90 famous brands in one place and savings of up to 60% off the original price.

As well as fashion and sportswear for all the family, the stores include great gift, lifestyle, and beauty choices. In short, Gunwharf Quays is the ultimate shopper's paradise.

All the big names are here including Boss, Nike, Adidas, Kate Spade, Reiss, Ted Baker, Sweaty Betty, Coach, and The White Company.

With over 30 restaurants, bars and cafés, you can have a deliciously fresh seafood lunch in Loch Fyne, enjoy French cuisine in Brasserie Blanc, share a platter in Nando's, enjoy coffee and a cake at the Parade Tea Rooms or watch the boats go by in one of the many waterfront bars.

Visit the 14-screen multiplex Vue cinema, 26-lane Hollywood Bowl, Grosvenor casino and Aspex contemporary art gallery. Book a blast out on the Solent with Onboard Charter or take a more leisurely tour around the harbour. [gunwharf-quays.com](http://gunwharf-quays.com)

# EPIC STORIES







1 2 [map: C7](#)

LCT 7074,  
The D-Day Story  
Images by  
Matthew Scott-Joynt

3 6 [map: C7](#)

Southsea Castle  
Images by  
Matthew Scott-Joynt

4 [map: C7](#)

Overlord  
Embroidery,  
The D-Day Story

5 [map: C7](#)

Southsea Castle



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*History made fun!*



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The D-Day Story is an essential part of any visit to Portsmouth and the only UK museum dedicated to telling the story of this moment in history. 2024 will mark 80 years since D-Day, the largest seaborne invasion ever seen and the beginning of the end of the Second World War.

Divided into three distinct parts, the visit begins onboard Landing Craft Tank 7074, the last surviving LCT which took part in the Normandy landings. Step onboard and discover its fascinating history, from construction and its role during the Normandy campaign carrying up to ten tanks across the channel, through to its post-war role as a floating nightclub! Sound effects, recreated crew quarters and Sherman and Churchill tanks bring the experience onboard to life.

Inside the museum, understand how D-Day was planned and how those in charge took the critical decisions to make the operation a success. Audio visual displays and interactives bring the experience to life alongside vehicles and objects to provide a compelling insight into the personal stories of the individuals who were there.



The stunning 83 metre Overlord Embroidery completes the visit. Inspired by the Bayeux Tapestry and comprising 34 hand-stitched panels, the Embroidery was created to commemorate those who took part in D-Day. You can also hear Veterans' personal stories as they reflect on their wartime service.

The museum is open from 10am to 5pm daily. For more information visit [thedaystory.com](http://thedaystory.com)

Right in the middle of the seafront at Southsea you will find Southsea Castle. Built in 1554 during Henry VIII's reign, the castle is one of a series of forts along the south coast.

Visit the Castle Keep to discover more about the interesting history of this Scheduled Ancient Monument. Climb the steps to the Ramparts for amazing views across the Solent to the Isle of Wight – including the buoy marking the location of the Mary Rose wreck site. The castle is reputedly from where Henry VIII watched his favourite ship sink. The Mary Rose is now displayed in the award-winning museum in Portsmouth Historic Dockyard.

Treat yourself to some fabulous food at The Courtyard while soaking up centuries of history or visit the Rooftop Bar in the summer months for a drink and watch the sun setting over the sea.

The castle is also home to Southsea Brewing Company and the castle shop – great for a gift to take home as a memento of your visit to Southsea, with choices for children and adults alike.

The castle is open as a visitor attraction free of charge from April to October each year with the on-site restaurant, The Courtyard, staying open all year.

# SEASIDE FAMILY FUN



**N**estled at the bottom of the island of Portsmouth is Southsea, home to four miles of beach, large green open spaces, two piers and loads of great attractions and activities right by the sea.

**The beach** is perfect for a swim or a paddle, with the designated bathing area stretching eastwards from Portsmouth Pyramids. Walk along the promenade and treat yourself to an ice cream or a relaxing lunch and take in the ever-changing view as yachts, ferries, warships and cruise liners sail past – watch the Hovercraft fly in from the Isle of Wight and land right on the beach.

A trip to the seaside wouldn't be complete without a visit to a pier and in Southsea we spoil you with two!

Located to the west of the seafront **Clarence Pier** boasts a range of rides, amusements and activities for all the family. The adventure mini golf and arcades are open all year with the rides open weekends and school holidays from March to October.

Further along to the east past Southsea Castle, **South Parade Pier** is ideal for a stroll – offering spectacular views out across the Solent, plus restaurants, shops, pop-up eateries, fun activities, and an arcade. The Gaiety venue also hosts entertainment and events throughout the year.

**Exploria** at Portsmouth Pyramids is an indoor play and bounce attraction with fun for all ages whatever the weather.



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or two! Bring a picnic and choose a spot on the grass to relax, with plenty of shade available for sunny days, or choose from a selection of cafés for a lunchtime treat.

Visit **Southsea Model Village**, built in 1956 it features forty miniature buildings, houses, forts and castles, as well as a 'G' scale garden railway. Just by Canoe Lake you will also find **Cumberland House Natural History Museum** which includes a seasonal butterfly house (May to September). Meet the resident iguanodon, find out about Portsmouth's local wildlife including the observational beehive and explore the variety in the natural world in the A-Z of Natural History display. Check online for regular events held throughout the year, the museum is free to enter, donations welcome: [portsmouthnaturalhistory.co.uk](http://portsmouthnaturalhistory.co.uk)

**Please note** – there will be some disruption along the seafront while work continues on the coastal defences. Find out more about the scheme here: [southseacoastalscheme.org.uk](http://southseacoastalscheme.org.uk)



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Three connected themed worlds offer plenty of action to amaze and delight. Everything, from floor to ceiling, evokes a sense of mystery with lots of jumps, leaps and thrills, all safely rightsized to inspire juniors, toddlers and babies alike.

Also on the seafront you can explore the underwater world at **Blue Reef Aquarium**. From stingrays to clownfish and everything in between, you'll get up close to a huge array of sea life.

For more family fun head to the popular **Canoe Lake**. Hire a pedalo for a trip across the water, play a round of Mini Golf or just wander through the rose gardens. Let the children burn off some energy at the play park – which includes a water splash so maybe pack a towel



- 1 [map: B6](#)  
Hovertravel
  - 2 [map: E7](#)  
South Parade Pier
  - 3 [map: D7](#)  
Exploria
  - 4 [map: B6](#)  
Clarence Pier
  - 5 [map: F6](#)  
Cumberland House  
Natural History Museum
  - 6 [map: C7](#)  
Clownfish
  - 7 [map: E7](#)  
Canoe Lake
  - 8 [map: F7](#)  
Southsea Model Village
- Image by Sharp Photographics  
© Alamy



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# WHAT'S ON IN 2024



Comic Con, May



The D-Day Story

© Matthew Scott-Loynt

There's something to enjoy all year round in Portsmouth, whatever month or season you visit. The chock-full programme of events, activities and festivals means you'll have much to enjoy (and plenty of reason to return again soon).

This year sees the return of some perennial favourites, as well as special one-off events including D-Day 80.

## FEBRUARY

Early in the year **Games Fest** takes place at Portsmouth Guildhall. This annual event celebrates retro and board gaming, offering you the chance to play firm favourites or try out something new. February also sees the start of **Portsmouth BookFest**, with workshops, author talks and more taking place at venues across the city.

## MARCH – APRIL

City attractions offer up a host of family friendly events for the Easter Holidays. Expect fun trails, interactive activities and no small amount of chocolate treats!

## MAY

**Portsmouth Comic Con** welcomes stars of stage and screen, as well as the iconic writers and illustrators responsible for our most loved characters from comics, film, TV and pop culture. The international festival of comics takes over Portsmouth Guildhall (and Guildhall Square) on 11 and 12 May.

Your summer of free live music starts up in May with **Live at the Bandstand**. Bands, singers, groups and DJs offer free outdoor sets on Saturdays and Sundays covering all styles and genres. As well as taking place in its seafront home, Live at the Bandstand will go on tour to other areas of the city – check the Visit Portsmouth website for dates, times, locations and the all-important line-up.



International Kite Festival, July

© Vernon Nash

## JUNE

6 June 2024 marks the 80th anniversary of the **D-Day** campaign. Many thousands of soldiers set off from Portsmouth to cross the channel, and their personal testimonies are on record at The D-Day Story museum on Southsea seafront.

The 80th anniversary will be a chance to reflect and remember, with Portsmouth playing a major part in the UK's commemorations. The Visit Portsmouth and D-Day Story websites will have all the information on events taking place to mark the big anniversary.

Later in June you can go on a cultural journey of discovery with **Ports Fest**. Eminent musicians, performers, writers and others head to venues right across Portsmouth to host workshops, activities and performances. The multi-date programme is always varied, with something to suit all tastes and interests.

## JULY

Don't miss the **Portsmouth International Kite Festival**. This hugely popular event welcomes kite flyers from across the globe, showcasing their dazzling skills on Southsea Common. There will be fun novelty kites, spritely dancing ones and plenty of stalls for you to get your own and take part in the action.





Victorious Festival, August



We Shine Portsmouth, November

© Spring Island & Victorious Festival

## AUGUST

The August bank holiday brings arguably the biggest event in Portsmouth's annual calendar – **Victorious Festival**. From Friday to Sunday, Southsea Common hosts some of the biggest names in music and comedy, as well as a huge family arena with free activities and attractions. The nation's largest metropolitan festival has gone from strength to strength, with last year's event welcoming tens of thousands of visitors and seeing a UK exclusive set from Mumford & Sons. One day and full-weekend tickets are available now.

## SEPTEMBER

**Heritage Open Days** takes place every September, allowing visitors the chance to peer behind the scenes of historic sites across the country. Events in Portsmouth include museum tours (often giving a glimpse of items not on public display), theatre open days and the chance to hear from curators of the city's famed heritage sites. What's more, all events are totally free!

These are just a handful of events taking place in 2024. For information on these events plus many more, head to the Visit Portsmouth website at [visitportsmouth.co.uk](http://visitportsmouth.co.uk)



Great South Run, October

## OCTOBER

How about setting a new PB on your trip to Portsmouth? October sees the streets of Portsmouth taken over by the **Great South Run** – the world's premier 10-mile event. It's a flat and fast course that takes in some of the city's top attractions (including sections through Old Portsmouth and the Historic Dockyard), not to mention the start and finish along Southsea seafront.



Portsmouth on Ice, December

© Vernon Nash

## NOVEMBER

**We Shine Portsmouth** returns in November, having taken a year out in 2023. Organised by Portsmouth Creates, the event brings together a host of local and national artists for installations at locations across Portsmouth. From awe-inspiring displays to fully-interactive installations, We Shine is a welcome jolt of light into the otherwise dark November evenings.

## DECEMBER

Get your skates on over the run-up to Christmas with **Portsmouth On Ice**. The huge rink – with real ice – will be back on Guildhall Square for sessions throughout December. It's the ideal break from gift shopping, or to give your trip a properly festive feel.

Want to really celebrate Christmas? There's only one thing for that – oh yes there is! Portsmouth's **pantomimes** have gone down in legend, with the city's theatres welcoming families back year on year for their annual productions. You have plenty of choice, with different productions expected at the Kings Theatre, New Theatre Royal, Portsmouth Guildhall and Groundlings Theatre.





# A VICTORIOUS LONG WEEKEND

The most beautifully located festival in the UK,  
featuring some of the world's biggest artists.







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**E**ach August Bank Holiday weekend, Southsea seafront is transformed into Victorious – a major music festival overlooking the Solent. The stunning seaside location is the perfect backdrop for some of the world’s biggest artists, with ships sailing past stages and dazzling sunsets making it the prettiest festival in the UK.

Music matters to Victorious, and with over 13 stages there is something for everyone. The festival fun starts early each day with unique afternoon special guest performances from big acts.

There’s so much to explore at Victorious. Lose yourself in the World Music Village, complete with globally inspired music and food, then dance the night away in the industrial-themed Beats & Swing Arena. Why not drop by the Acoustic stage, famous for intimate sets from major singer-songwriters, or pull up a hay bale and laugh yourself silly in the Big Top Comedy & Cabaret Tent with your

favourite comedians? Finally, be blown away by world-famous headliners on one of the two main stages. Every stage has a unique identity, so enjoy exploring!

It’s a good job it’s a Bank Holiday! Victorious has so much to see and do for the whole family. The festival also

plays host to a huge kids’ arena with free activities including retro gaming, a climbing wall, bouncy castles, face painting, a colouring-in tent as well as its own main stage with meet and greets.

And if that’s not enough then don’t forget, there is also a

Skatepark hosting roller discos and skate demos, parties with DJs in Henry’s House at the historic Southsea Castle, England Women’s Beach Soccer sessions and games, market stalls aplenty and food from all over the world. There really is something for everyone to enjoy!

Find out more and buy your tickets at [victoriousfestival.co.uk](http://victoriousfestival.co.uk)

**“A tremendous three-day extravaganza featuring a plethora of spectacular performances.”**

Clash magazine



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© Strong Island & Victorious Festival

1 map: D7

Castle Stage Arena

2 map: C6

Common Stage Arena

3 map: C6

Dara Ó Briain, Big Top Comedy and Cabaret tent

4 map: D7

Kids’ Arena

5 map: C6

Jamiroquai performing on the Common Stage

6 map: C6

The Dhol Foundation, World Music Stage



# CULTURE BY THE COAST



**H**ow would you like to see the venue where Pink Floyd gave Dark Side of the Moon its debut live airing? Or not one but two theatres designed by renowned architect Frank Matcham? Maybe the venue where Oasis, Muse and The Killers played to 400 or so punters on their rise to superstardom?

You can do all this and more with a visit to some of Portsmouth's biggest cultural locations.

**Portsmouth Guildhall** was the scene for the aforementioned Pink Floyd show. It has also hosted everyone from Arctic Monkeys to Led Zeppelin, via Miles Davies, McFly and Mumford & Sons.

Its programme for 2024 includes rock legends, Strictly Come Dancing stars and stand-up heavyweights.

For musicians on the up, head to the **Wedgewood Rooms** – itself an icon in its own right. Here you'll find sets from acts on the verge of stardom, as well as local showcases and the city's longest running comedy night.

A night at the theatre on the cards? Both the **Kings Theatre** in Southsea and the city centre's **New Theatre Royal** were designed in part by the pre-eminent architect Frank Matcham. As such, their interiors have a splendour to rival any others in London and beyond – and really enhance what's being performed.



1 map: D6

Kings Theatre  
© Alamy

2 map: C4

Portsmouth Guildhall  
© Adobe Stock

3 map: A5

Louise Braithwaite,  
Hotwalls Studios

4 map: C4

New Theatre Royal

5 map: A5

Frankie Brown,  
Hotwalls Studios

6 map: A4

Craft Show Exhibition,  
Aspex Gallery  
Image by Phoebe Wingrove





On the stage itself you'll find a varied programme of theatre, music, comedy and dance. The Kings welcomes touring shows often coming straight from the West End. It's also a popular spot for some big names in stand up, with recent years seeing the likes of Dara Ó Briain, Romesh Ranganathan and Frankie Boyle all perform.

Meanwhile, at the New Theatre Royal you can expect theatre productions (everything from early years shows to Shakespeare adaptations), live music and comedy, as well as workshops and community events.

Continue your cultural odyssey at the **Hotwalls Studios** in Old Portsmouth. Here, a series of arches within the area's historic fortifications have been transformed into modern studios for designer makers. These are offered on short term leases to emerging talents to make a name for themselves before they go on to open studios of their own. As well as walking through the area to see art being created before your very eyes,

there's a chance to get involved too, with regular workshops and open days for you to try out something new.

A short walk towards Gunwharf Quays will take you to **Aspex Portsmouth**, the contemporary art gallery that has been supporting emerging artists for forty years. Inside the walls of this converted Royal Navy storehouse you'll find an exciting and varied programme of exhibitions and events from artists on the cusp of greatness.

Portsmouth also has great **literary heritage** with Charles Dickens, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, Rudyard Kipling, H G Wells and more having spent time in the city. Visit the small house in which Charles Dickens was born and learn more about this esteemed author and his family.

Portsmouth's vibrant cultural scene can also be found in its independent shops, bars, restaurants and attractions. These offer a break from the copy-and-paste high streets that are to be found anywhere else around the country, offering visitors something truly unique.



# INDEPENDENT ISLAND



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**W**hy travel somewhere just to do all the things you could at home? Much better to enjoy something a little different and really make the most of having time away.

Portsmouth makes this easy, with the UK's only island city being a real hub for creativity, entrepreneurialism and independence. It means that you're never far from an indie shop, restaurant or market, all offering you the chance to try out something new.

For starters, how about a trip around the city's boutique shops? Pick up something unique from White Dog Gallery, where you can find pieces from local and national artists, or instead get all the craft supplies you could need to create something yourself. If you'd rather get more hands on then book a workshop at Artypotz, where you can be creative with clay and make something to treasure forever. Or, head to Joy Fantastic,

where works from local artists and photographers sit alongside pieces from titans of the art world – including Damien Hirst, David Shrigley and Keith Haring.

Pie & Vinyl is where you'll find – as the name suggests – a hearty food menu alongside all the latest records and essential back catalogue items. Or how about the board game lounge, Dice? Its purpose-built tables are made for gaming, whilst the menu serves up fresh eats alongside its fully licensed bar.

Prefer to choose for yourself? You won't have to walk far to happen upon unique clothing retailers, boutique jewellers, independent delis, homeware stores, wellness and lifestyle shops, antique dealers, artist studios, galleries, and plenty more besides.

Plus, there's a host of independent shops at Port Solent, as well as the designer maker studios to be found at the Hotwalls in Old Portsmouth.





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Elsewhere you can sample authentic jerk chicken at Natty’s – named by Uber Eats as the best restaurant in the South East two years running – or trust in the reviews and go for Latin American at Maya, Belgian at Huis, or seafood at The Rocka – all of which place regularly in the Tripadvisor top 10.

There’s also a great selection when it comes to locally made drink, too. Head to a number of city pubs for something brewed in the area – or better still head straight to the breweries to try it fresh. Makemake, Staggeringly Good and Urban Island all throw open their taproom doors for top quality drinks (often with a rotating selection of street food vendors serving up alongside). Or, Southsea Brewing Co (based within Southsea Castle) has its own pub – The Brewer’s Tap on Eastney Road.

Want something a little stronger? Pay Portsmouth Distillery Co. a visit to try their much-celebrated rum and gin selection – all made within the historic Fort Cumberland. The distillery also hosts regular events, from comedy shows to live music and cocktail nights.

All that browsing is sure to have worked up an appetite, so how about something to eat and drink? It’s not just the big chains offering you a trip around the world when it comes to eating in Portsmouth – there are plenty of independent restaurants catering for all tastes and budgets too.

Albert Road has long been known for its huge array of restaurants, with a particular focus on Indian and Bangladeshi cuisine. That’s not all, of course, as along just this one stretch of road you can eat Korean, Japanese, Lebanese, Italian, Mexican, Chinese, Thai, Turkish and Vietnamese (and that’s without even mentioning the numerous pubs, cafés and takeaways also available).



- 1 map: D6 Strong Island Clothing Co.
- 2 map: C5 Pie & Vinyl
- 3 map: D6 Coastal Remedy
- 4 7 map: C3 Natty’s Jerk Kitchen  
Images by Charlotte Griffiths
- 5 map: C6 Seafood, The Rocka
- 6 map: D5 Homemade Brussels Waffle, Huis
- 8 map: J5 Fort Cumberland  
© Adobe Stock
- 9 map: J5 Portsmouth Distillery Co.

# TALKING SHOP







2 3



1 map: A4  
Gunwharf Quays

2 map: D6

Anchored in Love  
Necklace, Barbara  
Tipple, Marmion Road

3 map: C5  
Castle Road

4 map: D5

Rose Clover,  
Elm Grove

5 map: inset  
Port Solent

6 map: C3  
Cascades  
Shopping Centre



5

find another great selection of mouth-watering places to take a break and have a drink and bite to eat, with a café and restaurant selection that's as varied as the shops! Plus in Palmerston Road regular **Love Southsea** and **Hampshire Farmers' Markets** take place throughout the year, offering you the chance to pick up a tasty treat or a truly unique keepsake.

Combine retail therapy with a walk along the seafront promenade or a visit to The D-Day Story and Southsea Castle – only a ten-minute walk from Palmerston Road. En route don't miss the Waterfront Garden Centre offering a great range of plants for the home and garden.

Head to the **city centre** for all the main chain stores, including the indoor shopping mall Cascades which is home to TK Maxx, Next, Primark, H&M and many more. Visit Waterstones for a book to read during a break in shopping and have a bite to eat or tasty hot drink in the in-store café. A popular street market takes place in the city centre every Thursday, Friday and Saturday all year, whilst the array of restaurants offer food from across the world.

For more shopping right by the water visit **Port Solent**. Browse the boutique and branded stores for a unique gift or special treat for yourself and check out the yachts in the marina. Port Solent also boasts plentiful eateries and an on-site cinema. Look online in advance of your visit and time it to coincide with one of the regular waterside markets or car meets, held on Sundays throughout the year.

**M**any visitors come to Portsmouth for the great shopping. Take some time out from sight-seeing to treat yourself or your loved ones – and maybe bag a real bargain!

Set on the beautiful waterfront, with up to 60% off brands, **Gunwharf Quays** designer outlet is the ideal place for retail therapy. Discover over 90 stores offering women's and men's fashion; childrenswear; shoes and accessories; sportswear; homewares; lifestyle; gifting, and beauty. This is the perfect place for shopping all-year-round. Be it for your summer wardrobe, new shoes or Christmas gifts, you are sure to find something that fits the bill. There's also ample place to sit and enjoy watching the world go by, with Central Square offering seating areas and pop-up eateries.

When your bags are full, take a break with the great choice of restaurants and cafés at hand, many with wonderful harbour views. You can easily while away a morning or afternoon here, or even celebrate into the small hours at the late-opening bars. If all that wasn't enough, Gunwharf Quays hosts a year-round programme of events, so you can combine your shopping trip



with some entertainment, live music or fresh street food.

For something different visit **Southsea** where you will find the main shopping areas in and around Palmerston Road, Marmion Road, Albert Road and Castle Road. Antique, independent and vintage shops rub shoulders with boutiques, jewellery and interior styling – perfect for a unique or Portsmouth-themed gift for yourself or a friend. Here you'll also

# TRAVEL INFORMATION

With a motorway into the heart of the city, an international port, a rail network direct to London in just over 90 minutes and international airports close by, access to Portsmouth couldn't be easier, whether you are coming to the city from within the UK or overseas.



## Driving

Portsmouth enjoys good road connections; the A3(M) puts London just over an hour away and the M275 links Portsmouth to the rest of Britain's motorway network. **Portsmouth's Park and Ride** is accessed direct from the M275 as you drive into the city and offers a quick and affordable way to visit. [parkandride.portsmouth.gov.uk](http://parkandride.portsmouth.gov.uk)

## Rail

Travelling to Portsmouth by train is a great option with regular direct services to London (from 92 mins with South Western Railway), the south coast and the rest of the UK. Book in advance and take advantage of regular special offers.

## Air

Southampton International Airport ([southamptonairport.com](http://southamptonairport.com)) is just 22 miles away and the major London airports Gatwick and Heathrow are both 60 miles away with easy rail access to the city.

## Isle of Wight

Travelling to and from the Isle of Wight couldn't be easier. Hovertravel operates a passenger hovercraft from Southsea to Ryde, the world's only year-round hovercraft service. Wightlink operates both a car ferry service from Portsmouth to Fishbourne and a foot passenger catamaran service from Portsmouth Harbour to Ryde Pier.

## Useful information to help plan your journey

Visitor Information Service:

🌐 [visitportsmouth.co.uk](http://visitportsmouth.co.uk)

✉ [vis@portsmouthcc.gov.uk](mailto:vis@portsmouthcc.gov.uk)

☎ 02392 826722

🌐 [myjourneyportsmouth.com](http://myjourneyportsmouth.com)

National Express Coaches:

🌐 [nationalexpress.com](http://nationalexpress.com)

☎ 03717 818181

National Rail Enquiries:

🌐 [nationalrail.co.uk](http://nationalrail.co.uk)

☎ 03457 484950

🌐 [southwesternrailway.com](http://southwesternrailway.com)

🌐 [southernrailway.com](http://southernrailway.com)





- 1 [map: B6](#)  
Wightlink Ferry returning to Portsmouth
- 2 [map: A3](#)  
Brittany Ferries entering Portsmouth Harbour

## Portsmouth International Port

With its dramatic harbour, Portsmouth International Port creates a spectacular arrival and departure for passengers.

It offers a range of routes to Europe and a growing cruise programme, making it ideally located for both short breaks and international travel.

Regular ferry services sail to Caen, Cherbourg and Le Havre in Normandy and St Malo in Brittany, plus Spanish destinations Santander and Bilbao. There are also frequent sailings to Jersey and Guernsey.

Major operators and cruise lines have chosen Portsmouth for its superb position and impressive facilities, offering customers inspiring destinations aboard beautiful luxury liners.

The port also boasts one of the most environmentally advanced terminal buildings in the UK, and sustainability is central to future plans.

At the port you're never far from the city's main attractions, which makes it ideally suited to extending your holiday, giving you the perfect opportunity to stay a while and explore.

## In the city

Portsmouth is flat and compact, meaning it is easy to walk or cycle between locations and there is also a good local bus service, so travelling to the city by public transport or using the Park and Ride are good options. Hire a Beryl Bike or a Voi e-scooter to get around during your visit.

### Average walking times from Portsmouth and Southsea station

Portsmouth Guildhall	⌚ 4 mins
New Theatre Royal	⌚ 5 mins
City centre shopping	⌚ 6 mins
Kings Theatre	⌚ 23 mins
Palmerston Road shopping	⌚ 25 mins
D-Day Story & Southsea Castle	⌚ 32 mins
Pyramids	⌚ 33 mins

### Average walking times from Portsmouth Harbour station

Gunwharf Quays	⌚ 4 mins
Portsmouth Historic Dockyard	⌚ 6 mins
Spinnaker Tower	⌚ 8 mins
Portsmouth Museum & Art Gallery	⌚ 14 mins
Old Portsmouth	⌚ 15 mins
Clarence Pier & Seafront Esplanade	⌚ 24 mins
D-Day Story and Southsea Castle	⌚ 36 mins

# REWARDS WORTH TWEETING ABOUT

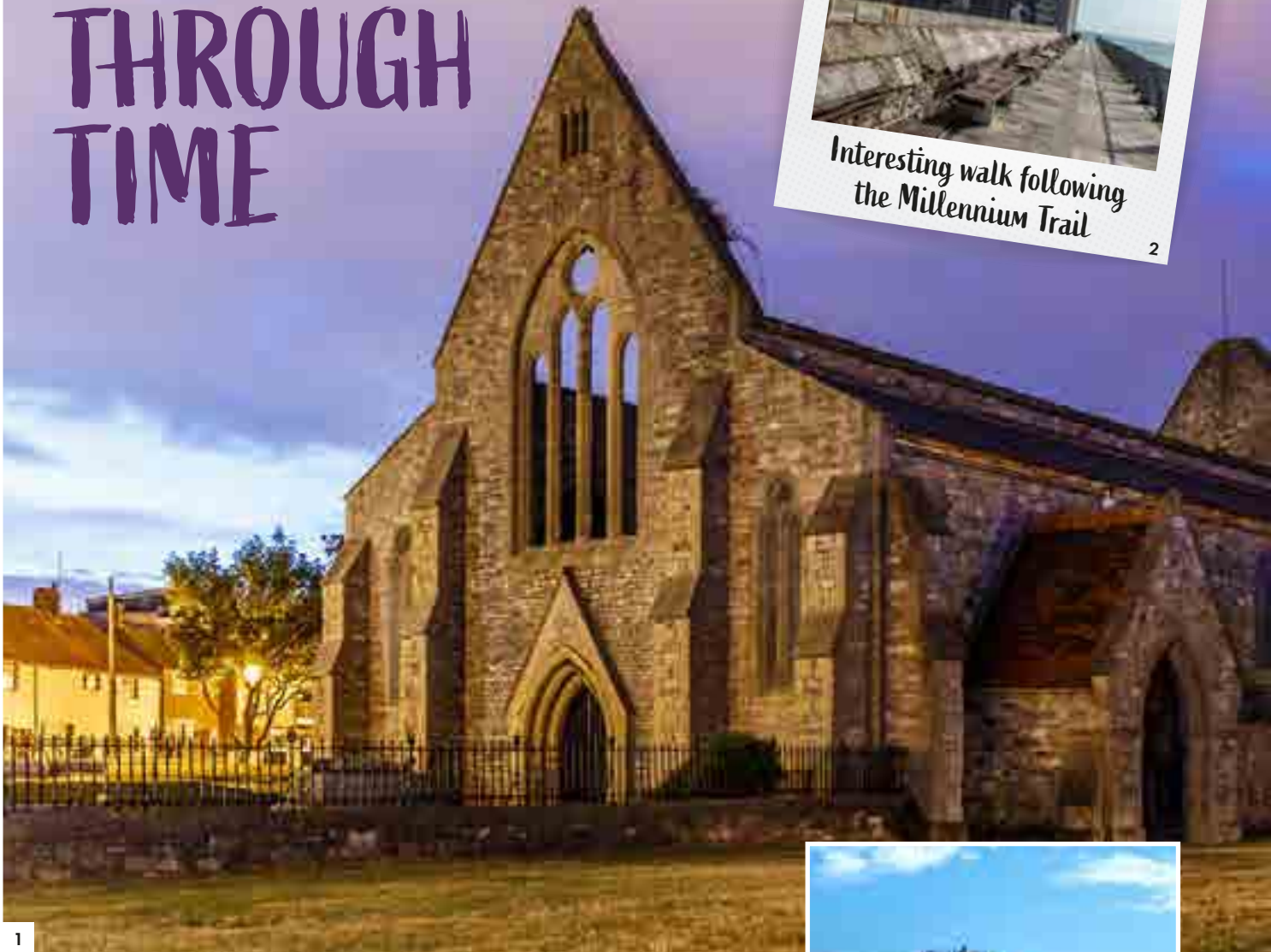
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[Q SWR Rewards](#)



**South Western Railway**  
Spread your wings

# A JOURNEY THROUGH TIME



1



Interesting walk following the Millennium Trail

2

Portsmouth is a city rich in history, having witnessed everything from naval battles to royal weddings and a world-famous marine salvage operation. It means there's plenty of history to discover and fascinating features around every corner.

Richard I (Richard the Lionheart) granted Portsmouth its first royal charter back in May 1194, almost certainly doing so here on Portsea Island as he waited for the weather to improve for his fleet to cross to Normandy.

You can take a walk through centuries of history in Old Portsmouth. It's here that you'll find historic fortifications – including the **Square and Round Towers**, built to defend Portsmouth Harbour from invasion. With no such threat any more, the Square Tower is

today a popular venue for events and live music, whilst the fortification arches have become the **Hotwalls Studios** – where the region's most promising designer makers create unique pieces.

The nearby **Royal Garrison Church** is a popular photography subject, having a striking and unmistakable look after losing its roof during The Blitz. The church also has a royal history, being where Charles II married Catherine of Braganza back in May 1662. Their wedding certificate is now held by St Thomas' Cathedral, often more simply named **Portsmouth Cathedral**. The Romanesque style building you see today is also home to remnants of Lord Nelson's flag from HMS Victory and is the site of the grave of the unknown crew member of the Mary Rose.



3



4





5

**Portsmouth Museum and Art Gallery** provides more stories of the city and its inhabitants. Here you can see items from the world's largest collection of memorabilia relating to Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, plus paintings, ceramics, and sculptures. There's more history on show at the **Eastney Engine Houses**, where the grand Boulton & Watt steam engines are on display.

Overlooking Portsmouth Harbour is the impressive **Portchester Castle**, which dates back to the third century and may well have been founded by Marcus Aurelius Carausius. The best-preserved Roman fort in northern Europe has had a long and storied past – being at various points a place for medieval kings to gather troops, a prisoner of war camp, and even the site of a nefarious plot to murder King Henry V before the Battle of Agincourt.

A short trip from Portchester Castle brings you to **Fort Nelson**, which occupies an enviable position overlooking Portsmouth – as well as the surrounding areas. This Victorian fortress is now home to the Royal Armouries' big gun collection, with highlights including a 15th century Turkish bombard cannon, a gigantic 200-tonne railway howitzer, and the infamous 'Big Babylon' Iraqi supergun.

As well as space to walk and run around, Fort Nelson offers visitors the chance to experience the power of its artillery collection, with firing events led by uniformed members of the Garrison Artillery Volunteers.



6

Portsmouth Cathedral hosts regular events and tours, as well as religious services.

Finding your way around this area couldn't be easier, by following the chain link motif of the **Millennium Promenade**. It takes you on a route from Portsmouth Historic Dockyard towards Southsea Castle, via Gunwharf Quays, Old Portsmouth and parts of Southsea seafront. Along the way there are information panels with fascinating details about the area and its history. Find out more at [visitportsmouth.co.uk/mp](http://visitportsmouth.co.uk/mp)

The royal connections continue at **Southsea Castle**, where Henry VIII is said to have watched the Battle of the Solent. It was a day to forget for the marriage-loving king, after his beloved Mary Rose sank to the bottom of the sea – where it would remain for 437 years.



1 [map: B5](#)

**Royal Garrison Church**

Image by Alexey Fedorenko

© Adobe Stock

2 [map: A5](#)

**Square Tower**

© Adobe Stock

3 [map: A5](#)

**Round Tower**

© Adobe Stock

4 [map: A5](#)

**Hotwalls Studios**

© Adobe Stock

5

**Fort Nelson**

Image by Edmund Sumner

© Alamy

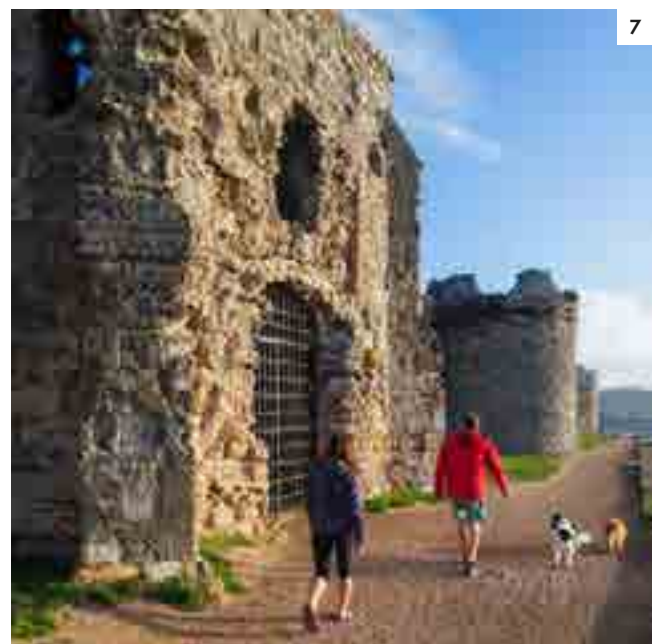
6 [map: B5](#)

**Portsmouth Museum and Art Gallery**

7

**Portchester Castle**

Image by Steve Vidler © Alamy



7

# THE GREAT OUTDOORS



**T**aking a city break by the sea means you get the best of both worlds – with there being as much to explore outdoors as there is inside our many great museums and attractions.

For most visitors, the **seafront** is a must-do on any trip to Portsmouth and a great place to start. As well as getting plenty of fresh sea air and open space, you can also enjoy the views as ships come in and out – everything from small fishing vessels to huge ferries and cruise liners.

In fact, this has informed a major part of the **Coastal Defence Project**, with works around Southsea Castle seeing the creation of a brand new 'theatre of the sea' (set to open in early 2024) where visitors can sit and admire the view. The south-facing open space will provide ample opportunities to look out over the Solent in the sunshine.

Of course, being an island means there's much more coastline to explore beyond Southsea. Over at **Eastney** the beaches are dog friendly all year round, offering somewhere to walk if you're visiting with a four-legged friend. Alternatively, **Milton Common** and the surrounds offer somewhere a little quieter for escaping the hustle and bustle (plus the shoreline path is great for walking, running and cycling).

Wildlife spotters have plenty to explore further north, at **Farlington Marshes**. This RSPB reserve comprises a diverse landscape of tidal mudflats, saltmarsh, seagrass meadows and shingle – ideal for the many breeding seabirds and overwintering wildfowl that can be spotted there (including the black-tailed godwit, brent goose, dunlin, little tern and Mediterranean gull).

Back nearer the heart of the action, **Southsea Common** is a wonderful place to take the family or enjoy a sunny afternoon. Right alongside the seafront you'll find a huge expanse of open parkland used for games, walks and sunbathing. You'll also find within the Common a skatepark, tennis court, splash pool, beach volleyball court and children's play park, as well as a café and tea room. Southsea Common is also





1 **map: C7**

'Theatre of the sea'  
under construction

2

**Farlington Marshes**  
© Adobe Stock

3 **map: C6**

**Southsea Common**  
© Adobe Stock

4

**Dog on the beach**

Image by Irina Meshcheryakova  
© Adobe Stock

5

**Wildlife watching at  
Farlington Marshes**

Image by Jessica Marsh

6

**Greenfinch**

Image by Richard Jones  
© Adobe Stock



Getting to and around the Portsmouth coast is easier than ever, with it now being a fully fledged part of the **England Coast Path**. Work is ongoing to create an unbroken walkway around the entire English coast, but the Portsmouth section is now finished, offering a route all the way to Calshot (via Gosport).

Take in a different view of Portsmouth with a trip to **Portsmouth Hill**. A favourite among locals, this vantage point atop the chalk cliffs overlooking Portsmouth offers incredible views across not just Portsea Island but out over Gosport, Hayling Island and the Isle of Wight. There are parking areas dotted along the headland that all offer great views, as do the paths around the area – itself a wildlife haven for greenfinches, whitethroats and skylarks, as well as various wildflowers and pollinating insects.

the location of the Portsmouth Naval Memorial, commemorating around 25,000 sailors lost in the World Wars.

A short walk further east and you'll reach **Canoe Lake**, which also has open parkland (a favourite spot for picnics and BBQs), as well as a children's play area and the lake with its swan inhabitants and similarly shaped pedalos.



5 *Great birdwatching*



6 *Spotted a greenfinch!*





# GOOD SPORT



If you are looking to keep active, try a new activity, or watch a sporting event during your trip then Portsmouth is the place for you.

The city is proud of its sporting heritage on land and on sea with year-round activity including sailing and kite surfing competitions, running events including the **Great South Run** and of course **Pompey FC** home games at Fratton Park.

As the UK's only island city, Portsmouth is a prime destination for water sports of all kinds and boasts three marinas; Gunwharf Quays, Port Solent and Southsea Marina.

The **Andrew Simpson Watersports Centre** is the first port of call for any enthusiast, with courses and access to water-based activities including sailing, windsurfing, foiling, kayaking, canoeing

and paddle-boarding. The centre also houses a 13-metre outdoor climbing tower; one for the brave!

Or try out wakeboarding at the **South Coast Wakepark**, equipped with a premier cable wake system and offering a wide range of equipment and hire gear suitable for all abilities from beginners to experienced wakeboarders.

For runners the seafront in Southsea is perfect, with amazing views across the Solent to the Isle of Wight. If you prefer to run with company, join one of the regular organised weekend runs that take place across the city. In July you can watch or join the **Pretty Muddy** and **Race For Life** events. The seafront is also home to tennis courts, adventure mini golf, pitch 'n' putt, play parks and beach volleyball courts to keep you entertained.



1 [map: inset](#)

Andrew Simpson Watersports Centre

2

Great South Run  
Image by Gillian Pullinger  
© Alamy

3

Pretty Muddy Race for Life  
Image by Simon Evans  
© Alamy

4 [map: inset](#)

Mountbatten Centre

5 [map: D7](#)

Portsmouth Pyramids

6 [map: D7](#)

Southsea Skatepark  
Image by Tom Langford

7

Portsmouth Golf Course



3



## Sport centres

BH Live Active offers two facilities in Portsmouth. **The Mountbatten Centre** in the north of the city is home to an Olympic-sized pool, teaching pool, spa, 150 station state-of-the-art gym, health suite, eight-court sports hall, squash courts, athletics and cycle tracks, and a great programme of activities and events. Next door is **Portsmouth Tennis Centre** with four indoor and six outdoor courts.

**The Pyramids** is a state-of-the-art accessible gym in Southsea. Motivating instructors are on hand to encourage and inspire with a full programme of energising classes including BodyPump, yoga, Pilates, Group Cycling, HIIT (High Intensity Interval Training) and more.

Portsmouth University's **Ravelin Park Sports Centre** includes an eight-court sports hall, eight-lane 25m swimming pool, 175-station fitness suite, multipurpose studios, squash courts, a climbing and bouldering wall rising from the basement through the building and a ski simulator. Ravelin Park has pay-as-you-go options for city visitors.

The **Peter Ashley Activity Centres** are located in the historic environments of Fort Purbrook and Fort Widley on Portsdown Hill. Activities to pre-book include horse riding, archery, bush craft, mountain biking, climbing wall, orienteering, rifle shooting and laser tag. Book a family adventure day and have fun while learning a new skill.

**Canoe Lake Leisure Tennis** boasts a pavilion, four top-specification artificial grass courts along with newly refurbished grass and hard courts.

The city is home to two 18-hole golf courses – **Portsmouth Golf Centre** and **Portsmouth Golf Course**. Both are available for pay and play, offering outstanding views and affordable sessions on great courses.

The iconic **Southsea Skatepark** is home to international-standard ramps, or check out the new **Undercover Skatepark** in the city centre – ideal on less clement days. In winter enjoy skating on real ice in front of the majestic Portsmouth Guildhall.



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7



**COMIC CON**  
RETURNING IN MAY

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EXHIBITION

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**All this and more...**  
Fun for all ages

**bhliveactive**

Mountbatten, Charter, Pyramids and Portsmouth Tennis Centre

# Portsmouth Museum and Art Gallery

Discover more about Portsmouth's past through the display of objects and art from the city's collections. Includes temporary exhibition 'Ocean at the End of the Lane - discovering Portsmouth's coastline'.

**TREAT YOURSELF!**  
in the cafe and gift shop

**FREE ENTRY**  
donations welcome!

For information on events programme and opening times go to [portsmouthmuseum.co.uk](http://portsmouthmuseum.co.uk)

**Portsmouth**  
the great waterfront city

**Portsmouth CITY COUNCIL**

# CUMBERLAND HOUSE NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM

Find out more about Portsmouth natural history in this fascinating small museum, visit the seasonal Butterfly House and follow the A-Z of natural history. Free entry, donations welcome. For details of the event programme and opening times go to [portsmouthnaturalhistory.co.uk](http://portsmouthnaturalhistory.co.uk)

**Portsmouth**  
the great waterfront city

**Portsmouth CITY COUNCIL**



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Enjoy 16 waterside bars and restaurants, boutique and high street shopping, and so much more at Port Solent!  
[Find out more at portsolent.com](http://portsolent.com)


# A FOODIE'S PARADISE



1 map: A4

All Bar One, Gunwharf Quays

2 map: inset

The Harvester, Port Solent

3 map: C6

André's Food Bar, Osborne Road

4 map: A4

Brasserie Blanc, Gunwharf Quays



Delicious morning treat

3



What's a holiday without the opportunity to indulge a little? Thankfully Portsmouth has food and drink options to suit all tastes and budgets, whether you want to stay close to home, or venture much further afield...

All your favourite big-name restaurants are available, with many of them in **Gunwharf Quays** and **Port Solent**. Make a day of it at Gunwharf Quays then finish with a visit to Brasserie Blanc, Wagamama, Carluccio's, Loch Fyne, Pizza Express, Five Guys, Nando's, or one of the 30 or so cafés, bars and restaurants on site. Meanwhile up at Port Solent there's Zizzi, Harvester and Casa Brasil, among others.

Both sites also have an indie offering if you'd prefer something a little different to the usual – with a selection that includes Relentless Steak and Lobster House, O Sole Mio and The Parade Tearooms.

As well as the great food, Gunwharf Quays and Port Solent offer the perfect location if you're looking for a meal with a view. At Gunwharf Quays the likes of Zizzi, Pho, Bella Italia and All Bar One enjoy an enviable location right on the waterfront – a real treat for al fresco dining in the sunshine.

Meanwhile, at Port Solent you can enjoy a more laid-back pace with food on the Boardwalk, which overlooks the on-site marina where small boats come and go.

There's a great many more restaurants to explore in **Southsea**, with **Palmerston and Osborne Roads** (and their surrounds) offering a great selection of independent places. Here you'll find burger bars, pizza places, delicious delis and lots more besides. How about something a little different? Get a taste of Venezuela at Arepa 2 Go, where you can enjoy fresh maize patties filled with both meat and veggie options.

Alternatively, you can't go far wrong at **Albert Road**, an area famed locally for its huge selection of restaurants from right across the world.

Of course, a trip to the coast isn't complete without some fish and chips – and there really is a great selection.





5



5 | map: D6

Arepa 2 Go

6 | map: C6

The Southsea Village,  
Palmerston Road

7 | map: D7

The Briny

8 | map: E7

Deep Blue Fish & Chips

9 | map: F6

The Tenth Hole

10 | map: A5

Still & West

Image by Tom Longford



6 7



8

Traditional chippies abound, with Anchor & Sea and Kingfisher (both on Albert Road) being popular choices. You can really embrace the location at Deep Blue, the restaurant at the end of South Parade Pier providing stunning views out over the water.

Meanwhile The Briny on Southsea seafront takes things up a notch with its seafood bar and seasonal menu of fresh catches. But don't just take our word for it – the restaurant has won an AA Rosette for culinary excellence.

For dessert how about an indulgent sweet treat? There's a mouthwatering selection of cakes and tarts available at both The Tenth Hole and The Parade tearooms. In fact, both are immensely

popular with locals and visitors alike, so you know you're onto a good thing whether you choose to eat in or get a 'cakeaway'.

How about something delicious to wash all that down? There are some well regarded breweries and distilleries to discover in Portsmouth, whether you want to sample something new during your trip or take a memento home. Find out more about all this in the Independent Island section (page 22).



9



10

Alternatively, visit some of the historic pubs of **Old Portsmouth** for a drink with a view – the Still and West, Spice Island and Bridge Tavern all offer outdoor seating at the water's edge, a real treat on warmer days. Or, if you visit in the colder months head inside to enjoy equally stunning views in warm, cosy surrounds.

Head back towards Southsea and you'll find no shortage of pubs and bars, with many offering live music on the weekends too. Along Albert Road there are traditional pubs in the form of Porters or The Vaults, whilst there's a more specialist craft beer offer at the Merchant House. Meanwhile, Gin and Olive has a huge selection of gins from around the world and a food menu to match.



# STAY LONGER AND DISCOVER MORE...

Book yourself a short break in Portsmouth and enjoy all the highlights on a whistle-stop tour of the Great Waterfront City. If you're looking for inspiration on how best to enjoy a weekend in the city, here's a few pointers to get you started.



1 *Watching artists in action*



2



3

## Day 1 – Arrive and explore

Once you've got to Portsmouth and settled in, it's time to get out and explore the area. Start with a walk along the seafront to enjoy the fresh air and coastal views. The stretch of promenade between Eastney and Old Portsmouth is over three miles in length so you have plenty to choose from and can make the walk as long or short as you like. There are also plenty of stopping points along the way if you want to call in somewhere for a rest or a coffee (or something stronger – it's a holiday, after all!).

Head west along the coast until you reach Old Portsmouth. From here you can take in the Hotwalls Studios – where artists create unique pieces for you to browse and buy – then head across to the Camber. This area offers stunning views out across Portsmouth Harbour, Gunwharf Quays and Spinnaker Tower.

Finish your first day with something tasty to eat and drink – either at the historic pubs of Old Portsmouth or by exploring the (quite literal) world of choice in Southsea.



1 **map: A5**

Tiger Lily Tufts, Hotwalls Studios

2 **map: A5**

Camber Docks

Image by Gary L. Hider

© Adobe Stock

3 **map: E7**

South Parade Pier, Southsea Beach

© Adobe Stock





4 map: A4

Spinnaker Tower  
© Alamy

5 map: A4

Gunwharf Quays

6 map: A3

HMS Victory, Portsmouth  
Historic Dockyard

7 map: A3

Mary Rose Museum,  
Portsmouth  
Historic Dockyard

8 map: A3

HMS Warrior,  
Portsmouth  
Historic Dockyard



5

## Day 3 – Gunwharf Quays and Spinnaker Tower

Your flying visit ends at Gunwharf Quays and Spinnaker Tower – to pick up any last items and get a different view of Portsmouth.

From the Spinnaker Tower's three view decks you can see for 23 miles over city, coast and country. There's a glass floor giving unrivalled (albeit quite daunting) views down through the tower's struts, and View Deck 3 has a 'Sky Garden' with an open roof so you can really feel the elements.

Back down on terra firma, Gunwharf Quays has over 90 designer outlets offering up to 60% off RRP. Its location right on the waterfront means you can shop 'til you drop or just admire the harbourside views. There are also more than 30 cafés, bars and restaurants on site, so you can fill up before heading off to plan your return visit to explore even more!



6 7



## Day 2 – Portsmouth Historic Dockyard

Today it's the turn of Portsmouth Historic Dockyard – and you'll need much of the day if you want to get around everything! With one Ultimate Explorer ticket you get entry to all the dockyard attractions – as well as a boat tour round the harbour to see the current fleet – depending on what's in at the time.

Why not start with HMS Victory, Nelson's flagship on which he fought the Battle of Trafalgar? The ship is currently undergoing an enormous restoration project, which means you not only get to see the historic ship itself but also the expert work that goes into preserving it.

Then there's HMS Warrior, the iron-clad warship that was so advanced for its time that it was said to have made all others obsolete the day it was launched. That said, Warrior was only ever a deterrent

and never once fired a shot in anger.

Of course there's also The Mary Rose – a truly world class museum showcasing Henry VIII's beloved flagship, rescued from the seabed in the largest marine salvage operation ever undertaken. As well as the ship itself you can see some of the many thousands of artefacts brought up alongside, which tell the story of its crew.

That's just three attractions – your Ultimate Explorer ticket gets you into them all. Good job it's valid for a year, so you can come back to do anything you missed first time around.

After all that, why not take the weight off and spend the evening watching a show? Check the listings at the many entertainment venues to see what's on when you visit.



8



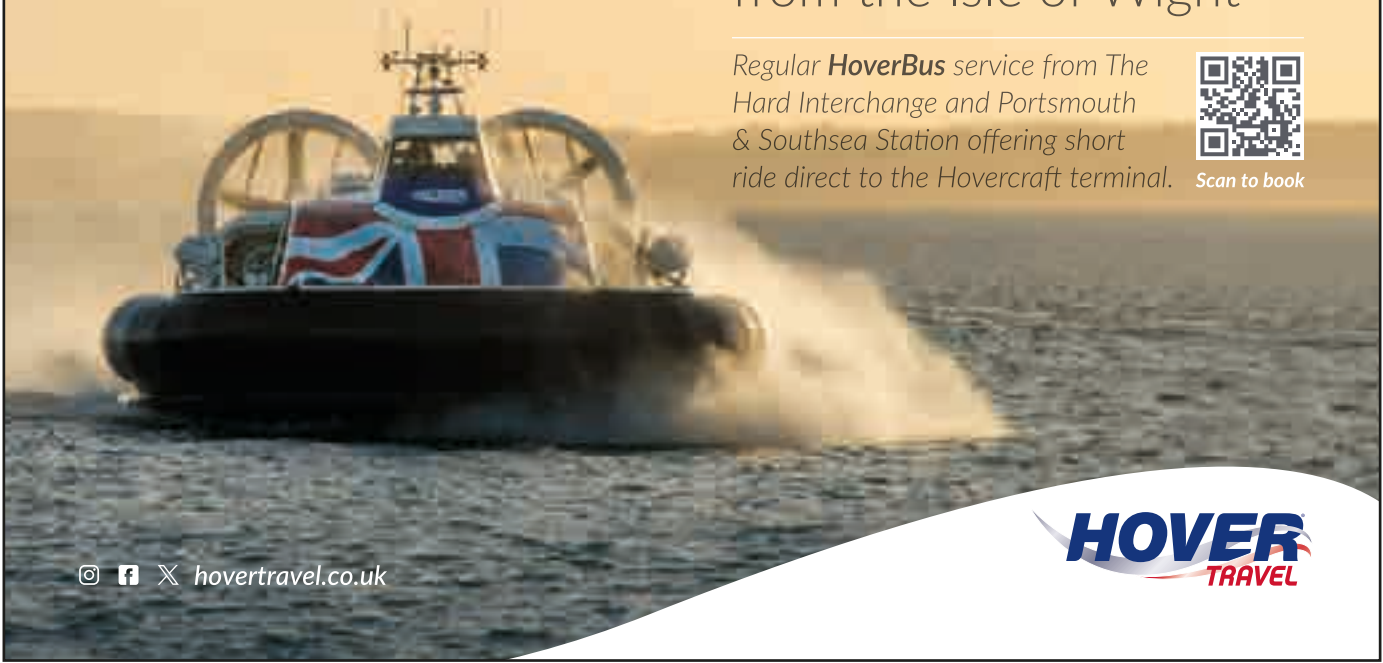
# Take flight

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Regular **HoverBus** service from The Hard Interchange and Portsmouth & Southsea Station offering short ride direct to the Hovercraft terminal.



Scan to book

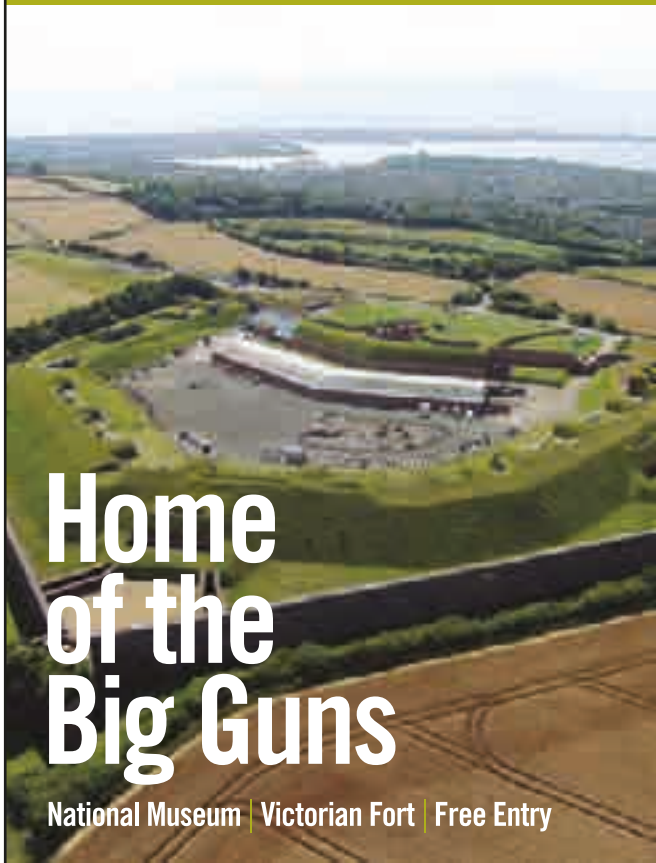


📷 📘 ✕ [hovertravel.co.uk](http://hovertravel.co.uk)



ROYAL ARMOURIES

FORT NELSON

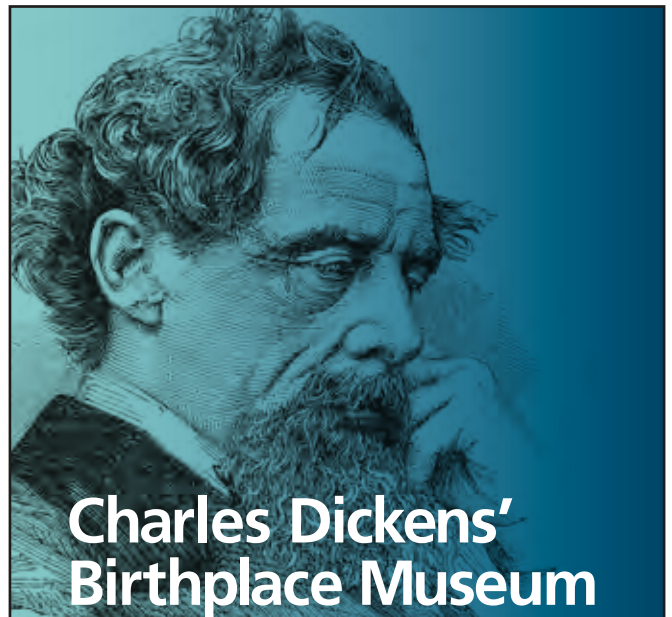


# Home of the Big Guns

National Museum | Victorian Fort | Free Entry

#RoyalArmouriesFortNelson

[royalarmouries.org](http://royalarmouries.org)



## Charles Dickens' Birthplace Museum

Visit the small house in which Charles Dickens was born and discover more about his early life.

Various open days throughout the year, check online for details

[charlesdickensbirthplace.co.uk](http://charlesdickensbirthplace.co.uk)





# EVEN MORE TO EXPLORE



1

**Why not take a longer break and discover more of the south coast while using Portsmouth as your perfect base.**

## Set sail to the Isle of Wight

Take the short journey across to the stunning Isle of Wight where you will find great countryside to explore, sandy beaches to enjoy and lots to visit. Don't miss the majestic Osborne House, once home to Queen Victoria who famously noted 'It is impossible to imagine a prettier spot'. Hovertravel and Wightlink Ferries provide regular services across to the island with journey times from just 10 to 40 minutes.



2 3

## Submarines and more at Gosport

A short ferry ride across Portsmouth Harbour is Gosport. Discover what lurks beneath the waves at the Royal Navy Submarine Museum and learn all about the weapons used by the Royal Navy at Explosion Museum of Naval Firepower.

Visit the Museum of Diving and view the array of curious diving equipment on display; including some used by James Bond. The nearby Hovercraft Museum has the hovercraft that Bond made his escape on in the film "Die Another Day", as well as having the world's largest collection of hovercraft anywhere in the world.

Don't miss 'Little Woodham' 17th century living history village, step back in time and find out about the historic skills of the blacksmith, potter, lace makers and weavers.

## Explore the beautiful national parks

Right on Portsmouth's doorstep you'll find the South Downs National Park, full of fascinating trails to walk or cycle and some great adventure pursuits such as horse riding, hot-air ballooning, golf, hang-gliding and paragliding.

The 140,000 acre New Forest National Park offers a wealth of places to visit and is a haven for cyclists, horse riders and walkers. Discover the beautiful open heaths, ancient oaks and tall pines then meet the famous New Forest ponies as well as deer and cattle in their natural habitat.

## London calling

And don't forget London is just over 90 minutes away by train or coach. Arriving at Waterloo or Victoria you are in easy reach of the London Eye, Imperial War Museum, South Bank, Big Ben and the rest of the many amazing tourist attractions, it couldn't be easier to take a day trip to the capital.



**1**  
Submarine Museum, Gosport  
Image by Charlie Ross

**2**  
Osborne House, Isle of Wight  
Image by Peter Barrit © Alamy

**3**  
Pony in the New Forest  
Image by Gary P le Feuvre  
© Adobe Stock

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\* T&Cs apply, see [wightlink.co.uk/kgf](http://wightlink.co.uk/kgf)

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# GREAT PLACES TO STAY

**P**ortsmouth has a great variety of accommodation, much located in the Southsea area, and with options to suit a range of budgets. Included in this guide we showcase a taste of what is on offer, find out more by visiting [visitportsmouth.co.uk/accommodation](http://visitportsmouth.co.uk/accommodation)

The Holiday Inn is in a prime position close to the seafront in Southsea and offers a range of accommodation along with a chic restaurant and bar plus on-site gym, indoor pool, steam room and sauna. Children under 17 can stay free when sharing a room with adults, perfect for a family break.

The majestic Queens Hotel stands on the edge of Southsea Common and offers quality accommodation including rooms with sea views. It is also the perfect place for afternoon tea, a relaxing dinner, or an evening with cocktails.

At Gunwharf Quays the Holiday Inn Express is perfectly situated amongst a great range of restaurants and nightlife and a short walk from Portsmouth Historic Dockyard, as is the Keppels Head Hotel, located right on the Hard adjacent to Portsmouth Harbour and the nearby train station.

The Royal Maritime Hotel is also very near to the historic ships and offers comfortable and welcoming accommodation accompanied by a delicious full English breakfast! The on-site restaurant Horatio's is open to all.

In the city centre the Ibis Hotel is in a great location and just a short walk from Portsmouth Guildhall and the New Theatre Royal.

To the north of the city the trendy Village Hotel has everything you need for a great stay including a pool, gym, pub and grill with great food, a Starbucks

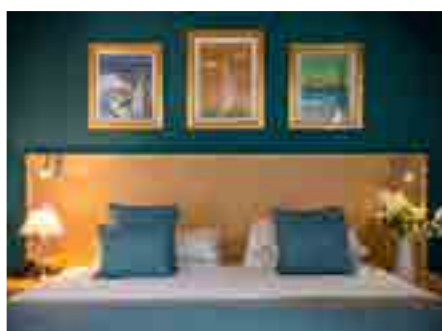
coffee shop and VWorks co-working space. The Village is located in a quiet area just off the M27 a couple of miles from the city centre.

## Booking conditions

Every attempt has been made to ensure the information included in this guide is correct at the time of going to print. Please note that proprietors reserve the right to amend prices and conditions from those in this guide and/or impose additional conditions, provided they inform you of such before they accept your booking.

## Holiday insurance

Don't forget to make sure you have insurance to cover any losses you may incur, even when travelling within the UK.



## Key to facilities

- Facilities for hearing impaired
- Facilities for visually impaired
- Licensed for alcohol
- Restaurant or café
- Breakfast
- Tea/coffee making facilities
- WiFi
- Off street parking
- Ground floor bedrooms
- Children welcome – minimum age
- TV in rooms
- En suite rooms available
- Lounge for residents
- Air conditioning
- Hairdryer
- Electric shaver point
- Linen supplied free of charge
- Iron available
- Cots available
- Dogs welcome
- Conference facilities
- Lift
- Credit cards accepted
- Staff speak foreign languages
- Laundry

## HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS, PORTSMOUTH-GUNWHARF QUAYS

Map page 26  
Ref B4

The Plaza, Gunwharf Quays, Portsmouth, PO1 3FD

**T:** 0333 320 9360

**E:** frontdesk.hiportsmouth@kewgreenhotels.com

**W:** www.hiexpportsmouth.co.uk

Located at the heart of the hustle and bustle of Gunwharf Quays, the Holiday Inn Express is perfectly located within walking distance from a great array of bars, restaurants and plenty of shops along with Portsmouth's main attractions like the Spinnaker Tower and Historic Dockyard.

The hotel's 130 newly refurbished bedrooms ensure a comfortable stay in a stylish room and the refurbished 'open lobby' concept creates a relaxed space to enjoy a drink after a busy day shopping or tuck into a tasty continental breakfast in the morning for a great start to the day with a variety of hot and cold options.

With free WiFi, 24 hour parking and 2 meeting rooms make Holiday Inn Express Gunwharf Quays your next destination.

**Price:** From £99 per room per night

**Rooms:** 130 **En suite:** All

**Facilities:**



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PORTSMOUTH  
GUNWHARF QUAYS



## HOLIDAY INN PORTSMOUTH

Map page 26  
Ref B5

Pembroke Road, Portsmouth, PO1 2TA

**T:** 0333 320 9345

**E:** events.hiportsmouth@kewgreenhotels.com

**W:** www.hiportsmouthhotel.co.uk

Whether you are in the area for business or leisure, The Holiday Inn Portsmouth is ideally located just minutes from the city centre and the seafront.

The newly designed Portsmouth hotel features 173 stylish and comfortable guest rooms all with modern ensuite bathrooms.

The stunning 'open lobby' dining concept brings together the bar and restaurant into one flexible space with all day dining, Starbucks coffee, local ales and a range of popular gins.

The onsite You Fit Health Club is the perfect place to get active and burn off some energy or simply relax and unwind with facilities including a gym, swimming pool, steam room, sauna and Jacuzzi.

Our Academy conference centre can accommodate 2 to 200 delegates with 10 flexible-layout meeting rooms and a dedicated conference host who will be on hand throughout to ensure the day runs smoothly.

With onsite car parking and complimentary high-speed Wifi throughout, the Holiday Inn is ideal for your stay in Portsmouth.

**Price:** From £95 per room per night

**Rooms:** 173 **En suite:** All

**Facilities:**



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PORTSMOUTH





## IBIS PORTSMOUTH

Map page 26  
Ref C4

Winston Churchill Avenue, Portsmouth, PO1 2LX  
**T:** 023 9264 0000 **E:** H1461@accor.com  
**W:** www.accorhotels.com

Located in the centre of the beautiful city of Portsmouth, Ibis is the perfect base from which to enjoy events and attractions in the city and surrounding areas. Marvel at the Goodwood Festival of Speed, challenge yourself in the Great South Run or find harmony at the Victorious music festival and much more—all from the comfort and convenience that Ibis Portsmouth Centre provides.

We look forward to making you feel welcome.

**Price:** From £60–£160 per room per night

**Rooms:** 144 **En suite:** All

**Facilities:**



## KEPPELS HEAD

Map page 26  
Ref B4

24–26 The Hard, Portsmouth, Hampshire, PO1 3DT  
**T:** 023 9283 3231 **E:** supervisor@keppelshead.co.uk  
**W:** www.keppelshead.co.uk

Beautiful Georgian hotel ideally located for transport links, Historic Dockyard, Gunwharf Quays and The Spinnaker Tower. The restaurant serves mouth-watering traditional and Japanese dishes. We look forward to welcoming you.

**Price:** From £65 per room per night

**Rooms:** 30 **En suite:** All

**Facilities:**



## Southsea CASILE

Explore the history of Henry VIII's castle, built in 1544. Take in the amazing views from the ramparts and treat yourself at the castle's renowned eatery 'The Courtyard'.

Includes on-site shop and micro-brewery.

[southseacastle.co.uk](http://southseacastle.co.uk)



## VISITOR INFORMATION

Portsmouth's Visitor Information Service can help with all aspects of your visit

[vis@portsmouthcc.gov.uk](mailto:vis@portsmouthcc.gov.uk)  
[visitportsmouth.co.uk](http://visitportsmouth.co.uk)

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the great waterfront city



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VisitPortsmouthUK/



Experience Portsmouth on YouTube – search for 'Visit Portsmouth'

## QUEENS HOTEL

Map page 26  
Ref C6

Clarence Parade, Southsea, Portsmouth, Hampshire, PO5 3LJ  
**T:** 023 9282 2466 **E:** reservations@queenshotelportsmouth.com  
**W:** www.queenshotelportsmouth.com

A stone's throw from Southsea beach, The Queens Hotel combines old world charm with a contemporary feel.

At the Queens Hotel you will find refurbished rooms, many with spectacular panoramic views over The Solent. Our rooms are full of personality and with an air of elegance. Comfort is our number one priority with comfy beds and gorgeous bathrooms, to make your stay truly memorable.

Come check us out soon and be sure to ask about our special Queens discount at city attractions.

**Price:** £85–£275 per room per night

**Rooms:** 72 **En suite:** All

**Facilities:**



## ROYAL MARITIME HOTEL

Map page 26  
Ref B3

75–80 Queen Street, Portsmouth, Hampshire, PO1 3HS  
**T:** 023 9298 2182 **E:** info@royalmaritimehotel.co.uk  
**W:** royalmaritimehotel.co.uk

The Royal Maritime Hotel is steeped in maritime history. It originally opened in 1850 as the Sailor's Home Club and received Royal Patronage five years later which it has retained to this day.

Located just five minutes from Portsmouth Historic Dockyard and Gunwharf Quays, the hotel is a short walk from Portsmouth Harbour train station and close to Portsmouth International Port.

With 90 en-suite rooms, comfortable beds and tea/coffee-making facilities, the hotel prides itself on excellent customer care.

Leisure facilities include a small swimming pool, jacuzzi, sauna, bar, restaurant, library, skittles alley and games room.

The Hotel's Horatio's Restaurant serves a delicious and varied bistro menu, continental and traditional full English breakfast. You can also choose to relax in the Victory Bar, which is open all day and serves a selection of freshly made food.

Guests also benefit from discounts from local attractions; just ask at reception.

Profits from the hotel fund charitable work with serving military personnel and veterans of all the armed forces and the merchant navy.

**Price:** £60–£180 per room per night

**Rooms:** 90 **En suite:** All

**Facilities:**



# PortCreative

The Official Portsmouth Visitor Guide is designed by **PortCreative**, a full-service creative agency based on the south coast of England. If you like the visitor guide, then let's talk. We would love to work with you!

📞 023 9283 4086 ✉ hello@portcreative.co.uk 🌐 portcreative.co.uk

**Important note:** Whilst every effort has been made to ensure that the information in this publication is correct, Portsmouth City Council cannot guarantee complete accuracy of the information and all liability for loss, disappointment, negligence or other damages caused by this publication, is hereby excluded. As changes often occur after press date, it is advisable to confirm the information given with the relevant organisation. All information is for guidance only, and was current as of November 2023.





Lakeshore Drive, Portsmouth, PO6 3FR

**T:** 023 9200 6245 **E:** portsmouthhub@village-hotels.com

**W:** www.village-hotels.com

Village Hotel Club Portsmouth has 153 super stylish hotel rooms, as clever as they are comfortable, with big TVs, handy gadgets and refreshing drench showers. Upgrade to a Club Room for even more extras, including exclusive toiletries and free Gym access.

Village Gym is a huge state of the art health club with the latest Technogym cardio equipment and a choice of award-winning classes such as BodyPump, BodyCombat, BodyAttack Mind and Body, Village's HIIT class 'Burn', the ultimate calorie-burning session, and classes by Les Mills©. And if all that sounds too energetic, you can enjoy a gentle swim in our 20 metre pool, followed by a steam and sauna.

Our Pub & Grill is at the heart of Village Portsmouth, with a vibrant, inviting, friendly atmosphere. Watch live sport on giant HD screens, enjoy ice cold beers and a great choice of wines and cocktails. Tuck in to one of our famous, juicy burger stacks and dare to take on our devilishly hot wings. Or, if you prefer a delicious healthy option, try our succulent skewers or halloumi bowls.

We even have our own in-house Starbucks, so you can wake up to your favourite coffee and tasty snack!

And if you're visiting Village Portsmouth at the weekend, then you're in for an extra treat. Our hugely popular Tribute and Party nights are great fun. Sing and dance the night away to all your favourites before heading upstairs for a great night's sleep in your big comfy bed.

Village Portsmouth is conveniently located just off the M27 motorway, and just a short drive from Portsmouth's city centre.

Booking your stay at Village couldn't be easier on our easy to use website, or via our app, downloadable from the App Store or Google Play.

**Price:** From £59–£210 per room per night

**Rooms:** 153 **En suite:** All

**Facilities:**



# Cancer can disrupt someone's whole life

That's why Macmillan Cancer Support, together with the Spinnaker Tower are doing whatever it takes to help people with cancer live life as fully as they can.

Our partnership is helping to raise vital awareness for our cancer support services and raising funds to help people get the support they need.

Scan the QR code to find out more about our partnership and how you can make a difference by donating today.

Or visit [macmillan.org.uk/spinnakertower](https://macmillan.org.uk/spinnakertower)



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more



It made  
it home.  
It made  
history.



It makes  
a great  
day out.



For information on events across the city to commemorate the 80th anniversary of D-Day go to [visitportsmouth.co.uk](http://visitportsmouth.co.uk) and [theddaystory.com](http://theddaystory.com)

