

VISIT

PORTSMOUTH



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Holidays!*



VICTORIOUS FESTIVAL

28/29/30 AUGUST 2026

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SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE
FROM COMEDY TO
WORLD - CLASS MUSIC

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Spicing Up

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With over 90 leading fashion and lifestyle brands offering up to 60% off RRP, Gunwharf Quays is the refreshing waterfront escape that is unmatched.

Shopping is just the beginning of your Gunwharf Quays adventure! Whether you're planning a relaxed lunch with friends, a lavish family celebration or you fancy something tasty on the go, our amazing restaurants, cafes and bars are guaranteed to satisfy every tastebud.

From our 14-screen cinema and bowling alley to exciting year-round pop-up events – and not to mention our stunning historic harbourside setting – we're the ultimate day out destination.

GUNWHARF QUAYS

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 **PORTSMOUTH
HISTORIC
DOCKYARD**

WELCOME TO PORTSMOUTH

The great waterfront city



Portsmouth really does have something for everyone – from world-class attractions, amazing events, fabulous shopping and excellent evening entertainment to an array of great places to stay, eat and drink.

Visit the incredible Portsmouth Historic Dockyard where you can view over 500 years of maritime history, including HMS Victory, Mary Rose, HMS Warrior, the National Museum of the Royal Navy, and opening this year the new Royal Marines Experience.

Indulge in some retail therapy at Gunwharf Quays, home to fabulous outlet shopping and a great choice of places to eat and drink, many overlooking the harbour. Speaking of sights, this is also where you will find the Spinnaker Tower, with amazing views across the Solent and beyond.

Starting at the Tower, follow the Millennium Trail into Old Portsmouth. Walk along the cobbled streets, exploring centuries of history, visit Portsmouth Cathedral and see the ancient fortifications, now home to Hotwalls Studios.

In Southsea discover The D-Day Story, where your visit begins aboard the immense landing craft LCT 7074, then visit Henry VIII's Southsea Castle.

As an island city, Portsmouth has miles of waterfront and beaches to explore, along with large open spaces and easy access to countryside walks.

After dinner you can choose music, theatre, comedy or drama at one of the city's variety of venues offering year-round entertainment.

Portsmouth100 – a century of pride, a future of possibility

The UK's only island city is the perfect location for a short break or day trip, and 2026, the city's centenary year, is the ideal time to add Portsmouth to your plans!

This year Portsmouth marks 100 years since it was officially granted city status in 1926. 'Portsmouth100' is a year-long celebration of the city's rich heritage, vibrant communities, and bold future. Find out more on pages 26-27.

To mark the city centenary the covers of ten tourism brochures, one from each decade from 1926 onwards, are showcased on the guide cover.



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Fishing in Portsmouth Harbour
Image by Glenys / Adobe Stock Image

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Visitor guide covers Portsmouth History Centre

Head to the official Visit Portsmouth website for more info on the attractions and accommodation in this guide as well as up-to-date event listings.



Portsmouth
the great waterfront city

A SHORT BREAK ITINERARY

Planning a weekend getaway to Portsmouth?
Let us guide you through some of the highlights
so you can make the most of your trip to the coast.



Day 1 – Arrival

Once you get into Portsmouth and have settled into your accommodation it's time to get exploring. Where better is there to start than the Spinnaker Tower, an icon of modern Portsmouth and a great place to find your bearings. From its view decks 100-metres above sea level the Spinnaker Tower offers stunning vistas looking out across city, coast and country. As well as the views there are experiences galore, from live music and comedy nights to the Sky Bar, white-knuckle abseil and – for something a little more indulgent – a very high tea.

Next, head back down in the high-speed lift to Gunwharf Quays, the waterfront

outlet centre in which Spinnaker Tower is located. You'll be amongst more than 90 designer outlet stores, offering big discounts on some top brands – with everything from fashion and cookware to sports clothing, jewellery and accessories. Even after you've got your fill of retail therapy there's still plenty more to enjoy at Gunwharf Quays, not least the 30+ bars and restaurants, multiplex cinema, bowling alley, contemporary art gallery and more. Spend your first evening with some delicious food overlooking the historic Portsmouth Harbour, where a picturesque walk along the coast takes you back to your accommodation – or off to the historic area of Old Portsmouth and its excellent selection of pubs.



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Day 2 – History big hitters

Advice for day 2: have a big breakfast, there's much exploring to be done!

Start off with a trip to Portsmouth Historic Dockyard, where one ticket gets you entry to a host of top attractions. Of course, these aren't just any attractions, but ships which have changed the course of world history.



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See Henry VIII's flagship The Mary Rose, rescued from the seabed in the largest marine salvage operation ever undertaken. Alongside the hull you'll find items from the largest collection of Tudor objects anywhere on earth.

Next you can climb aboard two iconic naval ships – Nelson's HMS Victory (the world's oldest warship still in commission) and HMS Warrior (so strong and well-armed that, at launch, it was said to have made all other warships obsolete). Next, see one of the last surviving British First World War ships, HMS M.33, and get out onto the water yourself with a Harbour Tour – where you may spot some of the Royal Navy's current fleet.

Your deep dive into British history continues (maybe after a coffee and sweet treat to keep you going) over at The D-Day Story on Southsea Esplanade. The only museum in the UK dedicated entirely to the Normandy Landings, The D-Day Story puts visitors in the shoes of those who made that fateful crossing of June 1944. See up-close exhibits from the time and go on board LCT 7074, a preserved Tank Landing Craft that made multiple channel crossings – before its second life as a floating nightclub in Birkenhead!

A literal stone's throw from The D-Day Story is Southsea Castle, the fortification which Henry VIII had built to protect

against French invasion. The king reportedly had a say in the castle's design (its irregular shape offering no blind spots for his archers) – and was watching on from the ramparts as the Battle of the Solent took place, during which he saw the sinking of his beloved Mary Rose.

By now that breakfast will be a distant memory, so head into Southsea for some fortification of your own. Palmerston Road and the surrounds are home to a great many pubs, bars and restaurants offering food from around the world. There are big-name favourites alongside independent options.

Not ready to call it a night? How about exploring the evening entertainment options? You can catch top-notch performances at the Theatre Royal and Kings Theatre, see some of the biggest names in music and comedy at Portsmouth Guildhall, or watch the best up-and-coming acts at the Wedgewood Rooms and Kola.

Day 3 – Departure

Start your final day in Portsmouth with a restorative seafront walk. Enjoy the fresh air and take in some coastal views from the new promenade opened as part of the Southsea Coastal Scheme. One of the most popular areas is the 'Theatre of the Sea' near Southsea Castle, where you can sit and relax whilst watching the comings and goings of Portsmouth Harbour.

Follow the Millennium Promenade and you'll be guided along to Old Portsmouth and beyond, with the information panels providing historical insight into the area – covering everything from great battles to royal weddings.

Whilst in Old Portsmouth you have a chance to explore the unique artworks available at the Hotwalls Studios. Allow some time to chat to the designer makers who are based there to find out more about their process.

After a bite to eat overlooking the water it's time to head home, where you can start thinking about what to do on your next visit!



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Spinnaker Tower
Image by Stefan Venter

2

Gunwharf Quays
Image by Sonny Flanagan
Photography

3

Spice Island Inn
Image by Charles Bowman /
Adobe Stock Photo

4

The D-Day Story
Image by Peter Langdown

5

**HMS Victory,
Portsmouth Historic
Dockyard**

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**Theatre of the Sea
and Southsea Castle**
Image by Coastal Partners



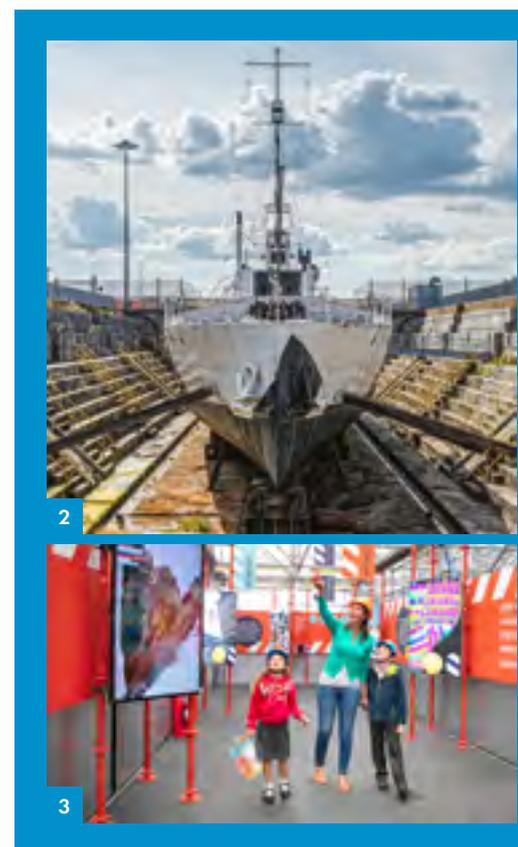
PORTSMOUTH HISTORIC DOCKYARD

Take on an unforgettable adventure this year at Portsmouth Historic Dockyard. Marvel at rare treasures, from tiny coins to colossal Georgian ships, and witness breathtaking wrecks recovered from the ocean's depths.

Step aboard Vice-Admiral Nelson's legendary HMS Victory, explore Henry VIII's prized Mary Rose, and stand in awe of the world's first iron-hulled warship, HMS Warrior. Dive into the history of a genuine First World War monitor ship, HMS M.33. This is a day over 500 years in the making, what will your adventure be?

Experience the Mary Rose like never before in the thrilling Dive the Mary Rose 4D cinema! Immerse yourself in the untold story of the ship's discovery, excavation, and recovery through stunning 3D visuals, CGI, and never-before-seen footage. Feel the excitement come alive with the scents and sounds of the historic raising, all while wearing 3D glasses that make you feel like you're right there in the action.

Be part of history with Victory Live: The Big Repair. Get an exclusive behind-the-scenes pass to the epic restoration of HMS Victory. Watch the team of experts replace





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- 
- 1** HMS Warrior
- 2** HMS M.33
- 3** Victory Live
- 4** Explosion Museum
- 5** Mary Rose
Image by Hufton+Crow

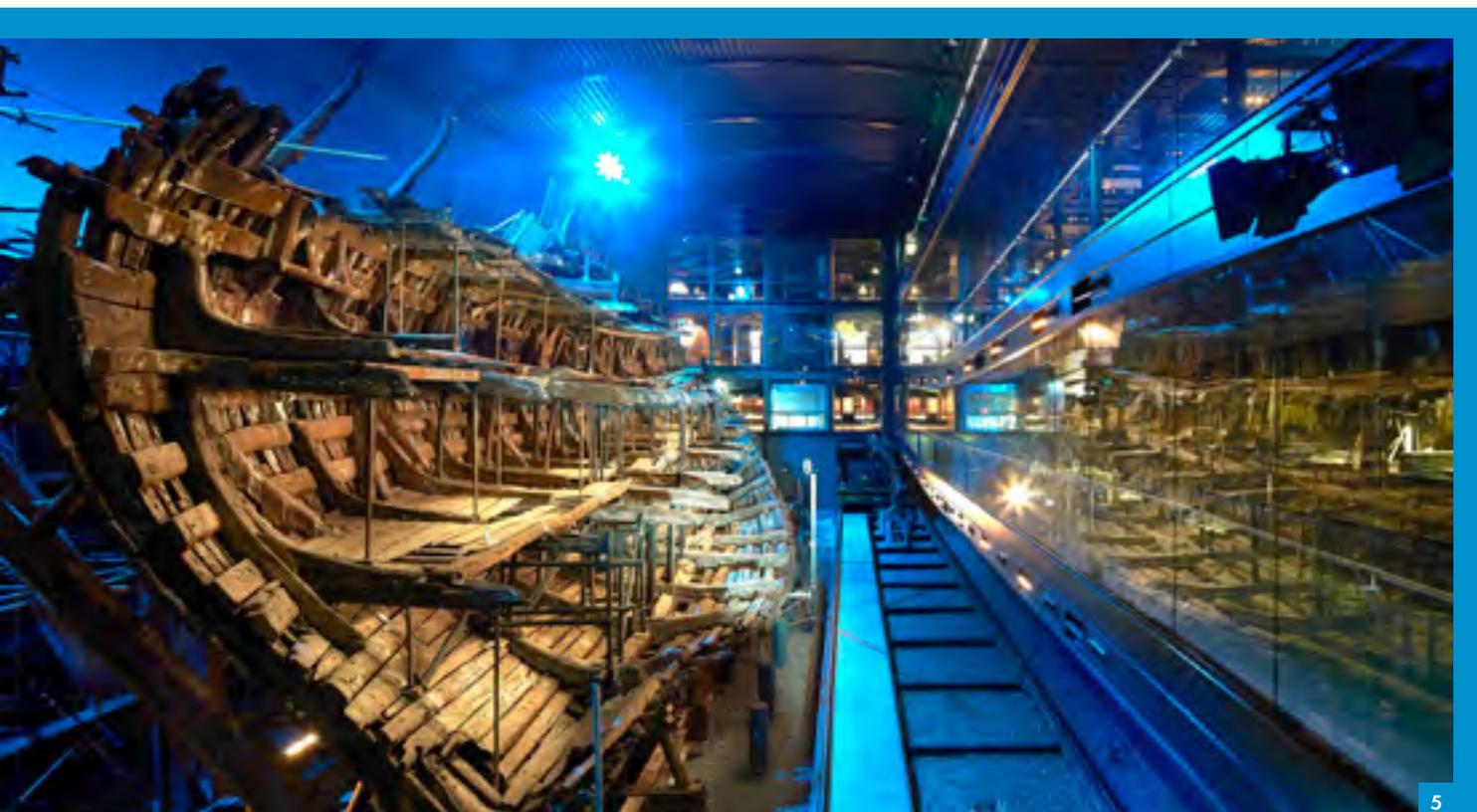
decaying planks with new oak, restore the ship's structural framework, and re-rig her in a massive 10-year, £35 million project. Special viewing areas let you witness every step up close. Don't miss this rare opportunity to see a legend reborn right before your eyes!

Also, included in the ticket are two museums in Gosport, Explosion Museum of Naval Firepower, and the Royal Navy Submarine Museum, available to visit with a short hop across on the scenic waterbus. Explore the depths of the sea at the Royal Navy Submarine Museum, where you can visit the Second World War submarine HMS Alliance, marvel at the pioneering HMS Holland 1, and check out the compact but powerful X24. Immerse yourself in submarine history on

the legendary HMS Dolphin site. Feel the adrenaline at the Explosion Museum of Naval Firepower! Get up close with awe-inspiring missiles, torpedoes, and small arms inside a genuine 18th century armaments depot.

Tickets are unbeatable value and give entry to all of the attractions, including the new Royal Marines Experience which is set to open in 2026. Gain entry to all nine attractions, including the Harbour Tour for breathtaking views of Britain's modern navy at work. Explore diverse galleries around the dockyard, from stories of everyday heroes to stunning displays of the UK's naval evolution.

More info at historicdockyard.co.uk



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GUNWHARF QUAYS

Enjoy a day out at Gunwharf Quays and discover a retail paradise on the stunning Solent waterfront!



-  **1**
Oliver Bonas
Image by Sonny Flanagan Photography
- 2**
Vue Cinema
- 3**
Dining on the waterfront
Image by Sonny Flanagan Photography



If you haven't experienced the magic of Gunwharf Quays yet, you're in for a treat! Perched at the mouth of the scenic Portsmouth Harbour, the shopping centre offers a captivating environment.

Marvel at the impressive waterfront setting, with stunning views of the historic harbour and the iconic Spinnaker Tower. Breathe in the salty sea air as you explore the marina, lined with luxury yachts and boats, creating a picturesque backdrop for your day of exploration.

At Gunwharf Quays, you're invited to embark on a retail adventure and uncover the remarkable experiences waiting to be discovered in the vibrant city of Portsmouth. The centre is also proud to be a dog-friendly destination, where well-behaved four-legged companions are welcome in most stores.

Time to shop big brands, at little prices!

Gunwharf Quays boasts over 90 outlet stores. Premium brands at outlet prices include Michael Kors, Oliver Bonas, Polo Ralph Lauren, Nike, Hugo Boss, Coach, Kate Spade, L'Occitane and so many more, all offering significant discounts of up to 60% off RRP. Whether you're looking for fashion, accessories, homeware, sportswear, gifts, health and beauty and more... there's something for everyone.



Waterfront dining

No need to worry about where to dine during your visit. Gunwharf Quays boasts a fantastic selection of waterfront restaurants, offering a perfect setting to savour a sumptuous meal while enjoying stunning views of the marina.

With more than 30 restaurants, bars, and cafés, the dining options are plentiful. From casual eateries to fine dining, guests can enjoy a variety of cuisines. Highlights include Brasserie Blanc for French cuisine, Las Iguanas for Latin flavours, Giggling Squid for a taste of Thailand and The Alchemist for innovative cocktails.



Bringing the little ones?

If you're visiting with children, family-friendly entertainment and activities can be found by the bucketful. For a dose of friendly competition, head to Hollywood Bowl and let the whole family score a strike! Or why not settle in for a big screen experience at VUE Cinema?

Fancy a spot of sightseeing? The striking Spinnaker Tower offers breathtaking views stretching up to 23 miles across the Solent on a clear day. Daredevils can also test their mettle on the Sky Walk and view the harbour 100 metres below through a clear glass walkway.

For an adventure on the high seas, Solent Harbour Tours are great fun for parents and little pirates alike to take in the sights of Portsmouth's historic harbour! Departing from Gunwharf Quays Marina, you'll get fantastic views of the Royal Navy's ships in port, along with a full commentary on the captivating history of the Dockyard.

Accessible and inclusive

Gunwharf Quays warmly welcomes all visitors. With convenient access to all stores and facilities, there's a comfortable experience for those with additional mobility needs. The Guest Services team is dedicated to supporting individuals with hidden disabilities, ensuring an enjoyable visit for everyone.

THE BEST VIEW IN HISTORY



**Spinnaker
Tower**

spinnakertower.co.uk

SPINNAKER TOWER



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The iconic Spinnaker Tower rises 170 metres above Portsmouth Harbour, its sail-inspired design a striking symbol of the city's maritime heritage. Your journey begins in the high-speed lift and in just 30 seconds you arrive at the viewing decks where breathtaking views stretch for up to 23 miles across the Solent, the South Downs and the Isle of Wight.

Every visit offers more than just the view. Discover stories that bring 2,000 years of Portsmouth's past and present to life and spot famous landmarks from a new perspective.

Dare to step onto the thrilling Sky Walk, a glass floor suspended 100 metres above

the harbour, or feel the sea breeze in the open-air Sky Garden. For the ultimate challenge, take on an adrenaline-fuelled abseil down the Tower.

Afterwards, unwind at the Quayside Café or indulge in a sparkling High Tea at Clouds with panoramic views by day. As evening arrives, Clouds transforms into the stylish Sky Bar, the perfect place to enjoy cocktails as the sun sets over the water.

Spinnaker Tower is a destination to remember. Book online to guarantee your visit and save on all-day admission.

More info at spinnakertower.co.uk



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1 View Deck
Image by Rod Varley / Alamy Stock Image

2 View Deck

3 High Tea at Clouds

4 Abseiling down the Spinnaker Tower

VICTORIOUS FESTIVAL

Experience the ultimate bank holiday at Victorious Festival 2026



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This August bank holiday, Portsmouth's very own Victorious Festival returns to its iconic Southsea seafront home – and it's set to be another unmissable year. With the sparkling Solent as its backdrop, Victorious isn't just a festival – it's a full weekend of celebration by the seaside.

Across multiple stages, you'll discover everything from major headline performances to chilled-out acoustic sets, plus new favourite artists to discover. There will be tons of music all weekend long.

But it's not just about the music. Comedy, street performers, and pop-up entertainment fill every corner, while the Skatepark brings high-energy demos and roller discos. Southsea Castle transforms into a historic party spot, giving you a festival experience you simply won't find anywhere else.

Families are at the heart of the festival. The Kids Arena overflows with free entertainment – from character meet-and-greets and theatre performances to games, arts, and crafts – keeping little ones entertained and parents relaxed.

Fuel your weekend with delicious street food from local and global traders, explore market stalls, and soak up that unbeatable summer festival vibe.

Whether you're a local, a loyal fan, or a first-timer, Victorious 2026 is the place for an unforgettable bank holiday weekend.

Buy tickets at victoriousfestival.co.uk



1
Queens of the Stone Age

2
Kids Arena

3
Gabrielle

4
Common Stage

All images by Victorious Festival and Strong Island



VICTORIOUS FESTIVAL

WHAT'S ON IN



Portsmouth has a packed calendar of year-round events, with even more to enjoy in 2026, the city's centenary year.



Left to Right:
Victorious Festival
The Pride of Portsmouth
Southsea Food Festival
Ice Skating

The city hosts everything from breathtaking theatre productions to huge music festivals, free family activities and loads more besides. For the most up-to-date listings of everything going on head to visitportsmouth.co.uk – or here are just some of the event highlights this year.

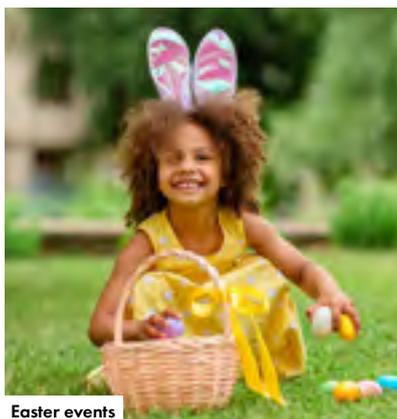


BookFest

© Simon Ambridge

JANUARY – FEBRUARY

The year kicks off with a decidedly literary slant. We'll be marking the birth of Charles Dickens on 7 February at the home in which he was born – which is today a museum. Then it's the turn of Portsmouth **BookFest**, bringing a host of authors to locations across the city for talks, workshops and readings.



Easter events

MARCH – APRIL

There will be some egg-cellent family activities at many Portsmouth attractions over the Easter holidays. You can egg-spect craft activities, trails, and plenty more besides. In April a special **Commemorative Civic Ceremony** will be relayed live on the Big Screen in Guildhall Square to mark the 100-year anniversary.



Comic Con

MAY – JUNE

The festivities continue in early May with **Portsmouth Comic Con**. The international festival of comics welcomes world famous actors, writers and cartoonists. In June **Armed Forces Day** will take place on Southsea Common, the International Port will celebrate its 50th anniversary with a **Community Open Day** and Aspex will also open its centenary exhibition, **'2126: What if?'**



Armed Forces Day

© Salami Sky Services

JULY – AUGUST

Summer sees the launch of **The Pride of Portsmouth**, with a trail of uniquely designed lion sculptures across the city. July will also see the return of **Emirates GB Sail GP**, foodie treats at **Southsea Food Festival**, outdoor **Centenary Concerts** in Guildhall Square, whilst the incredible **Victorious Festival** returns over the August Bank Holiday weekend.



Concert in the Guildhall Square



Heritage Open Days

SEPTEMBER – OCTOBER

In September **Heritage Open Days** provides a unique opportunity to go behind the scenes at a range of venues and attractions. In October Portsmouth Historic Dockyard will host **'Portsmouth100: Our Naval City'**, a vibrant day of heritage, food and festivities, before **'Portsmouth100 – Your Museums, Your Stories, Your City'** opens at Portsmouth Museum and Art Gallery and the hugely popular **Great South Run** – the world's premier 10-mile running event – returns.



Great South Run

NOVEMBER – DECEMBER

As the year concludes, Portsmouth explodes into colour with the **We Shine** event, firework displays and **Christmas Light Switch On** parties. The festivities continue with a whole host of **pantomime performances** at the city's numerous theatres, as well as many **Christmas Markets** for you to grab that perfect gift. You can also get your skates on as **Portsmouth On Ice** returns to Guildhall Square.



We Shine

© Lucky Sam Photo

It made
it home.
It made
history.



THE D-DAY STORY
PORTSMOUTH

It makes
a great
day out.



Visit the only UK museum dedicated to the momentous events of 6 June 1944. Step onboard LCT 7074, explore the museum's collection and marvel at the Overlord Embroidery. thedaystory.com



THE D-DAY STORY

The D-Day Story is an essential part of any visit to Portsmouth. The Normandy landings remain the largest seaborne invasion ever seen and marked the beginning of the end of the Second World War. The D-Day Story is the only UK museum dedicated solely to this moment in history.

Divided into three distinct parts, your visit begins onboard Landing Craft Tank 7074, the last surviving preserved LCT which took part during June 1944. 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 on board to life.

Inside the museum, discover 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 your visit. Inspired by the Bayeux Tapestry and comprising 34 hand-stitched panels, the Embroidery was created to commemorate those who took part on D-Day. You can also hear Veterans' personal stories as they reflect on their wartime service.

The museum is open 10am to 5pm daily.

More info at thedaystory.com

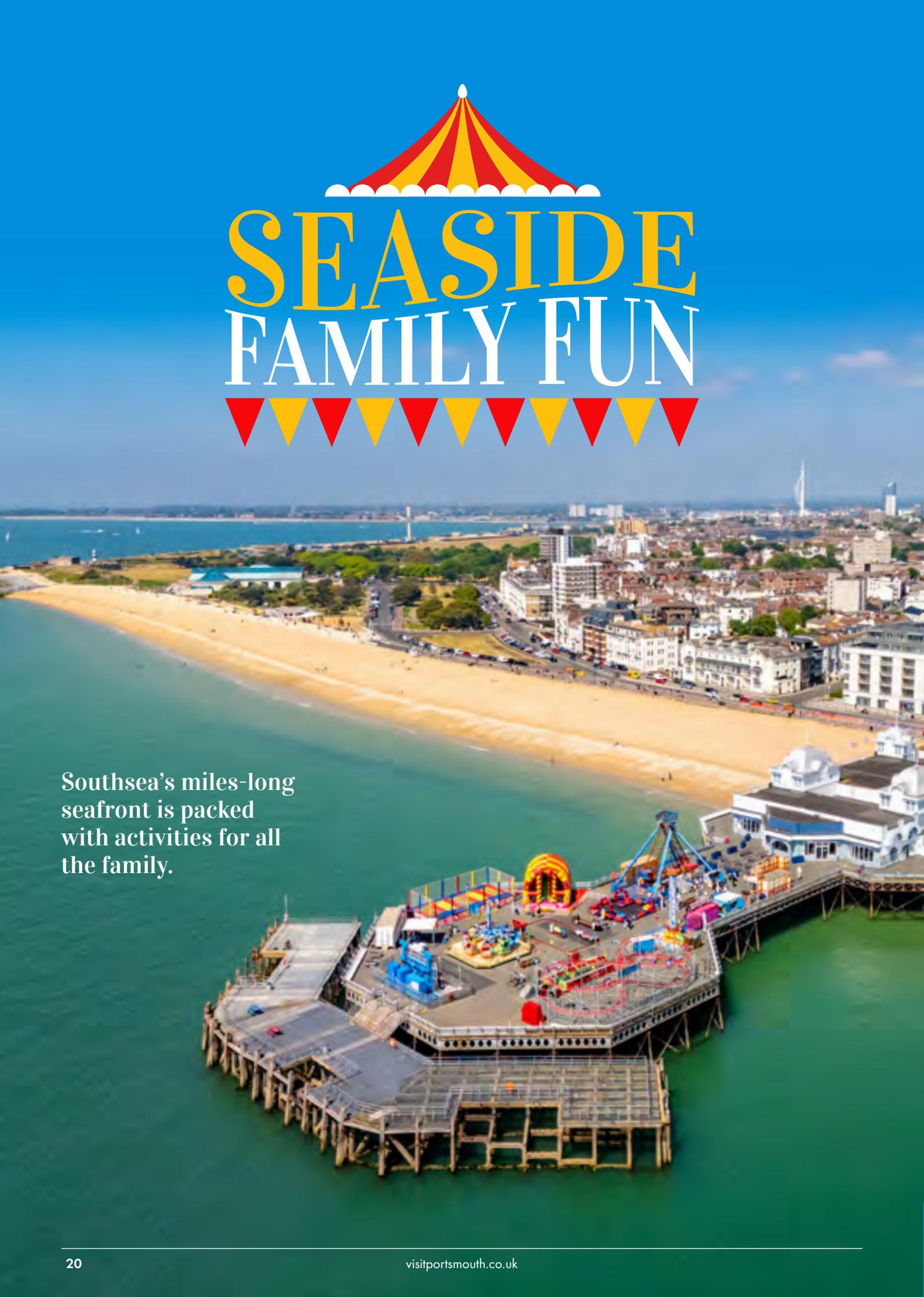


HENRY VIII'S SOUTHSEA CASTLE

Located at the southernmost tip of Portsea Island and a short walk from The D-Day Story is Southsea Castle. Built in 1544, the castle is reportedly from where Henry VIII watched the sinking of his favourite ship the Mary Rose – a buoy marks the wreck location and is viewable from the castle ramparts. Discover the fortification's fascinating history in the castle keep, stop for a bite to eat at The Courtyard restaurant and climb the stone steps to walk around the ramparts and take in the expansive city and sea views. The castle is fully open to visitors from April to October, while The Courtyard restaurant is open all year.

More info at southseacastle.co.uk

-  **1**
The D-Day Story
Image by Matt Scott-Joynt
- 2**
LCT 7074
Image by Peter Langdown
- 3**
Overlord Embroidery
Image by Peter Langdown
- 4**
Castle Ramparts
Image by Matt Scott-Joynt
- 5**
Southsea Castle
Image by Gorma Kuma / Adobe Stock Image

An aerial photograph of Southsea, Portsmouth, showing a long sandy beach, the seafront, and a large wooden pier with various amusements. A graphic overlay at the top features a red and yellow striped circus tent with a white scalloped edge, and a row of red and yellow pennants below the main title. The title 'SEASIDE FAMILY FUN' is written in a large, stylized font, with 'SEASIDE' in yellow and 'FAMILY FUN' in white.

SEASIDE FAMILY FUN

Southsea's miles-long seafront is packed with activities for all the family.



1
South Parade Pier
Image by Thomas Faull /
iStock Image

2
Portsmouth's Natural
History Museum
Image by Peter Langdown

3
Clarence Pier
Image by Mike Walker /
Alamy Stock Photo

4
Exploria



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The beautiful Southsea seafront offers miles of beach and seafront promenade to explore, with the designated bathing area being to the east of South Parade Pier. Discover the new sections of the promenade, created as part of the ongoing coastal defence works, including the magnificent 'Theatre of the Sea' area by Southsea Castle. As works progress more areas of the promenade will open throughout the year.

Southsea also boasts not one, but two piers! Clarence Pier to the west is home to a funfair, indoor Pitch and Putt, adventure Mini Golf, arcade games and much more. Further along the seafront to the east is the majestic South Parade Pier, home to arcade games, family activities and great food options – including fish and chips.

Just across the road from here is Canoe Lake and Portsmouth's Natural History Museum. This small museum includes the A-Z of Natural History exhibition, plus geology and wildlife habitat displays, a working beehive and a seasonal butterfly house.

The wider Canoe Lake area offers pedalos, a play park, gardens to explore

and a wide choice of places for a bite to eat. Nearby, constructed on the site of the ancient Lumps Fort, is Southsea Model Village – a 1/12 scale miniature world including G scale railway featuring Thomas and friends.

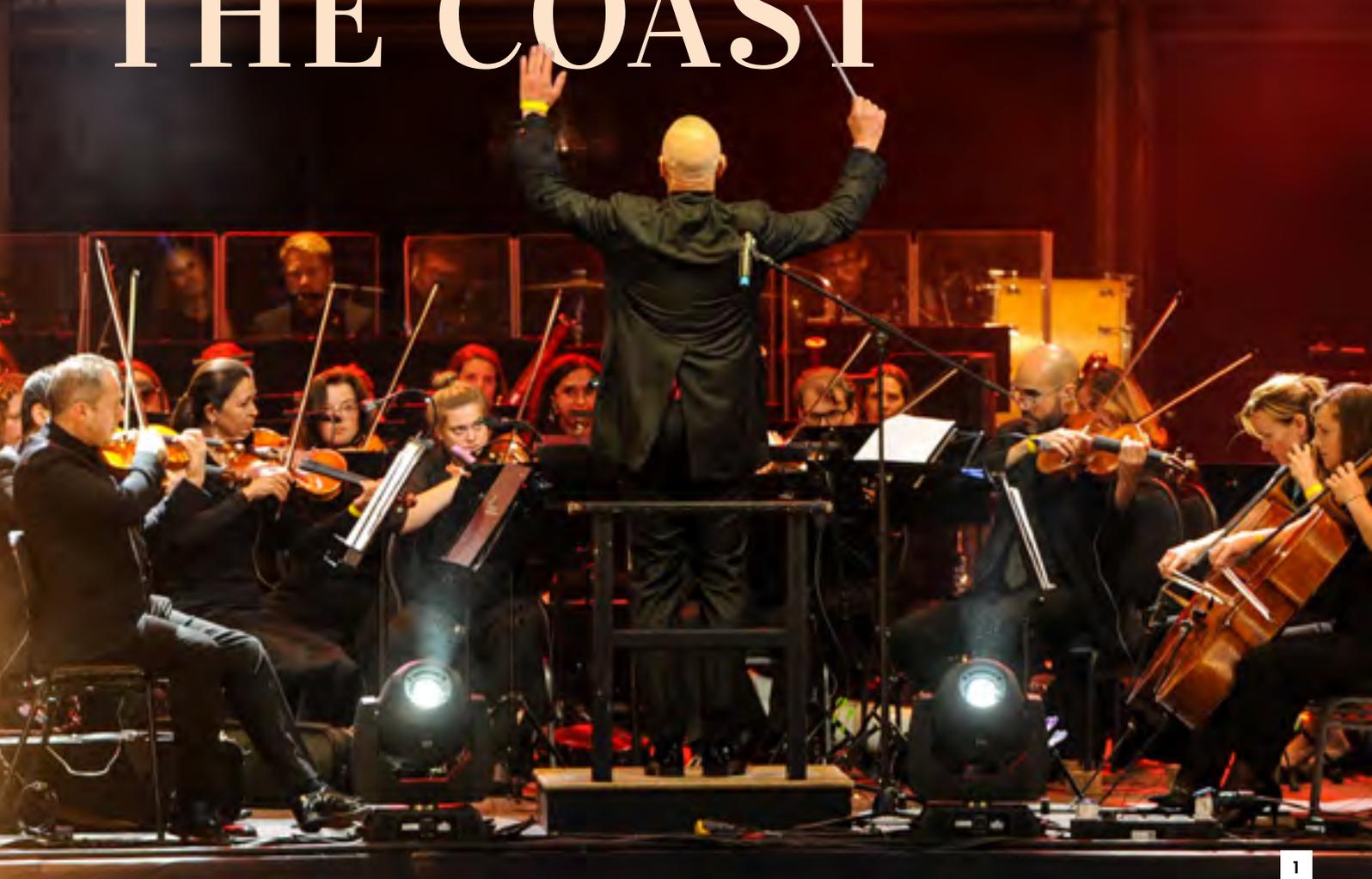
There is more of the natural world to discover at Blue Reef Aquarium. The Solent Seas, Tropical Treasures and Freshwater Fun displays have a range of animals to view including axolotls, bamboo sharks, clown fish, eels, snapping turtles, seahorses, stingrays, porcupine pufferfish and red bellied piranha.

If you are looking for great indoor play to keep the children active and entertained, Exploria at Portsmouth Pyramids Centre is ideal. Discover extreme fun across three connected worlds, with areas for juniors, toddlers and babies alike. Activities include a ninja run, slides, ball pit and Little Tykes' car track.

For something truly exhilarating try one of the Hovercraft Experience Flights, leaving from Southsea beach throughout the year.

For visitors with disabilities, Wetwheels Solent provides barrier-free power boating experiences.

CULTURE BY THE COAST



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This year will be a huge one for culture in Portsmouth, with the city planning an array of events, performances and installations to mark its centenary as a city. What better time to visit, then, than the year when culture takes centre stage?

At the heart of our cultural offering is Portsmouth Guildhall – an impressive neo-classical building in the city centre. Over the years it has hosted live performances from the likes of The Beatles, Pink Floyd, The Rolling Stones, Jimi Hendrix and many more.

Today it's the city's largest venue, a popular stopping point for household-name musicians and comedians on their worldwide tours – with acts confirmed for the year ahead including Suede, Franz Ferdinand, Chris Ramsey, Diversity and Al Murray. The Guildhall also has an impressive classical music offer and hosts

many weekend-long events, like Comic Con and Takedown music festival.

There's more live entertainment to take in at the Theatre Royal in the city centre or at Southsea's Kings Theatre. Both were designed by eminent architect Frank Matcham, so you can be sure that their elegant interiors will provide a stunning backdrop to all the on-stage action.

The Kings Theatre welcomes touring productions straight from the West End, alongside big-name comedians and musicians, whilst the Theatre Royal has a great programme of community theatre, touring extravaganzas and boundary-pushing productions in everything from ballet to circus.

Now located within Portsmouth Historic Dockyard, Groundlings Theatre offers a mix of professional and amateur shows, highlighting grassroots talent in its fully step-free home at Boathouse 5.

There's much more live music to enjoy at Portsmouth's famed gig venues. The iconic Wedgewood Rooms remains the best known, being the place where up-and-coming acts have cut their teeth before going on to superstardom. Over the years, the likes of Oasis, Muse and The Killers have all played on its hallowed stage. Time your visit to coincide with a show and you may well see the next festival headliner before they make it massive!

A newer addition is Kola, the music venue and nightclub having quickly made a name for itself with shows from emerging acts as well as those making waves in the local scene.

Art in Portsmouth is just as vibrant and diverse, with a host of venues, galleries and studios celebrating everything from established names to the most cutting-edge works.

Aspex Portsmouth is a contemporary art gallery located within the Gunwharf Quays complex. Its year-round programme of events, installations and exhibitions can be radical in outlook, but always maintaining a strong community focus. As well as the big residencies and exhibitions, Aspex hosts regular fully inclusive events, using art to engage with all members of the community.

Just across the way in Old Portsmouth you'll find the Hotwalls Studios, where historic fortifications now stand as workspaces for artists, designers and makers. The 13 studios are occupied by artists working across a host of varied disciplines – including jewellery, ceramics, fine art and even taxidermy!

The studios are designed to be welcoming spaces where visitors can pop in to speak first-hand with the designers and find out all about their process. This really comes into its own on the monthly Open Studios events, where all the resident makers throw open their doors to showcase their crafts.

Elsewhere through the year there are large-scale craft markets, guest exhibitors in the historic Round Tower, and interactive workshops to learn a new skill in a welcoming environment.

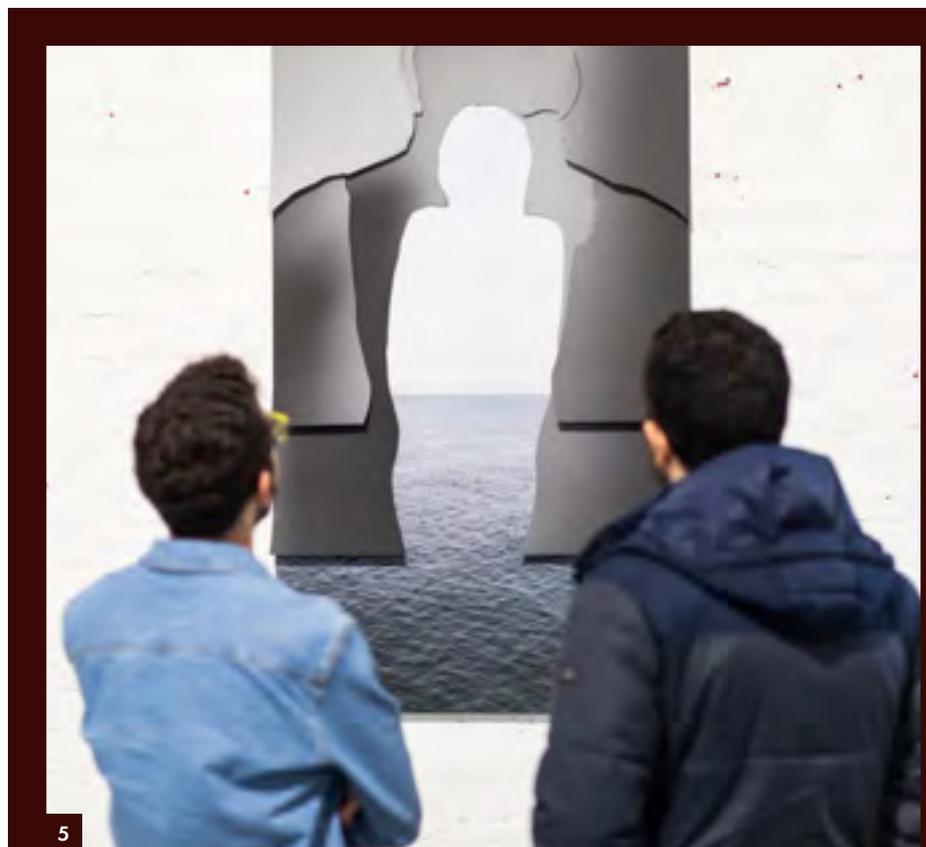
There is more art to explore at The Windbreaks on Southsea seafront, where ten large-scale artworks are displayed throughout the year.

Go to visitportsmouth.co.uk for more information on cultural attractions and upcoming events in 2026 and beyond.



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-  **1** Portsmouth Guildhall
Image by Dan Haswell
Photography
- 2** Kings Theatre
Alamy Stock Photo
- 3** Theatre Royal
- 4** The Wedgewood Rooms
Image by Nikki Court /
Alamy Stock Image
- 5** Aspex Gallery
- 6** Hotwalls Studios
Image by Claire Sambrook
- 7** Guest artist
John Pearson at
the Round Tower



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7

INDEPENDENT ISLAND

Portsmouth is an island full of character and community – something you’ll notice most keenly in the city’s many independent shops, pubs, restaurants, venues and attractions. If you want a true representation of Portsmouth and its people, be sure to take in some of its unique indies, where you’ll be given the warmest of welcomes and an experience that simply cannot be replicated anywhere else.

Looking to pick up some items that will set you apart from the crowd? Strong Island Clothing designs and prints its own range of unique and limited-edition t-shirts, hoodies, caps and more.

Or how about a little sparkle? A number of independent jewellers operate within Portsmouth – among them Charlotte Cornelius (who has amassed 30 years of experience making bespoke pieces) and Barbara Tipple (one of Britain’s most accomplished jewellers, with a slew of awards to her name).

Southsea’s Marmion and Castle Roads are particular hotspots for indie offerings. The latter is home to Pie & Vinyl, which serves up hearty meals alongside the latest releases and must-have classic albums. It also hosts in-store events, so you may well catch your favourite artist in an intimate setting.



1

2



1
My Dog Sighs X
Charlotte Cornelius
Collection –
Street Art meets
Fine Jewellery

2
Strong Island
Clothing Co.

3
The Briny

4
The Tenth Hole

5
Fatclay Pottery

6
Portsmouth
Distillery Co.

If you prefer to get your hands dirty, how about getting behind the wheel at Fatclay Pottery? The ceramics studio on Castle Road lets visitors try their hand at various forms of pottery, to learn a new skill and make something to take home and treasure.

After all the excitement there are many places nearby to rest and recharge, with great food available at the likes of Delaney's or Carter & Co, or something to drink at The Hole in the Wall and The Barley Mow.

The indie food offering continues along Albert Road – which is particularly famous for its Asian flavours. Tuck into an authentic curry or a Chinese feast, then finish your evening at one of the many nearby pubs, bars and venues.

Alternatively, set your sights for Palmerston and Osborne Roads, where the indie restaurants cover (among others) Greek, Italian, Turkish and Spanish cuisine, or head to the coast for quality seafood with a view at The Briny.

Your sweet fix can be sated at The Tenth Hole. As well as a delicious regular menu the tea rooms is renowned for a cake selection that's as delicious as it is varied.

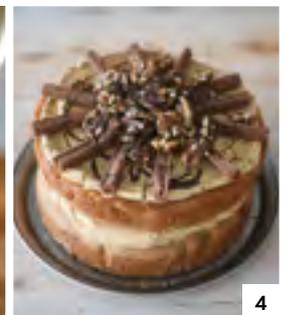
Prefer to get the best foods and ingredients to take away? There's a glut of popular

and very well-reviewed options available. Bread Addiction is a Portsmouth staple; the Southsea bakery offers top-notch pastries, sweet treats and coffees, alongside its famed sourdough loaves. Then just a stone's throw away you'll find Southsea Deli. As well as stocking a range of quality local ingredients it offers workshops and classes – perfect for picking up tips on making the best street food, bread or pasta at home.

If artisan drinks are more appealing then look no further than the breweries and distilleries operating from inside Portsmouth.

Craft beer is well catered for, thanks to the likes of MakeMake, Urban Island, Staggeringly Good and the Southsea Brewing Company. As well as tap houses across the city to drink some fresh beer right where it's brewed, some also have dedicated pubs of their own – offering their local drops alongside specially chosen guest ales.

Meanwhile, the Portsmouth Distillery has picked up fans right across the world for its delicious rums and gins. Head to the distillery in historic Fort Cumberland for a tour of the grounds, then enjoy a taster or two. It also hosts regular events, so you can see live comedy or dance the night away, all within a truly unique setting.



PORTSMOUTH 100



A century
of pride, a
future of
possibility





This year marks the centenary of Portsmouth's city status and we plan to celebrate all year long! There will be a wide variety of events throughout the year including:

- **Guildhall Squared Festival** in May
- **The Pride of Portsmouth Lion Trail** from mid-July to mid-September
- **Centenary Concert Series** in July
- **Portsmouth 100: Our Naval City** at Portsmouth Historic Dockyard in October
- **Portsmouth 100 – Your Museum, Your Stories, Your City** exhibition at Portsmouth Museum and Art Gallery in November
- **We Shine Festival with Portsmouth 100 theme** in November

You can find out much more online at portsmouth100.co.uk and also download the '100 Things to see and do in Portsmouth in 2026' guide, full of great events and experiences to inspire you on your visit. For full details of all events in 2026 go to visitportsmouth.co.uk



1
Portsmouth Town Hall postcard, sent in 1926
Original from private collection. Photographer/publisher unknown

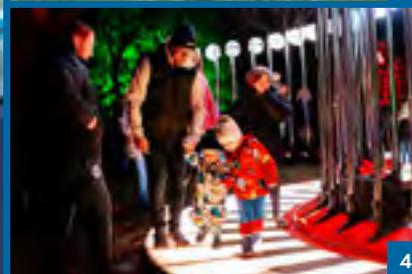
2
The Pride of Portsmouth trail

3
Portsmouth Museum and Art Gallery
Image by Peter Langdown

4
We Shine Festival
Image by Elliot McRae

5
Page from the 1926 Portsmouth Visitor Guide
Portsmouth History Centre

6
The day Portsmouth gained city status



The Pride of Portsmouth

As part of the centenary celebrations, in the summer for over eight roaring weeks, Portsmouth will come alive with a pride of lion sculptures, each uniquely designed by talented artists and inspired by the spirit of this vibrant city. Trail information and maps will be available online and at local libraries, download the Trail App and find a host of rewards at each lion you encounter.

Looking back at Portsmouth Tourism

In this centenary year we have chosen to showcase one visitor guide cover from each decade across the outer covers of this guide, with our favourite one reworked for the front cover.

In 1926 the guide included a medical recommendation to visit under the heading – 'Southsea and Portsmouth, where the sun lingers longest'.

Many of the activities and attractions we still promote today were mentioned 100 years ago including HMS Victory, Old Portsmouth, the two piers, Canoe Lake and Charles Dickens' Birthplace.

OUR HISTORY IS YOURS



1

Portsmouth may be a relatively small city, but it's rich in history – having been witness to great battles, icons of literature, and even a royal wedding.

Portsmouth Historic Dockyard is understandably the first port of call for many visitors to the city. Here you can do more than just view icons of history, but actually go on board. More information on Portsmouth Historic Dockyard can be found on pages 8-9.

From Portsmouth Historic Dockyard you can follow the Millennium Promenade for a self-guided tour through the area's rich heritage. A chain motif set into the pavement points the way, with information panels at intervals along the route providing further information about the people and events to have left their mark.



2

-  1 Portsmouth Historic Dockyard
- 2 Millennium Promenade
Adobe Stock Image
- 3 Portsmouth Cathedral
- 4 Royal Armouries Fort Nelson

After following the route for just a short way you'll arrive in Old Portsmouth. As its name suggests, this historic quarter has been at the heart of many Portsmouth stories from across the centuries. It was where imposing fortifications were built to protect Britain from invasion, and where many an unwitting victim was press ganged into active service.



3

Today, Old Portsmouth is among the city's more desirable quarters, home to a great many top-quality pubs, plus the Cathedral, fish market and quaint, cobbled streets.

Staying with Portsmouth Cathedral, the 'Church of St Thomas of Canterbury', as it is also known, has a history dating back as far as 1180. It became a parish church in 1320 and a fully-fledged cathedral in 1927. In the intervening centuries it has been bombed and rebuilt, witnessed famous marriages, and helped the people of Portsmouth and its surrounds through war and peace. Today it's home to the grave of the unknown crew member of the Mary Rose and a part of Lord Nelson's flag from HMS Victory.

Not far from the Cathedral is Portsmouth Museum and Art Gallery, which showcases the city's art collection and history, including the renowned Pompey football club.

To the east of Portsmouth, you can take in the elegant Boulton and Watt engines that brought sanitation to residents in the Victorian era at Eastney Engine Houses, where regular open days take place throughout the year.



4

Just off the island is another sign of the area's history – and its vital importance in protecting Britain from invasion by sea.

Fort Nelson sits atop Portsdown Hill, overlooking the cityscape below (and out across Hampshire's rolling hills). Inside the fort you'll find the Royal Armouries' collection of heavy artillery. Visitors can explore some 19 acres of tunnels and ramparts, as well as weapons from across the world – including a 15th-century Turkish bombard cannon, a gigantic 200-tonne railway howitzer, and the infamous 'Big Babylon' Iraqi supergun.

AN OPEN BOOK



1



2

Portsmouth's literary heritage is as esteemed as its seafaring one, with the city having been home to many of England's best and most beloved authors.

The most famous of them all has to be Charles Dickens, who was born in a small, terraced house on 7 February 1812. He may have gone on to become famous around the world but Dickens' story starts in Portsmouth, specifically on what is now Old Commercial Road.

The Dickens' family home is now a museum dedicated to the great man. It has been painstakingly decorated in the Regency style favoured at the time, and contains some of his personal possessions.

Another world-renowned author to have called Portsmouth home is Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. In fact, not only did he live here, but it was from his doctor's surgery in Southsea that Doyle first put pen to paper on the creation that would forever change the world of detective fiction: Sherlock Holmes.

The story goes that Doyle set up a surgery but struggled to find enough patients to stave off the boredom. To fill his time, Doyle wrote of a 'consulting detective' and his trusty sidekick. As such, Sherlock Holmes may live at 221b Baker Street, but he was born in Portsmouth.

The world's largest collection of Doyle memorabilia is owned by Portsmouth's

Libraries Service, and you can see a selection at the 'A Study in Sherlock' exhibition open year-round at Portsmouth Museum and Art Gallery.

Many other big-name authors have lived or worked in Portsmouth. Rudyard Kipling spent time here as a child, whilst "the father of science fiction" H.G. Wells worked for a short while as a draper's apprentice in Southsea.

Portsmouth was also the birthplace of Michelle Magorian, author of *Just Henry* and *Goodnight Mister Tom*.

This rich literary heritage is celebrated every year at Portsmouth BookFest, which hosts interactive classes and welcomes some eminent authors to the city to talk about their latest works.



3



1

Authors left to right:
H.G. Wells photo by George Charles Beresford, painting of Charles Dickens by artist William Powell Frith, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, and Rudyard Kipling photo by Elliott & Fry

2

Charles Dickens Birthplace Museum

3

Portsmouth Museum and Art Gallery
Image by Peter Langdown

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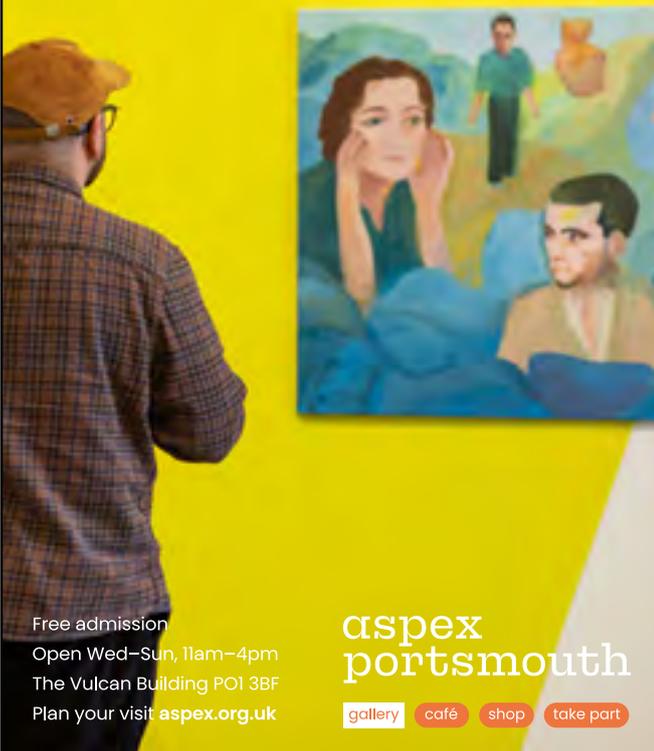
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PORTSMOUTHGUILDHALL.ORG.UK

creativity by the coast



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aspex
portsmouth

gallery café shop take part

ROYAL ARMOURIES

FORT NELSON



Home of the Big Guns

National Museum | Victorian Fort | Free Entry

#RoyalArmouriesFortNelson

royalarmouries.org

SHOPPING AROUND



1

In addition to the amazing variety that Gunwharf Quays offers across its 90+ brands (see pages 10-11), Portsmouth is also home to a selection of high street names, independent shops, and year-round markets. Cascades shopping centre and Commercial Road in the city centre offer a wide range of well-known brands that you would expect to find in a British high street.

Bag a bargain in TKMaxx and pick up the latest fashion in nearby Next, Flannels or H&M. Check out the latest footwear styles, treat yourself to a range of beauty products or buy a gift of jewellery for that special someone. There is a good mix of places to enjoy a bite to eat too.

Browse the reading matter in Waterstones while relaxing in their in-house café or grab a takeaway and stroll to Victoria Park, a haven of quiet for a picnic break from all the retail therapy.



2



3

In Southsea you will find a mix of big brands and independent and vintage stores across Palmerston Road, Marmion Road, Castle Road and Albert Road. Find out more on pages 24-25.

At Port Solent you can browse the waterfront shops while checking out the yachts in the marina, the perfect place for a pit-stop with a choice of places to eat and drink as well as a six-screen cinema.

Portsmouth also has several retail parks that are home to larger stores and supermarkets. These include Ocean Retail Park, the Pompey Centre and North Harbour.



4



- 1 Cascades
- 2 Next in Cascades
- 3 Castle Road

- 4 Port Solent
Image by LCSL Creative
- 5 Hotwalls Studios
summer market
Image by Dan Boss

Market days



Local markets add to the Portsmouth shopping experience right throughout the year. Check out the What's On listings at visitportsmouth.co.uk for the most up-to-date information.

City Centre Market

A range of fruit and vegetables plus clothing, gifts, hardware, flowers and much more – every Thursday, Friday and Saturday all year.

Hampshire Farmers' Market

Every third Sunday of the month in Palmerston Road.

Love Southsea Market

A regular market of independent creatives plus food and drink in Palmerston Road.

Port Solent Waterside Market

A range of fresh produce and artisanal food products, handmade crafts and gifts, every second Sunday of the month.



5

Hotwalls Studios

A regular Creatives Market and Open Studios events.

Christmas Treats

In the run up to Christmas the markets turn festive with special stalls in Gunwharf Quays, Commercial Road, Port Solent and others.

SPORT BY THE SEA



2



3

Portsmouth has a proud sporting heritage – both on land and sea – making it the perfect place to stay active, try a new activity or simply enjoy watching one of the many events taking place right across the year.

The city's year-round sporting calendar includes Emirates GB Sail GP (dubbed 'the most exciting race on water') in July, running events such as The Great South Run in October, and Pretty Muddy and Race for Life in July. And no visit is complete without catching the men's or women's Pompey team in action at Fratton Park.

As the UK's only island city, Portsmouth has a wide range of water-based activities

on offer and has three marinas: Gunwharf Quays, Port Solent and Southsea Marina. The Andrew Simpson Centre is the first port of call for any enthusiast, with courses and access to water-based activities including sailing, rowing, powerboating, kayaking, canoeing and paddle-boarding. The centre also houses a 13-metre outdoor climbing tower; one for the brave!

To the north of the city, opening in 2026, the fully refurbished Hilsea Lido will offer a range of outdoor swim sessions. Nearby, 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.



1

Emirates GB Sail GP

2

Hilsea Lido

Artist impression

3

Mountbatten Centre

Image by Emma Trinder

4

**The University of
Portsmouth's Ravelin
Park Sports Centre**

5

Southsea Skate Park

Image by Victorious Festival
and Strong Island

6

**Peter Ashley
Activity Centre**



1

BH Live Active offers two sports centres in Portsmouth. The Pyramids has high quality fitness facilities including a cardio zone, free weights, functional fitness, group cycle and PULSE studio, along with a range of fitness classes. The Mountbatten Centre, located in the north of the city, boasts an Olympic-sized pool, teaching pool, relaxing spa, 150-station state-of-the-art gym, health suite, eight-court sports hall, squash courts, athletics and cycle tracks, plus a fantastic programme of activities and events.

Next door to the Mountbatten Centre is Portsmouth Tennis Centre with four indoor and six outdoor courts. The city also has the Tennis Academy in Burnaby Road,

Southsea Tennis Club on the seafront and Court X at Canoe Lake, with a tennis pavilion, four top specification artificial grass courts and newly refurbished grass and hard courts.

The University of Portsmouth's Ravelin Park Sports Centre includes an eight-court sports hall; eight-lane, 25-metre swimming pool; 175-station fitness suite; multipurpose studios; squash courts; climbing and bouldering walls; and a ski simulator. One of the UK's most sustainable sports centres, Ravelin Park has pay-as-you-go options for city visitors.

The seafront and its amazing sea views is perfect for runners. If you prefer to run with company, join one of the regular organised weekend runs that take place across the city. This is also the place to find adventure mini golf, pitch 'n' putt, play parks and beach volleyball courts to keep you entertained.

On Portsdown Hill, overlooking the city, are the Peter Ashley Activity Centres, located in the historic environments of Fort Purbrook and Fort Widley. Activities to pre-book include horse riding, archery, bushcraft, mountain biking, climbing, orienteering, rifle shooting and laser tag. Book a family adventure day and learn a new skill.

Portsmouth has not one but 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 Pitt Street, an undercover skatepark in the city centre. In winter you can get your skates on at the seasonal ice rink in front of the majestic Portsmouth Guildhall.



4



5



6

FOOD AND DRINK

Get your foodie fix in Portsmouth – there are a host of award-winning restaurants right here in the city, as well as long-standing local favourites and independent family eateries.



A must-visit for fans of Caribbean cuisine is Natty's Jerk Shack in the city centre. A true local hero and good news story, Natty has taken his business from strength to strength – first serving up Jamaican dishes from his home kitchen, before getting a market stall, and then finally his very own restaurant – one that has since gone on to be named Uber Eats Restaurant of the Year in a competition judged by Dame Prue Leith and Andi Oliver.

That's not all, as the 2025 Uber Eats Awards saw another Portsmouth restaurant – Umami Street Food – chosen to represent the whole South region.

Umami brings together a variety of global cuisines all under one roof, with a menu offering flavours from Japan, Mexico, Portugal, Hong Kong, Lebanon and more.

The accolades continue with the Good Food Awards – given in the past year to two Portsmouth favourites: King Street Tavern and The A Bar.

Located in the heart of Old Portsmouth, The A Bar is a family-run bistro that pairs a casual and relaxed environment with top-quality food and wines. If you like a particular bottle and want to take one home, pop upstairs to Camber Wines, where a whole selection awaits.



- 
 - 1 **Natty's Jerk Shack**
Image by Charlotte Griffiths
 - 2 **King Street Tavern**
 - 3 **Casa Brasil, Port Solent**
 - 4 **FarFarOut**
 - 5 **Arepa2Go**
 - 6 **Crushed & Cured**
 - 7 **Gunwharf Quays**
Image by Sonny Flanagan
Photography



Over at the King Street Tavern you'll find hearty pub grub with a difference; this has been cooked low and slow by the on-site BBQ pitmaster. Expect top-notch brisket, sausage and pork belly, served alongside a host of top ales and ciders. The King Street Tavern has gone one better than just getting a Good Food Award; it has won so many that the pub has been given an illustrious Gold Seal.

Into pizza and proper local beer? You've got great choices nearby. FarFarOut on Palmerston Road – run by the team behind Portsmouth's own MakeMake Brewery – serves up fresh slices and quality brews.

Over on Albert Road, Ted's is known for their sourdough bases and classic toppings.

If wine, cheese and cured meats is calling, head to Crushed & Cured, where you can enjoy drinks by the glass, shop for some treats to take home, or even book onto one of the regular tasting events (with past examples showcasing off-the-beaten-track wines, new world wonders, and even wine and crisp pairings!).

Just next door is another home-grown success story, the Latin American kitchen Arepa2Go. Emerging from small pop-ups and stalls, the family business now serves

up its authentic Latin flavours from its own restaurant on Victoria Road South.

Southsea is home to many great independent restaurants, bars, cafés, delis and bakeries. The likes of Southsea Deli and Bread Addiction are firm favourites among locals and visitors alike. Head to the Indie Island section on pages 24-25 to read more.

Prefer to stick to the names you already know and love? Gunwharf Quays is home to around 30 bars and restaurants, everything from All Bar One to Zizzi and lots more in between. All you need to do is choose the location, with cuisine available from Italy, Japan, France, Vietnam, Portugal, Britain and beyond.

There's more to be had up at Port Solent, where you can also enjoy a gentle stroll around the scenic marina before or after your meal. Spanish tapas, Brazilian barbecue and tea room treats sit alongside Turkish, Italian and Indian restaurants. Or why not try something different and head to the pirate-themed cocktail bar?

There's all this – plus free parking, shops, a cinema, regular events, and stunning views out across the water – all available at Port Solent.

THE GREAT OUTDOORS

For all the great attractions, events and things to do in Portsmouth, sometimes nothing can beat getting out into the fresh sea air. Whether you're fancying a summertime in the great outdoors or a bracing winter refresher, Portsmouth is the place to be.

The Portsmouth section of the King Charles III England Coast Path is complete. It forms part of a huge walkway that stretches between Warsash near Southampton right across to Shoreham-by-Sea, just a short hop from Brighton.

In Portsmouth itself, sea defence works have revolutionised the pathways and promenades – with huge efforts undertaken to not just protect homes and businesses from rising tides but also offer beautiful walking routes. New sections

around Old Portsmouth and Southsea Castle have opened in the south, with additions like insect hotels, swinging seats and the 'Theatre of the Sea' providing a wealth of things to enjoy along the way.

Please note, sea defence works remain ongoing so there may be changes to roads or pathways during your visit. Search for 'Southsea Coastal Scheme' to find out all the details ahead of your next trip.

The pathway alongside Eastern Road has also now been completed. The raised path offers stunning views out over Langstone Harbour, which is a popular spot for water sports, as well as being a designated biological Site of Special Scientific Interest because of the important bird and sea life it supports.



1
2



3

Depending on the time of year you visit, Langstone Harbour could well be the place to spot avocets, redshanks, dunlins, short-eared owls, redstarts, spotted flycatchers, wheatears, reed warblers, sedge warblers and lapwings. Details can be found on the information panels dotted along the route, showing the wildlife habitats of the 2,000-hectare site and the months in which they're most active.

Continue around to Hilsea Lines and you could be among the first to walk on a newly opened section of pathway alongside Portsbridge Creek (the waterway which separates Portsea Island from the English mainland). The final phase of the North Portsea Coastal Scheme is due to finish in 2026, and this will open up the pathway to the northern side of the Hilsea Lines, providing a calm escape from the hustle and bustle of the city. It's an especially popular walk for visitors who come with their four-legged friends.

Crossing over to the other side of Portsbridge Creek you'll find Portsdown Hill. Journey to the top and you'll be rewarded with stunning views across the

Portsmouth cityscape, whilst you can also see across to Portchester Castle, the Isle of Wight, Farlington Marshes and beyond. There are plenty of spaces to park up and admire the view (possibly with a bite to eat from the famed Mick's Monster Burgers – a local institution).

Around Portsmouth itself there are plenty more parks, gardens and outdoor spaces to enjoy. Victoria Park is a haven of tranquillity from the city centre shops that are just around the corner. As well as places to sit and relax, the park has an aviary, playground, coffee shop, Grade II-listed Victorian fountain and nine historic memorials.

Or, for something more expansive, head to Milton Common. This 45-hectare grassland is criss-crossed with pathways offering plenty of places to stroll with the family or enjoy some downtime. It also has three small lakes teeming with wildlife, and is flanked by the beautiful Langstone Harbour on its easterly edge.

A map of Portsmouth showing the green spaces and coastal paths can be downloaded from visitportsmouth.co.uk



- 1 New coastal path at Eastern Road
- 2 Langstone Harbour
- 3 Theatre of the Sea



PLAN YOUR JOURNEY

With a motorway into the heart of the city offering direct access to Park and Ride, 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 from overseas.



2



3

Useful information to help you plan your journey

Visitor Information Service:

 visitportsmouth.co.uk

 vis@portsmouthcc.gov.uk

National Express Coaches:

 nationalexpress.com

 03717 818181

National Rail Enquiries:

 nationalrail.co.uk

 03457 484950

 southwesternrailway.com

 southernrailway.com

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

Rail

Travelling to Portsmouth by train is a great option with regular direct services to London (from 90 minutes 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) 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.

Local ferries

Travelling to and from the Isle of Wight couldn't be easier. Hovertravel operates a passenger hovercraft from Southsea to Ryde and Wightlink operates a car ferry service from Portsmouth to Fishbourne as well as a passenger catamaran service from Portsmouth Harbour to Ryde Pier. Passenger ferries also run across Portsmouth's two harbours to Gosport and Hayling Island.



Portsmouth International Port

With its dramatic harbour, Portsmouth International Port, celebrating its 50th year in 2026, creates a spectacular arrival and departure for passengers. It offers a range of routes to Europe and a growing cruise offer, making it ideally located for both short breaks and international travel. Regular Brittany 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 ferry 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 for extending your holiday, giving you the perfect opportunity to stay a while and explore.

Walking, cycling and bus

The city's buses are a great way to get around once you have arrived. Portsmouth is also flat and compact, making walking and cycling convenient modes of transport. Park up your vehicle or travel by public transport and explore on foot. Rent a Voi e-bike or e-scooter to get around during your visit.

Average walking times from Portsmouth and Southsea station

Portsmouth Guildhall	⌚ 4 mins
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 Centre	⌚ 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



4



5



1
Ritz Carlton's luxury superyacht, destination Portsmouth International Port

2
Hovertravel
Adobe Stock Image

3
Wightlink Ferry

4
Cycling on the seafrost
Image by Mangopear
Creative / Unsplash

5
Voi scooters



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EXPLORE THE AREA



1

Portsmouth is a great base to explore the cities, coast and countryside of Hampshire and the Solent.

Just north of the city you can enter the beautiful South Downs National Park, with amazing countryside trails, wildlife to discover and small villages to visit.

Across Portsmouth Harbour the regular ferry takes you to Gosport, home to the Royal Navy Submarine Museum, Explosion Museum of Naval Firepower and a 17th century village.

Just over the stretch of sea known as the Solent lies the Isle of Wight. There are

three options for travel – a Hovercraft from Southsea seafront, a passenger catamaran from Portsmouth Harbour train station, or a car ferry from Old Portsmouth. Along with a designated Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, the island has a wealth of attractions to discover.

Portsmouth is also the ideal location to explore the area by train, with good services both along the coast and across the county. Steeped in history, Winchester is the ancient capital of England and the former seat of King Alfred the Great. Take a trip west to Southampton and discover the medieval town walls and the Sea City Museum, telling the story of RMS Titanic.

Or how about a day trip to London to see the capital's sights and visit the city's top attractions. Trains from Portsmouth to London take from 90 minutes, with regular services every day.



2



1

Freshwater Bay,
Isle of Wight
Adobe Stock Image

2

HMS Alliance,
Royal Navy
Submarine Museum



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PERFECT FOR A DAY, EVEN BETTER WHEN YOU STAY!



Portsmouth has a great variety of accommodation, with options to suit a range of budgets. Included in this guide we showcase a taster of what is on offer, find out more at visitportsmouth.co.uk/accommodation

The elegant Queens Hotel overlooks Southsea Common and is just a short stroll from the beach. With stylish rooms – some offering sea views – it's a top spot for afternoon tea, a leisurely dinner, or evening cocktails. The garden is ideal for drinks or al fresco dining, with regular outdoor entertainment.

The Holiday Inn is also well placed near Southsea seafront, offering an ideal blend of comfort and convenience. The hotel has a variety of rooms to book, plus a restaurant, bar, gym, indoor pool, steam room and sauna.

At Gunwharf Quays, the Holiday Inn Express is surrounded by restaurants and nightlife, and is just a short walk from Spinnaker Tower, Portsmouth Historic Dockyard and Portsmouth Harbour station.

The Royal Maritime Hotel is another option located close to Portsmouth Historic Dockyard, Gunwharf Quays and Spinnaker Tower. It features comfortable

rooms and a hearty full English breakfast. The on-site restaurant, Horatio's, welcomes all visitors.

In central Portsmouth, the Ibis Hotel is a great base for exploring the city, located near Portsmouth Guildhall, Theatre Royal and Portsmouth & Southsea station. It offers cosy rooms, a 24-hour snack menu, on-site parking and a vibrant restaurant.

To the north of Portsmouth, the stylish Village Hotel has everything you need for a fantastic stay. Facilities include a pool, gym, lively pub and grill serving tasty food, a Starbucks coffee shop, and VWorks co-working space. Set in a peaceful location just off the M27, it's only 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. 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
-  Wi-Fi
-  Off street parking
-  Ground floor bedrooms
-  Children welcome – minimum age
-  TV in rooms
-  En suite rooms available
-  Air conditioning
-  Hairdryer
-  Electric shaver point
-  Linen supplied free of charge
-  Iron available
-  Cots available
-  Dogs welcome
-  Conference facilities
-  Lift
-  Staff speak foreign languages
-  Refrigerator provided
-  Laundry
-  Microwave
-  Visit Portsmouth Green Tourism Award



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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 2025.

HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS, PORTSMOUTH – GUNWHARF QUAYS Map Ref B4

The Plaza, Gunwharf Quays, Portsmouth, PO1 3FD
T: 023 9289 4240
E: frontdesk.hixportsmouth@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 Wi-Fi, 24 hour parking and two meeting rooms, make Holiday Inn Express Gunwharf Quays your next destination.

Price: From £85 – £450 per room per night

Rooms: 130 **En suite:** All

Facilities:



HOLIDAY INN PORTSMOUTH Map 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.

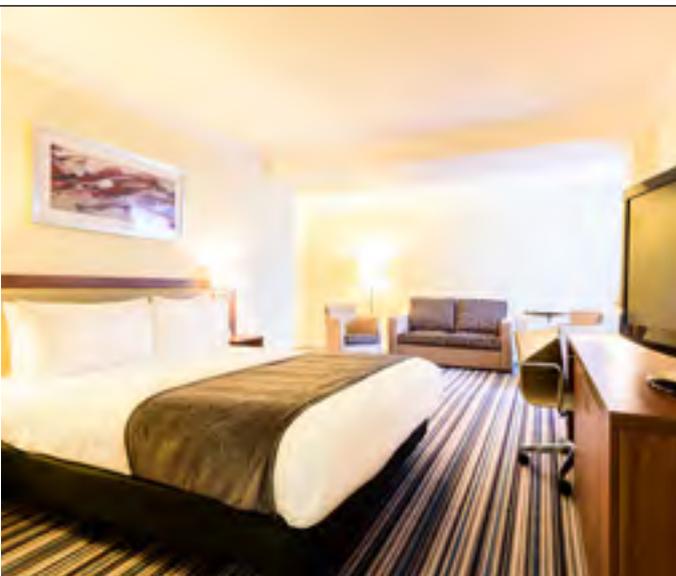
Our Academy conference centre can accommodate 2 to 200 delegates with 10 flexible-layout meeting rooms and a dedicated conference host who will be on hand throughout to ensure the day runs smoothly.

With on-site car parking and complimentary high-speed Wi-Fi throughout, the Holiday Inn is ideal for your stay in Portsmouth.

Price: From £85 – £450 per room per night

Rooms: 173 **En suite:** All

Facilities:





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

Discover the Queens Hotel – Where comfort meets luxury

Located in the heart of Southsea, just moments from Portsmouth’s top attractions, Queens Hotel offers the perfect blend of historic charm and modern comfort. Whether you’re here to explore the vibrant waterfront, visit the iconic Spinnaker Tower, or stroll through the bustling shopping district, everything you need is right on our doorstep.

Our beautifully designed bedrooms are the ideal retreat after a day of adventure, with many offering stunning views of the Solent. For the best rates and exclusive offers, book directly with us.

Dine in style at **Restaurant 1865**, where our chefs craft seasonal dishes using the finest local ingredients. It’s the perfect spot for a relaxed dinner or special celebration.

Planning an event? Our versatile event spaces cater to everything from intimate birthday parties to grand weddings and corporate gatherings. Let us help you create unforgettable memories, whatever the occasion.

From October to March, join us in our **Winter Lodge**, where DJ nights and festive music events set the perfect backdrop for cozy winter evenings. During the summer months, our stunning garden transforms into a hub for live music and outdoor entertainment, perfect for soaking up the sunshine.

We pride ourselves on our partnerships with local businesses, offering our guests exceptional discounts and unique experiences throughout Portsmouth.

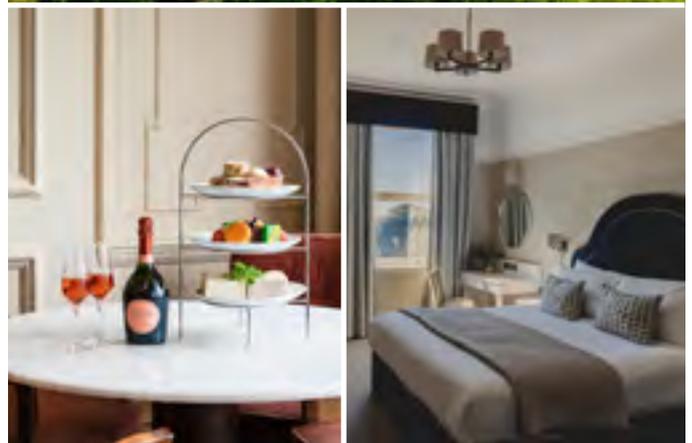
For more information and to explore all we have to offer, visit our website: **queenshotelportsmouth.com**

The Queens Hotel – your gateway to the best of the city.

Price: From £100 – £300 per room per night

Rooms: 74 **En suite:** All

Facilities:



PORTSMOUTH IBIS CENTRE

Map Ref
C4

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

Vibrant economy hotel with 144 rooms, bar and restaurant.
 Open to everyone.

Our Ibis Portsmouth Centre is packed with everything you might need during your stay, whether you're travelling on business or for leisure.

Try our laid-back restaurant, enjoy a nightcap in our sleek bar, and settle in for an unbeatable night's sleep in one of our plush sweet beds. Unwind with a game of pool in our lobby or connect to our complimentary Wi-Fi.

We offer a varied and plentiful breakfast.

The hotel is located in the centre of Portsmouth, with easy reach of popular annual events including, Goodwood Festival of Speed, the Great South Run, Victorious Festival and shopping in Gunwharf Quays.

Primary transport links are also nearby, making easy access and equipped with parking.

We look forward to making you feel welcome.

Price: From £60 – £190 per room per night

Rooms: 144 **En suite:** All

Facilities:



ROYAL MARITIME HOTEL

Map 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 where historic charm meets modern comfort. Just a five-minute walk from the Historic Dockyard, Gunwharf Quays, and Portsmouth Harbour train station, our hotel opened in 1850 as the Sailors' Home Club and has proudly retained its Royal Patronage since 1855.

Today, we continue our proud tradition of service. Your stay helps to support military personnel, veterans, and merchant navy seafarers' charities.

Our 90 en-suite rooms – including family and accessible options – offer comfortable beds and tea/coffee facilities. Enjoy leisure amenities including a swimming pool, sauna, jacuzzi, library, skittles alley, and games room. Dine in Horatio's Restaurant, serving bistro classics and full English breakfasts, or relax in the all-day Victory Bar.

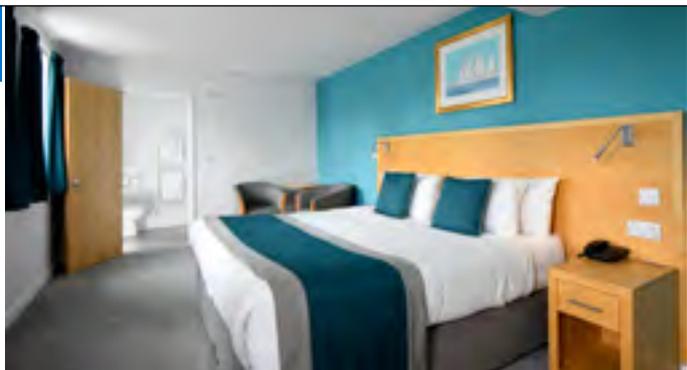
Ask at reception about local attraction discounts.

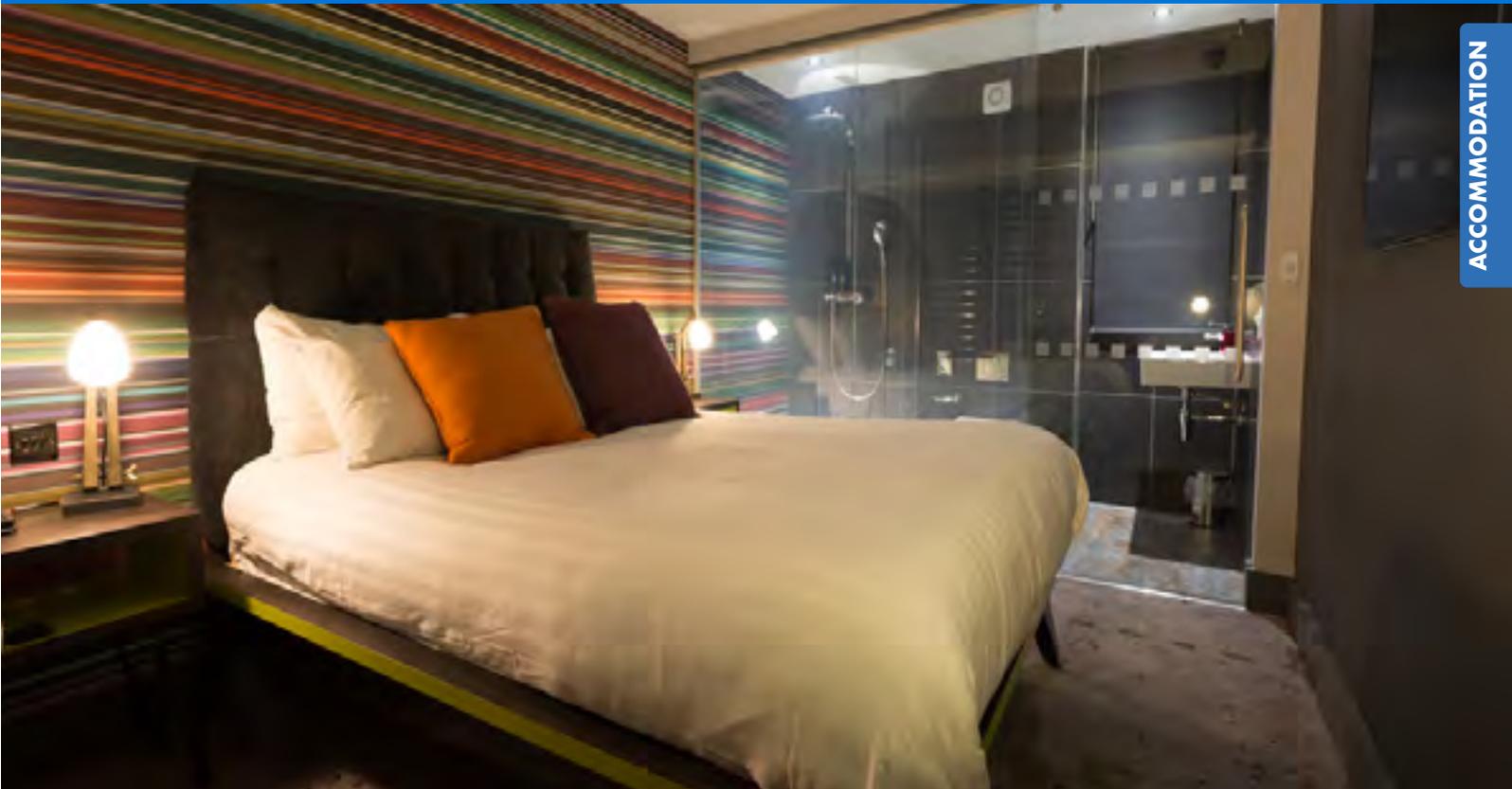
We also offer 10% off rooms, meals, and drinks to serving and former military personnel.

Price: £70 – £200 per room per night

Rooms: 90 **En suite:** All

Facilities:





Lakeshore Drive, Portsmouth, PO6 3FR
T: 023 9421 0833 **E:** portsmouth.hub@village-hotels.com
W: www.village-hotels.com

Located just off the M27 and A27 in a quiet part of the city, next to Lakeside North Harbour. The hotel is a great base for exploring all the South Coast has to offer.

The vibrant city centre is just a couple of miles away as is the International Port, Fratton Park – home to Portsmouth FC, Portsmouth Historic Dockyard and Gunwharf Quays with the iconic Spinnaker Tower.

At Village Portsmouth, you'll find everything you need for a great stay under one roof. A cool pool and huge gym – a buzzing Pub and Grill with great food, ice cold beers, big screen live sport and Village Darts Social the new multiplayer darts experience – Starbucks Coffee Shop and VWorks coworking space. Our stylish bedrooms come as standard and offer everything you need for a comfortable stay – extra comfy bed, drench shower, Wi-Fi, selected Sky TV, iron and ironing board and complimentary tea and coffee. You also have the option to enjoy extra benefits during your stay by upgrading to our Club Package. Our gym isn't just one of the best you'll find in a hotel, it's one of the best you'll find in the area. Serious equipment, heated indoor swimming pool, whirlpool, steam room, sauna and indoor cycle studio.

If you are visiting Portsmouth on selected weekends then our hugely popular Village Party Nights are great fun. Sing and dance the night away to all your favourites then head upstairs for a great night's sleep in your big, comfy bed!

Price: From £59 – £230 per room per night

Rooms: 153 **En suite:** All

Facilities:



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For events, opening dates and times, visit,
charlesdickensbirthplace.co.uk



SOUTHSEA
CASTLE



Portsmouth
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Explore Southsea Castle

Visit the castle built in 1544 by King Henry VIII to protect England against invasion. Discover more about the Castle's history in the Keep or why not head up to the ramparts to view the spot where the Mary Rose sank in 1545.

You can even dine like a King at The Courtyard restaurant (open all year round).

For information on events and opening times, visit southseacastle.co.uk

Free
entry



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MUSEUM
AND ART GALLERY



Portsmouth
CITY COUNCIL

Everyone welcome

Discover more about
Portsmouth's past.

Visit the art exhibition 'The Quietness of Feeling', an exploration of trees through the art of Benjamin Haughton.

For information on events and opening times, visit portsmouthmuseum.co.uk

Free
entry





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