

Christmas in Portsmouth 2009

Saturday 19th December – Sunday 3rd January 2010



Make your Christmas a magical and merry time for all the family. Visit Santa in his grotto, enjoy mince pies and traditional carols, or visit one of the many attractions just waiting to welcome you with a host of festive cheer. From Christmas performances, markets filled with all kinds of delights, to a white Christmas at the Snow Village. It really is a time for big kids and little kids too.

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What's in Store?

Commercial Road and Cascades Shopping Centre

Home to your high-street favorites, large department stores and an indoor mall. Late night shopping until 9pm starts from Thursday 26th November. For more information visit www.cascades-shopping.co.uk

Southsea (Palmerston Road, Albert Road and Marmion Road)

Great places for quirky one-off finds, individual boutiques and a John Lewis Department store. For more information visit www.southsea.co.uk

Gunwharf Quays

With over 95 designer outlet stores including some of the top names in fashion, sport, perfume and cosmetics. For more information visit www.gunwharf-quays.com

Markets

City Centre Market, Commercial Road

Weekly Thursday – Saturday

Wandering through this traditional street market dating back over 90 years. It is the best place in the city to purchase fresh, local seasonal produce for that extra special Christmas dinner. See what fantastic Christmas gifts you can pick up, all at fantastic prices!

German Christmas Market, Commercial Road City Centre

Festive log cabins fill the city centre creating an exciting place to find those unusual, traditional and novel gifts. With lots of German treats for the family, including Gluhwein (mulled wine) to end a busy shopping day.

Hampshire Farmers Market, Palmerston Road Southsea

Sunday 20th December

All produce sold is grown, pickled, backed, reared or caught in Hampshire or within 10 miles of its border. Each stall will be staffed by a person/s who have been directly involved in the production or picking of the produce. This is a great place to find those special home made treats, that extra special ingredient or something fresh and new to add to your menu.

Park and Ride

The Christmas shopping park-and-ride service will operate every Saturday from 1000 Lakeside North Harbor, home of IBM, and is a great way to save cash, time and hassle. With stops at Commercial Road City Centre and Gunwharf Quays you will be spoilt for choice. Only £2.50 per car with buses leaving every 10 minutes from the park and ride site. You can even add a stop at Southsea for just £1. For more information call 023 92 688310

Parking

With parking at just 90p per hour, you can shop till you drop in the City Centre. Portsmouth City Council has two fantastic car parks right in the City Centre for all its Christmas shoppers. Head for Stanhope Street or Clarence Street car parks, open 24 hours a day and take advantage of these great prices. For more information call 023 92 688310

Santa's Grotto

The Green Grotto

5th, 6th and 13th December 11am-4pm

The traditional Santa and his recycling elves will be at his Green Grotto this festive season. For each good boy or girl who takes part in our recycling game will get the chance to meet our very own 'Green Santa' and receive a gift!

Saturday 5th December, College Park, North End, 11am-4pm

Sunday 6th December, Gunwharf Quays, 11am-4pm

Sunday 13th December, Palmerston Road, Southsea, 11am-4pm

For more information call 023 92 831609

North Pole Santa Land

5th & 6th December and then everyday from 12th - 24th December

Visit Santa at the North Pole Santa Land where you can stop and make your own gift as well as receiving a Christmas treat. Entrance fee £3.50 to see Santa and £5.00 to also have your photo taken. For more information call 023 92 836700

Carol Services

Advent Carol Service- Portsmouth Anglican Cathedral

Sunday 29th November 6pm

Enjoy this beautiful service sung by the Cathedral Choir. For more information call 02392 295480

Advent Carol Service – St Mary's Church, Fratton Road

Sunday 29th November 6.30pm.

A special service of Advent music which in candlelight prepares us for the coming of the light of the world. For more information call 023 92 293020

The Annual "News" Carol Service - St Mary's Church, Fratton Road.

Sunday 6th December 3pm

Join local schoolchildren and their families in celebrating the Christmas Story at a Christingle Service held with the support of "The News". For more information call 023 92 293020

Carols with the RNLI - Portsmouth Cathedral

Sunday 6th December 3pm

The RNLI Portsmouth Fundraising Branch extends a warm welcome to all to join them at their popular Carol Service at Portsmouth Anglican Cathedral. The free service will feature the Royal British Legion Victory Brass Band under their musical director Steve Yoxon and the choir "Achoired Taste" with their director Lou Bundy. The service will be conducted by the Dean of Portsmouth Cathedral with seasonal readings by members of the Royal National Lifeboat Institution's Portsmouth Branch. Distinguished guests will include HM Lord Lieutenant of Hampshire (Dame Mary Fagan DCVO JP) and the Lord Mayor of Portsmouth (Councillor Terry Hall). For more information call 023 92 735803

Schools Carol Concert - Guildhall Square

Monday 7th December 6pm

Join around 35 Portsmouth school students and teachers for the annual lighting of the civic Christmas tree by the Lord Mayor. Listen out for Santa Claus as he makes his entrance in a horse drawn carriage, before the students sing a selection of carols on the Guildhall Steps. This is a free event for everyone to attend.

For more information call 023 92 826722

Carol Concert at the Bandstand

Tuesday 8th December 6pm-7.30pm

Performed by Portsmouth Grammar School, this forty piece brass band and sixty piece choir will be singing a medley of Christmas carols. This is free event. For more information call 023 92 828112

Port Solent Traditional Family Christmas Carol Concert

Saturday 12th December 5pm-6pm

Join the "Sounds of Steel" Portchester based steel band for a good old fashioned Christmas Carol Concert in support of The Rowans Hospice. This free family event comes with mulled wine, mince pies and plenty of festive cheer. Sing along to the family favorite songs and enjoy a bit of a Calypso Christmas treat. For more information call 023 92 210606

Advent Carol Service- Portsmouth Catholic Cathedral

13th December at 4pm

For more information call 023 92 826170

St Edmund's Catholic Secondary School Carol Service- Portsmouth Catholic Cathedral

15th December at 7.30pm

For more information call 023 92 826170

Portsmouth Housing Association and Churches Homeless Action Carols - St Mary's Church, Fratton Road

Friday 18th December 12 noon

A celebration of Christmas and distribution of vouchers collected via local Churches and Groups to agencies who will be supporting the "homeless" over the Christmas season. A chance for us to share a "gift" with others. For more information call 023 92 293020

Carol Service- Portsmouth Anglican Cathedral

Saturday 19th December 3pm

Enjoy a beautiful carol service sung by the Cathedral Choir. For more information all 023 92 295480

Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols - St Mary's Church, Fratton Road

Sunday 20th December 6.30 pm

Carols sung by the congregation and choir. The service will be followed by sherry and mince pies. For more information call 023 92 293020

Evensong followed by Britten's Ceremony of Carols- Portsmouth Anglican Cathedral

Sunday 20th December

Sung by the Cathedral Choristers. For more information all 023 92 295480

Carol Service II- Portsmouth Anglican Cathedral

Tuesday 22nd December 7.30pm

Sung by the Cathedral Choir. For more information all 023 92 295480

Carol Service III- Portsmouth Anglican Cathedral

Wednesday 23rd December 7.30pm

Sung by the Cathedral Choir. For more information all 023 92 295480

Christmas Performances

Handel's Messiah- Portsmouth Anglican Cathedral

Friday 4th December 7.30pm

Sung by the Cathedral Choir with soloists Catherine Bott, Nick Pepin, Oliver Jones and Edmund Saddington. Tickets (reserved seating): £16, £12.50, (unreserved) £9 (£2 concession on each price) for more information call 023 9282 3300 ext 234

Kaleidoscope Orchestra Christmas Concert- Royal Marines Museum

Sunday 6th and Monday 7th December 6.30pm

Kaleidoscope presents this year's Christmas concert at the Royal Marines Museum. The programme will include favourite classics, light music, and solo's performed by special guests invited to perform with the salon orchestra. The silver gallery, medal room and band room display will also be available for viewing. Tickets are available now. For more information call 0800 298 5499

Aladdin at the Kings Theatre

9th December – 3rd January 2010

The big fun family panto returns to Southsea! Starring Michael Starke as Wishee and Lisa Riley as the Genie. For more information call 023 92 828282

Royal Marines Christmas Concert – St Mary's Church Fratton Road

Thursday 17th December 7.30pm

The Royal Marines School of Music presents one of the most popular musical events of the year, the Christmas Concert 2009. Set in the beautiful surroundings of St. Mary's Church, the concert will include unforgettable performances from the Royal Marines Orchestra, Choir, Concert Band, Big Band and the Corps of Drums. Celebrate the start of the festive season with an evening of stunning performances given by the world famous Royal Marines. For more information call 023 92 293020

Alice in Wonderland – New Theatre Royal

Thursday 17th December – Saturday 2nd January

The New Theatre Royal's own Christmas Show is not a pantomime, but a beautiful family musical telling this well known story with live music and songs. All the well-loved characters will be onstage - the Mad Hatter, the Queen of Hearts and the White Rabbit. Meet Tweedle Dum and Tweedle Dee, join in the caucus race (if you dare) and have tea with the Mad Hatter. A colourful, magical show that will be a wonderful Christmas treat for children and their families! Tickets £7.50 - £15 (£5 - £13 concessions). For more information call 023 92 649000

Christmas Services

Light up a Life Memorial Service - Guildhall Square

Sunday 13th December 4pm-5pm

The service will include Christmas Carols and a service of remembrance led by the Rowans Hospice Chaplin. For more information call 023 92 826722

Christmas Eve Crib Services – Portsmouth Anglican Cathedral

Thursday 24th December

3pm and 4.30pm

For more information call 023 92 295480

Christmas Eve- Portsmouth Catholic Cathedral

Thursday 24th December

6pm Vigil Mass

11.30pm Midnight Mass Celebrated by Bishop Crispian

For more information all 023 92 295480

Christmas Day - Portsmouth Catholic Cathedral

Friday 25th December

9am Dawn Mass

10.30am Mass of the Day Celebrated by Bishop Crispian

For more information all 023 92 295480

Yuletide Events, Activities and Offers

Tree Dressing Day – College Park, North End

Saturday 5th December 10am-2.30pm

Come down and join in with the fun and celebrations at this festive family fun event. There will be arts and crafts workshops where you can create dressings for the trees, enjoy puppetry performances, and seasonal storytelling, with tree and parks talks from a local horticultural expert. Don't forget to bring Santa a piece of recycling, who in turn will give you a present. This is a free event for all the family. For more information call 023 92 688170

Candlelit Christmas Spectacular - St Mary's Church, Fratton Road

Saturday 5th December 7.30pm

A celebration to launch the Organ Restoration Appeal with strings, brass, St Mary's Church Choir, Portsmouth Cathedral Choral Scholars and costumed readings from Charles Dickens' "Christmas Carol". For tickets call 023 92 293020

'Knots and rigging' at the Mary Rose museum

Saturday 5th - Sunday 6th December 11am - 12noon & 2pm - 4pm

Learn about the rigging on the Mary Rose and try your hand at making anti-boarding netting and knots. Free with a valid admission ticket, children must be accompanied by an adult. For more information call 023 92 839766

Santa's Torchlight Trail on board HMS Warrior 1860

Saturday 5th & Saturday 12th December 11am & 2pm

Bring a torch to explore the ship and help Santa find the missing presents. Free with a valid admission ticket, children must be accompanied by an adult. For more information call 023 92 839766

Charles Dickens Christmas Walk

Sunday 6th, Sunday 13th and Sunday 20th December

A guided walk, led by Portsmouth Guiding Service, around the area where the Dickens' family lived and worked. Hear extracts from the novelist's works and indulge in seasonal refreshments £3.00 per person, accompanied children free. Walk start at the Visitor Information Centre at The Hard. For more information call 023 92 826722

Portsmouth Football Club Tours

6th, 12th, 13th, 20th-24th, 27th-29th, 31st December

Treat yourself to an exclusive look behind the scenes at Portsmouth's legendary football stadium. This fantastic new tour will take you to areas that are usually off limits. Buy one adult ticket and get a child ticket free. For more information call 0844 335 0540

Tudor life ashore at the Mary Rose Museum

Saturday 12th - Sunday 13th December 11am - 12noon & 2pm - 4pm

Find out what life was like for the families of the Mary Rose crew. Free with a valid admission ticket, children must be accompanied by an adult. For more information call 023 92 839766

Sno!slide at Gunwharf Quays

Saturday 12th December - Thursday 24th December

A white Christmas is guaranteed at Gunwharf Quays Snow Village. Filled with fun and laughter as families take to the double lane Sno!slide in inflatable rings. And while the adults and older children take to the slopes, little one's can enjoy building snow men in the Snow Garden, or the traditional treat of meeting Santa and his helpers. For more information call 023 92 836700

British Library Touring Exhibition – Portsmouth Historic Dockyard

Saturday 12th December - Sunday 17th January 2010

Henry VIII: Man and Monarch at the Mary Rose Museum

22nd April 2009 marked the five-hundredth anniversary of the accession of Henry VIII. Henry is not only England's best-known king - with his wives, his girth and his bloodthirstiness; he is also our most important single ruler. This exhibition examines the extraordinary transformations - personal and political, intellectual and religious, literary, aesthetic and linguistic - that took place in Henry's reign. FREE with a valid admission ticket, children must be accompanied by an adult. For more information call 023 92 839766

Santa 5k Family Fun Run/Walk

Sunday 13th December starting at 11am

Come and enjoy some festive fun and cheer as 500 Santa's run/walk along Southsea Seafront. Have fun and help raise funds for this life saving charity. There will be a medal and goodie bag for all the finishers and refreshments available for both runners and spectators. Your Santa suit is also included in the entrance fee. So bring the tinsel even get the dog all dressed up and take part. To enter or for more information call 07780675747

Tudor Christmas fun at the Mary Rose Museum

Saturday 19th December – Sunday 3rd January 2010 11am - 12noon & 2pm - 4pm

Find out about their toys and games and Christmas Trail round the museum for all the family. Free with a valid admission ticket, children must be accompanied by an adult. For more information call 023 92 839766

Nativity Service - St Mary's Church, Fratton Road

Thursday 24th December at 5pm

The Christmas story is told by our Children and young people and we celebrate the sharing of the greatest gift. For more information call 023 92 293020

Third Thursday Lunchtime Talks at the Mary Rose Museum

December - January 12noon

In 1509 Henry VIII became King of England and decided to build the Mary Rose. To mark this 500 year anniversary, come along to a free informal talk at the Museum every Third Thursday of the month. For more information call 023 92 839766

Spinnaker Tower Festive Fun

Weekends throughout December 11am-5pm

Pick up your festive fun sheet with wintery word search and Christmas colouring, take part in a Christmas hunt, get your face painted or strike your own Spinnaker Tower souvenir coin. Not to be missed is Spinny Claus, who will be making daily appearances! For more information call 023 92 857520

Ibis Hotel Portsmouth

Take advantage of the fantastic early room booking rates from £42 during the festive season. For more information call 023 92 640000

Tower Café Bar Winter Warmers – Spinnaker Tower, Gunwharf Quays

From 23rd November treat yourself to the Winter Warmers menu, with traditional favourites of mulled wine and mince pies, to the Turkey Feast Sandwich and indulgent treats including the Gingerbread Latte and Hot Chocolate Orange. For more information call 023 92 857520

We have a whole host of great venues across the city for Christmas parties, Christmas Day dinner, and New Years Eve celebrations. Visit our website and take your pick from one of the fantastic venues and packages on offer.

There is something for every taste and budget!

www.visitportsmouth.co.uk