



# Portsmouth's connection with D-Day

Media background information: D-Day 75



**Portsmouth**  
the great waterfront city



Photo of The D-Day Story  
Portsmouth

## **It's impossible to tell the D-Day story without Portsmouth. It was here that many of the soldiers departed from on 6 June, with boats taking them from Portsmouth Historic Dockyard, nearby Gosport and even off the end of South Parade Pier.**

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To the north of the city is the small village of Southwick, where General Dwight D Eisenhower, Admiral Ramsay and General Montgomery planned Operation Overlord. Today, Portsmouth is home to The D-Day Story, a newly renovated museum that tells the personal accounts of those involved in the epic day, to keep their acts of heroism alive and relevant for a younger audience. The D-Day Story holds a collection of genuine D-Day objects and archives, as well as an extensive oral history collection recording the personal experiences of veterans and civilians.

In addition, the museum is home to the magnificent Overlord Embroidery, an 83-metre artwork commissioned to commemorate the people who took part in D-Day and the Battle of Normandy – based on panels that now hang in the Pentagon.

### **More information and media interviews**

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More information about D-Day can be found on The D-Day Story website at **[www.theddaystory.com/discover/what-is-d-day](http://www.theddaystory.com/discover/what-is-d-day)**

Media interviews can be arranged with the D-Day Collections Researcher, through Portsmouth City Council's communications team - [communications@portsmouthcc.gov.uk](mailto:communications@portsmouthcc.gov.uk) or 023 9268 8973. Images can also be supplied on request.

Front cover pictures:

British soldiers, near South Parade Pier on Southsea seafront, about to board a landing craft to go to Normandy, June 1944. (Image courtesy of The News, Portsmouth)

South Parade Pier today.

The newly refurbished D-Day Story.



The Emirates Spinnaker  
Tower and Gunwharf  
Quays

## Portsmouth – the UK's only island city

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Ideally situated on England's south coast, Portsmouth is a great location for a city break by the sea, only 90 minutes by direct train from London.

Discover amazing world-class museums and attractions; designer outlet shopping; fabulous events and entertainment; and great places to eat, drink and sleep.

A flat, compact city, Portsmouth is ideal for exploring on foot or bicycle, with many of the city's most popular attractions within an area of just a few square miles.



HMS Warrior sits at the entrance to Portsmouth Historic Dockyard

## Historic Portsmouth

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### Portsmouth Historic Dockyard

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Explore the city's naval heritage. Portsmouth Historic Dockyard is home to The National Museum of the Royal Navy, where visitors can explore Nelson's legendary warship HMS Victory, see the fearsome HMS Warrior 1860 and even get out on the water with a Harbour Tour. [www.historicdockyard.co.uk](http://www.historicdockyard.co.uk)

### The Mary Rose

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Experience the sights, sounds and smells of life on board the Mary Rose; Henry VIII's warship that was lost in 1545, recovered in 1982, and now on display at the award-winning museum, along with an extensive haul of artefacts. Visitors are invited to uncover the mysteries hidden beneath the waves for 437 years. [www.maryrose.org](http://www.maryrose.org)

### Southsea Castle

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Southsea Castle was one of a series of coastal forts, reportedly built to specifications set out by King Henry VIII himself. Built in 1544, it stands strong at Portsmouth's most southerly point and overlooks the Solent, as well as much of the city. Castle entry is FREE. Summer opening times, Tuesday - Sunday, 10am - 5pm. [www.southseacastle.co.uk](http://www.southseacastle.co.uk)

### The D-Day Story

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The D-Day Story is the UK's only museum dedicated to the Normandy Landings. It tells the professional and personal stories of those involved through exhibits, artefacts and interactive displays. [www.theddaystory.com](http://www.theddaystory.com)



Gunwharf Quays,  
featuring Emirates  
Spinnaker Tower

## Gunwharf Quays

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Uniquely positioned in a cultural harbour front location, Gunwharf Quays is the South's leading designer shopping outlet, boasting over 90 stores, offering up to 60% off original retail prices, and over 30 restaurants, bars and coffee shops.

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

## Emirates Spinnaker Tower

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Enjoy the remarkable view from the Emirates Spinnaker Tower, a 170-metre landmark observation tower in the heart of Gunwharf Quays. With three viewing decks, the tower offers stunning views of the city, Solent and surrounding countryside, with views on clear days stretching for 23 miles. (Standard ticket adult £11, child £8).

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

## South Parade Pier

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South Parade Pier offers amazing views and fun for all the family. There are two restaurants, food outlets and an all-new family amusement arcade. There's also the chance to do a spot of shopping, enjoy the fairground rides, go fishing and take in many other seaside seasonal activities. **[www.southparadepier.net](http://www.southparadepier.net)**

## Blue Reef Aquarium

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The Blue Reef Aquarium offers an undersea safari of close encounters with everything from tropical sharks to fascinating frogs and adorable otters. Standard ticket, adult £10.17, child £7.88. **[www.blureefaquarium.co.uk](http://www.blureefaquarium.co.uk)**



Hotwalls Old Portsmouth

### Portsmouth Museum

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Portsmouth Museum is home to the largest collection pertaining to Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, and his creation Sherlock Holmes, in the world. The galleries explore Doyle's early life as a doctor and author, and how he came to write the first two Sherlock Holmes novels right here in Portsmouth. FREE entry. [www.portsmouthcitymuseums.co.uk](http://www.portsmouthcitymuseums.co.uk)

### Charles Dickens Birthplace Museum

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Take a trip back in time at Charles Dickens Birthplace, and explore the eminent English author's 19th century family home. [www.charlesdickensbirthplace.co.uk](http://www.charlesdickensbirthplace.co.uk)

### Hotwalls Studios

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Hotwalls Studios is located right beside the beach in Old Portsmouth, with access to the waterfront and harbour views. The city's historic fortifications at Point Battery have been transformed into a gallery of thirteen working studios and The Canteen, a waterfront dining space. [www.hotwallsstudios.co.uk](http://www.hotwallsstudios.co.uk)

### Clarence Pier

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One of the largest amusement parks on the south coast, Clarence Pier boasts all manner of amusements, rides and activities for all the family. [www.clarencepier.co.uk](http://www.clarencepier.co.uk)



Victorious Festival  
(Photo: © Tom Langford,  
tomlangfordphoto.co.uk)

## Annual events

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### Portsmouth Festivities

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20th Anniversary Portsmouth Festivities 2019 (14 to 23 June) is an annual 10-day festival of arts, culture and heritage. It provides a high-quality programme of citywide performances and events to capture imaginations, celebrate diversity and reflect on the heritage value of Portsmouth. Many events will be completely free to attend and include live music and talks from some of the country's most fascinating individuals.

**[www.portsmouthfestivities.co.uk](http://www.portsmouthfestivities.co.uk)**

### International Kite Festival

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The International Kite Festival takes place on Southsea Common overlooking the Solent and offers a showcase for kites of all shapes and sizes. The annual event, which attracts kite flyers from all over, is one of the biggest events of its kind in the world. It features stunning and colourful demonstrations of the art of kite flying and making. (10 and 11 August) FREE. **[www.portsmouthkitefestival.org.uk](http://www.portsmouthkitefestival.org.uk)**

### Victorious

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Victorious Festival 2019 (23–25 August) is a family-friendly festival for music lovers, just a stone's throw from the sea. The three-day festival is located on the picturesque Southsea Seafront and takes place over August bank holiday weekend. Local places to stay include the Festival's very own offsite campsite. Headline acts announced for 2019 so far include Rudimental, New Order, Clean Bandit, The Specials, Two Door Cinema Club and Bloc Party (playing their seminal debut 'Silent Alarm' in full).

**[www.victoriousfestival.co.uk](http://www.victoriousfestival.co.uk)**



The Great South Run  
passing HMS Victory

## Great South Run

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The Great South Run. The fast and flat 10-mile course starts and finishes on Southsea seafront, where participants can take in beautiful views of the Solent. The route takes runners past some of Portsmouth's best scenery, including the Emirates Spinnaker Tower and through Portsmouth Historic Dockyard. (Sunday 20 October). Entry fee £42.

**[www.greatrun.org/great-south-run](http://www.greatrun.org/great-south-run)**

## Festival of Christmas

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20th Anniversary Festival of Christmas at the Historic Dockyard (29 November to 1 December). **[www.historicdockyard.co.uk](http://www.historicdockyard.co.uk)**

For more information and full details of places to eat, drink and stay go to **[www.visitportsmouth.co.uk](http://www.visitportsmouth.co.uk)**



Southsea seafront

## Editor's notes

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### D-Day 75

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The D-Day 75 Anniversary events are taking place in Portsmouth from 5–9 June 2019.

Full details can be found at:

**[www.visitportsmouth.co.uk/d-day-75](http://www.visitportsmouth.co.uk/d-day-75)**

### Press enquiries

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For all press enquiries regarding the D-Day 75 events please contact:

**[julie.dean@portsmouthcc.gov.uk](mailto:julie.dean@portsmouthcc.gov.uk)**

### Destination enquiries

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For general destination press enquiries please contact:

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### Images

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High res images are available on request from:

**[jane.singh@portsmouthcc.gov.uk](mailto:jane.singh@portsmouthcc.gov.uk)**