

OFFICIAL VISITOR GUIDE

# PORTSMOUTH

ATTRACTIONS

EVENTS

FOOD

CITY BREAKS



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# Welcome to PORTSMOUTH

## THE GREAT WATERFRONT CITY

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1. Gunwharf Quays
2. Spinnaker Tower
3. Southsea seafront
4. Old Portsmouth
5. Southsea Castle
6. HMS Warrior, Portsmouth Historic Dockyard

**P**ortsmouth is the best location to 'Put the Wind in Your Sails' with something to suit all tastes and budgets.

With a perfect location on England's south coast, this island city is home to world-class attractions, fabulous shopping, amazing events and a fantastic cultural and creative offer. Add to this an array of evening entertainment, mouth-watering food and great places to stay, and you can see why Portsmouth is the top choice for a short break or day visit.

The iconic Spinnaker Tower is a must during your stay; enjoy the breath-taking panoramic views across Portsmouth and beyond. Stay on the waterfront with a visit to Gunwharf Quays to shop at over 90 premium designer outlets and eat at one of 30 cosmopolitan bars and restaurants.

A short walk takes you to Portsmouth Historic Dockyard, home to the finest maritime heritage in the world, including the historic ships HMS Victory, Mary Rose and HMS Warrior along with the National Museum of the Royal Navy, boat tours around Portsmouth Harbour

and much more. The UK's only island city is rightly proud of its naval connections and is the base for the two newest Navy aircraft carriers, HMS Queen Elizabeth and HMS Prince of Wales - if you are lucky you may time your visit when one of these giant ships is arriving into or leaving port.

Portsmouth has great literary links. Discover more about the city's Sherlock Holmes connection at Portsmouth Museum and Art Gallery and visit the birthplace of the great author, Charles Dickens.

Stroll through the cobbled streets of Old Portsmouth and take a walk along the historic fortifications and new sea defences\*.

From Old Portsmouth you can continue along the waterfront to Southsea, home to Henry VIII's castle and The D-Day Story museum.

Portsmouth is a year-round destination with a changing offer throughout the seasons. The packed events programme ensures there is always something extra to add in to any stay with plenty to choose from in the evenings as well as the day.

\* The Southsea Coastal Scheme is the UK's largest local authority-led coastal defences project, worth more than £130M. When finished the new defences will stretch for around 3 miles from Old Portsmouth to Eastney, and help to reduce the risk of flooding to more than 10,000 homes and 700 businesses.

**Portsmouth**  
the great waterfront city

Put  
the  
Wind  
in your  
Sails



# Three-day CITY BREAK

Only have a weekend to take in all the great things to see and do at the Great Waterfront City? Fear not, as our handy guide will guarantee you get the most out of three days in Portsmouth.



**B**egin your trip with a visit to the Spinnaker Tower. Not only is the attraction a true emblem of modern Portsmouth, it also provides the ideal vantage point to see everywhere you'll be going over the days ahead. From its viewing decks 100 metres above sea level you can take in the Portsmouth cityscape, look across to the South Downs, and see out to

the Solent and the Isle of Wight. On a good day you can see for up to 23 miles across city, coast and country.

Once you've soaked up the view, head back down to earth and enjoy all there is to see and do at Gunwharf Quays. The waterfront outlet centre is home to more than 90 designer retail outlets, making it a must-visit destination for shopaholics looking to grab a bargain. As well as the shops

you'll also find 30 bars, restaurants and coffee shops, not to mention a bowling alley, multiplex cinema, contemporary art gallery, Miniport, and plenty more besides – so you don't need to go far for that evening's food and entertainment either.

Alternatively, head over to the city centre, where you'll find a host of big-name shops, bars and cafés, as well as the indoor shopping centre Cascades.



The next day it's off to Portsmouth Historic Dockyard. Here you'll find icons of British Naval history from across the centuries – all of which can be accessed with one Ultimate Explorer ticket. Go on board Nelson's HMS Victory and see up-close the work being done to preserve her for future generations to enjoy. Then, take a tour of HMS Warrior – once the world's fastest and most feared ship that was said to have made all other warships redundant the day she was launched (but never actually fired a shot in anger).

You can also visit the Mary Rose – flagship of Henry VIII's fleet and subject of an enormous marine salvage operation beamed live around the world. The restored hull now sits on display alongside the enormous cache of Tudor artefacts that were also brought back to the surface after over 437 years on the seabed.

Don't forget to head out on a harbour tour as well, to see the

current crop of naval vessels from around the world in Portsmouth Harbour during your visit.

After all that exploring, why not settle into a show at one of the city's magnificent theatres? Both the New Theatre Royal and Kings Theatre were designed by eminent architect Frank Matcham – meaning the surrounds can be just as awe-inspiring as what's taking place on the stage.

And that's not all. We also have Portsmouth Guildhall, which welcomes some of the biggest names in music, comedy and dance, with a varied programme across its many rooms and spaces. There's also the iconic Wedgewood Rooms, where a whole host of future stars have cut their teeth before making the big time.

Treat yourself to a slap-up meal before the show of your choice, with all the above venues benefitting from top quality restaurants, pubs and bars within a short walk.



Start your final day with a bracing stroll along Southsea Seafront. The fresh sea air and ever-changing coastal views are a year-round treat, and are the best way to work up an appetite for brunch at one of the many great eateries situated right along the seafront.

Once you've had your fill it's time to take in some of the other top sights located at the coast. Pop into Southsea Castle, the historic fortification from which Henry VIII watched the Battle of the Solent and the sinking of the Mary Rose. Then, head over to The D-Day Story, to hear the personal testimonies of those involved in the Normandy Campaign of World War II. You can also step on board the breath-taking LCT 7074 – the 59-metre-long Landing Craft Tank that transported troops and tanks across the channel – and is the only surviving craft of its kind from the war.

With that done, all that's left is to plan your journey home – and also your next visit to Portsmouth, to explore everything else the UK's only island city has to offer.



1. Spinnaker Tower  
Photo by Sohaim Siddiquee on Unsplash
2. HMS Victory
3. Southsea Castle
4. Gunwharf Quays
5. LCT 7074, The D-Day Story



# NAVAL GAZING

**Go on board some of the world's most famous ships and explore the Royal Navy's past, present and future.**

**P**ortsmouth Historic Dockyard is the UK's premier destination for naval history, with unique pieces from tiny coins to huge Georgian ships, and wrecks spectacularly recovered from the seabed. Experience Horatio Nelson's flagship HMS Victory, Henry VIII's favourite ship the Mary Rose, the world's first iron-hulled warship HMS Warrior, and even more. See a genuine First World War monitor ship, HMS M.33, and see through the eyes of the workers at the Dockyard Apprentice exhibit.

The brand-new experience Victory Live: The Big Repair presents visitors with an unprecedented look behind the scenes at the work needed to repair a First Rate line-of-battle ship. Rotting planking will be removed from the hull and replaced with new oak; repairs made to the ship's structural framework; and she will be fully re-rigged, in a process lasting

ten to fifteen years and costing £35million. Best of all visitors will be there every step of the way – seeing the work going on up close using special viewing areas constructed around the ship.

A new 4D immersive theatre experience, '1982 – Dive the Mary Rose', will open in spring 2023 to showcase the untold story of the finding, excavation, and recovery of the Mary Rose. Unseen footage will be brought to life through the smells, sounds and movement from the raising, with 3D glasses and CGI used to optimise the experience.

Visitors looking for something to get the pulse racing can put their speed and agility to the test at the newly reopened, fun-packed Action Stations. Take on the Commando Experience and get a game face on to experience training with the Royal Marines.

Also included in the Ultimate Explorer ticket are the two Gosport

museums, Explosion! Museum of Naval Firepower, and the Royal Navy Submarine Museum. Investigate the only surviving British submarine from the Second World War and get up close to the powerful vessels of the clandestine Coastal Forces.

There's a ticket to suit everyone, with the very best value for money being the Ultimate Explorer, giving entry to all the attractions, including the Harbour tour, which provides unrivalled views of Britain's modern navy.

The different galleries around the dockyard, including one telling the story of ordinary serving men and women, offers something for those without their sea legs. Portsmouth Historic Dockyard really is the only place in the world to see the Royal Navy past, present and future.

Find out more and save money when you book your tickets online at [historicdockyard.co.uk](https://historicdockyard.co.uk)



1. HMS Warrior
2. Victory Live
3. HMS M.33
4. Explosion! Museum of Naval Firepower
5. HMS Warrior
6. Mary Rose Museum



# The QUAY to a great VIEW



1. Sky Walk, Spinnaker Tower
2. Gunwharf Quays
3. Panoramic views, Spinnaker Tower
4. Gunwharf Quays

## Spinnaker Tower

The iconic Spinnaker Tower stands at a soaring 170 metres tall, offering awe-inspiring 23-mile views over Portsmouth, the Solent, the South Downs and the Isle of Wight. From delicious High Teas to mind-boggling virtual reality, nerve-jangling abseils to magical weddings, there are outstanding experiences for everyone, all set against the most breath-taking of backdrops.

Venture across the thrilling glass 'Sky Walk' at 100 metres above sea level; discover stories behind the view with informative touch screen displays and breathe in the view from the open-air Sky Garden. Tuck in to delicious meals made using locally sourced ingredients in the Spinnaker Kitchen & Bar or book a space in The Clouds to sit and relax with a glass of bubbly or a decadent High Tea.

Spinnaker Tower also makes a spectacular venue for a range of events. Try Sky Dining or one of the Tower Tribute Nights, or host your own special occasion – the Tower is available to hire for private events, corporate functions and weddings.

To guarantee your experience at this truly uplifting destination, advanced booking is recommended, and you can save 15% on standard all day admission when you book online. [spinnakertower.co.uk](http://spinnakertower.co.uk)

## Gunwharf Quays

Gunwharf Quays' relaxed approach to shopping makes it the perfect outdoor waterfront destination, with over 90 famous brands in one place and savings of up to 60% off the original price. As well as men's and women's fashion, you'll find children's wear; shoes and accessories; sportswear; homewares; lifestyle; gifting, and beauty. In short, a shopper's paradise.

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

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

Visit the 14-screen multiplex Vue cinema, 26-lane Hollywood Bowl, Grosvenor Casino and Aspex contemporary art gallery. Book a blast out on the Solent with Onboard Charter or take a more leisurely tour around the harbour.

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





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continuum  
attractions

## A VIBRANT PAST



There's more history on show at the Eastney Engine Houses, where the grand Boulton & Watt steam engines that brought effective drainage and sanitation to Victorian Portsmouth are on display.

Head north and you'll find Fort Nelson - one of the many fortifications installed in and around Portsmouth by Lord Palmerston to protect the city (and wider country) from invasion. This former garrison and military prison now houses the big guns from the Royal Armouries' collection. So not only can you enjoy magnificent views out across the city from its hilltop location, you may also see a live firing too!

Back down at sea level is the impressive Portchester Castle which dates back to the 3rd century. The outer walls are the most complete Roman fortification north of the Alps, whilst inside you'll find a Norman Castle and well-tended grounds that are perfect for exploring or enjoying a summer picnic.

Portsmouth's history stretches back centuries - encompassing kings and queens, legendary naval battles, and a whole host of world-renowned authors. There really is history to explore around every corner.

The ideal place to start is Portsmouth Museum and Art Gallery, which tells the stories of the city

and its inhabitants. See items from the world's largest collection of memorabilia relating to Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, who wrote the first two Sherlock Holmes novels in Southsea.

You'll also find paintings, ceramics and sculptures from the museum's own collection as well as loans from both national and international institutions.



1. Portchester Castle
2. Portsmouth Museum and Art Gallery
3. Eastney Engine Houses
4. Fort Nelson





# EXPLORE SPICE ISLAND

**T**he historic quarter of Old Portsmouth is a must-visit. You can escape through lamplit cobbled streets, explore some of the best pubs in Hampshire, and see creatives at work in their artists' studios.

Today, Old Portsmouth is one of the city's most desirable locations – a long way removed from centuries ago, when it was notoriously known as 'Spice Island'. Back then it welcomed some of the area's less salubrious characters and saw



unsuspecting drinkers press-ganged into going on the next naval journey.

Of course, you're now much more likely to find top quality seafood or enjoy wonderful coastal views than bump into any ne'er-do-wells.

Start your visit at the magnificent Portsmouth Cathedral. The church of St Thomas dates back to 1182 and has become known as 'the cathedral of the sea', not only through its proximity to the coast but also its numerous memorials to sailors and seafarers. The building may be

historic, but a visit today uses some of the latest modern technology to bring the cathedral's stories to life.

A short walk along High Street brings you to the Hotwalls Studios, where artists and designers ply their trades in converted arches built into Old Portsmouth's fortifications. Browse and buy unique pieces across a whole range of mediums, from painting to sculpture, jewellery and textiles. You can also attend workshops and Open Studios events, to see the magic happen right in front of your eyes – or even have a try yourself.

The Hotwalls Beach is also a popular haunt; the enclosed area making it not just a wonderful sun trap, but also an ideal point from which to view the comings and goings of Portsmouth Harbour up-close.

Old Portsmouth's fortifications are well worth a visit, with the ramparts offering incredible views out over the city and across the Solent. You can stop off at the Round Tower, a Grade I-listed fort originally built in wood around 1418 before being

replaced with the stone you see today in the 1490s.

If all that has worked up an appetite, you won't have to go far to get your fill of quality food and drink. Not only are some of Old Portsmouth's pubs the city's most historic, they're also some of the best-loved.

The Dolphin – located opposite Portsmouth Cathedral – purports to be the city's oldest pub still in operation, having been established back in 1716. Alternatively, head up to the Camber where you can enjoy hearty pub grub and some great local ales at the Still & West, Spice Island Inn or The Bridge Tavern – all of which are situated right at the water's edge.

If all this coastal living has you fancying some seafood, you have plenty of choice. At Fish Portsmouth you can pick up the best catches – with an enormous selection to choose from, freshly landed that morning. Or, if you'd rather have someone else do the work for you, pop across the road to Abarbistro, where quality seafood is available alongside bistro classics (and some excellent wines too).



1. Portsmouth Cathedral Nave
2. The Camber
3. Lizzie, I Can See The Sea, Hotwalls Studios
4. The Round Tower
5. Abarbistro

©Emma Trinder



# CULTURE *by the* COAST

Culture buffs rejoice, there's a whole host of great things to see and do on your next visit to Portsmouth – from art galleries to museums, theatres, festivals, and plenty more besides.



- 1. The Kings Theatre
- 2. Aspex Gallery  
© Tom Langford
- 3. Charles Dickens' Birthplace Museum
- 4. Victorious Festival  
© Tom Langford
- 5. We Shine Festival



**T**o begin, why not take a tour of Portsmouth's literary past? Some of the world's most famous authors have called

Portsmouth home at some point in their lives – and left their own indelible mark upon the city.

The most famous is Charles Dickens, who was born in a humble terraced house on what is now Old Commercial Road. The home has been transformed into a museum, containing many of Dickens' personal possessions.

Portsmouth is also home to the world's largest collection of memorabilia relating to Sir Arthur Conan Doyle – the man behind world-renowned 'consulting detective' Sherlock Holmes. A host of fascinating items from the collection are on display at Portsmouth Museum and Art Gallery – itself just a few minutes' walk from the place where Doyle first came up with the idea for his most enduring character.

Other famed writers with a link to the city include HG Wells, Rudyard Kipling and Michelle Magorian.

Portsmouth's literary links are celebrated every year at BookFest, where visitors can enjoy lively talks, workshops and readings from some well-known guest speakers.

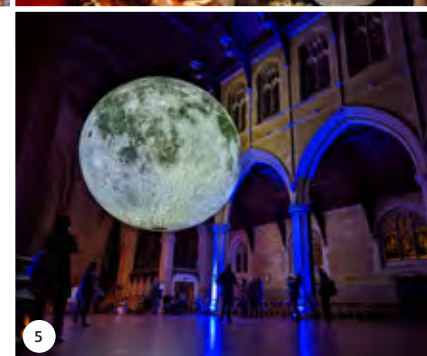
The storytelling tradition is very much alive and well at the city's theatres – where you can see touring shows straight from the West End, as



well as some of the biggest names in music and comedy. The Kings Theatre in Southsea and New Theatre Royal in the city centre regularly welcome household names, whilst the smaller Groudlings Theatre – situated within a magnificent Georgian building – features community productions and stars of the future.

Portsmouth Guildhall is the city's largest venue – welcoming huge stars on their national and international tours. It was even where Pink Floyd gave the debut live airing to their seminal album *The Dark Side of the Moon*. More recently the building's main auditorium has been supplemented by the Guildhall Studio and The Box, to provide even more venue space for all sizes of act – meaning you have an even greater chance of finding something you like on your next visit.

If you'd rather sit back and enjoy something on the silver screen,



there's plenty of choice – and not just in terms of the film you want to watch. In addition to the big-name multiplexes, Portsmouth has the independent No. 6 Cinema (at Portsmouth Historic Dockyard) and Southsea Cinema (on Palmerston Road). Here you'll find some of the latest indie releases, as well as screenings of classics from yesteryear.

There's art of a different kind to enjoy at Aspex Portsmouth. The contemporary art gallery, located within the Gunwharf Quays complex,

hosts an ever-changing programme of displays that enlighten, engage and enrich. You may also see some big names there, as those who were championed by the gallery in their formative years come back to repay the favour.

As well as all the cultural attractions listed above there are a great many festivals, pop-ups and one-off events taking place all year round. There's Victorious Festival, which brings some of the biggest names in music to Southsea Common every summer, and PortsFest (formerly Portsmouth Festivities), where live music, talks and workshops combine for a celebration of all things cultural.

Be sure to follow Portsmouth Creates, the organisation that is behind the We Shine Portsmouth light festival, as well as many other craft markets and other ventures taking place right across the city.



**What do you fancy seeing?**

- \* Theatre
- \* Comedy
- \* Family Show
- \* Drama
- \* Dance
- \* Music

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**GUILDHALL**

Find out more about Portsmouth's incredible history by booking one of the city's **guided walks**

Full details available on [visitportsmouth.co.uk](http://visitportsmouth.co.uk)

**Portsmouth**  
the great waterfront city

**Charles Dickens' Birthplace Museum**

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

Various open days throughout the year, check online for details.

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

Portsmouth CITY COUNCIL

**Portsmouth**  
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# The GREAT OUTDOORS

2023 is the Year of the Coast, so what better way to mark the occasion than to head outside for the enormous variety of sights and sounds to enjoy at the seaside?



**P**ortsmouth's position as an island city has inextricably linked it to the coast. The city has sea air built into its very DNA, and much of what there is to enjoy outdoors here can be found right along the water's edge.

To begin, how about a promenade along Southsea seafront? For miles on end you can enjoy sea views to one side and open parkland to the other as you take the flat path from Old Portsmouth to Eastney.

In fact, if you wanted to stretch this to its extreme you could take a walk around the perimeter of Portsea Island (along pathways that stretch for around 15.5 miles, if you were wondering) and never be more than half a mile from the coast - and often right alongside it.

The Portsmouth section of England's Coastal Path has now been finished, with the Calshot to Gosport and Gosport to Portsmouth sections (totalling some 52 miles, or 84km) having officially opened in 2022. As the National Trails agency itself says, the walk provides huge variety even just in Portsmouth alone, passing through residential, retail, recreational and industrial areas -

as well as Sites of Scientific Special Interest (SSSI).

In addition to this exciting new development we have all the great outdoor areas that have brought visitors back time and again for years.

Southsea Common is the huge expanse of open parkland located right along the coast. Here you can enjoy summer picnics or winter walks, or even treat yourself to a BBQ (in the designated areas).

The area is great for ball games, whether you want an impromptu kickabout with friends or prefer to visit the tennis and beach volleyball courts. The area is also home to Southsea Skatepark, which welcomes visitors on a pay-as-you-go basis, and hosts Roller Discos during summer - which are always great fun.

Alternatively, head over to Milton Locks and Common for a more

relaxed affair. Here you can explore the many walkways and paths around the city's eastern edge, then go wildlife spotting in the calm, shallow waters (with animals here including starlings, house sparrows, copper butterflies, oystercatchers and sea purslane).

Finally, head off the island to Portsdown Hill for a breath-taking view looking out over Portsmouth and the surrounding areas.



1. Milton Common
2. Millennium Promenade, Old Portsmouth
3. Shipwrights Way, Hilsea
4. South Parade Pier, Southsea seafront

## Exciting new development in 2023

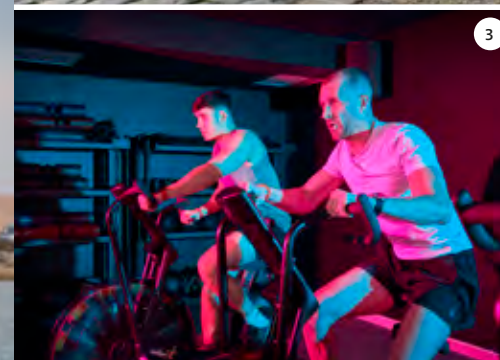
Plans are taking shape to create a new urban Linear Park, stretching right across the very top of Portsea Island - connecting the west of the city to the eastern edge. As well as providing enhanced cycling and walking facilities, the heart of the development will feature the Hilsea Leisure Park, a high-quality destination including children's dry and wet play; water activities (such as wakeboarding); high quality food and drink; interaction with the natural and heritage environment through viewing platforms; and a crucial redevelopment of the much-loved Hilsea Lido as a cornerstone attraction.

Follow our social channels and check the Visit Portsmouth website for updates on the development of the Linear Park during 2023.





# SPORT *in the* PORT



1. Andrew Simpson Watersports Centre
  2. Great South Run
  3. BH Live Active, Pyramids
  4. Mountbatten Centre
  5. Southsea Skatepark
- © Tom Langford

Portsmouth is a city with a proud sporting heritage, world-class facilities and a calendar of international events – be it road running at the Great South Run, sailing and kite-surfing on the water, or home matches at Portsmouth Football Club.

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

The Andrew Simpson Watersports Centre is the first port of call for any enthusiast, with courses and access

to water-based activities including sailing, rowing, powerboating, kayaking, canoeing and paddle-boarding. The centre also houses a 13-metre outdoor climbing tower; one for the brave!

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

The Great South Run is a major highlight of the Portsmouth sporting calendar and is recognised as the

world's leading 10 mile running event. This fast, flat course is ideal for setting PBs, whilst also taking in some of the city's best scenery – from the beautiful seafront to Nelson's iconic HMS Victory.

With miles of beautiful seafront promenade, Southsea is a runner's paradise, where you can train with a sea-breeze on your back and ever-changing views across the Solent towards the Isle of Wight and Hayling Island. If you prefer to run with company, join one of the regular organised weekend runs that take place across the city.

## Sport Centres

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

Another new offer – BH Live Active at Pyramids – is a brand-new

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

Portsmouth's Mountbatten Centre is home to an Olympic-sized pool, teaching pool, 150 station gym, health suite, eight court sports hall, squash courts, athletics and cycle tracks, and a great programme of activities and events. Next door is Portsmouth Tennis Centre with four indoor and six outdoor courts.

CourtX tennis, in Southsea, boasts a pavilion, four top-specification artificial grass courts along with newly refurbished grass and hard courts.

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

Portsmouth boasts 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 promenade along Southsea seafront is ideal for in-line and roller skating, whatever your age. It's also worth zipping down to Southsea Skatepark on the seafront, which is home to international-standard ramps, or check out the new Undercover Skatepark in the city centre – ideal on less clement days. In winter enjoy skating on real ice in front of Portsmouth Guildhall.

When the weather's good you can't beat Southsea's seafront. It offers miles of pebble beaches to explore and gigantic green spaces where you can let off some steam and enjoy the sea air. There are also tennis courts, adventure mini golf, a pitch 'n' putt green, play parks and beach volleyball courts to keep you entertained.



# TRAVEL INFORMATION

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



1

## 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 visitors a quick, easy and affordable way to visit: [parkandride.portsmouth.gov.uk](http://parkandride.portsmouth.gov.uk)

## Rail

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

## Air

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

## Isle of Wight

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



2

1. Hovertravel
2. Brittany Ferries entering Portsmouth Harbour



## Useful information to help plan your journey

Visitor Information Service:  
[visitportsmouth.co.uk](http://visitportsmouth.co.uk)  
[vis@portsmouthcc.gov.uk](mailto:vis@portsmouthcc.gov.uk)  
 02392 826722

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

National Express Coaches:  
[nationalexpress.com](http://nationalexpress.com)  
 03717 818181

National Rail Enquiries:  
[nationalrail.co.uk](http://nationalrail.co.uk)  
 03457 484950

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

## Portsmouth International Port

With its dramatic harbour, Portsmouth International Port creates a spectacular arrival and departure for passengers. It offers a range of routes to Europe and a growing cruise offer, making it ideally located for both short breaks and international travel.

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

Major operators and cruise lines have chosen Portsmouth for its superb position and impressive facilities, offering customers inspiring destinations whilst sailing in luxury.

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, giving you the perfect opportunity to stay a while and explore.

## Walking and cycling

The city is flat and compact, making walking and cycling convenient modes of transport. Park up your vehicle or travel by public transport and explore the city on foot. Alternatively hire a Beryl Bike or a Voi e-scooter to get around during your visit. For a full range of bike hire in the city go to [visitportsmouth.co.uk](http://visitportsmouth.co.uk)

### Average walking times from Portsmouth and Southsea station

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

### Average walking times from Portsmouth Harbour train station

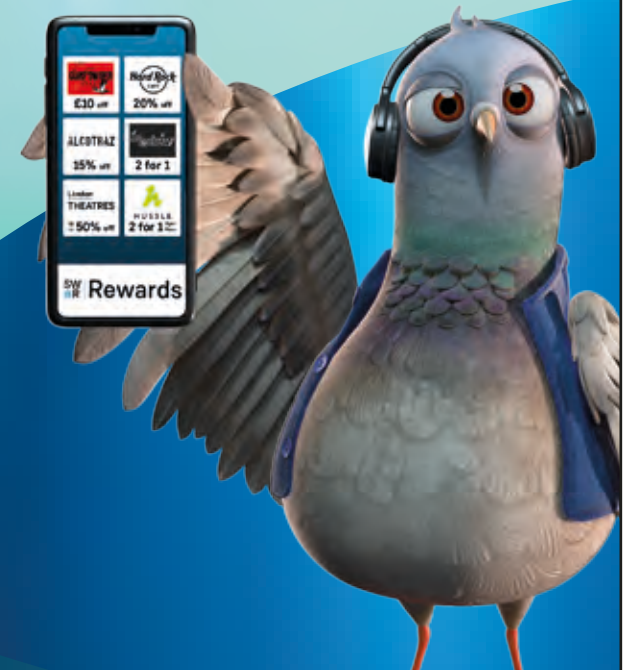
Gunwharf Quays	⌚ 4 mins
Portsmouth Historic Dockyard	⌚ 6 mins
Spinnaker Tower	⌚ 8 mins
Portsmouth Museum & Art Gallery	⌚ 14 mins
Old Portsmouth	⌚ 15 mins
Clarence Pier and Esplanade	⌚ 24 mins
D-Day Story and Southsea Castle	⌚ 36 mins

# REWARDS WORTH TWEETING ABOUT

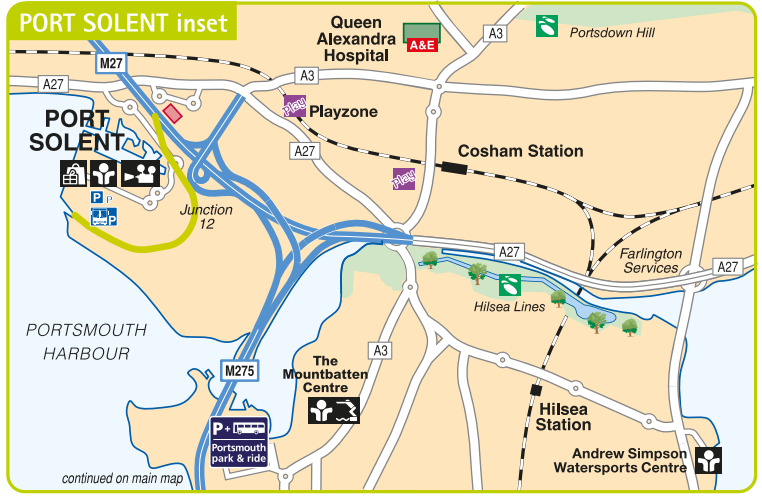
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GET YOURS

South Western  
**Railway**  
 Spread your wings







**Key to Quarters**

- Central Southsea
- City Centre
- Historic Waterfront
- Port Solent
- Seaford
- University

**Key to Buildings**

- Hospital
- Shopping
- Sport and Leisure
- University
- Other building
- Parks and open spaces

**Key to Attractions**

- Aquarium
- Art Gallery
- Caravan Site
- Castle
- Cathedral
- Church
- Cinema
- Football ground
- Historic Dockyard
- Industrial heritage
- Museum
- Pier
- Shopping
- Sports Centre
- Swimming Pool
- Theatre
- Tower or Folly
- Walking Route
- Information Centre

**Key to other symbols**

- Buses
- Car Park
- Coach Park
- Indoor Play Area
- Millennium Promenades
- Play Area
- Post Office
- Viewpoint
- Park & Ride stop
- Drinking Fountains

**For Ferries follow symbols**

- Isle of Wight
- Car
- Passenger
- Hovercraft
- Gosport
- Passenger

P Parking Information			
The car parks listed below are identified on the map by letters and symbols			
Controlled Off-street parking			
Name	no. of spaces		
A. All Saints (D2)	42	P. Port Solent (inset A1)	996
B. Ashby Place (C6)	61	Q. Pyramids (D7)	148
C. Broad Street (A5)	29	R. Seaford, Esplanade (B6)	373
F. Southsea Common (C6)	68	S. Historic Ships (B3)	295
G. Clarence Pier (B6) (closed)	154	NCP car parks are located at:	
H. Clarence Street (C2)	154	T. Cascades, Charlotte Street (C3)	
I. Seaford, D-Day (C7)	125	V. Crasswell Street (D3) multi-storey	
L. Gunwharf Quays (B4)	1400	W. Crasswell Street (D3) surface	
M. The Harbour (B4)	62	Coach Drop-Off point	
N. City Centre South, Isambard Brunel (C4)	468	Coach parking is available at:	
O. Seaford, Canoe Lake (F7)	146	D-Day (C7)	
		Museum Road (C5)	
		Port Solent (inset)	
		St. George's Road (B4)	

Based on aerial photography and field survey. While every effort has been made to ensure this map is accurate and up to date, neither the publishers or the copyright holders accept any liability for loss or inconvenience incurred as a result of any errors. The representation of any footpath, road or track on this map does not necessarily indicate any right of way.

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SPECIAL  
GUIDE TO  
SOUTHSEA**



OFFICIAL VISITOR GUIDE

# SOUTHSEA

ATTRACTIONS

EVENTS

FOOD

CITY BREAKS



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



# TAKE FLIGHT BY HOVERCRAFT

Southsea, Portsmouth to Ryde, Isle of Wight



Perfect for day trips, attractions, sandy beaches  
and boutique shopping.

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across the Solent



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www.hovertravel.co.uk



THE D-DAY STORY  
PORTSMOUTH

## The very fabric of war.

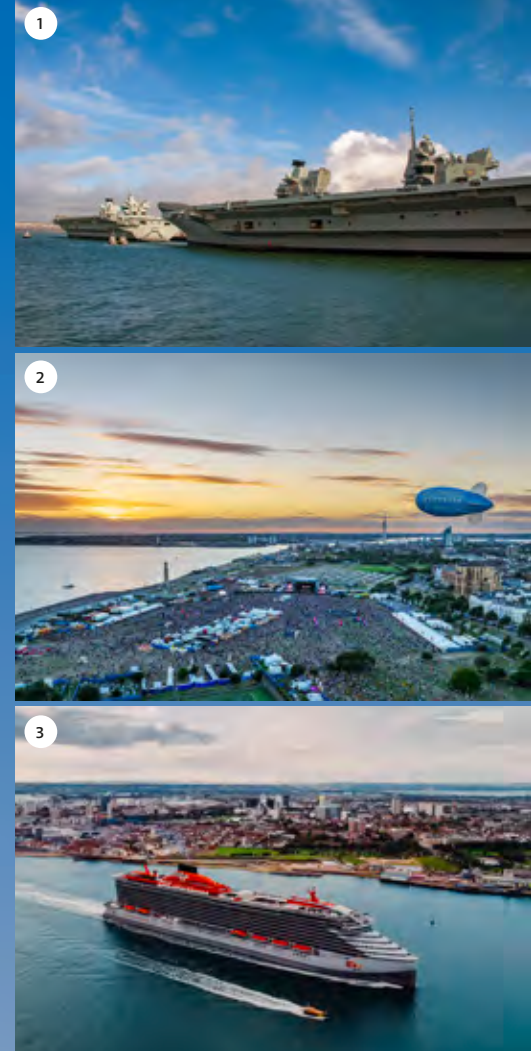
The Overlord Embroidery depicts D-Day and the  
Battle of Normandy, telling the story of sacrifice and  
heroism with 34 panels showing scenes in over 50  
fabrics. Experience the embroidery at The D-Day Story  
and discover the personal stories behind this epic day.  
**thedaystory.com**



# SOMETHING *for* EVERYONE

**S**outhsea sits perfectly at  
the bottom of the island of  
Portsea and encompasses  
miles of beach, wide open  
green spaces, myriad attractions,  
museums, activities, shopping and  
food and drink - the perfect place  
to include on any visit to the great  
waterfront city. This is also where  
most of the larger city events take  
place on the vast green open spaces,  
with free music every weekend  
throughout the summer and the  
enormous Victorious Festival over the  
August bank holiday. In late summer  
and autumn events take a more  
sporting theme with kite surfing and  
the Great South Run - one of the best  
10-mile races in the world.

As if this wasn't enough, Southsea  
seafront is getting a much-deserved  
facelift in the form of a multimillion-  
pound project to create sea defences  
to protect the city while preserving  
its unique heritage. The work on  
these essential defences also offers  
the chance to make improvements to  
much of the seafront, so it is an even  
better place to walk, cycle, skate or  
run - or to just sit with fish and chips  
and watch the world go by! There is  
plenty to watch as well, with an ever-  
changing seascape of yachts, ferries,  
hovercraft, cruise ships, cargo ships  
and naval warships - including, if you  
are lucky, a glimpse of one of the two  
Royal Navy Queen Elizabeth-class  
aircraft carriers based in Portsmouth.



1. HMS Queen Elizabeth  
and HMS Prince of Wales  
docked at Portsmouth
2. Victorious Festival 2022  
© Brian Bracher
3. Scarlet Lady cruise ship
4. Southsea seafront



# TALES *of* HEROES *and* KINGS



## The D-Day Story

The D-Day Story is a must see during any visit. The story of this momentous moment in World War Two is told in three distinct parts.

The visit starts on-board the enormous LCT 7074, the last surviving Landing Craft Tank that took part in the D-Day landings. For months the ship carried troops, supplies and up to ten tanks across the channel. It played a vital role in helping liberate Europe.

Following a multi-million-pound restoration project by the National Museum of the Royal Navy and funding from the National Lottery Heritage Fund, LCT 7074 has been restored to its former glory.

Sound effects, recreated crew quarters, and Sherman and Churchill tanks bring the experience of being on board to life.

The second part of the visit is inside the museum itself. Here, you find out about the planning of D-Day and how those in charge made crucial preparation decisions on when and where to cross the channel. Next is 'D-Day Landings and the Battle of Normandy'. The audio-visual displays show what it was like to be on a landing craft and give a compelling insight into the thoughts and feelings of those onboard.

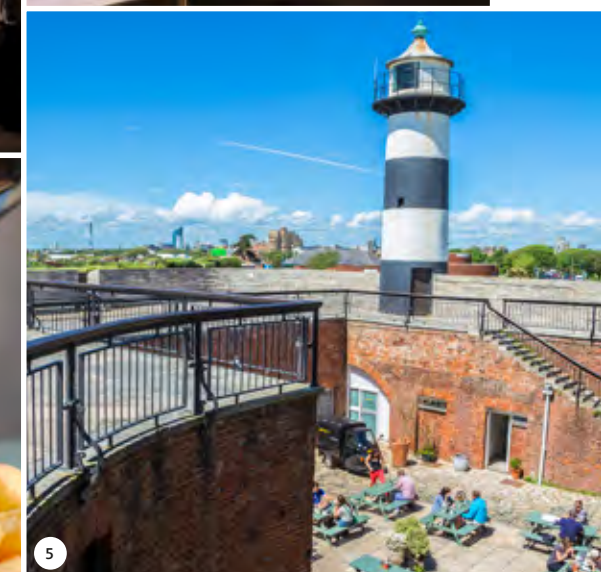


The third part of the visit is the grand finale – the spectacular Overlord Embroidery and Legacy Gallery. The impressive 83-metre-long embroidery, longer than the Bayeux Tapestry, with 34 extraordinary hand stitched panels, was created to commemorate people who took part in D-Day. You can also hear the Veterans' personal stories as they reflect on their wartime service.

The museum is open 10am-5pm, seven days a week. To find out more and to purchase tickets go to [thedaystory.com](http://thedaystory.com)



1. LCT 7074, The D-Day Story
2. The D-Day Story
3. Overlord Embroidery, The D-Day Story
4. Courtyard restaurant food, Southsea Castle
5. Lighthouse and courtyard, Southsea Castle



## Henry VIII's Southsea Castle

Just south of The D-Day Story sits Southsea Castle, built in 1544 by Henry VIII to guard against enemy ships and reportedly from where he watched his favourite warship, the Mary Rose, sink at the Battle of the Solent.

The full castle visitor offer is available each year from April to October and includes the castle keep with an overview of its history, the ramparts with great views across the Solent to the Isle of Wight, the shop and delicious Courtyard café and restaurant.

The Courtyard stays open during the winter months for food and drink all year round. The on-site micro-brewery opens on occasional weekend days for off-sales.

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



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**Clarence Esplanade, Southsea, Portsmouth, PO5 3ST**

# Portsmouth Museum and Art Gallery

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

This free museum offers an insight into Portsmouth's past through the display of objects and art from the city's collections. New exhibitions for 2023 include Endangered Crafts and The Ocean at the End of the Lane – discovering Portsmouth's coastline.

**KIDS!**  
Enjoy playing on the grass, play area, slide and hideaway in the garden

**Portsmouth**  
the great waterfront city

Find out more at  
[portsmouthmuseum.co.uk](https://portsmouthmuseum.co.uk)

**Portsmouth CITY COUNCIL**

## Southsea CASTLE

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

Includes on-site shop and micro-brewery.

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

**Portsmouth CITY COUNCIL** Made possible with **Heritage Fund** **Portsmouth**  
the great waterfront city



# By the SEASIDE



1. Southsea seafront  
© Shaun Roster
2. Canoe Lake
3. Cumberland House Natural History Museum
4. Blue Reef Aquarium
5. Exploria, Portsmouth Pyramids



A trip to the seaside wouldn't be complete without a visit to a pier and Southsea has two! South Parade Pier is ideal for a stroll – offering spectacular views out across the Solent, plus restaurants, shops, pop-up eateries, fun activities and an arcade. The Gaiety Bar also hosts functions and events throughout the year. Clarence Pier is one of the largest amusement parks on the south coast and boasts a range of amusements, rides and activities for all the family.

Canoe Lake is a fun area popular for crabbing, pedalos and picnics. With a model village, rose garden, tennis courts, choice of cafés and

play-park complete with water splash, it's a family favourite on sunny days.

Just by Canoe Lake is Cumberland House Natural History Museum which includes a seasonal butterfly house (May to September). Meet the resident iguanodon, find out about Portsmouth's local wildlife including the observational beehive and explore the variety in the natural world in the A-Z of Natural History display.  
**[portsmouthnaturalhistory.co.uk](http://portsmouthnaturalhistory.co.uk)**

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



## Explore a world of fun and wonder

Exploria at Portsmouth Pyramids is Southsea's newest play and bounce attraction with fun for all ages. A tantalising sense of wonder and extreme fun across three connected worlds gives children plenty of action to amaze and delight. Everything, from floor to ceiling, evokes a sense of mystery with lots of jumps, leaps and thrills. All safely rightsized to inspire juniors, toddlers and babies alike.

See page 6 for a special 10% discount code for Visit Portsmouth readers. T&Cs apply, book online at **[exploria.org.uk](http://exploria.org.uk)**



**T**here is nothing like a blast of sea air to recharge your batteries and Southsea Seafront is the place to do it!

The beach stretches four miles along the south of the island from Old Portsmouth to Eastney, with the safer bathing area located eastwards from Portsmouth Pyramids. Revitalise yourself with a sea swim or have fun with the family paddling in the clear waters.

Take a stroll along the seafront promenade and treat yourself to an ice cream or a hot chocolate – depending on the season. Take in the ever-changing seascape of ferries, warships, yachts, cruise liners and more. Watch the hovercraft fly across the Solent from the Isle of Wight and land right on the beach.

Make the most of the vast green open space that is Southsea Common – ideal for kite flying, picnics and

informal ball games. You will also find a play park and splash pool for younger children.

Explore the underwater world at Blue Reef Aquarium. From bamboo sharks to clownfish, piranha to stingrays, there's plenty to see. Take in the colourful and exotic inhabitants of the coral reef in the spectacular underwater tunnel and come face-to-face with the wonders of the aquatic world. **[blureefaquarium.co.uk](http://blureefaquarium.co.uk)**





# TREAT *yourself*

1



2

**S**outhsea is the perfect place to find great food and drink along with unique and local gifts for yourself or your loved ones.

From excellent fine dining at acclaimed Restaurant 27 to a hearty lunch and a record purchase at Pie and Vinyl, there is something in Southsea to suit all tastes and pockets.

Make the most of being on the coast and enjoy one of the many seafront eateries including from east to west: Southsea Beach Café, The Briny, The Courtyard – within the walls of Henry VIII's castle – and The Beach Club. There are great fish and chip options too – another seaside must – including Deep Blue on South Parade Pier and the Fisherman's Kitchen in Southsea centre.

For coffee and a cake by the sea there is bags of choice including Coffee Cup, Waterfront Tea Rooms, The Pavilion and the Parade Tea Rooms.

A short stroll from the sea and you will find an eclectic range of restaurants, cafés, and bars. Palmerston Road with its outside seating is a great place to take a break



5

for lunch. Visit The Southsea Deli to find great choices for packing a picnic by the sea.

In Southsea you can plan your own world food tour with choices including English, Belgian, Chinese, French, Greek, Indian, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Lebanese, Mexican, Spanish, Thai, Turkish and Vietnamese cuisine! Eat your way around the world with a different flavour of the great waterfront city each time you visit.

Alongside the many places to eat, discover a great mix of independent and vintage shops and regular outdoor markets selling local food and gifts including the Hampshire Farmers' and Love Southsea markets.



1. The Southsea Deli
2. Parmeters Antiques, Albert Road
3. Deep Blue Fish and Chips
4. The Courtyard, Southsea Castle
5. Restaurant 27
6. Southsea Beach Café



3



4



6

Visit Albert Road and Castle Road to find hidden vintage treasures alongside plenty of places to stop and refuel. Southsea is bursting with creativity and many specialist artisans have their creations on sale – from patissiers and jewellers to sourdough bakeries and artists.



# EVENTS *for every* SEASON

The Great Waterfront City is well known for the amazing events that take place all year-round – many of these are based in Southsea, right next to, or on the sea.



1. Victorious Festival  
© Tom Langford
2. Victorious Festival  
© Tom Langford
3. Live at the Bandstand



**V**ictorious Festival is a large family-friendly festival for music lovers, taking place over the August Bank Holiday Weekend. The festival is located on Southsea Seafront, a stunning beachside location where you can spot cruise liners and forts in the distance as you watch incredible live performances by world renowned acts.

Alongside its unbelievable music lineup, Victorious also plays host to amazing comedy acts, a unique champagne bar situated in a historic castle, a bustling world music village, market stalls aplenty, and food from all over the world.

Family is at the heart of Victorious and its huge Kids Arena is where the magic happens. Here you'll find a kid's stage with its own lineup of book and TV favourites alongside tons of completely free activities to keep young ones entertained – from taster sports sessions to arts, crafts, educational activities, laser tag and games. Find out more and buy tickets at [victoriousfestival.co.uk](http://victoriousfestival.co.uk)

The Live at the Bandstand programme runs over summer weekends with free outdoor music showcasing a host of local and regional talent. It's great for an afternoon's entertainment in the sun with a picnic.

Continued on next page...





# VICTORIOUS FESTIVAL

SET ON THE STUNNING SOUTHSEA SEAFRONT  
IN PORTSMOUTH, VICTORIOUS FESTIVAL IS ONE OF THE  
MOST BEAUTIFULLY LOCATED MUSIC FESTIVALS IN THE UK.

"If you do like to be beside  
the seaside, this Portsmouth festival  
always draws in the big names."

Evening Standard

"A marvellous festival  
on the south coast."

Dermot O'Leary

26 / 27 / 28 AUGUST 2023  
[WWW.VICTORIOUSFESTIVAL.CO.UK](http://WWW.VICTORIOUSFESTIVAL.CO.UK)



1. Kiteboarding  
© Vernon Nash
2. International Kite Festival
3. Comic Con, Portsmouth Guildhall
4. Port Solent

Portsmouth Pride takes over Southsea Common in June with a vibrant parade followed by entertainment throughout the day.

The annual International Kite Festival is always popular, with demonstrations, stalls, and an amazing vista of colourful flying kites. You can buy your own kite then emulate the experts in the open flying space.

On the water look out for a major International Kite Surfing event later in the summer. The Formula Kite European Championship will welcome some of the world's best racers from the Olympic circuit as they gear up for Paris 2024. Expect high-octane kite foil racing just off the Eastney coast.

Head up to Port Solent for a host of wonderful events alongside the shops, restaurants and picturesque marina. There are regular car meets where enthusiasts show off their prized possessions, free children's activities throughout the holidays, and live music events across the year. With free parking and lots to explore (including a cinema and health centre), it's a great day out.

At Portsmouth Guildhall in the city centre the annual Games Fest begins the year, and is followed by Comic Con, International Festival of Comics, taking place in June 2023.



In the autumn The Great South Run weekend takes place, starting and finishing in Southsea. Runners take a 10-mile route that includes Portsmouth Historic Dockyard. The Saturday includes Junior and Mini Run events and a 5k run, with the main event taking place on the Sunday.

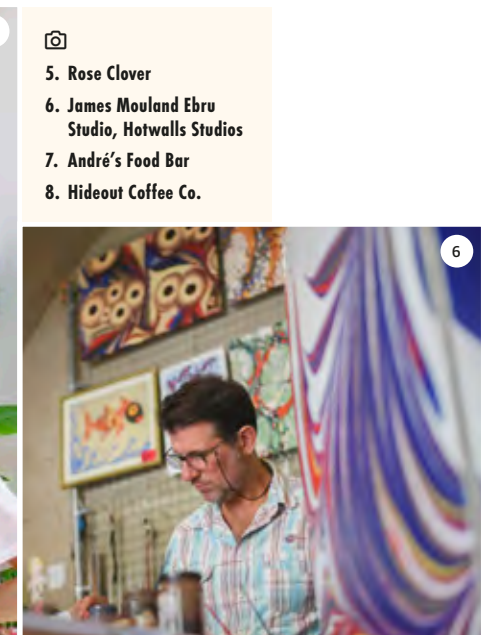
There are more running events along the coast all year round,

including the Race For Life and Pretty Muddy charity events in the summer, and the Coastal Marathon and half-marathon - plus 5k and 10k Santa Runs - in the winter.

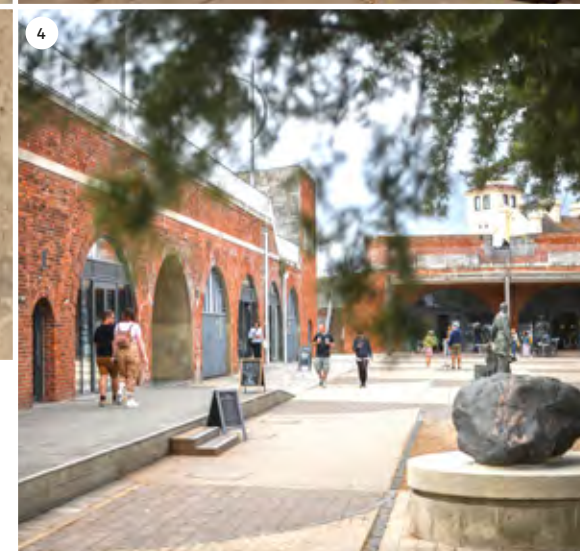
These are just a few highlights from the year-round programme, with many more events to be confirmed. For the latest details of everything that is happening go to [visitportsmouth.co.uk](http://visitportsmouth.co.uk)



# INDEPENDENT ISLAND



Try something a little different and explore the independent side of this island city.



- 1. Strong Island Clothing Co.
- 2. Portsmouth Distillery Co.
- 3. Bored of Southsea
- 4. Hotwalls Studios

- 5. Rose Clover
- 6. James Moulton Ebru Studio, Hotwalls Studios
- 7. André's Food Bar
- 8. Hideout Coffee Co.

Portsmouth has long had a fiercely independent streak – perhaps due to its position as an island city. This is evidenced in our distinct culture and character, which attracts visitors not just from around the UK but across the world. You'll find much of this independence centred around Southsea, offering you something different on your next visit that you won't find anywhere else – be that

quirky boutique shops, exceptional restaurants serving top-quality local produce, or makers and creatives working out of truly unique settings.

You won't have to go far to find independence when it comes to Portsmouth's craft beer scene. There are a whole host of breweries creating their own modern takes on classic ales – providing you with something truly different to enjoy on your trip or to take home with you.

There's Southsea Brewing Co. – probably the only microbrewery working out of a 16th century fortification, as well as the locally renowned Staggeringly Good, Urban Island, Makemake and Irving breweries. Whatever your tastes and preferences, you're sure to find plenty to enjoy.

If spirits are more your thing, perhaps a visit to the Portsmouth Distillery Co. should be on the cards.

The expert team behind the distillery has been making top-quality rum for years, and more recently added gin to the repertoire as well. There's even one that lies halfway between the two; Forum, a botanical rum. As well as the excellent drinks themselves, the distillery is worth a visit all on its own, with it being based out of Fort Cumberland – a Georgian artillery fortification now owned by Historic England.

There's more indie uniqueness to explore in the shops of Portsmouth. Rose Clover, for example, is an independent houseplant jungle, where you can pick up plants and pots for your home – whilst also

getting the best advice on how to keep them surviving and thriving.

Also in Southsea is the Strong Island Clothing Co., which emerged out of the media company with which it shares a name. From the shop on Marmion Road you can buy t-shirts, bobble hats, waterproof jackets, sunglasses and a whole host more – to be sure you're not in the same threads as everyone else back home.

For footwear, you can do a lot worse than Bored of Southsea on Albert Road. The long-established skate shop stocks some of the most in-demand limited edition sneakers, as well as boards and other skating gear. Then, of course, once fully equipped you can head down to Southsea Skatepark.

If you'd prefer to rest up with a hot drink and sweet treat, give Hideout Coffee Co. a try. They sell indulgent and freshly prepared doughnuts in a range of unique and delicious flavours. Alternatively, check out André's for some lunch or picnic essentials. It's Portsmouth's oldest independent sandwich shop and has built up a formidable reputation for quality in that time.

Perhaps the centre of independent Portsmouth lies at the Hotwalls Studios. Here, 13 old archways built into historic fortifications have been transformed into artists' studios, where you can see designer-makers at work and purchase items directly. It also hosts frequent markets and welcomes guest artists across the year.





# DELIGHTS *on our* DOORSTEP



1

**T**ake the short journey across to the stunning Isle of Wight where you will find great countryside to explore, sandy beaches to enjoy and lots to visit including The Needles, Carisbrooke Castle, Isle of Wight Steam Railway and Blackgang Chine. Don't miss the majestic Osborne House, once home to Queen Victoria who famously noted, 'It is impossible to imagine a prettier spot'. Hovertravel and Wightlink Ferries provide regular services across to the island with crossing times between 10 and 40 minutes meaning combining your city break with a visit to the Island couldn't be easier.

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

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

Don't miss 'Little Woodham' 17th century living history village. Step



2



3

back in time and find out about the historic skills of the blacksmith, potter, lace-makers and weavers.

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

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

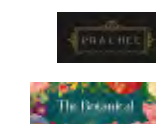
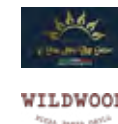
And don't forget London is just over 90 minutes away by train or coach. Arriving at Waterloo or Victoria you are in easy reach of the London Eye, Imperial War Museum, South Bank, Big Ben and the rest of the many amazing tourist attractions, it couldn't be easier to take a day trip to the capital.



1. The Needles, Isle of Wight
2. Submarine Museum, Gosport
3. 'Little Woodham' 17th century living history museum



Enjoy 16 waterside bars and restaurants, boutique and high street shopping, and so much more at Port Solent!



## PORTSMOUTH'S MOST RELAXING WATERSIDE DESTINATION



ENGLISH  
HERITAGE

Discover Queen  
Victoria's private beach

Experience a family day  
out fit for royalty

Explore lush green  
grounds and gardens

Book online now and save | Search 'Osborne'

## OSBORNE

Victoria and Albert's palace by the sea







# GREAT PLACES TO STAY

**There's a great choice of places to stay on a short break in the city right across the island of Portsmouth.**

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

The Holiday Inn Southsea is also in a great location close to the seafront and offers a range of accommodation along with a chic restaurant and bar plus on-site gym, indoor pool, steam room and sauna.

In the summer months the University of Portsmouth opens up its quality, comfortable en-suite rooms in Rees Hall, a modern building again located in Southsea very close to the beach.

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

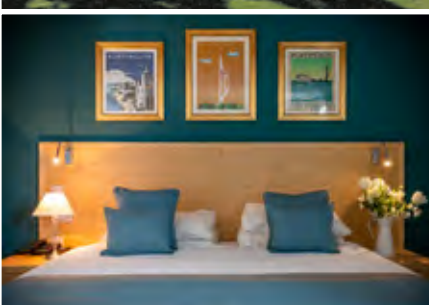
The Royal Maritime Hotel and Club is also located very near to the historic ships and offers comfortable and welcoming accommodation accompanied by a delicious full English breakfast!

In the city centre the Ibis Hotel is in a great location for all the things to do, and just a short walk from Portsmouth Guildhall and the New Theatre Royal.

To the north of the city the trendy Village Hotel has everything you need for a great stay including a pool, gym, pub and grill with great food, a Starbucks coffee shop and VWorks co-working space. The Village is located in a quiet area just off the M27 just a few miles from the city centre.

These places to stay are just an example of the wide choice on offer. View more: [visitportsmouth.co.uk](http://visitportsmouth.co.uk)

We check listings to ensure information is up to date and properties are receiving good reviews. Unfortunately we can't guarantee the quality standard so we recommend you double check before booking, so you can get exactly what you expect out of your chosen accommodation provider.



## 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
- Lounge for residents
- Air conditioning
- Hairdryer
- Electric shaver point
- Linen supplied free of charge
- Iron available
- Cots available
- Dogs welcome
- Conference facilities
- Lift
- Credit cards accepted
- Staff speak foreign languages
- Laundry

## HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS, PORTSMOUTH-GUNWHARF QUAYS

Map page 26  
Ref B4

The Plaza, Gunwharf Quays, Portsmouth, PO1 3FD  
T: 0333 320 9360  
E: [frontdesk.hixportsmouth@kewgreen.co.uk](mailto:frontdesk.hixportsmouth@kewgreen.co.uk)  
W: [www.hiexpressportsmouth.co.uk](http://www.hiexpressportsmouth.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 hotels 130 newly refurbished bedrooms ensure a comfortable stay in a stylish room and the refurbished 'open lobby' concept creates a relaxed space to enjoy a drink after a busy day shopping or tuck into a tasty continental breakfast in the morning for a great start to the day with a variety of hot and cold options.

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

**Price:** From £99 per room per night  
**Rooms:** 130 **En suite:** All

- Facilities:**
- 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
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  - Linen supplied free of charge
  - Iron available
  - Cots available
  - Dogs welcome
  - Conference facilities
  - Lift
  - Credit cards accepted
  - Staff speak foreign languages
  - Laundry



## HOLIDAY INN PORTSMOUTH

Map page 26  
Ref B5

Pembroke Road, Portsmouth, PO1 2TA  
T: 0333 320 9345  
E: [events@hiportsmouthhotel.co.uk](mailto:events@hiportsmouthhotel.co.uk)  
W: [www.hiportsmouthhotel.co.uk](http://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 en suite 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 center can accommodate 2 to 200 delegates with our 10 flexible layout meeting rooms and a dedicated conference host who will be on hand throughout the day to ensure the day runs smoothly.

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

**Price:** From £110 per room per night  
**Rooms:** 173 **En suite:** All

- 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
  - Lounge for residents
  - Air conditioning
  - Hairdryer
  - Electric shaver point
  - Linen supplied free of charge
  - Iron available
  - Cots available
  - Dogs welcome
  - Conference facilities
  - Lift
  - Credit cards accepted
  - Staff speak foreign languages
  - Laundry





## KEPPEL'S HEAD

Map page 26  
Ref B4

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

Built in 1779, Keppel's Head is a hotel with an interesting history and many of its amazing original features are still in place. The recent modernisation of the hotel has emphasised these features whilst retaining the hotel's charm.

The hotel sits between two neighbouring areas of different time periods. To one side you have the newly developed millennium project of Gunwharf Quays and the Spinnaker Tower, whilst on the other you have the Historic Dockyard which houses three magnificent ships and the National Museum of the Royal Navy.

The hotel comprises 30 en suite rooms, the Captain's Table Restaurant which is open to our guests and the public serving breakfast, brunch, lunch, and dinner along with The Nelson bar which is situated at the back of the hotel where you can relax over a cocktail or two!

We also offer wedding banquet packages, corporate function, Christmas celebrations along with New Year's Eve, birthdays and all forms of celebrations and parties. Our Captain's Table is also licenced for wedding ceremonies.

Car park for 17 cars, on a first come first served basis.

**Price:** From £75 per room per night

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

**Facilities:**



## LADY HAMILTON

Map page 26  
Ref B4

21 The Hard, Portsmouth, Hampshire, PO1 3DT  
**T:** 023 9287 0505 **E:** yukweelim@gmail.com  
**W:** www.theladyhamilton.com

The Lady Hamilton Portsmouth has an interesting history, trading as "The Nags Head" public house in 1716 and later becoming a wine merchants supplying the Royal Navy. The premises then became a bookshop which was part of Gieves & Hawkes who made the uniform that Lord Nelson died in.

In 1992 the building was converted back to its former glory of a public house and now also welcomes guests to the bed and breakfast accommodation above the pub, offering stunning views across Portsmouth harbour. Its location is ideal for visitors, being a stone's throw from Gunwharf Quays, the Spinnaker Tower and Portsmouth Historic Dockyard.

The inside of the pub has a very quintessential English feel to it—a throwback to days gone by for punters.

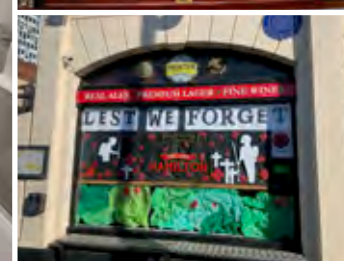
It is stocked with premium beer, ciders and 2 guest ales on the hand-pull.

You can also treat yourself to a locally renowned roast dinner—served daily. A complete selection of meats and vegetables piled onto the plate will leave you feeling very satisfied indeed.

**Price:** £50–£150 per room per night

**Rooms:** 10 **En suite:** 9

**Facilities:**



## IBIS PORTSMOUTH

Map page 26  
Ref C4

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

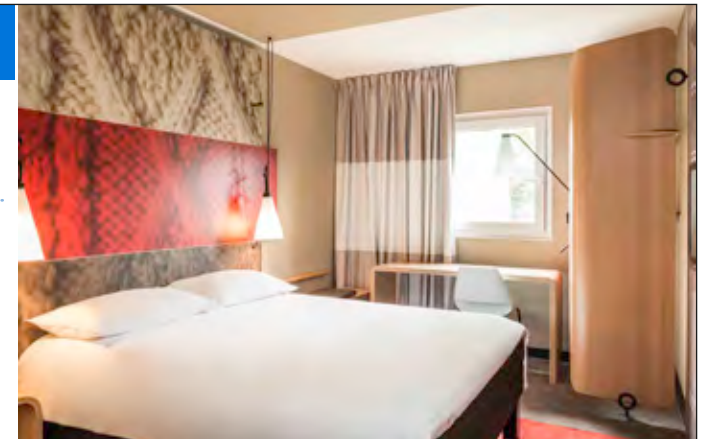
Located in the centre of the beautiful city of Portsmouth, we're the perfect base from which to enjoy events and attractions in the city and surrounding areas. Marvel at the Goodwood Festival of Speed, challenge yourself in the Great South Run or find harmony at the Victorious music festival and much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

We look forward to making you feel welcome.

**Price:** From £60–£179 per room per night

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

**Facilities:**



## QUEENS HOTEL

Map page 26  
Ref C6

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

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

Your comfort is our number one priority – come check us out soon.

**Price:** £90–£375 per room per night

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

**Facilities:**



## ROYAL MARITIME HOTEL

Map page 26  
Ref B3

75–80 Queen Street, Portsmouth, Hampshire, PO1 3HS  
**T:** 023 9282 4231 **E:** info@royalmaritimeclub.co.uk  
**W:** www.royalmaritimeclub.co.uk

The Royal Maritime Hotel is perhaps the most historic hotel in Portsmouth established originally in 1850 as the 'Sailor's Home' for sailors that were 'between ships'. Now open to everyone, whether or not you have maritime or services connections.

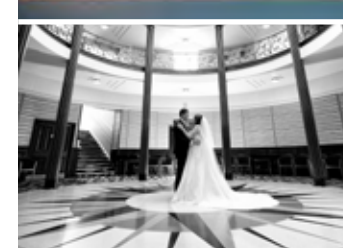
With a restaurant, bar, pool and sauna—it's the perfect place to relax and unwind. The grand atrium, ballroom and other large function rooms make this hotel perfect for weddings, parties and conferences.

Located just a stone's throw from Portsmouth Historic Dockyard and the city's popular Gunwharf Quays.

**Price:** £80–£150 per room per night

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

**Facilities:**



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'Visit Portsmouth'





Lakeshore Drive, Portsmouth, PO6 3FR  
**T:** 023 9200 6245 **E:** portsmouthhub@village-hotels.com  
**W:** www.village-hotels.com

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Price:** From £39 – £199 per room per night  
**Rooms:** 153 **En suite:** All  
**Facilities:**



REES HALL

Map page 26  
Ref C5

Southsea Terrace, Southsea, Portsmouth, PO5 3AP  
**T:** 023 9284 4884 **E:** reservations@port.ac.uk  
**W:** www.eventportsmouth.co.uk

Rees Hall is a modern building located on Southsea seafront with views across Southsea Common and the Solent. It is also a short distance from Gunwharf Quays and the Historic Dockyard.

The award-winning Rees Hall provides the ideal venue for a leisure break or business trip, with a wide range of quality comfortable en-suite rooms, two guest lounges, bar and quiet courtyard garden.

- Full English breakfast and free WiFi included.
- Coach parties welcome.
- Conference facilities available.
- Rooms available from June to September.

**Price:** From £60 per room per night  
**Rooms:** 225 **En suite:** All

**Facilities:**



Booking conditions

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

Holiday Insurance

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

Portsmouth  
the great waterfront city

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INFORMATION**

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

**vis@portsmouthcc.gov.uk visitportsmouth.co.uk**

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023 9283 4086 hello@portcreative.co.uk portcreative.co.uk

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