

Hidden Gems

Ever wanted to get off the beaten track and discover some of Portsmouth's secrets? With the help of the Portsmouth Marriott Hotel and VisitPortsmouth.co.uk you can tour the city like a local and uncover some of the city's hidden gems.

Eastney Beam Engine House is open the last weekend of every month (excluding Dec). Tucked away in residential streets, this attraction offers a fascinating glimpse into a Victorian engine house and it's James Watt beam engines.

Experience the quiet life in Old Portsmouth with cobbled streets, the picturesque Camber Dock, traditional pubs and tucked-away tearooms. Old Portsmouth is where those in the know go for a quiet drink overlooking the harbour. Great for sipping wine al-fresco in summer, or enjoying a coffee by a cosy fire in the chillier weather.

Many visitors still don't know about the magnificent Spitbank Fort, a man-made island jutting out of the Solent. Take a short boat trip out to this impressive seafort to enjoy Sunday lunch and a historic tour.

Make sure you visit us in September if you wish to see the real behind-the-scenes Portsmouth. Heritage Open Days takes place every year and gives exclusive access to archive collections and unseen areas at venues such as the Kings Theatre, Portsmouth Historic Dockyard and the Square Tower.

Did you know that Portsmouth is a two-cathedral city? Visit Portsmouth Cathedral (St Thomas's) in Old Portsmouth to discover a seamless portrayal of the city's history and the cathedral's understated beauty. Portsmouth's Catholic Cathedral (St John's) offers a quiet space in the heart of the city and is a stunning example of 19th century French-Gothic style.

Discover more about our architectural beauty with a walk around Thomas Ellis Owen's Southsea. The famous architect designed and built many striking villas and terraces in Southsea in the middle part of the 19th century. Pick up a leaflet from our Visitor Information Centres to wander at your own pace at any time, or take part in one of the annual guided walks.

Despite being a bustling city, Portsmouth has plenty of open spaces just waiting to be explored. Take a self-guided trail into Hilsea Lines where you'll find eighty hectares of space including enchanting woodland, an ancient monument and brackish lakes. Or discover the city's nature reserve at Farlington Marshes, a haven for wildlife and an important site for migratory birds.