



3 Days of History in Portsmouth & the Seacoast

Portsmouth boasts 400 years of history, culture, architecture and scenic beauty, which you can see all within easy walking distance. These activities can be comfortably spread over several days.

Day 1: Explore 400 Years of History

Morning

Start with a guided tour to get the lay of the land as our knowledgeable guides highlight the historic homes, trademark tugboats and working waterfront, vibrant Market Square, and colorful Prescott Park. You'll hear stories about the rich and famous to the humble merchants and madams who had thriving businesses here. You may also hear about the brewers and politicians, fishermen and boat builders, writers, editors, and publishers that made Portsmouth the talk of the region in their day. You'll find that the people who were born here, worked here, or moved here over the past three centuries weave a colorful cultural tapestry. Portsmouth was, and still is, a town full of characters.

Afternoon:

Visit historic homes of famous Navy captains, merchants, explorers and governors.

Some highlights:

- USS Albacore, a research submarine, designed by the U.S. Navy to test experimental features used in modern submarines.
- St. Johns Church
- The Gundalow, protecting the Piscataqua region's maritime heritage and environment through education and action.
- Take a walk in Prescott Park, full of beautiful gardens and benches looking out on the Piscataqua River. (All America Select Garden) 1 of 15 in the country.
- Black Heritage Trail

Evening:

Enjoy a lamplit stroll through our charming city streets including a stop at one of the many options for a sweet treat. If you're in the mood for some entertainment, look out for live music or catch a show at one of our local theaters!

Day 2:

Morning

Explore more than 30 homes of the first settlers in Portsmouth at Strawbery Banke Museum. An authentic 10-acre outdoor history museum dedicated to bringing 300+ years of American history in the same waterfront neighborhood to life.

Afternoon

Head out to Peirce Island, situated on the Piscataqua where you can see beautiful views of salt marshes, tidal pools, rocky cliffs and meadows. Enjoy activities such as swimming in the outdoor pool, strolling the riverside paths, and swinging on the playgrounds. Keep an eye out for the United States Naval Shipyard in Kittery, Maine. Portsmouth Naval Shipyard specializes in the overhaul, repair, and modernization of US Navy submarines.

Evening

Marvel at a show at the historic Music Hall, which opened as vaudeville theater in 1878 bringing a vibrant scene of arts and culture to the Seacoast. It's now one of the most popular theaters in downtown Portsmouth and throughout New England.

Day 3: Check out New Hampshire's famous forts.

Morning

Take a scenic drive to Portsmouth Harbor Lighthouse, located at the Coast Guard Station Portsmouth Harbor in New Castle. The station was established in 1771 and was the 10th of 11 light stations established prior to the American Revolution.

Afternoon

Make your way back up 1B to Great Island Common at New Castle to see the beautiful Isles of Shoals just 7 miles off shore, and the remnants of Ft. William and Mary (Now Ft. Constitution). Check out Portsmouth Harbor Lighthouse and Whaleback Lighthouse, a historic lighthouse at the mouth of the Piscataqua situated between New Castle and Kittery, Maine. Take a photo through the infamous 'frame' donated by a local resident of New Castle!

Continue down Rt. 1B and make a stop at the historic Wentworth by the Sea Hotel & Resort, where the Japanese & Russian delegates stayed as the Portsmouth Peace Treaty was

negotiated. This hotel is so beloved that the people of New Castle even saved it from demolition.

Evening

Make your way back to Portsmouth for dinner on the decks, or at one of the historic restaurants nestled on Ceres Street.

Black Trumpet: Formerly known as the Blue Strawberry, James Haller opened the first restaurant on Ceres Street in the early 1970's and laid the founding bricks of the culinary destination that our city is today. Portsmouth, known as a lowly and even dangerous town transformed into a sought-after dining experience among folks near and as far as Europe. A truly fascinating story.

Eventually, the restaurant turned into Lindberg's, and now the Black Trumpet bistro is owned by Chef Evan Mallet.

Dolphin Striker: In 1974 during construction of the Dolphin Striker, a spring-fed well was discovered, which historians have confirmed is the Spring Hill Well from 1761, used by ships that needed to refill their water supply. Today, you can see the plexiglass covered well with goldfish inside! Enjoy live music here too.

Oar House: Where it is thought that the tunnel entrance in the back of the dining room connected to the Moffat Ladd house across the street. Mr. Moffatt and his son Ladd traded with East Indian companies and islands for lots of goods coming into Portsmouth.