



2024 Members Weekend

Friday 27th - Sunday 29th September



Royal Maritime Hotel



The Harbour & Spinnaker Tower



Old Portsmouth / Spice Island



I K Brunel Born Portsea 9 April 1806

WELCOME TO PORTSMOUTH

The Great Waterfront City

The Royal Maritime Hotel

75-80 Queen Street

Portsmouth PO1 3HS

www.royalmaritimehotel.co.uk

Telephone: 023 9298 2182

Members should not contact the hotel direct unless in an emergency.

Portsmouth has something to offer everybody

The home of the Royal Navy, our hotel is literally a stones throw from The Naval Base and Heritage Dockyard where such treasures as The Mary Rose, HMS Victory, and HMS Warrior are on view. The Royal Navy Museum & Action Stations Commando Experience are among other attractions within the heritage area.

Adjacent to Portsmouth Harbour railway station is the Gunwharf Quays leisure and retail complex, including the 180 metre high Spinnaker Tower. The viewing platforms give visitors panoramic views across Portsmouth Harbour, the Isle of Wight and surrounding area.

A few minutes bus ride away and you are in Southsea with its extensive seafront and green open spaces. Included in the attractions are Southsea Castle, two piers, the D-Day Museum and Blue Reef Aquarium.

Don't miss the opportunity to join the RCTS group on Sunday afternoon, 29th September, to hop on a ferry from alongside Portsmouth Harbour station for the five minute crossing to Gosport. We will visit The Royal Navy Submarine Museum and go aboard HMS Alliance, the only remaining second world war era submarine of its type.

There is plenty to attract and enjoy in the local area, more information at:

www.visitportsmouth.co.uk

Weekend Programme of events

All events must be booked in advance as numbers are limited.

Friday 27th September

Portsmouth City museums have agreed to re-arrange their September opening day to accommodate RCTS at the Beam Engine Houses in Eastney. The visit is arranged for 14:00, Stagecoach bus 25 from opposite Portsmouth Harbour station, close to our hotel, runs to the attraction.

FirstBus routes 1 & 2 also run frequently to Bransbury Park, a five minute walk to the Engine Houses. A unique opportunity to visit this Victorian site.

A pre-booked hot single course meal has been arranged for 18:30 in the Nelson Room at our hotel The Royal Maritime. An evening presentation will follow at 19:30. Part one an excellent 40 minute film, with sound, depicting the history, people, and ultimate closure of the Havant - Hayling Island branch line. In the second half, an hour of 'Southern Miscellany' steam, diesel and electric images. It is unlikely members will have seen either of these presentations before and sure to invoke many fond memories.

A donation of £4.00 including raffle ticket appreciated.

Saturday 28th September - Isle of Wight Steam Railway Visit

This is the 2024 gala weekend at the Steam Railway providing enhanced train service and attractions.

After breakfast we travel to the Isle of Wight to visit the Steam Railway, departing by Wightlink Ferry from Portsmouth Harbour station for the 22 minute voyage to Ryde Pier. We then join the Islandline train for the short hop to Smallbrook Junction, where we transfer to the Steam Railway at its eastern terminus. There are various fare options for travelling between Portsmouth Harbour and Smallbrook Junction, including reduced senior rates. Members are therefore asked to book their own travel tickets and ferry reservation.

We will be enjoying a special group rate at the Steam Railway. Ferries depart hourly from Portsmouth Harbour. Our train departure from Smallbrook will be confirmed at time of booking.

We will have reserved compartments on the Steam Railway from Smallbrook to Wootton and back to Havenstreet, where an optional (paid in advance) packed lunch will be available for collection. Members will then be free to explore the Havenstreet complex and railway, returning to Portsmouth as they wish.

Alternative Option

Visit Eastleigh Railway Works and the Watercress Line

As an alternative there is the opportunity in the morning to enjoy an escorted visit to the Eastleigh Railway Works Complex, our hosts Arlington Fleet Services, followed by a visit to the Watercress Line in the afternoon, including optional escorted shed tours at Ropley (£5 donation on the day). This full day option is restricted to 30 people, advance booking recommended to avoid disappointment. An optional pre-paid packed lunch will be available for collection at the Watercress Line.

Portsmouth has many attractions as alternatives to the group railway options, but don't forget to book for our Sunday afternoon visit to the Submarine Museum in Gosport.

Members Dinner

On the Saturday evening we will have a three course dinner together in the hotel Trafalgar Ballroom (19:00 for 19:30), with a special guest speaker. Members will have the option of purchasing their own drinks from the Trafalgar Room bar. The booking form will give members the opportunity to select, in advance, from three options for each dinner course.

Sunday 29th September

Officer's Conference

The Officer's Conference will be held in the hotel Nelson Room 09:00, for a prompt 09:15 start. Tea / coffee & biscuits will be supplied.

Further details will be provided nearer the event.

Afternoon visit to Royal Navy Submarine Museum

<https://www.nmrn.org.uk/visit-us/submarine-museum>

An afternoon group visit has been arranged to the Royal Navy Submarine Museum at Gosport. This includes the opportunity to go aboard the only World War II submarine of its type still in existence and also look through an original periscope.

We will cross the water to Gosport on the harbour ferry adjacent to the transport interchange, and walk (12/15 minutes) the scenic promenade route from the ferry to the attraction, via the Haslar Marina. Members purchase their own ferry ticket prior to boarding. Return prices currently £5.10 Adult and £3.30 Concession.

It is a free-flow, non-guided tour of the complex, which includes a cafe.

