

Old Portsmouth

Old Portsmouth is also known as Spice Island.

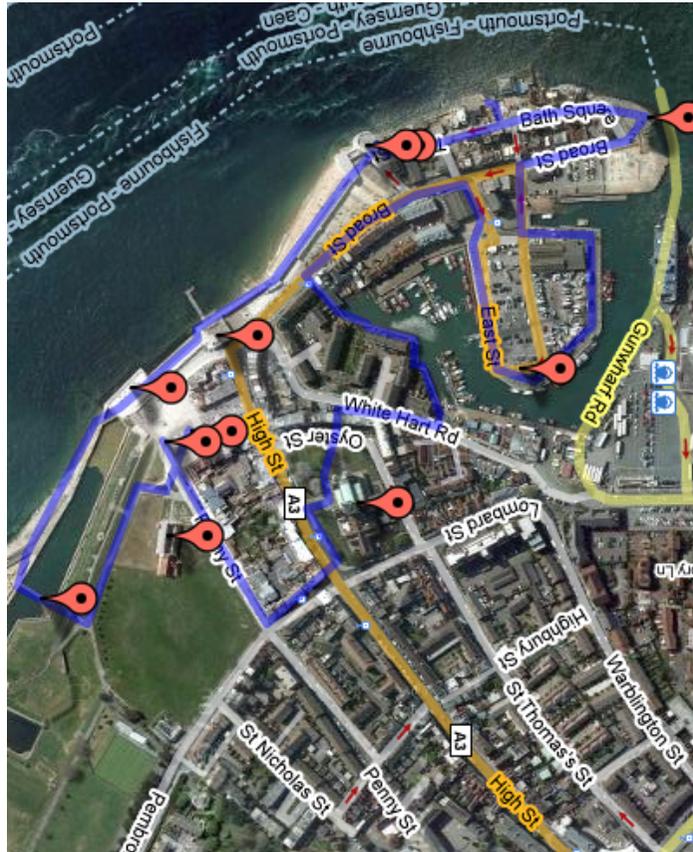
This is because it was the main port for the import of spices from the Caribbean.

The Dolphin Pub in the High Street is reputed to be the oldest pub in Portsmouth, built in approximately 1759.



Spinnaker Tower from Old Portsmouth.

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A walk around Old Portsmouth

Start by parking either at Grand Parade, pay and display or on any of the nearby streets, check for parking time restrictions.

From Grand Parade walk east towards the **Royal Garrison Church** founded in 1212 as a hospice, the Domus Dei (God's house), was used as a shelter for overseas pilgrims traveling to Canterbury, Chichester and Winchester

The church was closed during the dissolution under Henry VIII, part of the site being converted to a residence for the Governor of Portsmouth.

Later the church was used by the garrison troops and was restored between 1866 and 1868.

The Nave of the church was gutted by a fire bomb on 10th January 1941, hence its current roofless appearance.

Continue walking east on the path situated between the church and a high grass bank. The bank is part of the fortifications built to defend the Town of Portsmouth from attack.

Continue along this path until you come to an opening in the fortifications on your right.

Turn right into the tunnel, this will lead you to a new bridge which crosses the defensive moat. This is the same route which **Nelson** took on his way to board HMS Victory on route to the Battle of Trafalgar.

On the south side of the moat, you join the seafront promenade, follow this in westerly direction, away from the fun fair at Clarence Pier.

On the ground in the paving you will see a chain design incorporated into the paving, this is the Millennium promenade, you can use this as a guide until you get to the Point, just past the **Still and West** pub.

Along this section of the walk you will again follow the old fortifications passing first the Square Tower, residence of the Governor of Portsmouth in Tudor times and then the Round Tower, started by Edward III and completed by Henry VIII.

For great views of the harbour, climb the steps to the top of the round tower.

When you have descended from the tower and the fortifications, follow the millennium promenade markings through a narrow gate, just at the base of the round tower.

When you pass through the gateway you will enter Capstan Square, at this point a capstan could be used to raise a chain across the harbour entrance to prevent enemy ships from entering.

Exit the square and turn left, following the narrow cobbled streets towards the Point, still following the Millennium Promenade.

At the point there are excellent views of the harbour towards the **Spinnaker Tower** and **HMS Warrior**, with the masts of **HMS Victory** visible beyond.

Leave the Point by walking along Broad Street, not the street you entered by,

until you reach East Street, here turn left and then take the next left along the dock side.

Follow the dockside all the way round, passing, or stopping, at the **Bridge Tavern**.

On the side wall of the Bridge Tavern is a large mural version of **Thomas Rowlandson's** cartoon entitled '**Portsmouth Point**'.

Continue following the dockside to the top and then rejoin Broad Street via Seagers Close. Turn left onto Broad Street and again follow the Millennium Promenade chain design in the paving, after a couple of hundred yards, this will direct you left down a narrow lane, again on the edge of Camber docks. Follow this lane until it emerges onto the street at White Hart Lane.

Turn right into White Hart Lane, the Millennium Promenade goes the opposite direction at this point, *don't follow it*. Follow the road for several hundred yards until you see a footpath that passes through the housing to your left, pass through here.

At the other side of the housing you will see **St Thomas Anglican Cathedral**. First built in 1185, the original church was dedicated to Thomas Becket the Archbishop of Canterbury who was famously murdered in 1170.

After visiting the Cathedral, cross the High Street, towards the Dolphin pub and turn right onto Pembroke Road walking east at the next corner, at the Pembroke pub, turn right into Penny Street walking south, you again pass the Royal Garrison Church on your left and rejoin Grand Parade where you began.