

Destination Tidewater Virginia

Portsmouth

A short ferry ride across the Elizabeth River from Norfolk's waterside attractions lands you in another of Tidewater's historic cities. Portsmouth, Virginia, like its English counterpart, has long been part of naval history.

You can explore the history of America's oldest and largest naval shipyard at the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard Museum. The shipyard, founded in 1767, was described by the British during the Revolutionary War as "the most considerable one in America." It's been burned three times by retreating armies because of its strategic importance.

Many historic ships have been built here, including the *CSS Virginia* (better known as the *Merrimac*), the first ironclad to engage in battle; the nation's first battleship, the *Texas*; and the world's first aircraft carrier, the *Langley*. The shipyard is also home to the country's first dry dock, which is still in use.

At the museum, you'll see beautiful ship models, uniforms, military artifacts, and exhibits portraying life in Portsmouth over 250 years.

At the other end of the Path of History from the shipyard is the nation's first Navy hospital, built in 1830. The path and parks between the two institutions include artifacts and historical markers.

Along the waterfront, the *Lightship Portsmouth* is also a museum and features ship's quarters fit-

ted out realistically. There are also artifacts, uniforms, photographs, and models. Built in 1915, the lightship served for 48 years off the coasts of Virginia, Delaware, and Massachusetts.



Auto racing is just one of the sports covered in the Virginia Sports Hall of Fame and Museum.

1972, the new state-of-the-art museum facility opened in 2005 and honors more than 200 Virginia athletes and others who have made a major impact on sports.

The nine interactive, family-friendly exhibit areas feature college sports, Olympics, golf, auto racing, and the NFL's Redskins. There are hands-on baseball, basketball, football, soccer, and auto racing activities.

Portsmouth merchants celebrate First Events in Old Town on the first Friday, Saturday, and Sunday of each month. Along High Street, you'll find shops and galleries open 5:00-8:00pm on Friday evenings with special exhibits and offerings. On Saturdays, there's an Arts to Antiques Flea Market and free admission to the city museums. On Sundays, participating restaurants offer breakfast, brunch, or lunch specials.

Take the ferry ride and enjoy the Portsmouth side of the Elizabeth River!

Off the Water

A walking tour of Portsmouth's Old Town district takes you past homes with fascinating histories, unique shops, galleries, and a host of restaurants. It also takes you past the Virginia Sports Hall of Fame and Museum. First established in

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Portsmouth tourism: 757-393-5111,
www.visitportsva.com



A Quaint Little Seaport For A Perfect Little Vacation.

Come stroll the walkway along our waterfront. Wend your way to our lightship and naval shipyard museums. Continue wandering and you'll discover Andalo's Clubhouse and our famous tree-lined streets shading 250-year-old homes. Close by, too, are the most intriguing of antique shops and a truly sumptuous selection of chef-owned restaurants. And what a delight it is to discover so many of the charms of this historic seaport all within one very walkable square mile. How perfect.



For more details and information call 800.767.8782 or visit us on the web at www.VisitPortsVa.com