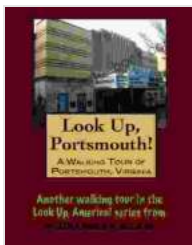


# A Comprehensive Guide to Walking Tours of Portsmouth, Virginia



Nestled along the southern coast of Virginia, Portsmouth is a vibrant city with a rich history dating back to the 17th century. With its charming colonial architecture, scenic waterfront, and numerous historical landmarks, Portsmouth is a perfect destination for those who enjoy exploring the past on foot. This comprehensive guide will provide you with all the information you need to plan a memorable walking tour of Portsmouth, Virginia.



## A Walking Tour of Portsmouth, Virginia (Look Up, America! Series) by Doug Gelbert

★★★★☆ 4 out of 5

Language : English  
File size : 1246 KB  
Text-to-Speech : Enabled  
Screen Reader : Supported  
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled

Word Wise : Enabled  
Print length : 32 pages  
Lending : Enabled



## Exploring Portsmouth's Historic Sites

Portsmouth is home to a plethora of historic sites that offer a glimpse into the city's fascinating past. Some of the must-see landmarks include:

- **Trant House:** This elegant 18th-century mansion was once the home of Colonel Thomas Trant, a prominent figure in Portsmouth's early history. Today, it houses a museum showcasing the city's military heritage.
- **Patrick Henry Monument:** Located on the grounds of the Naval Medical Center Portsmouth, this monument commemorates the famous orator and statesman who played a key role in the American Revolution.
- **Norfolk Naval Shipyard:** The oldest and largest naval shipyard in the United States, this sprawling complex is home to a variety of historic ships and submarines. Visitors can take guided tours of the yard and explore the fascinating world of naval engineering.
- **Olde Towne Portsmouth:** This charming historic district features a collection of well-preserved 18th and 19th-century buildings. Take a leisurely stroll along the brick-paved streets and admire the beautiful architecture and quaint shops.

## Nature and Recreation

In addition to its rich history, Portsmouth also offers plenty of opportunities for outdoor recreation. The city is home to several beautiful parks and waterfront trails, perfect for walking, jogging, or biking. Here are some popular spots to consider:

- **Paradise Creek Nature Park:** This 150-acre park features a scenic boardwalk trail that meanders through the marshlands along Paradise Creek. Keep an eye out for herons, egrets, and other wildlife.
- **Portsmouth City Park:** Located in the heart of the city, this sprawling park offers a variety of amenities, including a large playground, picnic areas, and a walking trail.
- **Mount Trashmore Park:** A unique park created from a former landfill, Mount Trashmore offers stunning panoramic views of the city. Climb to the summit for a breathtaking experience.

## Guided Walking Tours

For those who prefer to explore Portsmouth with a knowledgeable guide, several tour companies offer guided walking tours. Here are some highly recommended options:

- **Portsmouth Historic Foundation:** The Portsmouth Historic Foundation offers a variety of walking tours that delve into the city's rich history. Tours typically last for 90 minutes and cover topics such as colonial architecture, the African American experience, and military heritage.
- **Olde Towne Portsmouth Association:** The Olde Towne Portsmouth Association hosts regular "First Friday Art Walk" events, which include guided walking tours of the historic district. Participants can explore the

charming shops, art galleries, and restaurants while learning about the area's history.

- **Haunted Portsmouth:** For a more spooky experience, consider a guided ghost tour of Portsmouth. These tours explore the city's haunted history and visit some of the most notorious haunted places.

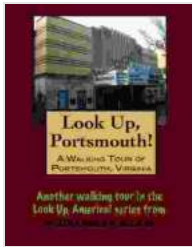
## Planning Your Walking Tour

To make the most of your walking tour of Portsmouth, consider the following tips:

- **Choose a comfortable walking route:** Plan a route that is appropriate for your fitness level and interests. Consider the distance, terrain, and accessibility of the sites you want to visit.
- **Dress appropriately:** Wear comfortable shoes and clothing that is suitable for the weather conditions. Bring water and sunscreen, especially during hot or sunny weather.
- **Allow plenty of time:** Give yourself ample time to explore the sites and enjoy the experience. Rushing through the tour will prevent you from fully appreciating the city's history and beauty.
- **Take breaks:** If needed, take breaks along the way to rest and recharge. There are plenty of cafes, restaurants, and benches available throughout the city.

Whether you're a history buff, a nature lover, or simply someone who enjoys exploring new places, Portsmouth, Virginia has something to offer. With its rich history, beautiful scenery, and ample walking trails, Portsmouth is the perfect destination for a memorable walking tour. By following the tips

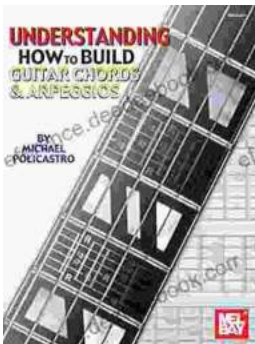
outlined in this guide, you can create a customized tour that will provide you with a deeper understanding and appreciation for this vibrant city.



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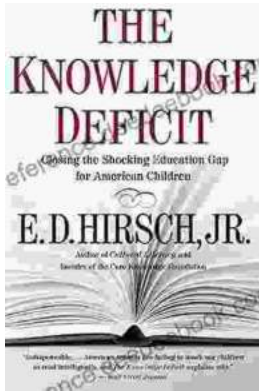
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