



Portsmouth's Victorian Festival of Christmas

Becoming more popular every year, this eagerly anticipated event launches the Festive season with an historical twist. In the tradition of highly successful European style Festive markets, Festival of Christmas features over 100 exhibitors offering an excellent range of festive gifts, craft items, quality comestibles, a large cast of colourful, costumed characters and Street entertainers bringing history alive throughout the site and if that's not enough, there's a great choice of food and drink to sustain. It really is stunning value for everyone, the festival transports visitors back in time to witness the excitement and festivities of Christmas past and recaptures the nostalgic magic of bygone Yuletide days as we witness the historic dockyard being brought to life. This year promises all of your festival favourites with a host of Victorian entertainment and colourful characters, the largest Christmas market on the South Coast, added to which is a fine range of unique gifts, art, crafts and festive food and drink.

 **3 Days**
 Tour No 3076 26th - 28th November £199
 Single Supplement £45.00 Insurance £11.00

TYPICAL ITINERARY

Friday

Leaving in the morning we travel south for a stop at Newbury, after which we continue to Portsmouth and the Holiday Inn, arriving during the afternoon.

Saturday

Today we will spend our time in and around the Festival, where magnificent Georgian Storehouses provide the perfect backdrop for this celebration of Christmas past

and present. Hundreds of actors and street entertainers will guide us through the Historic Dockyard on a journey of Christmas celebration through time.

Sunday

Departing after breakfast we travel North to Marlborough, our journey continues over Birdlip to the Regency town of Cheltenham, we arrive home in Shropshire late in the afternoon.

HOLIDAY INN PORTSMOUTH ★★ ★ 0871 942 9065

The Hotel is located near the seafront in Portsmouth, only a five minute walk from Old Portsmouth and the famous Historic Dockyard and ships. The leisure and shopping destination Gunwharf Quays near the Spinnaker Tower is set on the waterfront and minutes from the Hotel. The Hotel consists of the Spirit Health Club, restaurant, bar and lounge Area. The Hotel Has Two Lifts and All Bedrooms have Private Facilities, Satellite Television, Telephone, Trouser Press, Hairdryer and Tea/Coffee Making Facilities.

Look What's Included!

- 2 Nights Bed, Buffet Breakfast and Evening Meal.
- Entrance to Naval Dockyards for Traditional Festivities and Ships.
- Excursions to Bosham, Arundel and Chichester.




Rochester Dickensian Festival of Christmas

Why not come with us once more to discover historic Rochester, where you will find a wonderful blend of ancient and modern in the heart of the "Garden of England". It is a city steeped in history, dominated by a fine Norman Castle and Cathedral, bounded by the maritime traditions and spirit of past British naval dominance on the River Medway. From long established antique specialists to bric-a-brac and curiosities, Rochester has something for the specialist and expert collector, whilst catering for the interested browser. During the first weekend of December Rochester's High Street comes alive with the sights and sounds of Christmas. Scrooge, the ghost of Christmas past, carol singers, bell ringers, street theatre and Dickensian characters are just a few of the wonderful surprises.

 **3 Days**
 Tour No 3077 3rd - 5th December £179
 Single Supplement £35.00 Insurance £11.00

TYPICAL ITINERARY

Friday

Leaving during the morning we head south to London, with time for Christmas shopping in and around Oxford Street.

Maybe pick up a Christmas gift for that special someone. We continue to Maidstone and our Hotel in time for check in and our evening meal.

Saturday

Today we drive to the charming coastal town of Whitstable with streets such as 'Squeeze Gut Alley', we continue to the cathedral city of Canterbury, maybe visit the Antiques and Collectors Fair. After lunch we will drive across Kent to visit the

popular town of Royal Tunbridge Wells before returning to Maidstone and our Hotel.

Sunday

We will drive to Rochester where we can visit the Victorian High Street that comes alive with the sights and sounds of Christmas in the 19th century. From bell ringers to street theatre and Father Christmas there's lots to see and do, why not soak up the atmosphere and pick-up some great gifts at the same time. We return to Shropshire after lunch, arriving home late afternoon.

HILTON HOTEL, MAIDSTONE ★★ ★ ★ 01622 734322

The Hilton Maidstone is a contemporary Hotel with all modern conveniences, the newly refurbished Seasons Restaurant offers our guests relaxed and informal dining, or maybe enjoy a drink or two in the spacious Court Bar. Why not unwind in the Living Well Health Club, relax in the pool, sauna, steam or whirlpool spa or work out in the air conditioned gym. The Hotel Has a Lift to All Floors and All Bedrooms have Private Facilities, Hairdryer, Iron and Board, Telephone, Satellite Television and Tea/Coffee Making Facilities..

Look What's Included!

- Free Use of Leisure Facilities.
- Excursions to Whitstable, Canterbury, Rochester and Tunbridge.
- 2 Nights Bed, Buffet Breakfast and Evening Meal.