

THE **TRAVEL CLUB**

Pre-Departure Itinerary
Drive Yourself Weekend

Vintage Christmas in Portsmouth, NH ***Friday, December 6 – Sunday, December 8, 2019***



LET'S HEAD NORTH TO CELEBRATE THE ANNUAL VINTAGE CHRISTMAS IN PORTSMOUTH—stroll the charming historic streets, hop on the trolley to see the sights, and enjoy tax-free New Hampshire shopping. This event was listed as "one of the Top Ten Things not to miss in New England" by the Boston Globe. From our downtown accommodations we'll enjoy the historic waterfront district decorated in Victorian fashion, enjoy a host of holiday activities and be treated to the Candlelight Stroll at Strawberry Banke with 350 years of seasonal and holiday traditions displayed at the historic homes and by the costumed performers.

Rates

\$349 per person double occupancy

\$319 per person triple occupancy

\$279 per person quad occupancy

\$599 for single reservations.

Per person deposit is \$150.

Includes•

- Two nights' three-star accommodations: Hampton Inn, Portsmouth
- Breakfast Saturday and Sunday
- \$50 dining voucher for Rudi's Restaurant (one per room)
- Saturday evening Strawberry Banke Candlelight Stroll
- Welcome reception
- Parking and luggage handling

Accommodations

Hampton Inn & Suites Portsmouth Downtown 23 Portwalk Place Portsmouth, 603-430-3033

Conveniently located in the historic waterfront district of downtown Portsmouth, less than one mile off I-95. Enjoy boutique shopping, an array of dining options and downtown Portsmouth attractions like the Strawberry Banke Museum, Prescott Park and The Music Hall. Relax after a busy day with your favorite drink in the stylish lobby bar. Buy snacks and essentials at any time in the 24-hour Suite Shop. Refresh in the indoor saltwater swimming pool or work out in the free fitness center.

Friday, December 6

Make your way to Portsmouth, New Hampshire for a vintage holiday celebration in an historic New England seaport.

Check in to the Hampton Inn in the heart of downtown Portsmouth, within walking distance to The Music Hall, Strawberry Banke and the waterfront shops and restaurants. The historic waterfront district is decorated in Victorian fashion for an old-fashioned Christmas. Meet your local holiday host at a welcome reception in the hotel lobby (tentatively 5pm). She will have tickets and vouchers for your included meals and activities and a holiday souvenir. Parking for one vehicle per room, per night, is included in your getaway package.

Dinner on own with many restaurants within walking distance of the hotel.

Note: The Music Hall historic theater is within walking distance of the hotel and typically has a holiday show on Friday, Saturday and Sunday.



Saturday, December 7

Hot breakfast is included at the inn each morning, at your leisure.

A host of holiday activities take place this weekend. Free time to take in the Annual Gingerbread House Contest Exhibition open daily, or public ice skating on Puddle Dock Pond at Strawberry Banke Museum.

The annual tree lighting is at 5:30, followed by the illuminated holiday parade around Market Square. The floats are lit up with holiday lights. **The parade passes by Rudi's Restaurant, so you'll be just steps away from the parade at your included dinner this evening.** You can walk to the restaurant from the hotel as well. You'll have your choice of menu.

Admission tickets are included to the Strawberry Banke Candelight Stroll, an annual downtown Portsmouth holiday tradition at Strawberry Banke's living history museum.

Experience 350 years of seasonal and holiday traditions against the backdrop of the Museum's furnished historic houses. From 5-9pm, the museum grounds glow with hundreds of lighted candle lanterns, the houses are adorned with thousands of hand-made decorations crafted from live greens and dried flowers and herbs, and the air is filled with the sound of holiday music and scent of woodsmoke from the bonfire. Stroll from house to historic house, greeted by costumed role players and performers who recreate the traditions of times past, rediscovering the joys of simpler times. Mrs. Shapiro prepares a Hanukkah celebration her 1919 Russian Jewish kitchen. Mrs. Goodwin, her family and servants prepare a Victorian Christmas. Father Christmas, the night watchman, "Mayor Frank Jones" and other role-players make their rounds along the dirt lanes; and the Abbotts await news of their soldier fighting in Europe in the Second World War. Carolers, chestnuts and holiday crafts bring all the sounds, scents and tradition together. Enjoy traditional hearth-cooking and craft demonstrations, refreshments and hot apple cider included.



Holiday shopping awaits at a myriad of quaint boutiques, such as *Pickwick's at the Banke*, reflecting Portsmouth's colonial maritime heritage in the heart of the unique downtown neighborhood museum, Strawberry Banke, hosting a variety of events this weekend.

Sunday, December 8

Hot breakfast is included at the inn each morning, at your leisure.

A late checkout has been arranged. You'll be provided with information on some unique shopping options on the outskirts of Kittery – from the famous Christmas Dove Shop to the Kittery Outlets or Stonewall Kitchen just across the Maine border.

