# The Route

## 1 Portland Castle

Built in 1540 by Henry VIII. Exit the bus and you will see the Castle just down the road.

Recommended visit with lots to see.

Allow 1-2 hours.




## 2 Helicopter Flight Training Centre & 2012 Olympic Sailing Area

Walk the coastal path from the Castle towards the Marina. Perhaps have a coffee or snack to soak up the 'yachtie' atmosphere!

## 3

Retrace your steps, pass the Castle up Liberty Road and turn left towards the Port. Pass the Osprey Leisure Centre - built for the Navy in 1984.

## 4 The old Admiralty boundary markers in the walls and pavements

There is one 7-metres beyond the Osprey Leisure Centre entrance and one opposite in a 200-year-old wall adjacent to an iconic English Royal Mail letterbox.



## 5 Note the abandoned Jolly Sailor pub - Built in 1775 and Portland's oldest pub

There used to be several pubs, most now closed, in Castletown. See if you can spot where they used to be.

## 6 Make a point to see the various artefacts just before the D-Day Museum

A 100-year-old Lerret fishing boat; a unique naval anchor; a tribute to American Forces who left Castletown for France on D-Day; a British sea mine; a Sherman tank; a vintage English phone box.



## Castletown D-Day Centre 7

A tribute to the American 1st and 29th Division soldiers who left Castletown on 6 June 1944 for the beaches of France.

Climb in original WW2 vehicles, try on uniforms, handle real guns and read emotional American accounts of love and conflict 80 years ago.

Highly recommended!
Allow 1-2 hours.

## Castletown Pier and Tourist Information Centre 8

Just beyond the D-Day Centre, walk out and around the Pier. If you have time, take the ferry, 'My Girl', to Weymouth and back.
Allow 3 hours, but check timings before departure.



## Phoenix Cassions 9

Part of a Mulberry Harbour sitting on the seabed, 100 yards beyond the end of the Pier.

These caissons were towed over to France and facilitated the unloading of vehicles and supplies shortly after D-Day. They were brought back in 1946.

## 10

Walk back towards the port, appreciating the 150 to 200-year-old architecture and various exhibits (torpedo, cannon, anchor etc). Note the old 'Drunkard's Row' road name on the wall above Castletown Convenience Store. A tribute to the many fisherman and sailors who 'refreshed' themselves here?



## 11

Go as far as Castletown beach and slipway on your left. This is where American forces loaded vehicles onto landing craft in 1944/45 and is still used by local fishermen. Turn around and retrace your steps past the Sherman tank to Castletown roundabout.



## Merchant's Railway 12

At the roundabout, take the first left and go up 15 yards. On your right is the route of the old railway line which brought the stone down to the pier from the quarries. St. Paul's Cathedral and the UN building in New York are built of Portland stone.

Return to the bus drop off and pick up point by the Castle to await the bus to take you back to your ship.

# Walking tour of Castletown, Portland



**Distance:**

**1/2 to 1 mile maximum** - no steep hills; easy walking

**Duration:**

**Leisurely** - 4-5 hours (taking in 2 museums and refreshment breaks)

**Typical** - 3 hours

**Quick** - 30 minutes to 1 hour

## Instructions

Get on the Shuttle Bus service adjacent to your ship and get off at the first stop - Portland Castle.

This is approximately 1/4 mile from the Port entrance.

Follow the route suggested herein, returning to the drop off point at the Castle to be collected by the shuttle bus going back to your ship.




1. Portland Castle
2. Helicopter Flight Training Centre and 2012 Olympic sailing area
3. Bus stop
4. Admiralty markers
5. Jolly Sailor pub
6. Artefacts
7. D-Day Centre
8. Castletown Pier & Tourist Information Centre
9. Mulberry Harbour
10. Historic walk
11. Beach & Slipway
12. Railway




## History

Castletown has a long history with evidence of Stone Age settlements going back 7500 years.

Around 450 BC, Iron Age settlers formed defensive trenches on Verne Hill above Castletown. 500 years later in 43 AD, the Romans built a fort there.

The Saxons took over in the 4th century, and in 787 AD the first recorded raid on England by Vikings was at Portland - possibly Castletown! Then came the Normans (French) in 1066.

All through the ages, Castletown prospered and developed, first as a fishing village, then as a stone quarry port and latterly a Naval base from 1872.

In 1944, 420,000 American troops and 144,000 vehicles left from Castletown bound for the beaches in Normandy, France.

The Navy pulled out in 1990 and the Port is now a successful commercial enterprise.



## Introduction

Whilst Portland as a whole has a rich and diverse history, Castletown's past is predominated by its links with the sea and the Royal Navy.

There is much to see in Castletown and the route suggested herein does not point out every detail.

Make it a journey of discovery and perhaps stop for a coffee (or something stronger!) in one of the many cafes and pubs along the way.

Find out more