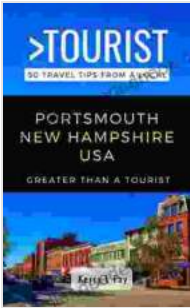


# Greater Than Tourist: Uncovering the Hidden Gems of Portsmouth, New Hampshire, USA



Portsmouth, New Hampshire, is a charming coastal city with a rich history and vibrant culture. Beyond its well-known attractions, Portsmouth offers a wealth of hidden gems waiting to be discovered. This article will guide you through some of these lesser-known places, providing insider tips and insights to help you experience the city like a local.

**GREATER THAN A TOURIST- PORTSMOUTH NEW HAMPSHIRE USA: 50 Travel Tips from a Local**



by Kerry L Fay

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

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## 1. Prescott Park: A Serene Waterfront Oasis



Nestled along the Piscataqua River, Prescott Park is an enchanting waterfront oasis. Stroll through its lush gardens, admire the vibrant flowerbeds, and soak in the panoramic views of the river and Portsmouth Harbor. Take a moment to relax on the park benches, enjoy a picnic, or watch the boats sail by. During the summer months, Prescott Park hosts a variety of concerts and events, adding to its lively atmosphere.

## **2. Strawberry Banke Museum: A Living History Experience**



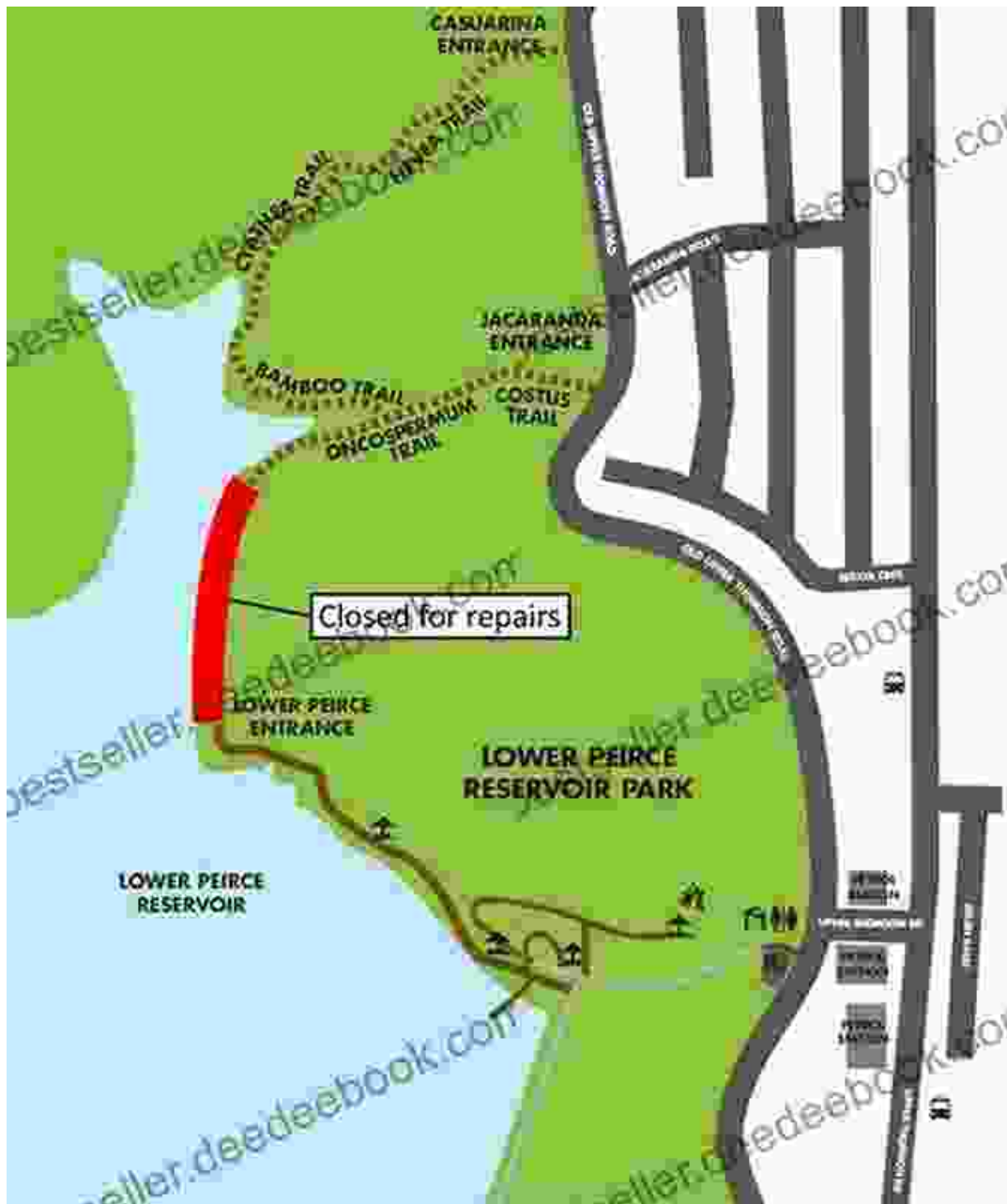
Step back in time at Strawberry Banke Museum, a living history museum that preserves the city's past. Explore over 40 historic buildings, each restored and furnished to depict different periods of Portsmouth's history. Meet costumed interpreters who bring the past to life, sharing stories and demonstrating daily life from the 17th to the 19th centuries. Take a guided tour or wander through the grounds at your own pace, immersing yourself in the rich tapestry of Portsmouth's heritage.

### 3. Wentworth-Coolidge Mansion: A Colonial Masterpiece



The Wentworth-Coolidge Mansion is a magnificent 18th-century mansion that now serves as the headquarters of the New Hampshire Society of the Cincinnati. Admire its elegant architecture and period furnishings as you tour the mansion's grand rooms. Learn about its fascinating history, which includes being home to two prominent governors of New Hampshire. The mansion is open for guided tours, offering a glimpse into the lavish lifestyle of Portsmouth's colonial elite.

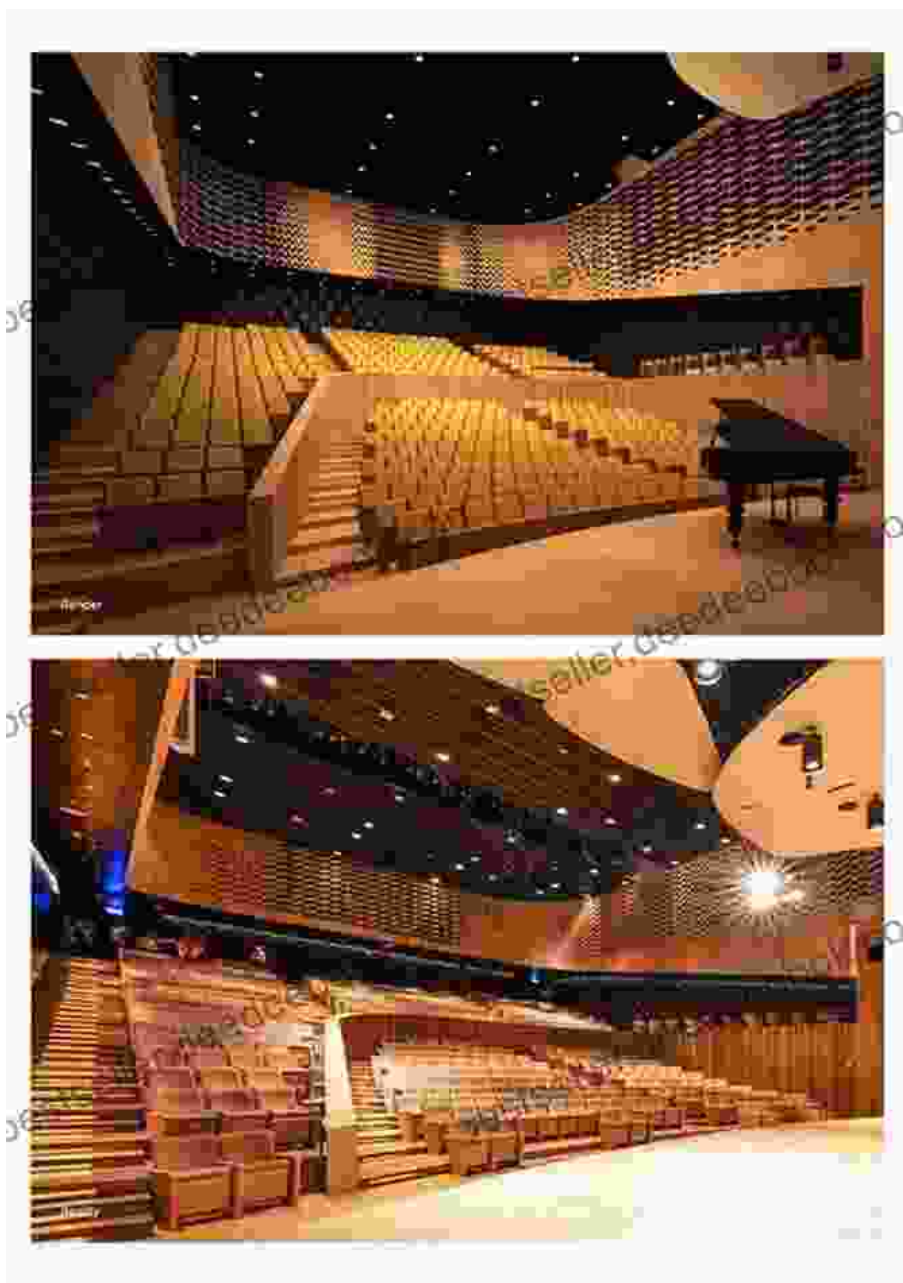
### 4. Peirce Island: A Tranquil Island Retreat



Escape the hustle and bustle of the city on Peirce Island, a tranquil island nestled in Portsmouth Harbor. Embark on a scenic walk along the island's paved trails, enjoying breathtaking views of the river, the surrounding islands, and the distant mountains. Stop at the observation deck to admire the panoramic vistas or relax on one of the benches scattered throughout

the island. Peirce Island is a perfect retreat for nature lovers and those seeking a peaceful respite.

## 5. The Music Hall: A Cultural Hub



The Music Hall is a historic venue that has been a cultural hub in Portsmouth for over 100 years. Attend a live performance in the intimate and acoustically superb concert hall, which hosts a diverse range of shows,

from Broadway musicals to dance performances. Admire the Victorian architecture of the building's exterior and learn about its rich history as a former city hall. The Music Hall is a vibrant gathering place for music lovers and those seeking a memorable cultural experience.

## **6. Kittery Outlet Malls: A Shopper's Paradise**



Just across the border in Kittery, Maine, a shopper's paradise awaits. Kittery Outlet Malls is a vast complex of outlet stores, offering a wide range of brand-name fashion, home goods, and accessories at discounted prices. Spend a day browsing the numerous outlets, taking advantage of tax-free shopping and finding unbeatable deals. Whether you're looking for designer handbags, stylish clothing, or unique gifts, Kittery Outlet Malls has something for every shopper.

## 7. Isles of Shoals: A Scenic Island Getaway



Venture out to the Isles of Shoals, a group of nine islands located about 10 miles off the coast of Portsmouth. Hop on a ferry from Portsmouth Harbor and spend a day exploring these picturesque islands. Discover charming cottages, rugged cliffs, and secluded beaches. Learn about the islands' rich maritime history, which has been intertwined with fishing, shipbuilding, and tourism. Take a tour of the Star Island Chapel, a historic landmark known for its stunning views and spiritual significance.

## 8. New Castle: A Quaint Historic Village





Just a short drive from Portsmouth, the quaint village of New Castle is a hidden gem worth exploring. Admire the colonial architecture of its houses and stroll along its picturesque waterfront. Visit Fort Constitution, a historic fort built in the 17th century to protect the entrance to Portsmouth Harbor. Explore its fortifications, learn about its role in American history, and enjoy the scenic views of the ocean and the surrounding islands.

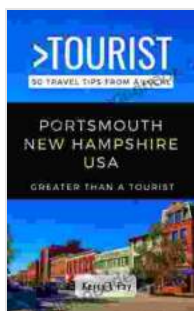
## **9. Vaughan Woods State Park: A Nature Lover's Paradise**



Immerse yourself in nature at Vaughan Woods State Park, located on the outskirts of Portsmouth. Hike through pristine forest trails, winding along the shores of Lake Massabesic. Spot wildlife, identify various plant species, and enjoy the peace and tranquility of the surroundings. Rent a kayak or canoe and explore the lake from a different perspective. Vaughan Woods State Park is a haven for outdoor enthusiasts and those seeking a respite from the urban environment.

Portsmouth, New Hampshire, offers a treasure trove of hidden gems beyond its popular attractions. From serene waterfront parks to living history museums, elegant colonial mansions to quaint island escapes,

there is something for everyone in this charming coastal city. Whether you're a history buff, an art enthusiast, a nature lover, or a bargain hunter, Portsmouth has a hidden gem waiting to be discovered. Embrace the spirit of "Greater Than Tourist" and uncover the lesser-known side of this vibrant and welcoming destination.



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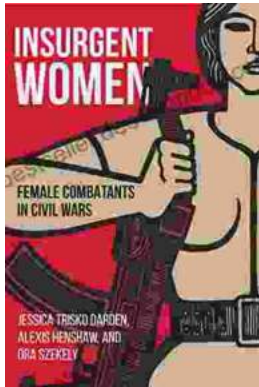
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