

## AHS Reunion Day Trip Portsmouth NH Harbor Area Thursday, September 14, 2023

**Stop 1. Fort McClary State Park.** The fort and its museum will give a historical perspective on Portsmouth Harbor's role in the region's military history. Ample parking where the group may gather. For more information see: <https://visitmaine.com/things-to-do/arts-culture/fort-mcclary-kittery-point>



Named after New Hampshire native Major Andrew McClary, who died in the Revolutionary War's Battle of Bunker Hill, Fort McClary stands at the southern gateway to Kittery — the same spot it has stood at for 275 years. Designed to protect approaches to the Piscataqua River, today it preserves military history and the evolution of military architecture and technology. Though Fort McClary was not involved in a major battle, it was manned during five significant wars — the Revolutionary War, the War of 1812, the Civil War, the Spanish-American War and World War I — demonstrating the European settlers' strong determination to protect their country time and time again.

**Stop 2. USS Albacore Park and Visitor's Center.** Ample parking; admission cost.  
See: <https://www.ussalbacore.org/>



The third Navy vessel to bear the name, the Auxiliary General Submarine (AGSS) Albacore holds a place in history as the first Navy-designed vessel with a true underwater hull of cylindrical shape that has become the standard for today's submarines worldwide. Designed, built, and maintained by the skilled engineers and craftsmen of the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard, Albacore served as a sea-going test platform from 1953 to 1972. Albacore's teardrop-shaped hull was the prototype for the Navy's nuclear powered submarine force and was the first boat built specifically to operate underwater.

Note: Due to the restrictive nature of this submarine experience, those with the following restraints may not be able to board: *Those who use canes, crutches, walkers, or wheelchairs. Those who cannot lift legs over 17 inches.*

**Stop 3. Portsmouth Harbor.** Drive about 0.8 mi [5-10min depending on traffic] to a lunch place (TBD)\*, followed by a walking tour in the Harbor area on your own schedule, and optionally, tour the **Strawberry Bank Museum**.\*\*

\*For example, the **River House** restaurant: <https://riverhouse53bow.com/>.

### Itinerary

- 10:00am After breakfast, depart for Stop 1. ~[8.3 mi/20 min from Anchorage Inn].
- 10:30 Arrive at **Stop 1: Ft. McClary State Historical Site**. Tour museum and grounds.
- 11:30 Depart for **USS Albacore Park and Visitor's Center**. [4.5mi/15min] Tour the museum at the visitor's center and the sub.
- 12:30pm Depart for lunch in the Portsmouth Harbor area.
- 12:45 Park near a restaurant (TBD). We will have made reservations.
- 2:00 Walk around Portsmouth Harbor and return to the Anchorage Inn on your own, or tour the Strawberry Bank Museum\*\* before returning to the Anchorage Inn.  
Return trip to the Anchorage Inn via I-95: 11.4mi; ~20min.

\*\* English colonists, who established a settlement in 1623 along with what is now the "New Hampshire" coast, built houses along the Piscataqua River and more shelter cove that is now Portsmouth Harbor. They named the settlement "Strawberry Bank" -- either for the wild strawberries growing along the banks or for an estate in England.

Strawbery Banke Museum tells the story of the neighborhood called Puddle Dock, surrounding the tidal inlet. This neighborhood grew from a wilderness outpost in the late 1600s through cycles of maritime prosperity to become a multi-cultural "neighborhood of newcomers."  
For more information see: <https://www.strawberybanke.org/about/history.cfm>.