Chatham Dockyard and its Defences

Take the trail to discover Chatham’s exceptional story by foot.

**Upnor Castle**
Upnor Castle was constructed in 1558, under orders from Queen Elizabeth I, and was intended to protect warships at anchor in the River Medway.

**Brompton Village**
The historic village of Brompton was once a unique civilian enclave wholly within the defended military zone created by the Chatham Lines.

**The Historic Dockyard Chatham**
The Historic Dockyard Chatham is now the world’s most complete dockyard of the age of sail – a museum and visitor attraction with historic buildings, museum galleries and three historic warships – and also a place where people live, work and study.

**HMS Pembroke**
HMS Pembroke – a former naval barracks for sailors waiting to be appointed to ships of the Chatham Division of the Royal Navy, closed in March 1984. It is now home to the Universities of Medway (now Universities of Medway).

**The Royal Engineers Museum, Library and Archive**
The Royal Engineers Museum, Library and Archive is Kent’s only nationally designated military museum in the South East. Major renovations taking place during 2018, please check website for details.

**Great Lines Heritage Park**
Once the open Field of Fire in front of Fort Amherst and the Chatham Lines defences built to defend Chatham Dockyard, The Great Lines Heritage Park is now a public recreational ground.

**Chatham Naval Memorial**
Chatham Naval Memorial was built to commemorate those lost at sea in the First and Second World Wars.

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**KEY**
- **DISCOVERY TRAIL**
- **VISIBILE FORTIFICATIONS**
- **To complete the trail in two shorter segments, follow the blue and yellow dotted lines**

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**theDockyard.co.uk/apps**

historic.chatham
DockyardChatham
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Riverside Grounds.

The castle proved ineffective when called to arms during the Dock Road bus disaster. On 4 December 1951, in darkness and fog, a double-decker bus struck 52 members of the Royal Marine Volunteer Cadets. 24 children were killed and 18 injured. At the time it was the greatest loss of life in any British road accident.

Brompton was home to a varied population in the mid-18th and 19th centuries. At its mid-19th century peak, Brompton boasted over 40 pubs and taverns.

The museum is housed within the Ravelin building, originally the Royal Engineers' electrical school, which opened in 1905. Buy a ticket to learn of 900 years of unbroken service to the crown and to see captivating objects, such as the world's first usable guided torpedo, a large piece of the Berlin Wall, a Harrier Jump Jet and a V2 Rocket.

7. Fort Amherst

Concealing a labyrinth of underground tunnels, Fort Amherst was built to defend Chatham Dockyard. Although never attacked, by 1820 it was not suitable as a defence and it was used for storage and training. Follow signs for the Caveyard Café for toilets, refreshments, tickets and turn left on to Wood Street.

Follow Brompton High Street to the very end and turn left on to Wood Street.

8. Brompton Village

Brompton was home to a varied population in the mid-18th century (high-ranking Dockyard officials, manual Dockyard workers and naval officers — including Admiral Nelson), Prospect, Mansion Row and much of Garden Street boast original 18th century officers’ residences. At its mid-19th century peak, Brompton boasted over 40 pubs and taverns.

Follow Brompton High Street to the very end and turn left on to Wood Street.

On Dock Road you will pass a plaque commemorating the Dock Road bus disaster. On 4 December 1951, in darkness and fog, a double-decker bus struck 52 members of the Royal Marine Volunteer Cadets. 24 children were killed and 18 injured. At the time it was the greatest loss of life in any British road accident.

9. Upnor Castle

The castle proved ineffective when called to arms during the Dutch Raid of 1667, losing its role as an active defence. It was later used as a Gunpowder Magazine and at one point it held more gunpowder than the Tower of London. Buy a ticket to explore the castle’s history and beautiful riverside grounds.

Visit Medway.gov.uk/places-of-interest/upnor-castle

Chatham Dockyard

The historic Dockyard Chatham

SUB TRAILS

Fort Amherst

Before the small bridge crossing, take the path to your left and continue downhill. Exit on to Khartoum Road, and then immediately turn left to the Fort Amherst cave yard. Once you have explored the cave yard area, exit onto Khartoum Road and take the immediate right back up the hill to the small bridge on your left.

The Lower Lines Park

Once you arrive in the Lower Lines Park, take the first right, and cross the bridge over the ditch. Turn left, and then keep left. Take the metal steps up and enter the ditch down the slope to your left. Follow the course of the ditch, and go under the bridge you previously crossed. Turn right at the end of the ditch, and re-enter the path at the next right-hand turn. Follow the main footpath up the hill.

Take the trail to discover Chatham’s exceptional naval and military heritage

Dockyard.co.uk

The historic dockyard Chatham

DISCOVERY TRAIL

Discover Chatham’s exceptional naval & military heritage

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