

Riding the Wave two years in a row: Portsmouth wins Best Port



Portsmouth International Port has been named Best Port for the second year in a row at the industry renowned Wave Awards – known internationally as the “Oscars for cruise”.

Last year (2023) saw Portsmouth win two awards in their first time attending the event, where they were crowned Best Port and Best Environmental Innovation. This year was no different, with the ports winning entry focusing on a successful first twelve months for their new sustainable passenger terminal, which can be customised to suit different brands. This unique offering is what makes Portsmouth so appealing to luxury, boutique cruise lines, who receive a personal service each time they call.

The star-studded event, held on Monday 11 November, was presented by Sue Perkins and celebrated ten years of the prestigious awards, bringing together ports, cruise lines, operators and destinations from across the industry that have redefined the standards of cruise and travel. Voted for by a judging panel of distinguished experts and industry representatives, Portsmouth faced major competition from global ports to retain their title.

Cllr Steve Pitt, Leader of Portsmouth City Council said: “2024 has been a brilliant year for the port, with Portsmouth fully establishing their place in the cruise industry. To be celebrated on the international stage as the Best Port, for the second time running, is a hugely impressive achievement and demonstrates the work the team has put in to attract vital cruise business.

As a council owned port we have invested to make sure our city and region benefit from the opportunities cruise brings, and will continue to do so. I look forward to welcoming some new brands and familiar faces to Portsmouth over the next year.”

Marking an award winning couple of months, the port is also set to achieve it’s busiest cruise season yet with the number of calls continuing to grow. Regular callers and port partners Fred Olsen and Virgin Voyages also picked up Wave Awards for their onboard experience and destinations.

Andrew Williamson, head of cruise and ferry at Portsmouth International Port said: “It was an honour to be presented this award on behalf of the port. This achievement reflects the dedication of our entire team, the strength of our partnerships with cruise lines, and our commitment to excellence and sustainability.

A huge thanks to everyone who has helped make this possible. Here’s to continuing our exciting journey

and creating unforgettable holiday experiences, fingers crossed for a hat trick in 2026!”