

# HMS VICTORY

THE  
NATIONAL  
MUSEUM



Preserving The Past, Promoting The Future

Welcome to HMS Victory the oldest commissioned warship in the world and the sixth ship to bear the name. Victory is the Flagship of the Commander in Chief Naval Home Command. The ship was designed by Thomas Slade and commissioned in 1778, remaining in active service until 1812.

**Laid down:** 23rd July 1759

**Launched:** 7th May 1765

**Built at:** Chatham Dockyard in Kent

**Crew:** 850 (821 at Trafalgar)

For your safety and enjoyment as you go around the ship please follow the advice below:

- No eating, drinking or smoking.
- Mind your head on the low beams and lanterns.
- Beware of trip hazards; ropes, hatches, cannon ball racks etc. Decks are slippery when wet.
- Follow the 'one way system' marked by the blue signs and on this deck plan.
- In the unlikely event of an emergency, please follow the directions of staff members to the nearest exit.

## Photography

Permitted throughout the ship with the exception of the Shrine.

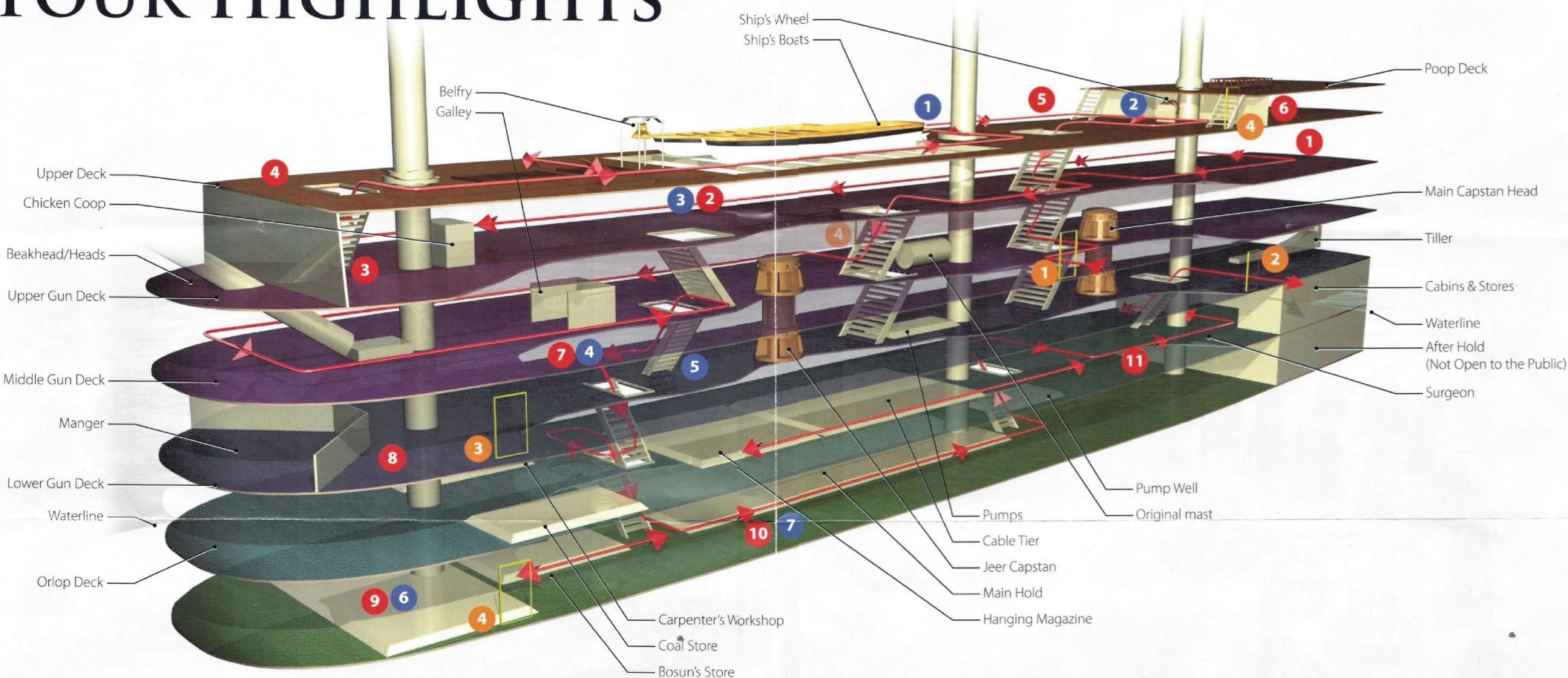
## Questions

Members of the Victory guiding staff are stationed around the ship to answer your questions.

## Area closures

Due to service requirements or maintenance work, some areas may not be open to the public.

# TOUR HIGHLIGHTS



Please note that the route may vary due to service requirements and maintenance

## Entrance & Exit

1 Main Entrance

2 Exit

3 Alternative Entrance

4 Emergency Exit

## Audio Points

1 The Battle of Trafalgar

2 The Quarter Deck

3 Punishment

4 Gun & Galley

5 Messdeck

6 Grand Magazine

7 Main Hold

## Tour Highlights

1 Great Cabin

This is where the admiral lived and would have conducted his day to day work

2 Leg Irons

Men were brought here to await punishment

3 Sick Berth

When the ship was not cleared for action, this was where men suffering from injuries or disease would be tended by the surgeon and his mates

4 Forecastle

This was the only part of the ship that the men were permitted to smoke

5 Quarter Deck

Here Admiral Lord Nelson was mortally wounded

6 Captain's Cabin

These are the ship's captain's quarters

7 24lb Gun

This gun was used onboard Victory during the battle of Trafalgar. Behind the gun is the ship's galley and Brodie stove. Audio presentation provided

8 Lower Gun Deck

On this deck is Victory's main armament of 32lb guns; it is also the main living quarters for the seamen. At night this deck was home to 480 men. Audio presentation provided

9 Grand Magazine

Welcome to the Grand Magazine; please take advantage of the audio presentation provided

10 The Hold

This is the main storage area of the ship; please take advantage of the audio presentation provided

11 Orlop Deck

After Admiral Lord Nelson was wounded, he was carried down to this deck for the attention of Doctor William Beatty, Victory's surgeon

By 1920, VICTORY's condition had deteriorated to the point that she was in danger of sinking at her moorings. Fortunately some ten years earlier in 1910 the Society for Nautical Research had been formed with the aim of encouraging research and scholarly discussion relating to matters seafaring and shipbuilding.

The SNR opened a public fund called the Save the Victory Fund to raise money for her preservation and interpretative display. The fund is still in existence, administered by the SNR and contributes to the ship upkeep and presentation. By 1928 the initial restoration work was complete and VICTORY was once again fully open to the public. The aim of the work was to return the ship to her Trafalgar layout condition and configuration. In the following years she received little further work; however, bomb damage during World War II, the weather and ravages of death watch beetle took their toll. In 1955 the Royal Navy started a major restoration programme. The hull has been secured and the ship's internal layout and decoration has been returned to that of Trafalgar and was completed by the Bicentenary in 2005.

**You too can help save HMS VICTORY for future generations ...**

# **SOCIETY FOR NAUTICAL RESEARCH**

The Society for Nautical Research is flourishing. We are in good shape and looking confidently forward to our centenary in 2010. Much was achieved in the 20th Century; much remains to be done in the new century. All vigorous societies need new members and new blood. Why not join us in our work now!

For more information please contact:

M P J Garvey, Membership Secretary, The Society for Nautical Research, The Lodge, The Drive, Hellings, Hailsham, East Sussex, BN27 4EP, UK.

## **Your ticket also includes the Royal Naval Museum & the Trafalgar Sail**

Facing HMS Victory is the Royal Naval Museum. Located in magnificent Georgian storehouses, the museum contains a rich collection of artefacts including ship models, figureheads, swords, uniforms, medals and fine paintings. Also see HMS Victory's only surviving sail from Trafalgar housed in Store House 10 above the Victory shop.



[www.hms-victory.com](http://www.hms-victory.com)