

Henry VIII's favourite warship Mary Rose fully revealed

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Years of painstaking work on the Mary Rose's hull have now concluded. The Mary Rose Trust, The Mary Rose Museum at Portsmouth Historic Dockyard, reopens on Wednesday 20 July after a six-month closure. This latest stage of development has been supported with £3million from HLF.

For the first time in 23 years, visitors will be able to breathe the same air as the *Mary Rose*.

Views of the ship are now available from all nine galleries thanks to floor-to-ceiling glazing on the lower and main decks. On the upper deck, visitors enter the Weston Ship Hall through an airlock with a glass balcony separating them from the ship itself.

A Tudor time capsule

A unique Tudor time capsule, the *Mary Rose* has undergone continuous conservation since it was raised in 1982. The hull was first sprayed with a mist of fresh chilled water and then with a water-soluble wax - it has now reached a stable state within this drying process.

Sir Peter Luff, Chair of HLF, said: "Quite simply, the *Mary Rose* is awe-inspiring. To so many a huge debt of gratitude is owed; particularly to those whose vision, dedication and skill have made

this vision a reality, and to the National Lottery players who enabled HLF to make grants of £26m to this remarkable evocation of our national maritime heritage.”

Helen Bonser-Wilton, Chief Executive of the Mary Rose Trust, added: “The story of the *Mary Rose* spans almost 500 years and this is a very exciting close to the latest chapter in her history.”

Mary Rose in numbers

- **1510** Mary Rose built
- **600** trees used
- **1545** Mary Rose sunk
- **500** men on board, 35 survived
- **1971** Mary Rose site discovered
- **1982** Mary Rose raised from seabed
- **100** tons of water extracted from hull and surroundings
- **9m** - visitors received since *Mary Rose* first displayed in 1983