

San Francisco Maritime

National Historical Park
California

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



The National Park Service invites you to view maritime tools, crafts, and photographs in the museum, tour the ships at Hyde Street Pier, and browse in the library.

Museum Exhibits Discover the romance and excitement of West Coast seafaring history in the Museum Building at the foot of Polk Street. Huge mast sections, jutting spars, and painted figureheads invoke the hard, simple lives of the people who built ships and sailed on California's waterways. One-of-a-kind artifacts and historic photographs chronicle the excitement of the California Gold Rush, the magnificent sweep of the Cape Horn sailing ships, the West Coast whaling industry, and more. In the Steamship Room, displays and models trace the revolution of steam technology—from tiny "mail packet" steamers to giant cargo vessels. In the Harmon Gallery, special exhibits highlight themes and events from the days of exploration and expansion on the West Coast.

Historic Ships It's easy to imagine perilous Cape Horn passages, fair coastal runs, and long, working-days while walking the ship decks at the Hyde Street Pier. Explore meticulously restored cabins and examine detailed displays. Watch riggers working high aloft and shipwrights using traditional skills.

Tour the *Balclutha*, *C.A. Thayer*, *Eureka*, *Hercules*, *Eppleron Hall*, and *Alma*, a fleet of floating National Historic Landmarks that span a century of working history.

Boatbuilding classes in the Small Boat Shop provide glimpses of maritime professionals passing along rare, time-honored skills and techniques.

And don't miss these other historic vessels: the Liberty Ship *S.S. Jeremiah O'Brien*, at Pier 3, Fort Mason; the WWII submarine *U.S.S. Pampanito*, which offers audio tours at Pier 45; and the park's own steam schooner *Wapama*, undergoing state-of-the-art preservation in Sausalito.

Aquatic Park Grassy Aquatic Park is the perfect place for a Fisherman's Wharf "breather." Just relax, or stroll the Golden Gate Promenade—past the maritime library—all the way to the Golden Gate Bridge. From a cable car stop, the ships are just a few steps east and the museum exhibit building is only a half block west.

Museum Collections The park's research collections and administrative offices are located at Fort Mason Center, in Building E. On the third floor, the J. Porter Shaw Library houses more than 12,000 volumes, and extensive holdings of oral histories, periodicals, and ephemeral material. The maritime library is open to the public. The Historic Documents Department oversees archives, manuscripts, logbooks, 120,000 sheets of ship plans, and more than 250,000 historic photographs.

Maritime artifacts and fine arts are located on the ground floor, in the Collections Management Department. Researchers may view portions of this collection by appointment only.

The Maritime Store Whatever your maritime interest—history, classic fiction, sailing, traditional crafts, folk music, wildlife, or technology—you'll find it in the books at The Maritime Store on Hyde Street Pier. The store also offers a variety of games, books, models, ship plans, posters, postcards, videotapes, and other "gifts of the sea." And the proceeds help support park educational programs and conservation projects.

Access and Hours

Public transit is the most convenient way to visit San Francisco Maritime. Parking near Fisherman's Wharf is usually scarce. Convenient bus routes serve the area; call 673-MUNI for routes and schedules.

Volunteers are one of the park's most important assets. If you'd like to join our volunteer crew, call 556-8545.

We welcome your comments. Please write to: Superintendent, San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park, Building E, Fort Mason Center, San Francisco, CA 94123.

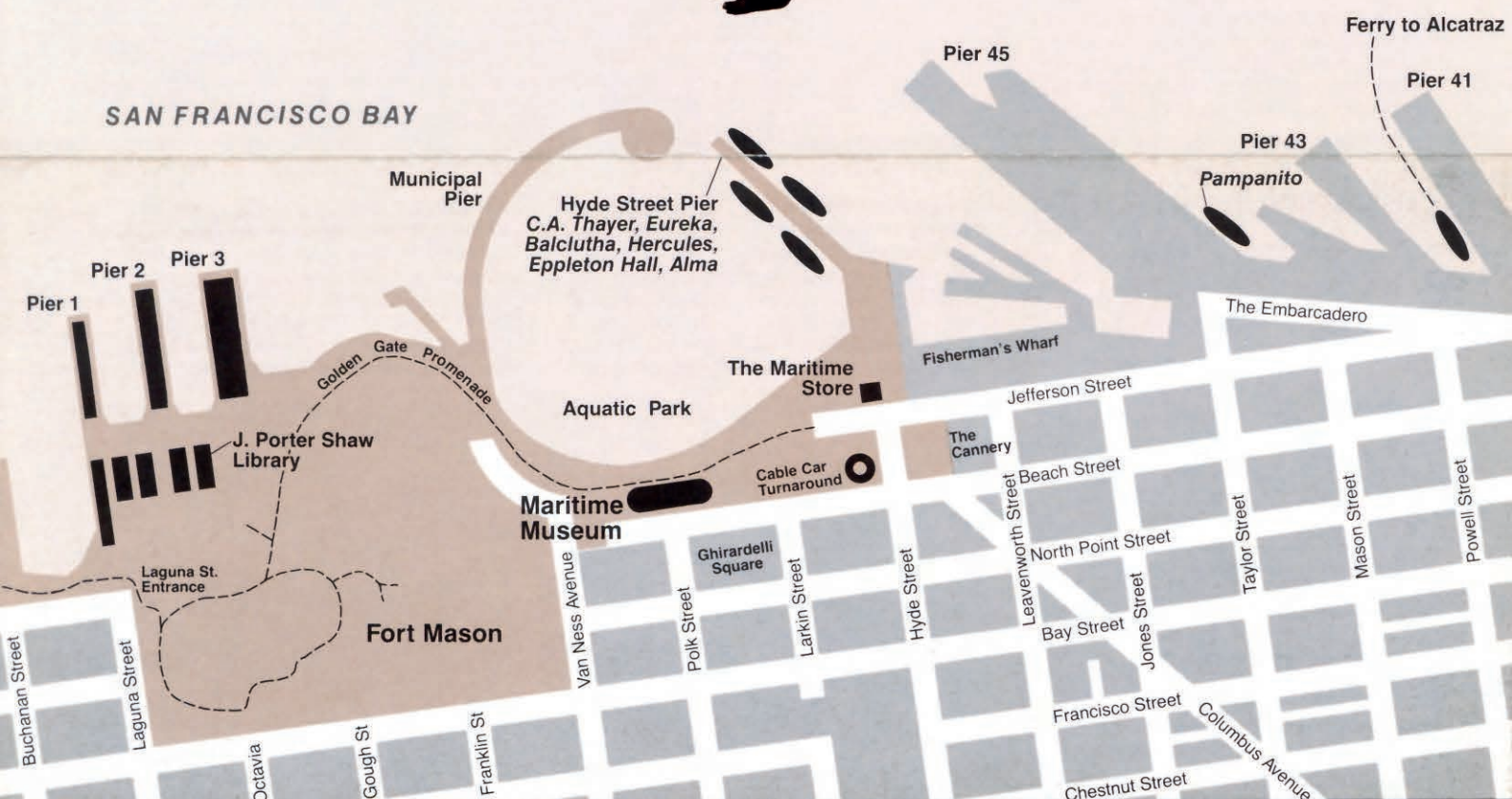
Hyde Street Pier
Foot of Hyde Street
Open daily
Ranger-guided tours, nautical films, and demonstrations.
Wheelchair accessible
Information: 561-7100

Museum Building
Foot of Polk Street
Open daily
Wheelchair accessible
Information: 561-7100

Pampanito
Pier 45
Open daily
Audio tour
Information: 775-1943

J. Porter Shaw Library
Building E, Fort Mason
Tuesday 5-8 p.m.
Wed-Friday: 1-5 p.m.
Saturday: 10 a.m.-5 p.m.
Wheelchair accessible
Information: 556-9870

The Maritime Store
Hyde Street Pier
Open daily
Wheelchair accessible
Information: 775-BOOK



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Ships at Hyde Street Pier

This park preserves and presents the saga of the people and ships that shaped the development of America's Pacific Coast. You may board these historic vessels at Hyde Street Pier and at nearby piers.



Eureka The sidewheel ferry *Eureka* (above) was built in 1890 as the railroad ferry *Ukiah*. From 1922 to 1941, *Eureka* hauled as many as 2,300 passengers and 120 autos at one time across the Bay. Powered by a massive four-story steam engine, *Eureka* was the world's largest passenger ferry in her day.



Hercules Built in New Jersey in 1907, *Hercules* (above top) made her initial voyage towing her sister ship through the Straits of Magellan. This ocean-going tug hauled log rafts down the West Coast to lumber mills and towed sailing vessels out to sea.



Alma The last San Francisco Bay scow schooner still afloat, *Alma* was launched in 1891 and carried bulk cargoes, including lumber and hay. With her flat bottom and shallow draft, *Alma* navigated the shallow waters of the Bay until highways and bridges phased her out.



Eppleton Hall Built in England in 1914, *Eppleton Hall* is reminiscent of the paddle tugs that towed ships into San Francisco Bay during Gold Rush times. The tug's side-lever steam engines are descendants of engines used in sidewheel steamers that connected San Francisco to Panama.



C.A. Thayer This ship is one of two surviving schooners from a fleet of 900 that carried lumber from the Pacific Northwest, spurring rapid growth of California cities. Built in 1895, she later sailed to Alaska as a salmon packet and served as a cod fishing vessel in the Bering Sea. The *C.A. Thayer* was the last commercial sailing vessel to operate from a West Coast U.S. port.



Balclutha The square-rigged Cape Horn sailing vessel *Balclutha* was launched in 1886 in Scotland and is typical of hundreds that called yearly in San Francisco from Europe.

Other Historic Ships



Wapama The 1915 steam schooner *Wapama* (above) is undergoing thorough preservation treatment at a temporary berth at the Bay Model Visitor Center in Sausalito. Steam schooners like *Wapama* carried both cargo and passengers, gradually replacing old sailing schooners like *C.A. Thayer*. These wood-hulled steamers were designed for the Pacific Coast trade, carrying lumber south and general cargo north.

Jeremiah O'Brien This vessel is the last unaltered survivor of 2,751 World War II Liberty Ships. Completed in an incredible six to eight weeks, these steamers ferried troops and supplies around the globe and served in all theaters of the war. *Jeremiah O'Brien* is preserved, maintained, and operated by the National Liberty Ship Memorial.



Pampanito Restored, maintained, and operated by the National Maritime Museum Association, *Pampanito* (below) is a fleet submarine of the Balao class designed for long-range cruises in the Pacific during World War II. Visitors may tour its cramped living quarters and view its arsenal of ten torpedo tubes and a five-inch deck gun.

