

BAM - Maritime Museum of San Diego Tour
1492 North Harbor Drive, San Diego CA 92101
Saturday, October 5, 2024, 9:30 am

The Maritime Museum of San Diego - Comprises nine ships including four sailing ships, two steam-powered ships, a submarine, and two boats for bay tours.

As of July 2018, the Maritime Museum of San Diego now has four vessels of historic distinction on the National Register – PCF 816 Swift Boat, 1914 Pilot boat, the world's oldest active sailing ship Star of India, and the 1898 steam ferry boat Berkeley – listed as National Historic Landmarks.

STAR OF INDIA / EUTERPE - It is a 150 year old tall ship that was built when England was the dominate sea power and had about 10,000 registered vessels. It recently sailed in November of last year making it the oldest tall ship that still sails. Like a cat, it has had 9 lives. It was christened with another name, Euterpe, the Greek muse of music, sailed under 3 flags (English, Hawaiian and U.S.) and has circumnavigated the globe 21 times. It has carried flax, cotton, immigrants, coal, timber, sugar, commercial fishermen and continues to be an historical educational platform for local school children.

SAN SALVADOR - It is a replica of the very first European vessel to sail to the continental U.S., San Diego Bay in 1542. This was way before the Mayflower and Jamestown in Virginia. Our ship was built right here in San Diego starting in 2011 and unlike our other replicas, there were no available plans for a Spanish galleon, so design planning was critical. It is built to Coast Guard standards so that it can carry passengers, which it does every weekend. It has traveled from Ensenada Mexico to Monterey CA. The original San Salvador, captained by Juan Cabrillo, had a very short life after a short exploration of the California coast and lost at sea sometime in 1543 on a trip to Peru.

SURPRISE / H.M.S. ROSE - The Surprise is a replica of an English vessel H.M.S. Rose that took part in the revolutionary war against the U.S. It was intended to stop anti-tax smuggling in New England and used in the invasion of New York when George Washington and his men were barely able to escape because of heavy fog. The Surprise was built in 1970 in Nova Scotia and has had a checkered career until 2006 when 20th Century Fox bought her for the movie *Master and Commander, The Far Side of The World*. It was sailed from the East coast to the Ensenada studio for modifications. It was also used in the film *Pirates of The Caribbean part 4*.

CALIFORNIA / C.W. LARWENCE - The California, official tall ship of California, is a replica of 19th century vessel that was built for the Revenue Service (Early Coast Guard). The young struggling new country had the same tax avoiding problem, smuggling, that the British had. After a very perilous 11-month journey to California, it arrived in San Francisco in the middle of the 1849 gold rush chaos. Its lifespan was a short 4 years as well because of a failed anchor cable. The California was built here in San Diego in 1983 and lead the tall ship parade that opened the 1984 Olympics. It was used in the movie Armstead, has traveled almost half a million miles and made several trips to Hawaii. It too takes passengers sailing every weekend.

MEDEA - One of the three remaining steam yachts in the world. Luxuriously built in 1904 for a wealthy English family, it is the only vessel still around that served in both WW I and WW II. Its ownership has changed hands multiple times and is one of the earliest vessels in the museum's collection.

BERKLEY - Was built here on the West Coast at the end of the 19th century and was the first propeller driven steam ferry on this coast. It Carried in excess of 1700 passengers between Oakland and San Francisco because the transcontinental railroad ended in Oakland. Was a major rescue lifeline after the 1906 earthquake. Since 1973 it serves as a platform for the museums many exhibits. Those include The Navy in San Diego, the tuna industry in SD, Swift boats, ship models, maritime library, gift shop and my favorite, the brand-new history of maritime navigation exhibit.

PILOT BOAT - Served as the pilot boat in San Diego from 1914 till 1996 and was drafted and modified for use by the Coast Guard from 1943 till 1945. It is still used daily to take visitors on a 45-minute tour of San Diego Bay.

U.S.S. DOLPHIN - A research submarine built in 1968 used as a testbed for the navy. It is the deepest diving submarine in the world. Its depth is top secret but well exceeds 3000 feet. It allowed new equipment to be tested without taking a military sub from patrol duty. In 2002 it almost sank off San Diego but was saved by heroic action of a crew member.

PCF 816 SWIFT BOAT - Boats used during the Vietnam war to shutdown arms smuggling from the North to the Mekong Delta in the South. San Diego bay was used for crew training during the war. The restored Swift Boat is used to take tours of the bay.