

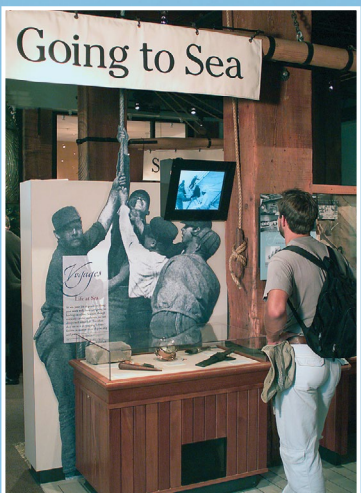


The Aquatic Park Historic District includes walkways, gardens, a cable car turnaround, and the Streamline Moderne-style bathhouse building (upper left) completed in 1939.

At San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park you will experience the sights, sounds, and textures of the city's seafaring past. You will learn what life was like for the people who made their living at sea. From the wooden decks of *Balclutha*, a square-rigger that rounded Cape Horn 17 times, duck into the cramped cabins that rounded Cape Horn 17 times, duck into the cramped cabins where sailors sheltered during months at sea. In the hold of the coastal schooner *C.A. Thayer* walk along the curving sides where freshly cleaned fish layered with salt were stacked to the ceiling.

Along Hyde Street Pier park staff and volunteers mend lines, varnish brightwork, and tend puffing steam engines. Rangers lead a variety of programs, even from high in *Balclutha's* rigging. The Age of Sail environmental living program bunks school children overnight on historic vessels. At the small-boat shop craftspeople shape and bend steam-softened planks to repair historic boats and build replicas.

Visitor center exhibits and hands-on activities tell you about the Gold Rush, shipwrecks, commu-



Visitor center exhibits and artifacts tell stories of seafarers on the West Coast.

nications at sea, and more. An interactive exhibit explores New York-San Francisco ocean routes. The spectacular lens from the Farallon lighthouse introduces the West Coast navigation story. The Aquatic Park Bathhouse building, designed in Streamline Moderne style, has Federal Art Project murals from the 1930s. African American artist Sargent Johnson carved the stone facade.

Landmark Building E houses collections of artifacts, documents, vessel plans, photographs, motion picture film, books, periodicals, and oral histories for studying detailed maritime history.



Historic vessels moored at Hyde Street Pier include (counterclockwise from left) *Eureka*, *Balclutha*, *Epplerton Hall*, and *C.A. Thayer*.

San Francisco and the Sea
Native Americans paddled the bay in reed canoes. European explorers charted the coastline. In 1776 the Spanish settled at the site of present-day San Francisco. Ships soon brought seal and sea otter hunters. In the 1820s whalers arrived, and Boston merchant ships began trading for California cowhides.

In 1849, after the discovery of gold in the Sierra Nevada foothills, the world rushed in. That year over 750 ships arrived in San Francisco. Some fortune-seekers came on sleek, American-built clipper ships, but most sailed in on just about anything that could

float. They often abandoned their vessels in the shallows. Remains of such vessels lie today beneath the city's financial district. "It is a city of ships, piers, and tides," wrote Chilean journalist Benjamin Vicuña Mackenna in 1852. "Large ships with railings a good distance from the beach served as residences, stores, and restaurants."

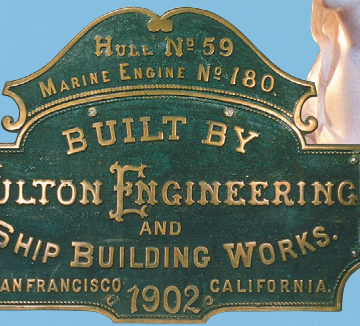
The Gold Rush brought merchants, laborers, and craftspeople from around the world. By the 1870s California's burgeoning grain trade lured big European sailing ships like *Balclutha*. Fleets of schooners



For a taste of the sailor's life, board *Balclutha* (above) and other vessels at Hyde Street Pier.

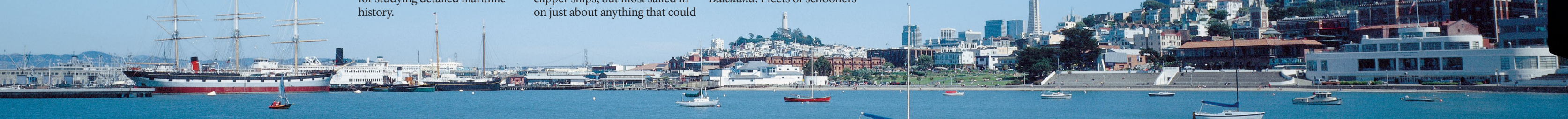
like *C.A. Thayer* arrived with Douglas fir from Puget Sound. Flat-bottomed scow schooners like *Alma* sailed up the Delta into California's Central Valley. They delivered plows and seed, sewing machines and cloth, coal and oil. And they returned stacked with jute bags of hard white wheat, well suited for long-distance shipping. On San Francisco's docks the bags were hand-loaded into the holds of sailing ships bound for Europe.

After the grain trade diminished and railroads reached the lumber mills and valleys, many sailing vessels were abandoned or scrapped. The lucky ones were refitted for other careers. *Balclutha* and *C.A. Thayer* went on to supply Alaska fisheries in the late 1800s and early 1900s. American intercoastal steamer traffic exploded after the Panama Canal opened in 1914. West Coast shipyards opened to meet the demands of World Wars I and II.



Above: Historic figure plate. Right: Restored figurehead from the ship *Centennial*.

For a time, a dazzling array of vessels crowded the San Francisco waterfront: great sailing ships, coastal passenger steamers, military craft, and local working boats. One by one these ships became obsolete but nonetheless treasured for their beauty and the stories they told. In 1988 Congress established San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park to protect and preserve America's maritime past.



Left: Full-rigged ship *Balclutha* at Hyde Street Pier. Background: Aquatic Cove viewed from the park's Municipal Pier.

Historic Vessels of Hyde Street Pier

Hyde Street Pier was built in 1922 for automobile ferries between San Francisco and Sausalito. The ferry route was part of US 101 until the Golden Gate Bridge opened in 1937.

Today the pier and several historic vessels moored here are open to visitors. Five vessels—*Alma*, *Balclutha*, *Eureka*, *Hercules*, and *C.A. Thayer*—are designated National Historic Landmarks. The pier also has a variety of maritime structures and exhibits. Welcome aboard!

Alma The last San Francisco Bay scow schooner still afloat, *Alma* is the park's sailing ambassador, welcomed by port cities around the bay. Flat-bottomed scows like this carried bulk cargoes—hay, grain, and fertilizer—between Delta farm communities and San Francisco.

Balclutha Go up this ship's gangway and back into the 1800s. This square-rigger was built in Scotland to haul California wheat to Europe. Crew lived on board for months at a time during the treacherous

voyage around Cape Horn. Compare the sailors' bunks in the forecabin to the captain's quarters aft. Like the rest of the park's fleet, *Balclutha* survived because it kept working after other vessels of its class were scuttled.

C.A. Thayer This schooner is representative of hundreds that sailed the Pacific Coast. In Puget Sound ports, eight-person crews piled the deck high with Douglas fir, the raw material for California's cities in the early 1900s. *Thayer* later

carried small boats and fishing crews to Alaska for salmon and cod.

Eppleton Hall This sturdy little tugboat from England crossed the Atlantic under its own power in 1969. "*Eppie*" recalls the earliest days of steam navigation on the bay.

Eureka Originally built to ferry trains across the bay, this vessel was rebuilt in 1922 to serve passengers and automobiles. Don't miss the classic autos and trucks displayed on the lower deck.

Hercules Imagine a slow trip down the coast, towing a huge log raft and fishing off the stern for your dinner. This workhorse towed big ships out to sea, pushed railroad car barges across the bay, and towed huge lock structures to build the Panama Canal.

Small Craft The park's boat shop restores often-unheralded, everyday craft, like this one, used for work and pleasure on the bay: feluccas, Montereys, and yachts.



Alma: scow schooner; 59 feet; built 1891, San Francisco.



Balclutha: square-rigged ship; 256 feet; built 1886, Glasgow, Scotland.



C.A. Thayer: three-masted schooner; 156 feet; built 1895, Fairhaven, CA.



Eppleton Hall: steel tugboat; 100.5 feet; built 1914, South Shields, England.



Eureka: side-wheel ferry; 299.5 feet; built in 1890 as Ukiah, Tiburon, CA; refitted 1922 as Eureka.



Hercules: steam-powered tugboat; 139 feet; built 1907, Camden, NJ.



Small craft moored on the east side of Hyde Street Pier.



Schoolchildren aboard *Balclutha*. Park rangers lead programs for visitors of all ages.

Research and Collections



Above left: Salmon crew on board *Star of Alaska*, ca. 1920s. **Above right:** The park's research center. **Below:** Steamship brochure, 1880s.



Artifacts, scrapbooks, sailors' crafts, and shipboard machinery tell stories about the men and women who created and used them. Read a sailor's personal journal. Listen to sea chanteys (songs) or an oral history describing a 1906 voyage on the park's lumber schooner *C.A. Thayer*.

The park's museum collection and Maritime Research Center are the nation's premier resources for understanding the Pacific Coast's maritime heritage.

The extensive collection of artifacts, books, oral histories, photographs, vessel plans, documents, and other archival materials is available to the public in Building E at Fort Mason Center. The research center is open by appointment Monday through Friday afternoons; call 415-561-7030.

For information visit www.nps.gov/safr/learn/historyculture/collections.htm.

ALL IMAGES—NPS / TIM CAMPBELL AND STEVE DANFORTH

Plan Your Visit

San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park is served by public transit; call 415-673-MUNI (6864) or visit www.sfmuni.com. Paid parking is nearby. Hours vary seasonally; check the park website for operating hours and ship schedules.

Visitor Center Located in a historic brick warehouse, home of the Argonaut Hotel, the visitor center offers information to help you plan your visit. "The Waterfront" exhibit takes you back in time along old San Francisco's working waterfront. Free.

Accessibility We strive to make facilities, programs, and services accessible to all. For information go to the visitor center, ask a ranger, call, or check the park website.

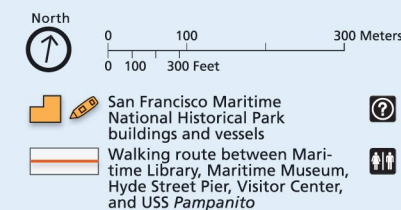
Hyde Street Pier The pier has historic steam and sailing vessels, maritime exhibits, and demonstrations. Admission fee to board vessels.

Maritime Museum in the Aquatic Park Bathhouse Building The museum has changing exhibits on West Coast maritime history. The bathhouse was built in 1939 as a joint project of the City of San Francisco and the Works Progress Administration (WPA). Spectacular WPA murals cover the lobby walls. Free. 415-561-7100.

Aquatic Park Historic District Explore the gardens, waterfront, and Municipal Pier. Watch the cable cars turn around. Visit one of the city's few urban beaches. Spot boats and birds in the bay—and even swimmers in the cove.

Firearms For firearms regulations check the park website or ask at the visitor center.

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More Information San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park Fort Mason Center, Building E San Francisco, CA 94123 415-447-5000 www.nps.gov/safr

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Use the official NPS App to guide your visit.

San Francisco Maritime is one of over 400 parks in the National Park System. Learn more at www.nps.gov.

Visitor center exhibits include a Farallon lighthouse lens (right) and scrimshawed whale's tooth (below).



National Park Foundation. Join the park community. www.nationalparks.org