

Follow along with us as we cruise onboard our  
56' Ocean Yacht.

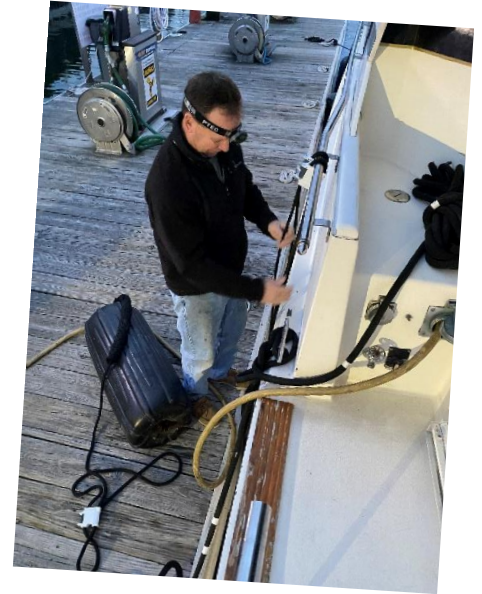
# Somewhere on the Water

December 10, 2021 – Day 4

It sure was dark this morning.  
Calm and quiet. No wind, or current so leaving the  
dock was super easy. Mark was able to change out  
the fender, untie and take off with ease.



Another boat at the marina 'decked out' in holiday spirit!



Leaving Norwalk Harbor, although overcast was  
nice. There was a lot to look at. Several tiny  
islands with homes on them, fishing boats  
heading out for a days work, hunters leaving for  
a morning of duck hunting.



Did not take  
long before we  
heard a gun  
shot in the distance. Hopefully that  
means success for a hunter, too bad for  
the duck though!



About one mile off the coast, in Long Island Sound is the Norwalk Islands. There are more than 25 islands, partly submerged boulders, reefs and mudflats along a six-mile stretch.

The Sheffield Island Lighthouse is an 1868 10-room historic building that can be rented for private events, and you can buy tickets to tour it. [seaport.org](http://seaport.org)



Tavern Island is a private island with a main house, caretaker's cottage and boat house with guest quarters, a teahouse and a mainland garage/cottage and room with parking. (I don't have a photo but it is impressive if you want to check it out [privateislands.com](http://privateislands.com))

In case you want to buy your own private island, you could go to that site and start shopping!

Greens Ledge Light is newer than the Sheffield Island Lighthouse. It was not put into place in the Norwalk Harbor until 1896 due to the increase in commercial traffic in and out of the harbor.

Recently receiving a huge renovation and restoration there are plans to host educational tours and will be (if not already) equipped with environmental monitoring equipment. Lighthousefriends.com has an enormous amount of history on this lighthouse if you are interested.



Today is a short cruising day. Leaving at 7 am and estimating an arrival time of 12 – 1pm into Brooklyn. We are docking at One 15 Brooklyn Marina.

We have to travel through the East River, pass by Kings Point where the US Merchant Maritime Academy is located, Laguardia airport, under the Robert F Kennedy Bridge, the Ed Koch Queensboro Bridge, over the Queens Midtown Tunnel, under a few more bridges including the Brooklyn Bridge.

This morning around 7:45 am we passed by a sail boat just outside the harbor. Guess what!?! They docked just a few slips down from us at the One 15 Brooklyn Marina! Crazy! Right?!



It was about 9:00 a.m. when the manhattan skyline came into view. It was a long way away but boy did our adrenaline spike and the excitement level was high!

By 10:48 we were cruising under the Bronx-White Stone Bridge with La Guardia Airport on our left. The planes were so low, creating an enormous rumble over our heads. The planes were taking off and landing within what felt like seconds apart.



In recent months, Rikers has been plagued by **staff shortages linked to absenteeism**. The 413-acre jail compound in the East River has been plagued by gangs, drugs and violence for decades and has suffered from mismanagement and neglect worsened by the pandemic and the severe staffing crisis. Nov 8, 2021

After LaGuardia Airport was Rikers Island. Many of us know that this island is famous for the prison that is located on it. I Googled it for fun and what you see on the left is what I read to the kids as we cruised by.

I offered to let them disembark, but they declined. 😊



Plenty of vessels of all sizes traveling through the East River in and out of New York's harbors.

We travelled North of the tiny North Brother Island on advice from Mark's fellow boaters rather than follow the ferry lane in between North & South Brother Island. It is a narrow passage

totally doable but not when meeting a high speed ferry and other pleasure boaters.

We passed under Hell Gate Bridge through Hell Gate which is a narrow tidal straight in the East River where the current can reach flows up to 5+knots. We took video. The bridge itself is a railroad bridge.



The Roosevelt Island Tramway is so cool I never heard of this before. It spans the East River travels at approximately 16 mph. Connects North Brooklyn to Manhattan. It opened in 1976 and is the first aerial tramway in North America.



Roosevelt Island is on our left. Passing by this 2-mile island only 800 feet wide we saw hospitals, Blackwell Island Lighthouse, the FDR Four Freedoms State Park and the Rendwick Ruins, aka The Small Pox Hospital. Opened in 1856 and now abandoned and fallen into ruin.

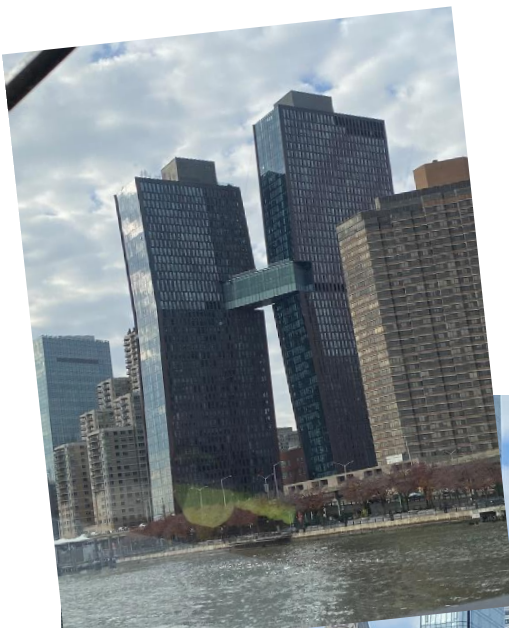


This island at one time named Blackwell's Island is home to FDR's Four Freedoms State Park which is named in honor of the Four Freedoms that were goals he articulated in his 1941 State of the Union address.

1. Freedom of Speech and expression
2. Freedom of Worship
3. Freedom from Want
4. Freedom from Fear

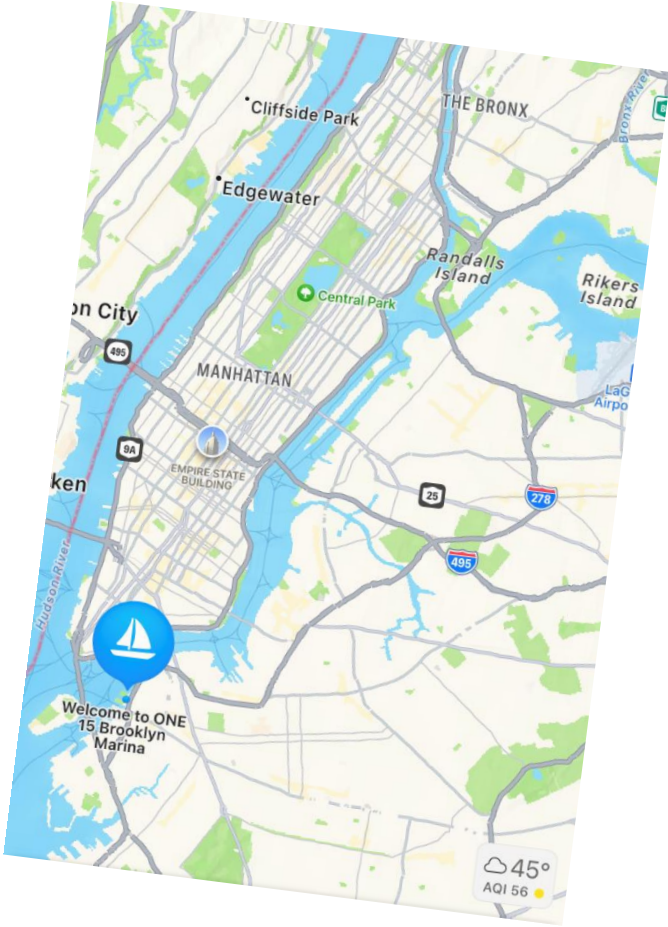
Wikipedia.com

As we traveled the East River with The Roosevelt Island on our left and Manhattan on our right our heads were spinning to take in all the sights we could. Passing the Chrysler Building, The United Nations Headquarters, tall skyscrapers that looked cool but we did not know the names of, the empire state building, and at last, the icing on the cake that we were so excited to see (because we did not get to see her in 2019 when we came to NYC to see Macy's Day Thanksgiving Parade); The Statue of Liberty!!





When I sent this photo to my family, my sister-in-law shared that “She was gracious enough to pass my grandfather into the US back in 1919.” Pretty awesome!







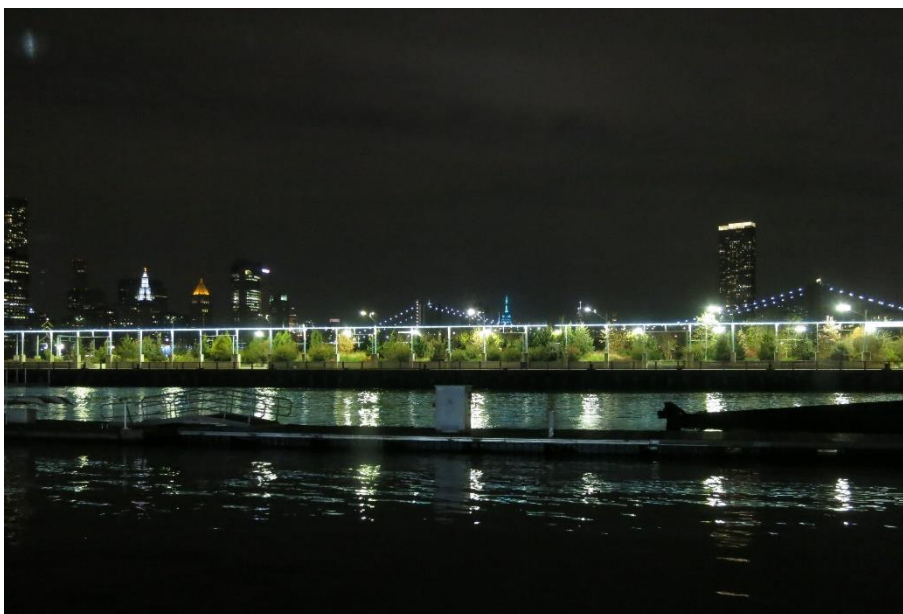
This is our view from the dock at the marina towards the Statue of Liberty.



We settled in at the marina, took in the view and marveled at how amazing the skyline looks and how blessed we were to get that close to the Statue. Dinner on the boat was the decision. Turned out to be the correct one because weren't we shocked when fireworks went off over Lady Liberty this evening. We just could not believe our luck as we had no idea to expect anything like that. Wow, just wow.

We have video. [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZWv\\_VrciLWU](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZWv_VrciLWU)  
Play it with the sound off because all we do is yell for Haleigh the whole time. Hahahahah

We went to bed this evening high on life. Looking forward to going into Manhattan tomorrow.



It is a shame that I have to sip wine, watch Jordan play cards with her nana and stare at this beautiful view.

My heart is overflowing with gratitude.