

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

Somewhere on the Water

Update Winter Cruise 2023-2024

Day 9 – December 9, 2023 – Chincoteague Island, VA

It is Saturday so I do not have to work which means we can get off the boat and explore. But first...

About last night:

So much fun!!! Last night we went to the Ropewalk Restaurant. We planned to be there during happy hour. Here we discovered the Crush. . A Crush is vodka-based and comes in many different flavors. We also learned, what a “rail” drink is. Right off the bat, we had a decent guess. Rail drinks are the same as “well drinks.”

Well drinks, also known as “rail drinks,” are mixed drinks made of one or more liquors and a combination of soft drinks. Rum and coke is an example of a popular well drink. What differentiates well drinks from other cocktails is that they're made with the bar's cheapest liquor. (Google)

I ordered a Crush at the Ropewalk. It was tasty but too sweet for me to have more than one. I went back to my failsafe which = wine. Happy hour included ½ priced chicken wings and ½ priced fried pickles. Now how on earth could I turn down a chance to have a fried pickle? I couldn't! And...the wings came with several flavor choices, one being OldBay. So yes! Of course, give us an order of those! Super delicious.

OldBay Seasoning was created in Baltimore, MD just 170 miles from Chincoteague.

What else does this happy hour include you ask???

\$1.00 oysters. Mark had a dozen. Me – no as far as I am concerned he had 12 snotty boogers for dinner. We had a big laugh over my picking on him about it.

Like just about everyone these days I had to take a photo and when I did the lady across the bar photobombed me! It was adorable. An instant conversation starter. Turns out that she, her husband, and her 20-something son had just moved to the area 2 months and 9 days ago from Florida where he retired from the National Park Service. Another we spoke to has lived here his entire life.



After happy hour Mark and I were ready to try somewhere else. It was suggested we try Don's and that the bar was upstairs. Off we went. If we had walked into Don's we would never have known there was a bar upstairs. The hostess was quick to greet us and when we asked she happily pointed us in the right direction. Off-season, on a Friday night we had no trouble finding two empty stools at the bar. It took no time at all for us to spark a conversation with the woman next to us. She was an off-duty manager here at the restaurant. She was a delight! We talked about many things including local knowledge, you know, the who what where. Plus we talked about the area and the challenges that face a seasonal tourist destination. All are very similar to what Cape Cod and surrounding areas are facing. Housing is a huge issue thanks to the popularity of Airbnb-style renting.

Tonight is the night of our boat friend, Melissa's annual Christmas party. We were bummed we could not attend. Not bummed to be back in Massachusetts after enjoying a 52-degree day here on Chincoteague Island, but super bummed because we are missing a fun time with friends. It is a good feeling when you know you are being thought of. Receiving a photo text of a bucket of nips that was at the party. Our new friend here

at the bar did not know what a “nip” was so we showed her the photo and decided a round of shots was on us! Peanut Butter whisky of course!

FaceTime time!!! Our friends FaceTimed us during the party and we were so excited! We could NOT hear anything that anyone was saying during the call nor could they hear anything we were saying! We were blowing kisses, waving, and laughing our way through it right in the middle of the bar. We did eventually move away from our seats to a hallway realizing we were probably disrupting everyone's time. What a cheer-me-up moment! Love you all, thanks for that!!



There was a soloist at Don's. Sang a lot of Jimmy Buffet, John Denver, and a favorite of everyone's everywhere, Neil Diamond's "Sweet Caroline." The bar parishioners (about 30 of us all together) sang it out loud.

After a couple more shots and a delicious order of crab balls, we called it an evening. We were home and in bed by 11 pm.



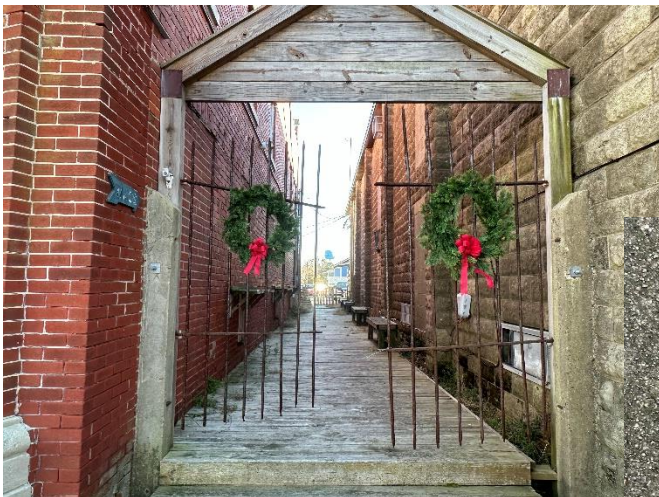
So, it is Saturday, and we are off to explore Chincoteague.

Two things come to my mind when I think of Chincoteague.

1. Misty
2. Ponies

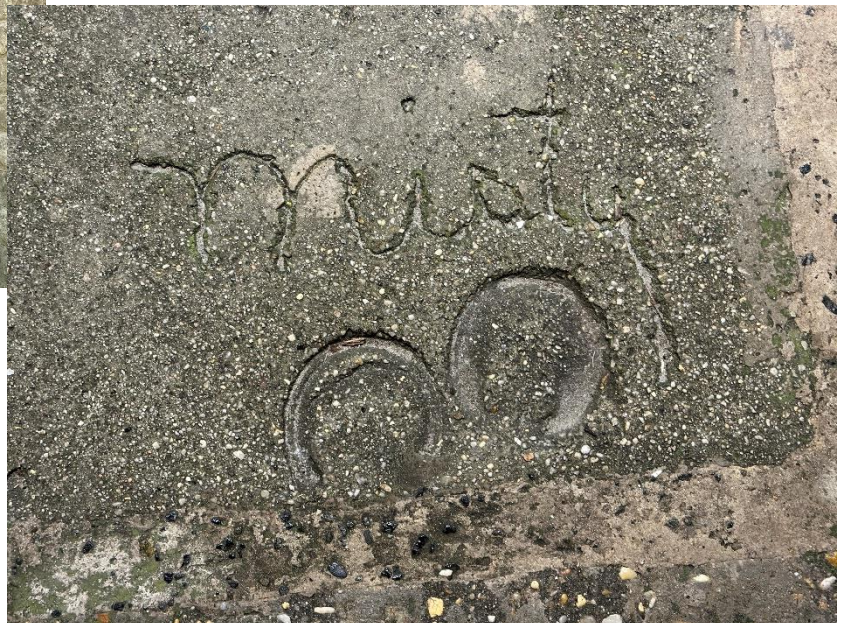
We did not go out to the national park where the ponies are. We did not have a car, there were no Ubers on the island and it was a several-mile walk just to get there. Once you arrive at the park entrance there is still a lot of walking to where you might see ponies. Two years ago we were here at Robert Reed Park and we did this trek and brought our rollerblades. I was a good sport for the day, but never again. It had been years since I had been on rollerblades so that added another element of challenge to the day above and beyond the miles walked.

Chincoteague is 7 miles long. Main Street runs almost the entirety of the Island. Throughout a couple of days, we walked all of Main Street but for today, we did a 3-mile loop of downtown Main Street to Maddox Blvd, to Pension Street, Church Street, and back to Main. Maddox Blvd is an extension of the causeway bridge that connects the island to the mainland. You can find a lot of restaurants, hotels, and shops on this road.



Main street.

Misty's hoof prints in front of the Theater.



Little bit of trivia:

Chincoteague Island gained national fame in 1961 when Twentieth Century Fox premiered the movie *Misty of Chincoteague*. The movie was based on author Marguerite Henry's award-winning children's book *Misty of Chincoteague*, which she wrote in 1947 while staying at Miss Molly's Inn on Chincoteague Island. The book and movie helped to forever transform Chincoteague Island from a tiny fishing village into a world-class tourist destination.

Two herds of wild horses make their home on Assateague Island, separated by a fence at the Maryland-Virginia line. The Maryland herd is managed by the National Park Service. The Virginia herd is owned by the Chincoteague Volunteer Fire Company. Each year the Chincoteague Volunteer Fire Company purchases a grazing permit from the National Fish & Wildlife Service. This permit allows the Fire Company to maintain a herd of approximately 150 adult ponies on Assateague Island. The Fire Company controls the herd size with a pony auction on the last Thursday in July. Each year tens of thousands of spectators come to watch the Saltwater Cowboys swim the pony herd from Assateague Island to Chincoteague Island. For more information about the annual Pony Swim please visit our [*Pony Swim Guide*](#).

These small but sturdy, shaggy horses have adapted to their environment over the years by eating dune and marsh grasses and drinking fresh water from ponds. While they appear tame, they are wild, and Park Rangers urge visitors not to feed or pet them.

<https://www.chincoteague.com/ponies.html>

The stores on Main Street are mom & pops. No chain stores here. Some chain hotels have made it into the area but for the most part, this is small-town America with local owned businesses.

We were surprised that there were so many open since it is the off-season, however, for the 3,200 (approximately) that live here year-round, these are the stores that they shop at. Yes, they can travel the 4.3-mile causeway bridge to the mainland however, not all residents have the means to do so, or desire. The main street is quiet but there are a few shoppers here and there.

Off Main Street, on Maddox Blvd, there is a McDonalds and a Dollar General. On our walk, we did not see any other chains, except hotel chains, but we did not walk the entire Maddox Blvd.

I did try to video our walk on Main St. however I was easily distracted. When you watch it you will see that it really is not that good but gives you a general idea of what Main St. looks like.

After our walk, we decided to have dinner onboard the boat and then watch the 7:00 pm movie at the movie theater. It was \$24 for 2 tickets and a bucket of popcorn. The movie was good. *The Man Who Invented Christmas*. I recommend it.



The Chincoteague Island Arts Organization is very proud of the theater and the renovations that were completed. You can get information on the theater and its history and click a link to their YouTube video here: <https://chincoteagueislandarts.com/about-u>

Across the street from the theater is Don's. Tonight the bartender, Josh is playing guitar so we headed over there to hear, and of course had a cocktail, or two. What we realized last night was that the bar is called Chatties and there is a separate entrance on the side of the building so you do not have to go through Don's restaurant to gain access. The restaurant is just across from the park where the boat is. Easy walk home!

Stay
tuned



Today's link: <https://youtu.be/mFx3dFSxHUw>

Time is unrenewable and tomorrow is never promised so do it before you can't!