

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

# Somewhere on the Water

Update Winter Cruise 2023-2024

Day 83 – Wednesday, February 21, 2024 anchorage, Sandy Hook, NJ to anchorage, Liberty Park, NJ

8:15 am – Started generator

We slept in this morning after a 14-hour cruising day yesterday. We are at anchor in Sandy Hook, NJ near a ferry lane. I felt the first wake from a ferry at 5:30 am. After each ferry passing we would get rocked around but then had no trouble falling back asleep. I did not get up until I heard the generator. Our room was 55 degrees.

It is 33 degrees outside and cloudy

Mark spied a seal, there was snow on the ground, and through the binoculars, we see a huge bird nest on top of a tower with its owner perched on it. Osprey is our guess. Mark is calling around for fuel prices and to see what marinas between here and Connecticut are open and can accommodate us. The first quote he got was over \$5 per gallon. (We paid \$3.90 in Chesapeake)

When marinas fill their fuel tanks many may have that fuel for several months and they price it at their cost + markup. Other marinas & shipyards may purchase fuel more frequently so they sell at a daily rate + markup. It is always good to call every day to see what the fluctuation is.

*Little bit of Trivia:*

First lit on June 11, 1764, the **Sandy Hook Light** is the oldest surviving lighthouse in what is now the United States. Financed by a lottery, it was built by the Colony of New York to keep ships safe as they passed by Sandy Hook on their way to and from New York Harbor. Mar 18, 2024 Google

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Coast Guard Station Sandy is a \$54-million facility that re-opened in 2018 after being devastated by Hurricane Sandy in 2012.

Officers Row at Fort Hancock unfortunately has not received much in the way of refurbishment since the damage done by Hurricane Sandy as well as years of abandonment. Fort Hancock, a coastal defense fort dating back to 1895 is open for walking tours. You can pick up a map at the Sandy Hook Visitor Center. Plan approximately 4 miles worth of walking.

<https://npplan.com/parks-by-state/new-york-national-parks/gateway-national-recreation-area-park-at-a-glance/gateway-national-recreation-area-military-sites/gateway-national-recreation-area-military-sites-at-sandy-hook/gateway-national-recreation-area-fort-hancock-sandy-hook-unit/>



You can see the lighthouse in this photo. The Coast Guard station is off this picture but would be located to the left of where this is.

11:40 am – Started engines

Mark registered us on AIS and we found ourselves on the [marinetraffic.org](http://marinetraffic.org) site. Pretty cool! Previously we were able to see marine traffic on the AIS app but until today we had not registered so that other marine vehicles could identify us.

The automatic identification system, or AIS, transmits a ship's position so that other ships are aware of its position. The International Maritime Organization and other management bodies require large ships, including many commercial fishing vessels, to broadcast their position with AIS in order to avoid collisions.-Google

We decided to cruise around Staten Island today before dropping anchor next to the Statue of Liberty for the night. Staten Island is the southernmost of NYC's 5 boroughs.

After a slow go through the channel, we did not see our first “site” until about 1 pm. The Princess Bay Light

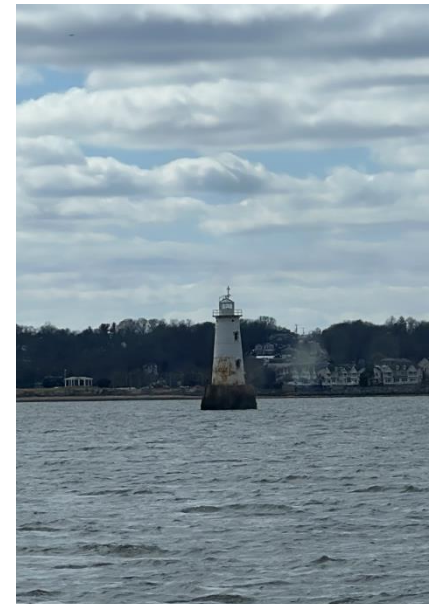
The Prince's Bay Light is an active lighthouse on the highest point of the southern shoreline of Staten Island, New York, in the Pleasant Plains neighborhood. It is situated on an 85-foot bluff overlooking Raritan Bay with an attached brownstone cottage which served as the lightkeeper's house. [Wikipedia](#)

Shortly after passing the Princess Bay Light, we cruised by Great Beds Lighthouse.



Named **Great Beds Lighthouse** after the oyster beds on which it stands, the tower is composed of five iron sections and has a height of forty-two feet. <https://www.lighthousefriends.com/light.asp?ID=656>

1:15 pm – Ward's Point, the southernmost point of New York State, and as we round the bend of Ward Point we went by the westernmost point of NYC



2:00 pm – cruised by the Staten Island Boat Graveyard



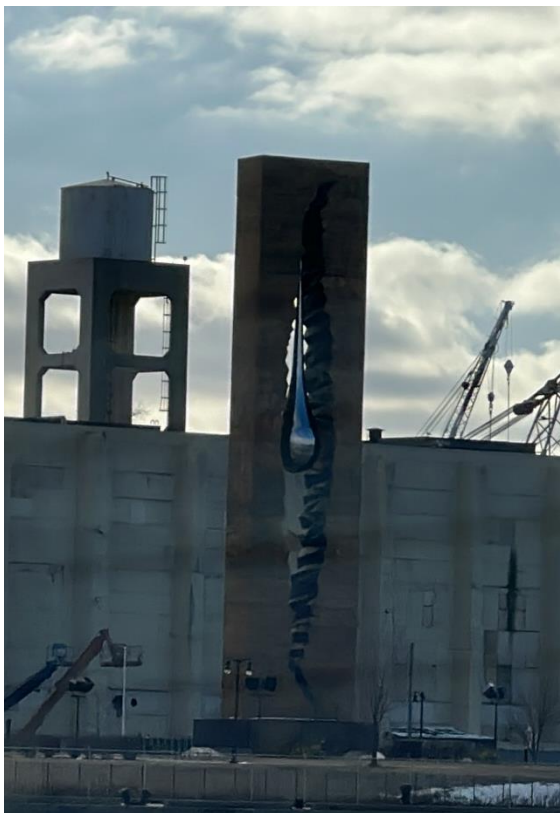
Staten Island's Arthur Kill boat graveyard was born in the wake of World War II, when [Witte Marine Equipment Company](#) opened its arms to abandoned ships with the goal of dismantling them and selling their broken-down bodies for scrap. The boats accumulated faster than the company could dismantle

them, and so they sit in the muck and the mire, a playground of nautical history. <https://ny.curbed.com/2018/6/21/17124140/staten-island-new-york-arthur-kill-boat-graveyard-photos>

The boat graveyard was depressing, and rather worrisome thinking that all that metal and debris was just sitting and rotting in the waterway, but at the same time, it was fascinating to consider the age of these vessels and how they have warped and decayed. Many species have probably made their underwater homes within some of these relics but no matter what I think, this site will probably remain indefinitely. Feel free to grab a kayak and get a closer look than we did.



The rest of the cruise around the island was ok. It wasn't pretty, it was commercially crowded, and the cloudy skies made everything appear dull and drab. Taking the extra time to make the trip around the island was worth it just to satisfy our curiosity but not something we will repeat.

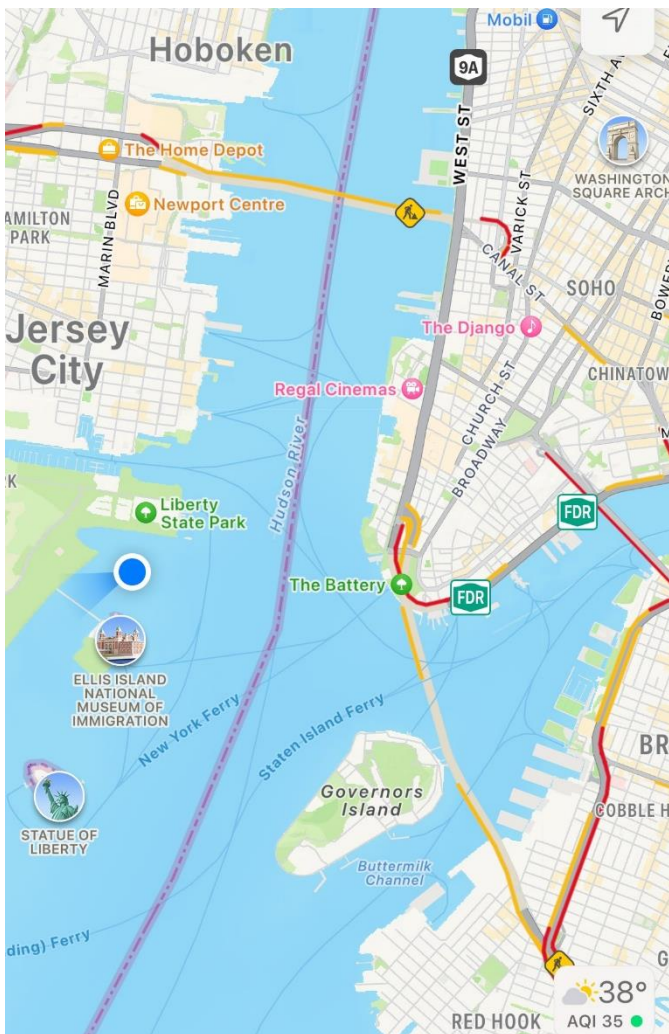
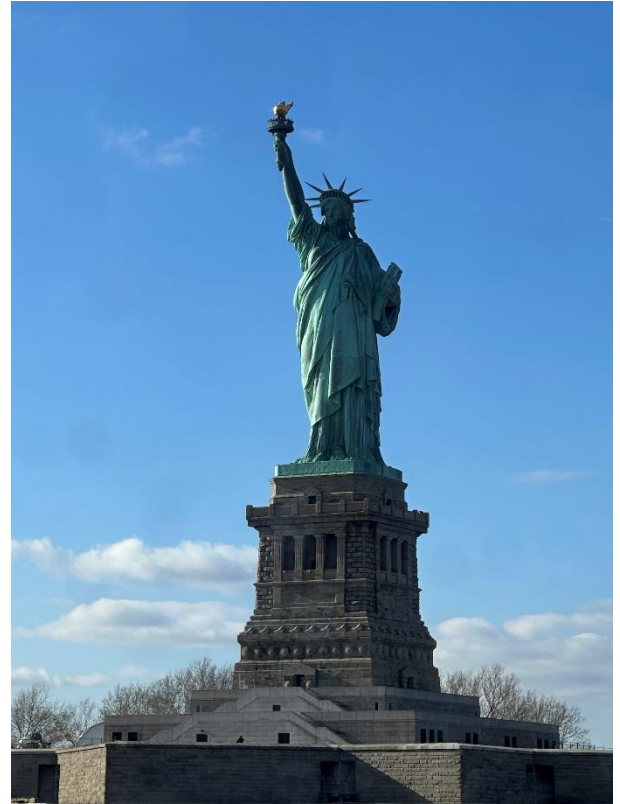


I had no idea that this memorial existed and I am so glad we were able to see it and learn about it.

The "To the Struggle Against World Terrorism" or "Teardrop Memorial" is a powerful and moving tribute to the victims of the September 11, 2001 attacks on the World Trade Center. Located in Hudson County, New Jersey, the memorial was gifted by Russia in 2006 as a symbol of international solidarity in the face of terrorism. The massive teardrop hanging between two jagged edges is a poignant reminder of the heartache caused by terrorism, and for those standing in the right spot, the memorial creates the illusion of the Twin Towers standing just across the river in Manhattan. <https://www.visithudson.org/things-to-do/attractions/tear-drop-memorial/>

I never tire of this beauty. She is fantastic. One of these days we will visit and climb the 354 steps up inside the crown but that will not be this trip.

"The Statue of Liberty Enlightening the World" was a gift of friendship from the people of France to the United States and is recognized as a universal symbol of freedom and democracy. The Statue of Liberty was dedicated on October 28, 1886. It was designated as a National Monument in 1924. Employees of the National Park Service have been caring for the colossal copper statue since 1933. <https://www.nps.gov/stli/index.htm>



3:45 pm – dropped the anchor and engines off

It is 38 degrees, partly cloudy.  
4-hour cruise around Staten Island

Anchored between Ellis Island and Liberty State Park, Jersey City overlooking lower Manhattan.



Our view for the night! Not bad, right?!



Stay  
tuned



<https://youtu.be/bMpaxNDHB5w>

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