

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

# *Somewhere on the Water*

Update Winter Cruise 2023-2024

Day 85 – Friday, February 23, 2024 Liberty Park Anchorage to anchorage off City Island, Bronx, NY

6:35 am – Generator started

6:45 am – Engines started

7:05 am – Departed. The anchor came up slow. It was covered in mud! 63 degrees in the salon this morning after the heat had been on for 30 minutes. Last night was cold in our room. It was the first time that I felt the cold on the sheets when changing sleep positions that made me wince a little bit.

We are cruising the East River today with Manhattan on our port side and Brooklyn on our starboard side. Avoiding ferry traffic this morning will be tricky. The ferries follow their own “rules of the road” and pleasure boaters are better off staying out of their way.

It is 39 degrees and foggy. The fog combined our our salt laden windows made photography difficult.

The goal was to travel with the current this morning. We were pushing against the current back in December and at 4 knots the East River took hours to get through. This morning we got up to 12 knots with the current. Hell Gate didn't disappoint with its forceful current in full swing per usual.





Mark has a MMA alumni that lives and works in the area that we are anchoring tonight. He texted with him last night to let him know we were in the area and was in receipt of some good local knowledge when it came to anchoring. Thanks for the help!

9:35 a,m (2 ½ hours after departure)

We anchored next to City Island and Rodman's Neck.

There is a gun firing range on Rodman's Neck. We can hear the guns.

Rodmans Neck:

The southern third of the peninsula is used as a **firing range** by the New York **City** Police Department; the remaining wooded section is part of Pelham Bay Park.-google

All along the coast of Rodmans Neck there is a ton of boats crashed up on shore, boat debris everywhere. A boat getto is what Mark called it.

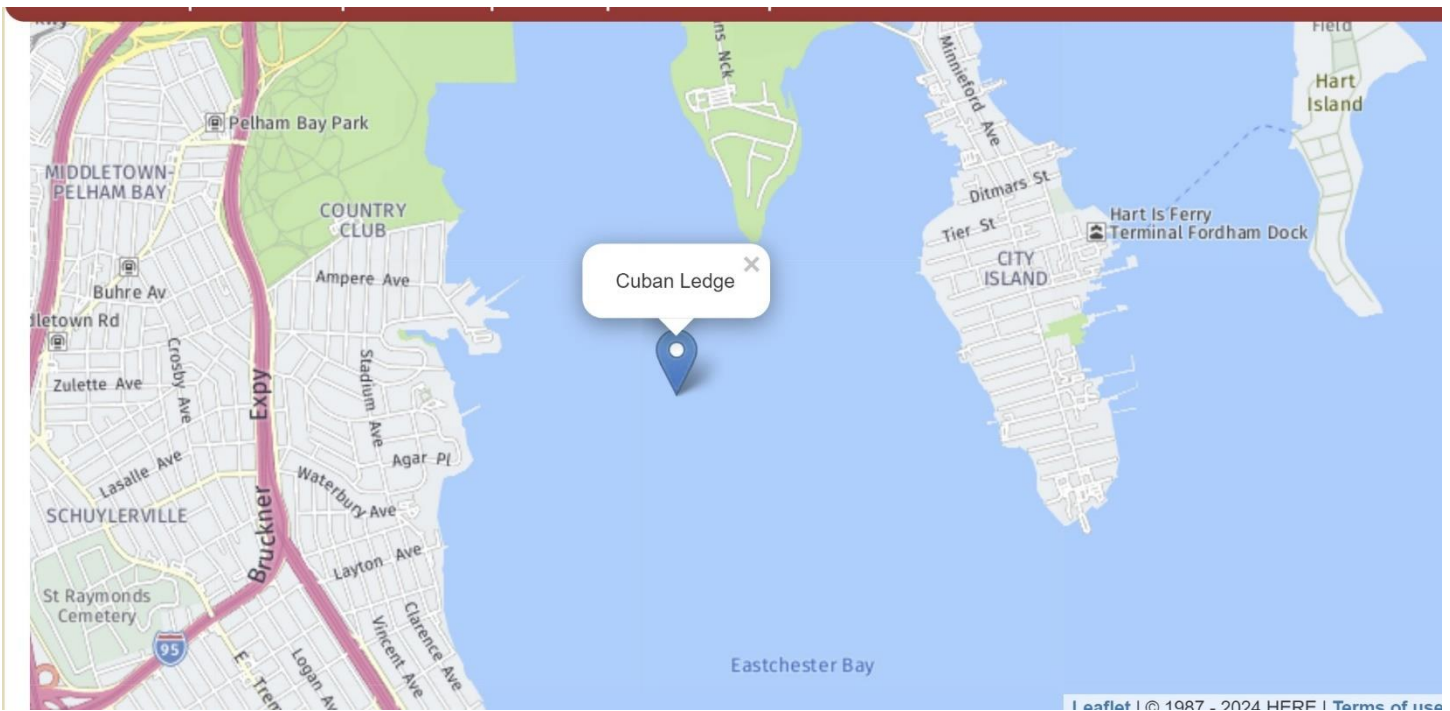
11:35 am – The anchor alarm went off. Mark reacted “It's probably because the Coast Guard just went barreling by us” lol

Mark is still calling around for transient slips for us to dock upon our return to MA.

We are anchored off City Island near Cuban Ledge in the Eastchester Bay:

"According to some accounts, it was formed in 1898 when sailors dumped cargo rocks overboard from a ship that was abandoned when its crew left for Cuba to fight in the Spanish–American War. Another version of the story indicates that it was created when a large barge carrying sand and gravel ran aground on a shoal. A salvage crew was mounted there and the barge was rescued, but much of the sand and gravel it was carrying needed to be removed in order to aid the rescue. The workers dumped the sand and rock overboard to get the barge off the shoal, thus forming the reef. One story of its name stipulates that a ship by the name of *Cuban Lady* ran aground on the reef in the 1880s. Other theories suggest that the ledge resembles the outline of the island of Cuba."

Source: "[Cuban Ledge](#)" in Wikipedia --



**Eastchester Bay** is a sound between City Island and the mainland Bronx in New York City, New York.<sup>[1]</sup> Technically, it is not a bay, since it is open to larger bodies of water at both ends. The northern end connects via a narrow channel to Pelham Bay (which is also really a sound, since it, in turn, opens onto Long Island Sound). The Hutchinson River empties into Eastchester Bay near the northern end. The lower portion of the bay opens onto the East River, Little Neck Bay, and Long Island Sound.<sup>[2]</sup> Eastchester Bay is designated an Essential Fish Habitat by the National Marine Fisheries Service.<sup>[3]</sup>-Wikipedia

You don't need a ferry to get to City Island, the small island east of the Bronx mainland, but it might help if you have a car, or don't mind riding the bus. Once you cross the bridge into City Island you will feel a million miles from anything you know of as New York City. The atmosphere is ripe for a Cape Cod movie set: shingled storefronts, high-steepled churches, restaurants named after big-game fish and more. Longer than it is wide, City Island is so narrow in places (.5 miles) that occasionally you can see across to water in both directions. Dozens of movies and television shows have also used City Island as their backdrop. First, the house featured in both 1962's "Long Day's Journey Into Night" starring Katharine Hepburn, and [Wes Anderson's, "The Royal Tenenbaums"](#) is located at the end of Tier Street just west of William Avenue. This house includes a whale weathervane and a wraparound porch overlooking Eastchester Bay and Pelham Bay Park. Next, look up the City Island Diner featured in "Solitary Man," "An Invisible Sign," and Jerry Seinfeld's YouTube series: "Comedians in Cars Getting Coffee." <https://untappedcities.com/2014/06/10/city-island-the-closest-little-island-you-didnt-know-about/>

The Chimney Sweep Islands and High Island, formations far more foreboding and obscure, lie just beneath City Island's nose. Or, at least, just across Pelham Bay. These are a part of a group of 20 islands situated within the borders of Bronx County known as the "Devil's Stepping Stones." With a history of waxing and waning fortunes, they have provided both key landmarks for sailors during the 18th century and have hosted [lunatic asylums](#).

As with much of the New York area's etymology, the island group's [namesake](#) harkens back to Native American origins. According to folklore, the "Devil's Stepping Stones" are believed to have been formed during a skirmish between a local tribe and the Devil. Every time the Devil set his foot down into the water, a small landmass emerged. Regardless of the accuracy of such tales, the names are indicative of the barren nature of these uninhabited land formations, most of which are composed entirely of bedrock and are devoid of any discernible vegetation.

It is no surprise then that the Chimney Sweep Islands, whose name was probably derived from the fact that they look like chimney sweep tools, have never been inhabited by humans. Rather, flocks of seagulls and blue heron have long called them home, <https://untappedcities.com/2014/06/18/abandoned-nyc-chimney-sweeps-island-high-island-of-the-devils-stepping-stones-in-the-bronx/>

Even so, there are some "notable" people buried at Hart Island, discovered after. Bobby Driscoll, the Disney child actor is buried there. He was the voice of Peter Pan in the animated film and starred in Disney's Song of the South. He died unknown, thought to be homeless, so was taken here. The grave of the first child to die of AIDS is also on Hart Island.

The history of Hart Island dates back to the mid-1800s, and reveals an intriguing past that extends far beyond the island's current purpose as a public burial ground. Like [North Brother Island](#) and [Rikers Island](#), Hart Island was often associated with society's "unwanted." The strip of land was first used as a prison camp for Confederate soldiers during the Civil War. After the war, New York City purchased the island in 1869 and began using it as a cemetery; right after the first civilian burial of Louisa Van Slyke took place. From the time of the Civil War until World War II, other uses for the island included:

- A prison workhouse for delinquent boys
- A [women's insane asylum](#)
- An isolation zone during the yellow fever epidemic
- A old men's home
- A tuberculosis hospital
- A reformatory

From the 1990's until now, Hart Island is an area purely dedicated to burials. Inmates from Rikers Island are ferried over on weekdays to perform the burials, disinterments and maintenance tasks. Every year, an average of 2000 burials are conducted, and about one third of them are infants and stillborn babies. Despite the island being a [public burial ground](#), the Department of Correction has prohibited people from accessing Hart Island, with the exception of family members of those buried in the cemetery. But even so, families of the deceased are overwhelmed with red tape when attempting to arrange a visit.

<https://untappedcities.com/2013/07/22/abandoned-hart-island-new-york-citys-mass-burial-ground/>

2:30 pm – Started generator, turned the heat on and started the water maker. It was about 64 degrees in the salon and we are down to just about ¼ tank of fresh water.

This area has an approximate 8-foot tide which changes based on the moon cycle. 8-foot tide is a big tide change.

Another leftover night. I have got to start cutting some of these skillet recipes in half. I was on the phone with my brother and sister-in-law for 2 ½ hours tonight. Wowza.



Stay  
tuned



[https://youtu.be/CgnG\\_YsxEjU](https://youtu.be/CgnG_YsxEjU)

Time is unrenegable and tomorrow is never promised so do it before you can't.

