

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

Somewhere on the Water

Update Winter Cruise 2023-2024

Day 87 – Sunday, February 25, 2024 Milford, CT anchorage to anchorage....

7:30 am – Started Generator

7:35 am – Started Engines

By 8:00 am Mark had hoisted the anchor and left the Milford anchorage. I was only just coming up from our cabin about that time. We anticipated cruising the Long Island Sound for approximately 6 hours today.

The heat has been on for ½ hour and it has warmed up to 58 degrees in the salon. Last night the outside temperature dropped to 15 degrees. Windchill of 11. The salon was the coldest area of the boat this morning at 42 degrees. Our room was about 58 degrees when Mark got up.

We passed New Haven, CT and Lighthouse Point. The beacon of the lighthouse at New Haven Lighthouse Point is dark. It had a short 73 year life of shining its light over the sound. The park where it sits is open to the public has a carousel, pavilion, and a splash pad. The carousel was built in 1916. It has 69 horses, one camel and two dragon chariots. <https://visitnewhaven.com/places/lighthouse-point-park-carousel/>

The sound is so calm today. We are 2-hours into today's cruise and it is flat calm. The water temperature is hovering at 42 degrees. Our forward HVAC system does not like to run on these cold temperatures so Mark shut that off. The salon has warmed to 68 degrees and climbing.



10:00 am - We are about to pass Faulkner Island

Falkner Island, a five-acre island off the coast of Guilford, has the largest nesting tern colony in Connecticut. -Audobon Society.

Built in 1802, **Faulkner's Island** Lighthouse is Connecticut's second oldest lighthouse tower and is the only active light station on an island in the state. <https://visitguilfordct.com/history/faulkners-island-lighthouse/>

Long Island Sound is a marine sound and tidal estuary of the Atlantic Ocean. It lies predominantly between the U.S. state of Connecticut to the north and Long Island in New York to the south

Why was Long Island Sound called the Devil's Belt?

Both the Indian legend about the devil and the dangers faced by mariners on Long Island Sound have been given as explanations of why some colonial-era maps called the Sound "The Devil's Belt."

Long Island Sound's 1,300 square miles of surface area, with an average depth of 65 feet, contains about 67 billion tons of water.

Long Island Sound is an estuary, a place where saltwater from the ocean mixes with fresh water from rivers draining from the land. Estuaries are among the most productive ecosystems on Earth. They serve as feeding, breeding, and nursery areas for many species that spend most of their adult lives in the ocean. Our estuary is home to more than 1,200 species of invertebrates, 170 species of fish, and dozens of species of migratory birds live at least part of the year.

<https://longislandsoundstudy.net/about-the-sound/what-makes-it-special/>

1:55 pm We are anchored off Fishers Island. A beautiful view of some amazing homes. We should be very well protected from the wind. We had a great cruise today. Saw some ferries, a few lighthouses, a few birds, and not much else. In the last few minutes of our cruise, Mark pushed Valkyrie RPMs and we cruised at 13 knots. Dusting out the cobwebs-as he likes to say, every time he does it.



our starboard side. Very cool. Just a tad bit too far for my camera.

It is a sunny 38 degrees with an 8 mph wind. We are surrounded by seals. There are about 50 or so that are hanging on the rocks

It was nice enough for us to enjoy a couple of hours on the fly bridge. Cocktails and music are a great way to enjoy a Sunday afternoon on board Valkyrie. We have had two good days on Long Island Sound and are just getting closer and closer to the end of our winter cruise.

Dinner consisted of meatball subs, salad, and zucchini



A couple of fun coasters Mark received in his Christmas stocking



Since we had no neighbors we of course blasted the music and had ourselves a dance party.

Day 88 – Monday, February 26, 2024 Anchored off Fishers Island, NY

It is a gray, cloudy day about 36 degrees

We are rolling around here at the anchorage. The winds are strong which is pushing the boat. There are no boats, ships, or ferries in the area to create wakes. The 15 mph winds with 22 mph gusts could be developing swells in the sound.

The seals went out for breakfast and returned to their rocks around 10 am just as the rain started. I can still see several seals swimming and splashing around which is fun to watch. Most of the seals are nicely camouflaged and hard to decipher which is a seal and which is a rock from this distance.

We found out that the marina that we were hoping to stay at Tuesday – Friday is closed for February and March. Mark is now trying to find us an alternative. We need to duck out of the upcoming weather.

11:30 am – A small boat came into this small harbor and looked to take several water samples.



The rain was quick to come and go and now it looks like the clouds are clearing and the day is getting a bit brighter.

Mark cleaned the front windows, made arrangements for us in Newport, RI for the next few nights and then we spent the afternoon on the flybridge which was the warmest place on the boat.

The seals have been very entertaining.

They are on the rocks and swimming about. I swear!

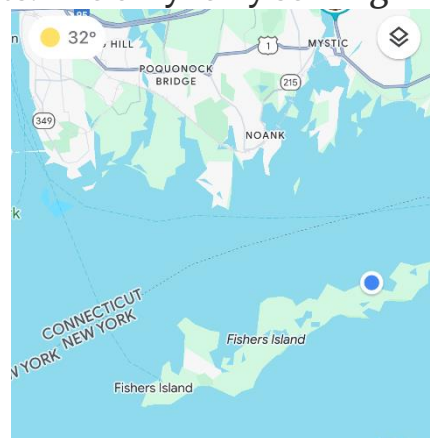


Fishers Island, nine-miles long and one-mile-wide, is located on the eastern end of Long Island Sound. It is just two miles south of Connecticut, but 11 miles from the North Fork of Long Island. The long-term dispute between Connecticut and New York as to who owned the Island was settled in 1998 by a joint commission, with the Island being deemed New York territory. Fishers Island is home to nesting pairs of double-crested cormorant, herring gull, and greater black-backed gull, with rookeries right off the coast of the island. The New York Natural Heritage Program has documented several rare plant species on the island, and the Stewardship Area holds a valuable marine habitat as well. The surrounding waters are known for their eelgrass beds, which stretch over 194 acres and provide habitat for aquatic shellfish such as bay scallops, finfish, and crustacean species.

<https://longislandsoundstudy.net/2012/07/fishers-island-coastline/>

The remote community is home to a mere 250 year-round residents. The only ferry serving Fishers Island operates out of New London, Conn., nearly a three hour's drive or Amtrak train ride from Manhattan.

Though only publicly accessible from Connecticut via ferry, Fishers Island actually belongs to New York State. It is part of the town of Southold in Suffolk County on Long Island. Although its core population is tiny, that number swells to well over 2,000 during peak summer weekends as throngs disembark on the island from Connecticut.



Fishers' history as an exclusive summer sanctuary dates back a century to when it housed properties owned by names such as du Pont, Whitney, Roosevelt and Luce. These days the island is still inhabited by residents who like their privacy, which is underscored by its striking lack of development — though more recent summer visitors have included folks like Porter Goss, a former CIA director, and author Rick Moody, who wrote "The Ice Storm." <https://nypost.com/2017/06/28/the-secret-new-york-island-you-need-to-buy-into/>

Dinner was lemon chicken w/yellow squash & zucchini



Stay
tuned



https://youtu.be/7J0Q2_of10
<https://youtu.be/p0LQcbN2IA0>

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