

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

Somewhere on the Water

Our Great Loop

Clayton, NY, anchorage to Picton Island, South anchorage

Thursday, June 26, 2025

Day 30 (17th day of cruising)

Welcome! Glad to have you here!

6:15 am, the engines started, and Mark moved us from the Clayton, NY, anchorage to Picton Island. The anchor began to drag, so he decided the safest thing to do was to move. By 7:15 am, the engines were off, and we are now anchored in a small cove next to Picton Island.



No video of that cruise

Mark tightened up the starboard side rudder stuffing box. It was mostly a maintenance thing to prevent what minor “weeping” of water there was.

He then tried to clean off the leftover scum on the fenders from the lock walls and off the side of the boat where the fenders were.

I worked on videos all day and work calls. My work has been busy, thanks to the heat wave and a lot of emergency calls, such as no hot water and gas leaks.

Dinner was hot dogs and sweet potato salad.



Daily Summary:

Departed from Clayton, NY @: 6:15 am

Arrived at Picton Island South anchorage @ 7:06 am

Hours traveled: 51 mins

Nautical Miles Traveled: 3.04 total for the day (537.54 total miles)

Average Speed 3.5 knots

Weather: Rained, cool in the 70's

Anchorage/mooring/marina review: Clayton was not a good hold, but a great view and easy access to town. Lots of weeds.

#of locks we went through: 0 (30 total locks)

Our Great Loop

Picton Island, South to Picton Island, Bathtub Bay

Friday, June 27, 2025

Day 31 (18th day of cruising)

Welcome! Glad to have you here!

We moved, but only just enough to get us out of the wind. The direction of the wind shifted. We are just shy of 2 miles around the corner. We are anticipating high wind gusts up to 35 mph tonight into tomorrow with sustained winds at 14 mph.

Mark did an oil change on the generator. We did laundry and filled the water tank with the water maker.



Dinner this evening was burritos. Later on, we toasted our 31st day of traveling!



Fun Facts:

Watertown, NY Nosy Neighbors ·

Picton Island is the fifth-largest American island in the Thousand Islands archipelago, located between Grindstone and Murray Islands. In the late 19th century, it was home to the Picton Island Red Granite Company, which quarried the island's distinctive pink granite. This stone was used in major public buildings, including the New York State Capitol and the American Museum of Natural History. A two-masted schooner named Picton was also built here in 1867, part of the region's once-thriving commercial boatbuilding scene.

In 1934, financier Bernard Heineman Sr. purchased much of the island to preserve its natural state. At the time, there were plans to divide the land into small vacation lots, but Heineman's vision ensured that Picton remained largely undeveloped. Over time, his family worked with conservation partners to protect the shoreline and woodlands. In 2016, more than 100 acres and 10,000 feet of shoreline were placed under conservation easement to ensure the island's wild character would be preserved for future generations.

The island also has a legacy of rustic recreation. In the early 20th century, former hotel structures were relocated to Picton to serve as retreats for children and families. Today, Picton remains roadless and off-grid—a rare example of private stewardship and conservation working hand in hand to protect one of the Thousand Islands' most historically rich landscapes. Copied from a Facebook post, Watertown, NY, Nosy Neighbors.

Daily Summary:

Departed from Picton, NY anchorage @: 9:30 am

Arrived at Bathtub Bay, Picton Island, NY, anchorage @:

Hours traveled: 45 mins

Nautical Miles Traveled: 1.9 total for the day 539.44 total miles

Average Speed 6.5 knots

Weather: low 70's, cool, rain showers

Anchorage/mooring/marina review:

#of locks we went through: 30 total locks

Our Great Loop
Picton Island to Dark Island, Swingers Castle

Saturday, June 28, 2025
Day 32 (19th day of cruising)

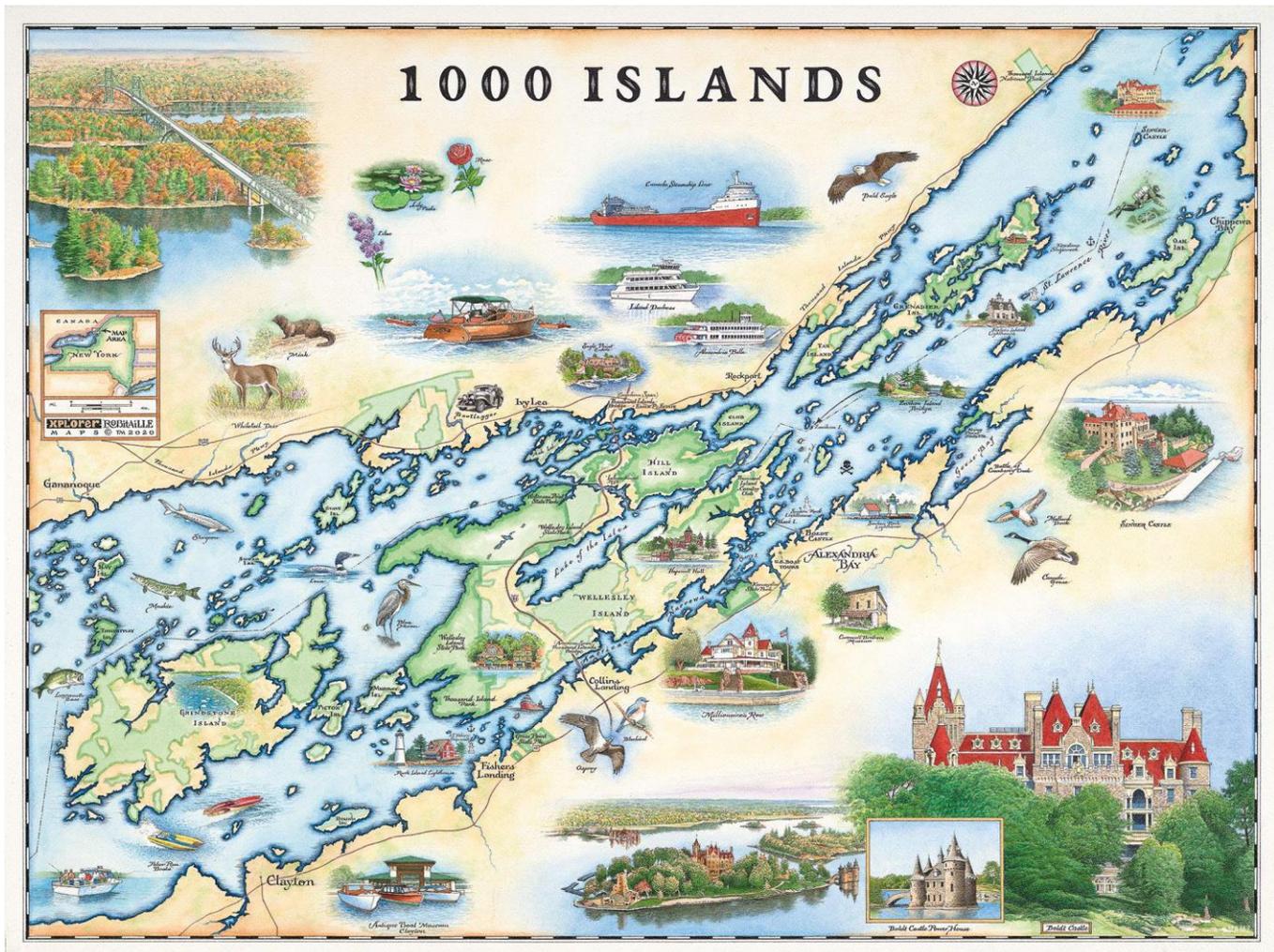
Welcome! Glad to have you here!

We are in the 1000 Islands!

Fun Facts:

To be considered an island, it has to stay above water 365 days a year and support a living tree.

The 1000 Islands region, an archipelago of over 1,800 islands, stretches along the St. Lawrence River from Kingston, Ontario, to Brockville, Ontario, on the Canadian side and from the Prince Edward Peninsula to Massena on the American side. The 1000 Islands region spans approximately 50 miles (80 km) along the St. Lawrence River.



10:40 am – We hauled anchor and left for Singers Castle on Dark Island
We will be cruising on the US side along Wellesley Island, passing
Alexandria Bay.

I called Singer Castle to get some information on docking Valkyrie at their
dock. There were no private functions on this day, and operating normal
touring hours. Upon arrival, call on channel 19 for docking instructions.
There were no tour boats scheduled at our estimated 12:30 pm arrival,
which was good for us.



Mark spied an eagle having
breakfast on the bank. He is so
good at that.

It was a beautiful cruise to Singer Castle. The 1000 Islands is stunning.
There is an abundance of outdoor activities, gorgeous homes, charming
cottages, and the overall landscape of the islands is so unique. The
homes (cottages) that are nestled on these tiny islands are remarkable.





Commissioned in 1847, the fifty-foot Rock Island Lighthouse was one of six lights built along the St. Lawrence River to guide traffic to and from Lake Ontario. Even after being refitted in 1855, rebuilt in 1882, and moved in 1903, the Rock Island station has been extremely well-preserved. The light was closed in 1955 after more than a century of service. New York State took ownership of the island in 1977 and began a restoration project in

recent years to make the site open to public touring.

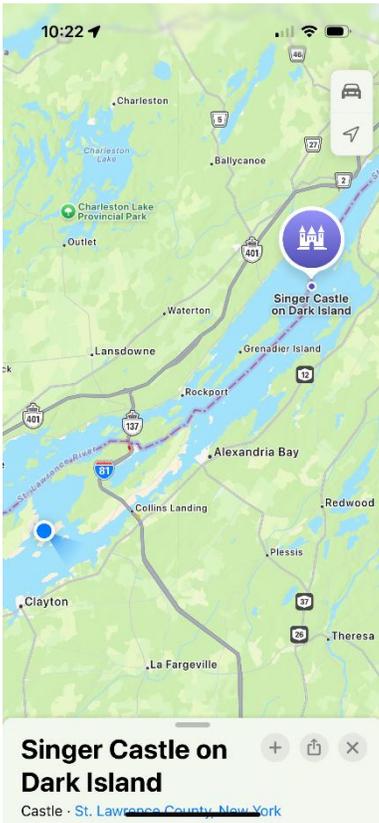


We passed Boldt Castle. (More on that on another day.)



This 253-foot yacht was anchored just outside Bathtub Cove.

The superyacht Elysian is owned by John W. Henry, the American businessman and principal owner of the [Boston Red Sox](#), [Liverpool Football Club](#), and [The Boston Globe](#), according to news reports.

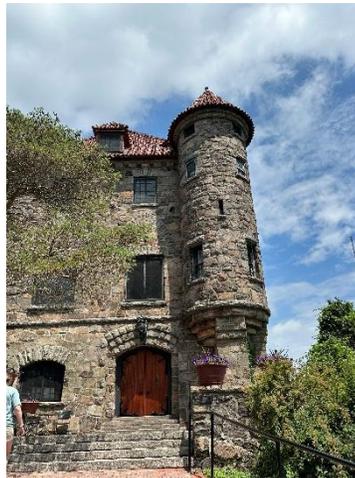
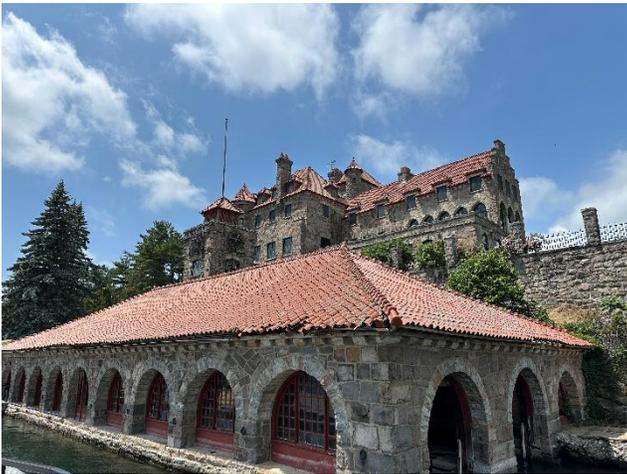


We arrived in time for a 1:00 pm tour. It was just the two of us with our guide Sydney. Make sure you knock 3 times to ward off any ghosts. I loved this house. It was so beautiful, amazing attention to detail, the secret passages were intriguing, the grounds were immaculate and the stories of the Bourne family were amazing.

2:15 engines off and anchored next to Cedar Island Cedar Island state park...

Chicken on the grill w/yellow squash and asparagus

We jumped in! It was cold! We had trouble getting the swim ladder down to the point where we were trying to get up on the swim platform without it. Mark could have, but I was no way going to be able to. Thankfully after many many attempts he got the ladder down.





Daily Summary:

Departed from Bathtub Bay Picton Island @: 10:30 am

Arrived at Singer Castle @ 12:35

Departed Singer Castle @: 1:50

Arrived anchorage at Cedar Island @ 2:15

Hours traveled: 2 hrs 8 mins + 24 mins = 2 hrs 32 mins total for the day

Nautical Miles Traveled: 16.73 + 1.7 = 18.43 for the day 555.97 total miles

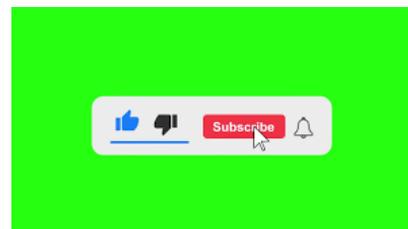
Average Speed 1st leg 7.8 2nd leg 2.7 knots

Weather: mid 70's very windy

Anchorage/mooring/marina review: Sandy bottom, protected, calm, quiet

#of locks we went through: (30 total locks)

 **YouTube** <https://youtu.be/pLt-G-3V-G8>



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