

Forepier Stop

#1 Orientation: A Portal Into Maritime History

Welcome to San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park! This magnificent collection of ships tells amazing stories and provides an authentic link between our past, our present, and our future. The National Park Service works to preserve such gifts from past generations in order to promote greater understanding and appreciation of our shared heritage. We hope the following orientation will make your visit more interesting and enjoyable.

You may want to begin your maritime voyage at the park Visitor Center in the historic red brick building directly across the street. At the Visitor Center, you will find helpful staff and beautiful exhibits to spark your interest. Be sure to ask about today's schedule of guided programs. Restrooms are located in the Visitor Center and on Hyde Street pier, next to the Small Boat Shop.

We encourage you to stroll down the pier for an adventure back into the grand age of sail and steam. Most of the vessels in this park are more than a century old! You may see National Park Service staff and volunteers actively engaged in preserving the ships and small boats. Park employees love to talk about maritime topics and traditions, so please feel free to approach them with any questions you may have. At many points of interest along the pier, you can explore maritime history by listening to the free recordings available through any mobile phone. The pier also offers scenic views of San Francisco Bay, the Golden Gate Bridge, and the famous island of Alcatraz.

Both guided and self-guided tours are available aboard certain ships. To go aboard, you will need a boarding pass, which is available at the ticket booth. The booth is located halfway down the pier, just in front of the large, white ferryboat, Eureka. The boarding pass is valid for seven days, and it provides access to all the ships that are open. The cost is \$5 per adult, and it is free for children under 16 who are accompanied by an adult, and free for anyone with a valid park pass. Like a good sailor, please be safe as you explore. Be especially careful of slippery stairs and gangways. We hope you enjoy your voyage into maritime history!