

News & Features

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OUT ON THE WATER IN SAN PEDRO

In many ways the Pacific Ocean is Southern California's playground. It offers plenty of recreational opportunities. For others, though, it's a day's work, with two mighty harbors that bring in nearly half of the nation's imports.

And the commerce of the water—the ports, the commercial fishing—are fascinating.

Visitors can see both Los Angeles and Long Beach Harbors close up with one of the outstanding harbor cruises offered from Ports O' Call Village in San Pedro and Shoreline Village in Long Beach.

SPIRIT CRUISES

The undisputed leader in waterfront cruises and tours in Los Angeles is Spirit Cruises. It operates four different yachts, each with a distinct style, to serve nearly every need or interest.

The 65-foot Pacific Spirit will accommodate up to 75 guests; the 90-foot Sailing Ship Spirit can welcome up to 80; the 90-foot Motor Yacht Spirit can handle up to 140 passengers; and the 100-foot Endeavor can accommodate up to 275 guests.

Spirit is probably best known for its daily harbor cruises that offer an up-close look at the big ships of facilities of the Port of Los Angeles. These informative tours depart from Ports O' Call Village.

The one-hour tour highlights more than 50 points of interest in the harbor, including the Vincent Thomas Bridge, Main Channel, and massive China Shipping Terminal.

You'll see the Love Boat Cruise Ship Terminal, Battleship Iowa, fire boat station, and onward to little-seen sites in the far reaches of the waterfront and Terminal Island.

The cruises always see sea lions and many other types of sea life up close and in their environment.

Spirit also offers the only harbor cruise in Long Beach that goes past the Queen Mary all the way around Pier J and the fascinating commerce that goes on there. The Long Beach cruises depart from Shoreline Village.

For a real look at both of the great ports, Spirit offers the one and one-half hour World Port Cruise that shows more than 100 points of interest in both Los Angeles and Long Beach Harbors.

And the two-hour Super Circle Cruise available on select weekends during the spring and summer shows off more than 150 points of interest. It is a very complete tour of the busiest harbors in the nation.

And with the line-up of vessels it has available, Spirit is also a leading charter and party boat company. Its team has put together packages that make the process of planning and booking easy—along with ensuring tasty and attractive meals on board for lunch, dinner, and cocktail events.

From great arrays of seafood or barbeque to popular Mexican foods and appetizer selections to a sit-down prime rib dinner that is known as the best on the waterfront, a Spirit cruise is a well-fed cruise at an affordable price.

Spirit's vessels are outstanding, interesting, and fun venues for corporate meetings, parties, and team-building.

Wedding cruises are available on all four of Spirit's vessels and includes the captain, crew, yacht, food, soft drinks and coffee a choice of wine, margarita, Champagne, or sparkling cider, a Champagne toast, and lots more to make it a special way and a special place to get married.

Pacific Spirit, Motor Yacht Spirit, and Sailing Ship Spirit all also offer a morning or early afternoon flat rate wedding package with cheese and vegetables, unlimited Champagne, orange juice, soft drinks, and coffee.

FIESTA HARBOR CRUISES

Fiesta Harbor Cruises sails classic vessels on its trips around Los Angeles Harbor that happen every day, Monday through Friday between 11 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. and Saturdays and Sundays between 11 a.m. and 8 p.m.

Fiesta Harbor Cruises

Berth 79, Ports O' Call Village, LA Waterfront

310-831-1906, www.TheFiestaHarborCruises.com

LOS ANGELES MARITIME INSTTITUTE

The Los Angeles Maritime Institute is best known for its TopSail youth program that teaches young people leadership and confidence through sailing adventures on the official Tall Ships of the City of Los Angeles.

It uses hands-on experiences at sea to provide an array of social, education, and leadership development opportunities to middle school and high school students in San Pedro and Wilmington, and throughout the greater Los Angeles area.

The TopSail Youth Program is offered year-round aboard the Tall Ships Exy Johnson and Irving Johnson, 110-foot traditionally rigged wooden vessels named after Adventure Learning pioneers who sailed around the world seven times with young crews. The purpose-built vessels and their crews were proclaimed the "Official Tall Ships and Maritime Ambassadors of the City of Los Angeles" at their launch in 2002.

And LAMI also offers a range of programs to appeal to nearly everyone on its twin brigantines.

Throughout the year LAMI conducts Sunset Sails with potluck dinners and the opportunity to pull a line while out on a cruise in the harbor at the most beautiful time of the day.

The ships are also available for corporate events, such as team-building voyages.

Los Angeles Maritime Institute

Berth 73, Suite 2

LA Waterfront

310-833-6055

www.lamitopsail.org

SIREN SAILING CHARTERS

Cruise in the style you deserve. Siren is a magnificent 54-foot yacht built in 1977, sailing from San Pedro to Catalina Island and all along the Southern California coast.

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Siren sleeps six plus crew in three private cabins with two bathrooms and two showers and a fully equipped kitchen.

The experienced and friendly crew will ensure your comfort and safety as you sail along Southern California's beautiful coastline.

Coastal Exploration / Day Sail

The captain will take you and your guests sailing along the beautiful Southern California coastline. We'll head up the Palos Verdes Peninsula, where you will likely spot dolphins, seals and other marine life along the way. Four hours includes refreshments, six hours includes snacks and refreshments, eight hours includes lunch and refreshments.

Sail to Catalina Island

Let Siren whisk you away to Catalina Island for a multiple-day getaway or just for the day. It offers complementary taxi services to and from shore on a 12-foot "runabout," as well as the use of stand-up paddleboards and kayaks. Shuttle to the coastal reefs for some swimming and snorkeling.

Evening Cocktail Cruises

Come with friends to relax aboard the Siren with hand-made cocktails as we tour the Los Angeles Harbor. Approximately three hours

Romantic Cruises for Two to Catalina Island

Sail to Catalina (approximately 3.5 hours) and spend the night in Avalon or Two Harbors and return the following day.

Family Sailing

Enjoy the sailing experience with your family on Siren for the day, or plan a multiple-day getaway and sleep aboard in three private cabins. Whether it's whale watching or exploring Catalina Island, Siren has you covered. And we are dog friendly!

Burials at Sea

Siren offers burials at sea tailored to the wishes of family, friends and loved ones. This may include ash scattering services in the coastal area off of Point Fermin. A standard service is two to three hours (\$495 for up to six people)

Dockside Parties

Host a stylish party on the sailboat in Los Angeles Harbor without leaving the dock. Siren provide wine and refreshments for up to 20 people. Call for pricing.

Siren Sailing Charters

1192-1198 Nagoya Way, Ports O' Call Village, LA Waterfront

310-901-2518

www.SirenSailingCharters.com

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