2025 GUIDE



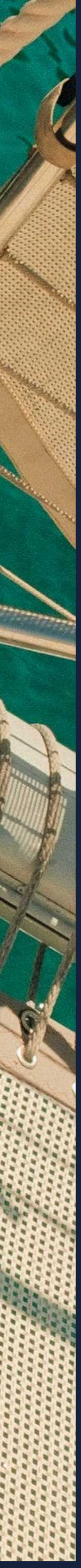
to an adventurous year on the water

boatsetter

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Photo by Elisa O'Reilly



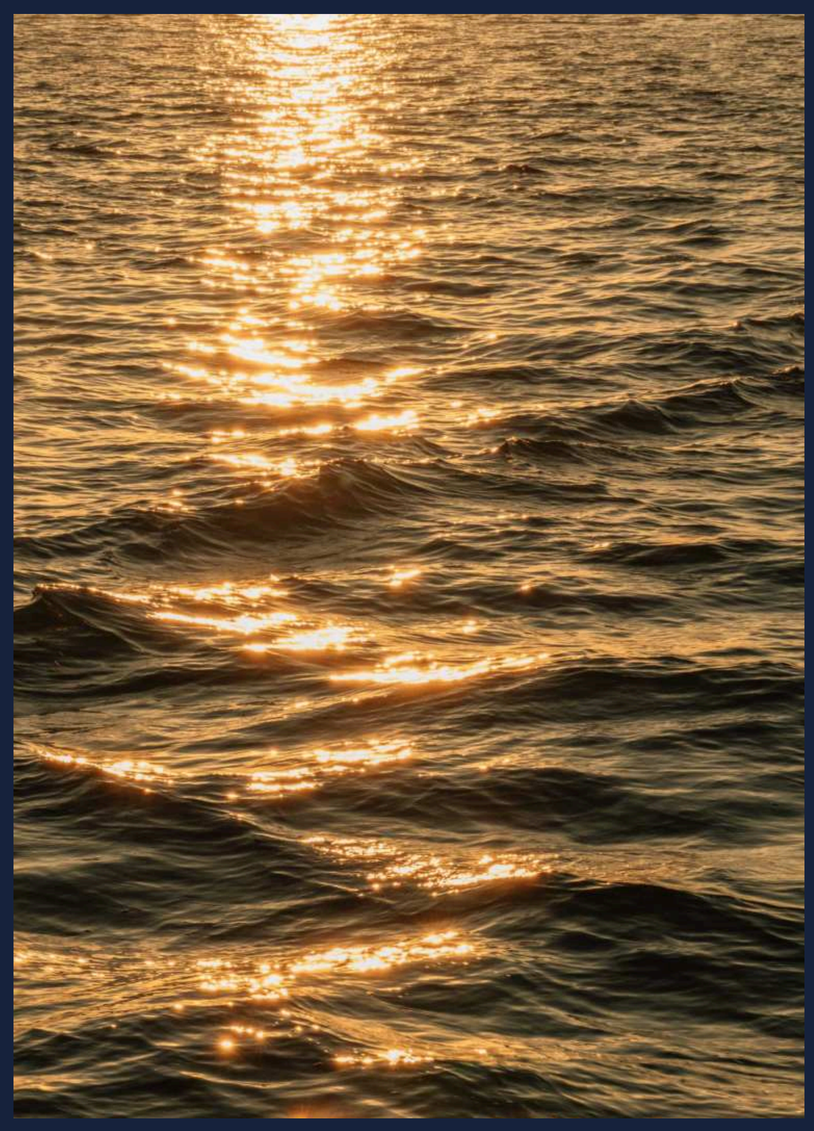


Photo by Tiffanee Wilcox

Editor’s Note

As I write this, I'm reminded of my first time on a boat across unfamiliar waters. That mix of excitement and wonder - the endless horizon and the unique characteristics only found on the water - still captures how I feel about exploration today. It's this very feeling that we've woven throughout the pages of this issue.

In this issue, we're privileged to share stories from passionate explorers, avid anglers and local experts. Capt. Dave Anderson and his wife, Gisele, invite us into their world of whale and dolphin conservation in Dana Point. Key West local Seth shares the story of *When and If*, a historic 1939 schooner built for General George Patton, and his ambitious mission to fulfill Patton's dream by circumnavigating the globe in her by fall of 2030. And in Honolulu, local and owner of *Please Come Again* Ice Cream Shop, Jo, shows us her island's rich seafaring culture and marine environment from a perspective only possible on the water.

Whether it's finally booking that sailing lesson you've been dreaming about, exploring your local waterways, or planning an ambitious expedition, remember that every great journey begins with a single step - or in our case, a single cast-off from the dock.

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Photo by Elisa O'Reilly

Major Boating Events to Look Forward to

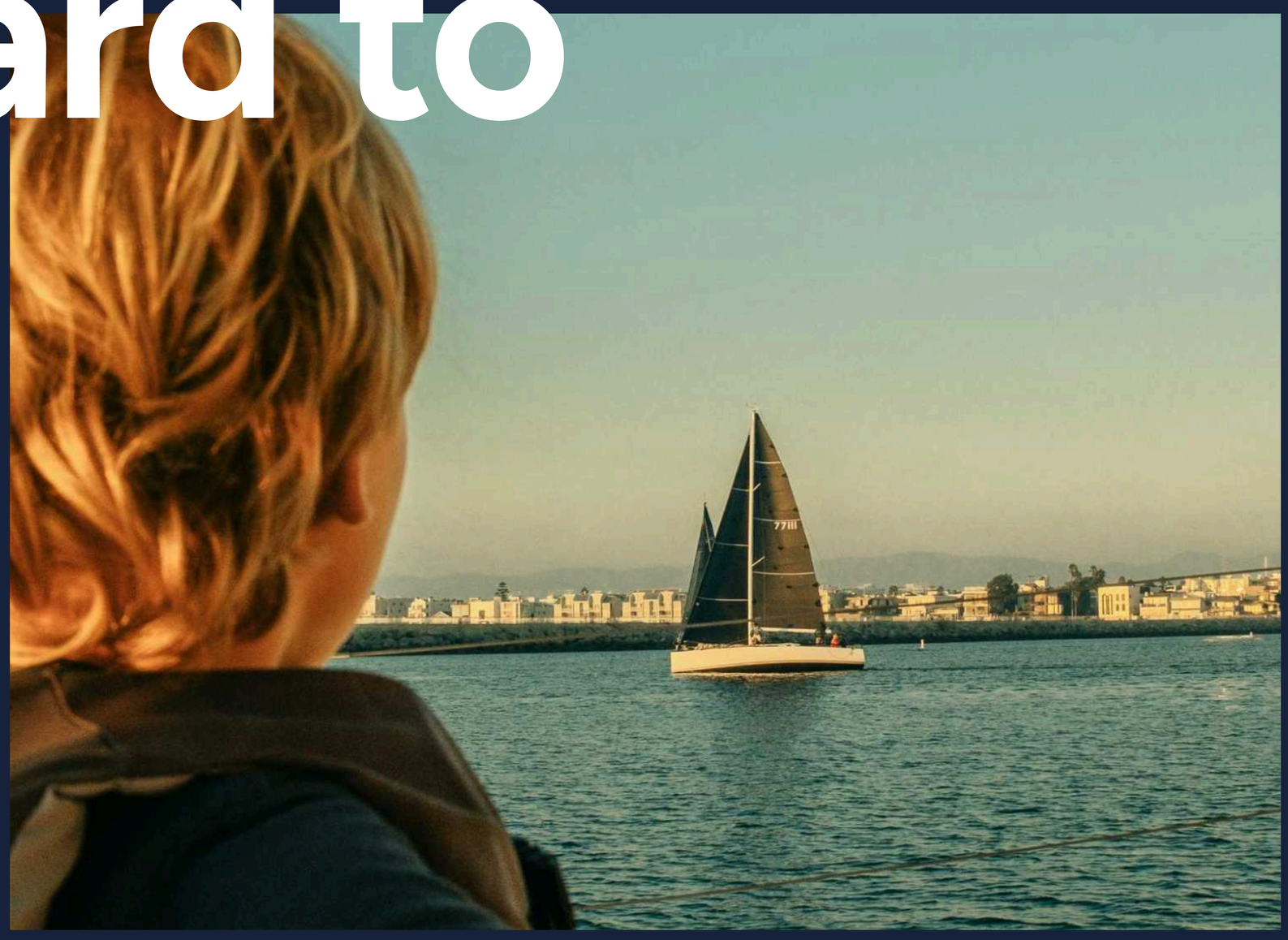


Photo by Tiffanee Wilcox

Make more waterside time your perrogative this year. From Gasparilla Pirate Festival to National Parks Week and Fall Foliage, here are the biggest events to get on the water for.

JANUARY 25

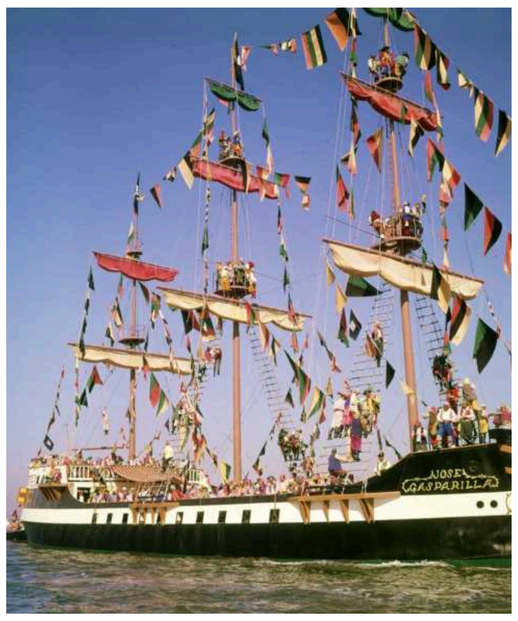
Gasparilla Pirate Festival



(State Archives of Florida/Holland)

Costumed pirate at the helm of a ship during the Gasparilla festival - Tampa, Florida. 1956.

Every year since 1904, a crew of 60 pirates aboard a 137-foot fully rigged ship invades Tampa Bay in what is known as the Gasparilla Pirate Festival, the largest boat parade in the U.S. Get our on-the-water itinerary curated by a local.



View showing historical reenactment of the Ybor City invasion during the Gasparilla Carnival in Tampa. 1962.

(State Archives of Florida/Holland)

JANUARY TO MARCH

Gray Whale Watching Season

Gray whales breach off the coast of Dana Point, California, during their 10,000-mile migration from Alaska to Baja California Sur. With roughly 2,500 daily boat tours, Dana Point has earned its title as the world's whale-watching capital.



Whale tail breaches out of the water in Dana Point, CA



Sailboat race with colorful sails

FEBRUARY 28 TO MARCH 2

Miami Sailing Week

Kicking off the sailing season in Miami is the Bacardi Invitational Regatta. Six hundred sailors, from Olympians to sailing legends, will compete for the Bacardi Cup.



Photo provided by SailGP

MARCH 14 TO 15

Sail GP in LA

The high-stakes world of pro sailing returns to LA for the fourth stop of the 2025 campaign. This year, the U.S. team will compete with Spain, the defending LA champions who clinched the Season 4 crown.

MARCH 21 TO MARCH 23

Bassmaster Classic

The biggest fishing tournament of the year takes place on Lake Ray Roberts in Fort Worth, Texas. Give yourself the best experience possible by booking a boat with a Captain who can show you all the honey holes.

APRIL

Music Festival Season

Waterfront music festivals will be taking center stage in 2025 with the Tortuga Music Festival (April 4-6) lineup including contemporary musicians like Luke Combs and North Charleston's High Water Festival (April 26-27) lineup featuring Lord Huron and The Backseat Lovers.

APRIL 20

National Parks Week

Take advantage of free entrance day on April 20 and plan an epic trip to Dry Tortugas, the most remote national park in the U.S., or Channel Islands National Park, also known as "the Galapagos of North America."



Crane Lake, Voyageurs National Park, MN



Dry Tortugas National Park about 70 mi west of Key West, FL

MAY TO AUGUST

Air and Water Shows

Watch the Blue Angels take to the skies over 4th of July at the Pensacola Air Show. Or get on Lake Michigan and watch the Golden Knights free fall from 12,500 feet.

JUNE 7 TO 8

Sail GP in NYC

SailGP's high-speed spectacle takes over the harbor in New York City. The Manhattan skyline provides an unforgettable backdrop as 12 F50s battle for glory in the Big Apple.



Photo provided by SailGP



Lake Lanier, GA

JULY 1

National Boating Day

Celebrate boating and the Fourth of July with a day out on the water exploring our country's most unique quality, from sea to shining sea. The Fourth of July is one of the busiest holidays for boat rentals; consider booking ahead.

JULY 9 TO 23

ACC Gold Championship

Every year celebrities and athletes participate in the American Century Championship, and every year, boaters anchor around the 17th hole for premier views and the chance to meet them.

JULY 30 TO 31

Lobster Mini Season

The lobster mini season, also known as the Florida spiny lobster sport season, is a highly anticipated, two-day event held annually in late July, attracting thousands of foodies and anglers to the Florida Keys.



Mini Lobster Season in the Florida Keys



Lounging in La Jolla, CA

AUGUST 30 TO SEPTEMBER 1

Labor Day Weekend

Another busy holiday for boat rentals, secure a boat and spend the long weekend anchored at a sandbar, sun-soaked and immersed in good vibes.

OCTOBER

Peak Fall Foliage

The last two weeks in October are peak fall foliage season, an incredible natural wonder that you can experience from a boat in many places across the country. Places to get on the water for fall foliage cruises include the Hudson River, Michigan's Upper Peninsula and other destinations.



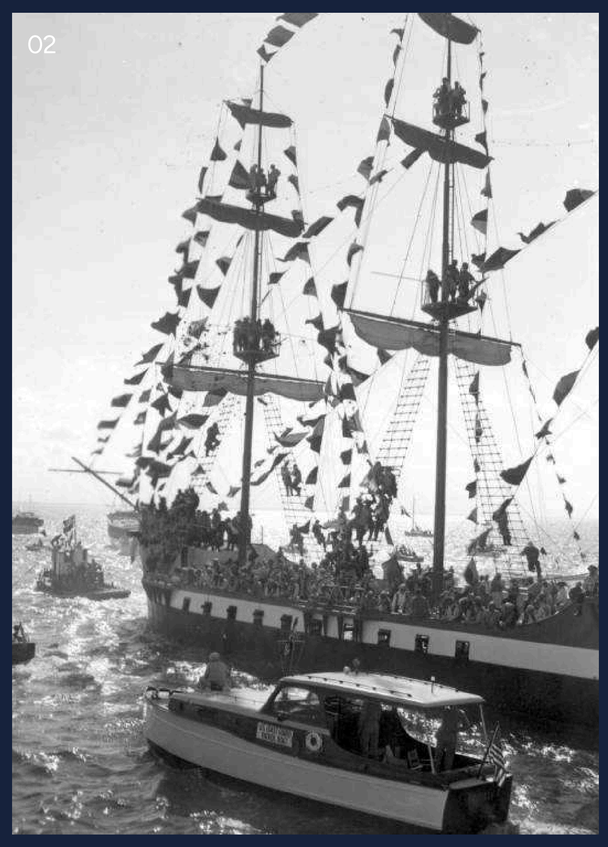
Fall Folliage at Bigelow Hollow State Park, CT

OCTOBER TO DECEMBER

Super Moon Cruises

Super moons occur when the moon is full and its orbit is at its closest point to Earth. In 2025, we get three opportunities on October 7, November 5, and December 4. Get a a group of friends on the water for scenic views of a big, bright moon over the water.

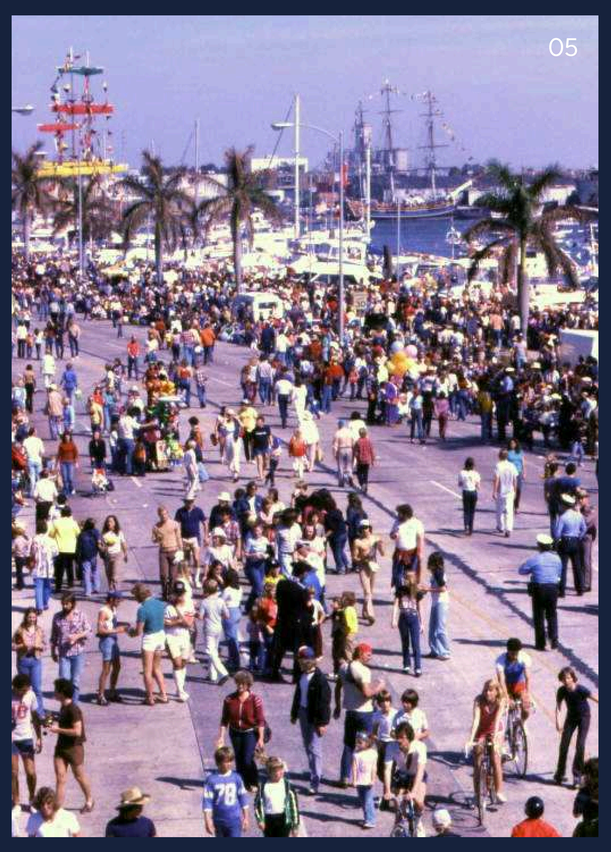

01


02



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04


05


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07

SINCE 1904

A Brief History on Gasparilla Parade

Drawing inspiration from New Orleans festival, Louise Frances Dodge and George W. Hardee, editors of The Tampa Tribune, organized a mock pirate invasion for the city's May Day celebration. On May 4, 1904, Hardee, Dodge and friends "captured the city" on horseback, beginning what would become the largest boat parade in the U.S.

In 1911, Dodge and Hardee introduced naval invasions. Today, invasions are done aboard a 137-foot fully rigged vessel, the *Jose Gasparilla II*, the only one of its kind in the world. Every January, this flagship leads hundreds of boats into downtown Tampa, while more than 300,000 spectators gather along Bayshore Boulevard to watch Ye Mystic Krewe distribute their treasures.

01: Costumed participants aboard ship at the Gasparilla festival in Tampa. 1960. (State Archives of Florida/Holland) | 02: Historical reenactment of the Ybor City invasion during the Gasparilla Carnival - Tampa, Florida. 1963. (State Archives of Florida/Holland) | 03: Gasparilla entering harbor at Tampa, Florida. 1900 (circa). (State Archives of Florida) | 04: Historical reenactment of the Ybor City invasion during the Gasparilla Carnival in Tampa. 1966 (circa).(State Archives of Florida/Holland) | 05: Crowds at the Gasparilla Carnival parade in Tampa. 1969 (circa). | (State Archives of Florida/Tournay) | 06: Jeep pulled parade float in the Gasparilla Carnival - Tampa, Florida. 20th century. (State Archives of Florida/Peithmann) | 07: Famous Gasparilla Festival at Tampa, Florida. 20th century. (State Archives of Florida/Lagerberg)

Photography by Ana Sendra

A Day Sailing the Waikiki Coast

by Josephine Wai Lin



We had just left Ala Wai Harbor, sailing on the Ke Ānuenue, when Captain Sam yelled, “Whale! Breach!!”

Out on the horizon, a giant splash. “Tail!!” Captain Sam shouts, gleefully. “This is our first whale sighting of the season,” he exclaimed. The engine roared, and the catamaran picked up speed as we went to get a closer look of the whale. We were on a mission.

A giant black tail flipped out of the water. “Tail again!” Sam yelled out. “I think the whale likes someone on the boat,” the deck hand Charlie says. It was like he was waving at us. My five year old, West, snuggles into me tightly, keeping one eye on the water.

Eager for a closer look, we propel faster and faster, our eyes darting back and forth, scanning the horizon for another sighting. “Calm water in the waves are the footprint of the whale,” Captain Sam tells us. The loud motor stops at the sight of them, and we halt in the middle of water. We stare out at the ocean blue with our phones out, hoping for a sighting. The waves lap and ripple and radiate the bluest blue. The sun, settling into the afternoon, warms us with its golden glow. The water lulls me into hugging the West tighter. Even the kids are still, without the tranquilizer of the iPad. I put my phone down. It’s so quiet I can smell the salt water.

It’s hard to believe we were just in Waikiki, maybe the most famous district in Hawaii. A tropical Las Vegas, jam-packed with Hawaiian-themed trinkets, $25/hr parking lots, and $30 over-sugared umbrella drinks in a coconut shell– it's a barrage on your senses. Even the ‘io, the Hawaiian Hawk that people believed were royalty/gods themselves, can be viewed in his cage at the Waikiki zoo for $21 a head.

Man made Waikiki – he brought in the sand, built the parking lots, and put up the towers. And then he commoditized it. The history of commercializing paradise goes deep; anyone wanting to experience authentic Hawaiian-anything is instead served a packaged caricature of the island culture. Walking around Waikiki you can’t help but wonder, is this even Hawaii?

What is Hawaii, and where can we find it?

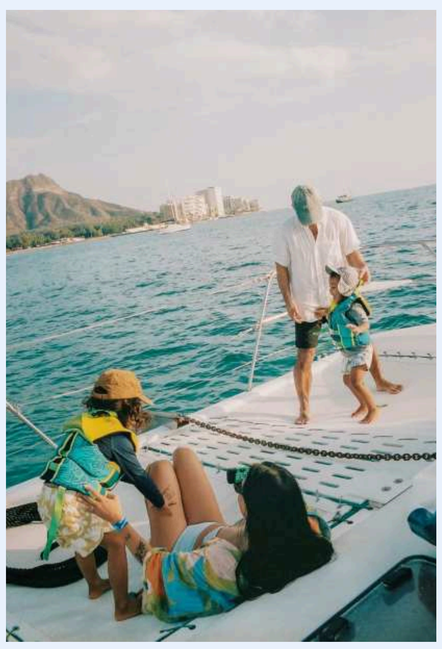
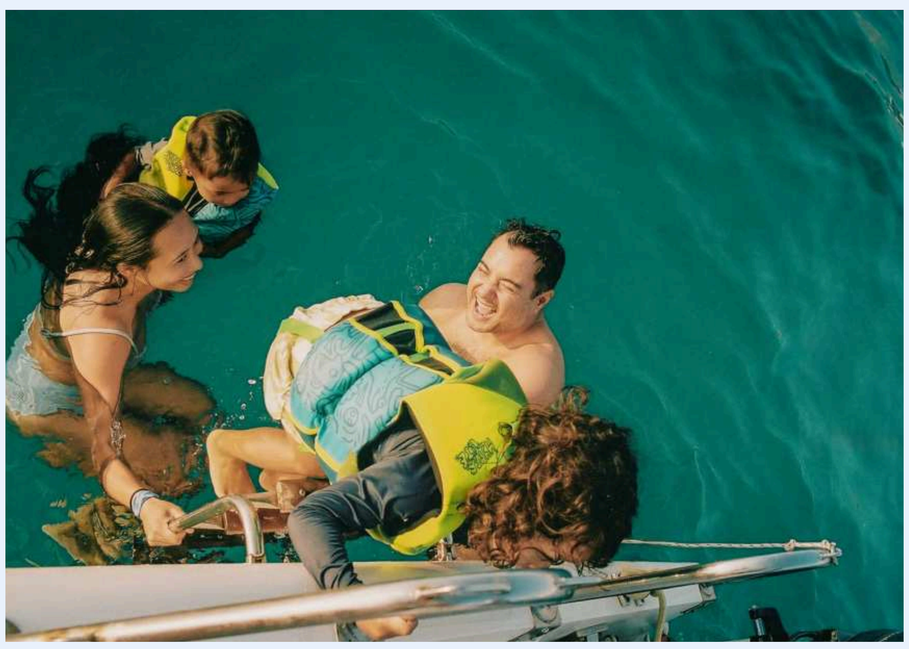
There was none such noise in the middle of the ocean, just 10 minutes out from the shore of Waikiki Beach, where Diamond Head looked so very different. Looking out into the great beyond you can’t help but think you’re in your Moana era—connected to a legacy of wayfarers and voyagers. They say there is some science to wayfinding, following the stars and the signs from the ocean, but everyone has their own way of doing it —their own special relationship to the water. And what it really comes down to, is a deep connection—a oneness—with the sea.









a deep connection —

a oneness

— with the sea.

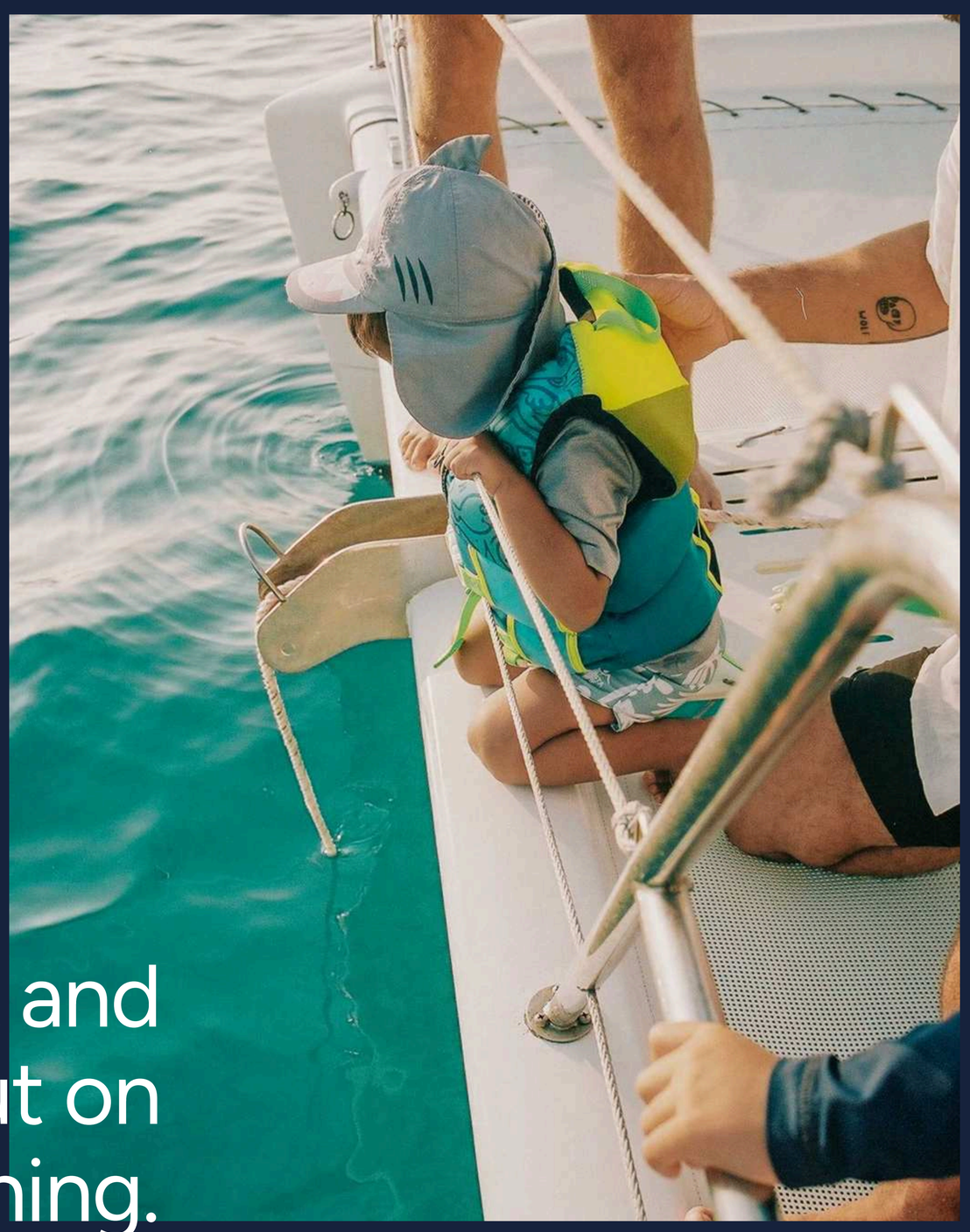


We see water splashing out of a blowhole in the distance and suddenly the catamaran is on the move again. “What does breach mean anyway?” I finally ask the captain. “It’s when 30 tons of whale leaps its entire body out of the ocean. It’s their way of flirting with a mate, or even just showing off.” Ah, so the whale is flexing. I’m into it.

“Breach!” Captain Sam says. And there it is. Our own Free Willy moment, off in the distance, a gray humpback whale showing off his belly in all his whaley-glory before diving back into water. Of course we have no content to prove it, only a collective core memory forever etched for the eight of us on the boat.

“Let’s see it again!” the deckhand Charlie yelled out.

We never get another sighting but for the rest of the sail we are swelled with awe and wonder. We jump in the water and we dance on the nets. We soak in the beauty and the majesty. Everything nature is capable of. The world so vast and mysterious. And us, out on the water. Still searching.



The world so vast and mysterious. And us, out on the water. Still searching.

CONTRIBUTOR
Josephine Wai Lin

A boymom, wife, author, creative director, and the owner of Please Come Again ice cream in Kailua. She’s been living in Oahu for three years.

Jo went out on a 2005 Power Catamaran. Explore this boat.


YEAR OF THE
EXPLORER



Humpback whale breaching from the ocean

Explore the world's whale capital

With year-round whale activity, Dana Point is one of the most reliable whale-watching locations on the West Coast. Come during January through March to see gray whales pass through their 12,000-mile migration between Alaska and Mexico - the longest of any mammal on Earth - or in the summer when blue whales feed.

Epic Boat Trips That Will Challenge You

Discover "the Galapagos of North America"

The Channel Islands are an eight-island archipelago off the coast of California in the Pacific Ocean. Go with a Captain and visit Anacapa Island, where you can embark on a 1.5 mile hike up to Inspiration Point for 360-degree views. If you visit San Miguel Island between May and October, you're likely to meet the thousands of seals that hang at Point Bennett.



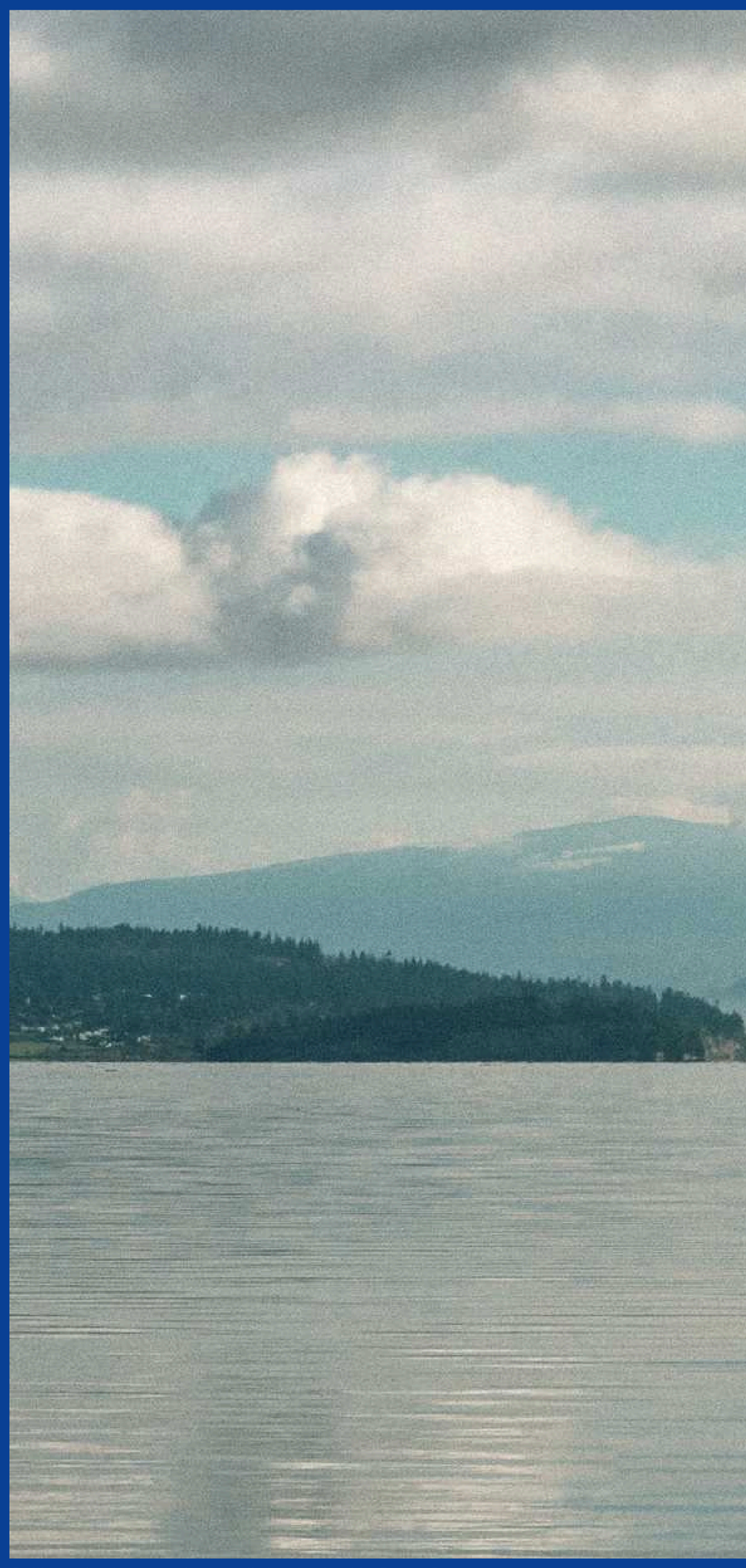
Channel Islands: Anacapa and Santa Cruz Island

Scuba diving the Tortuga Reef

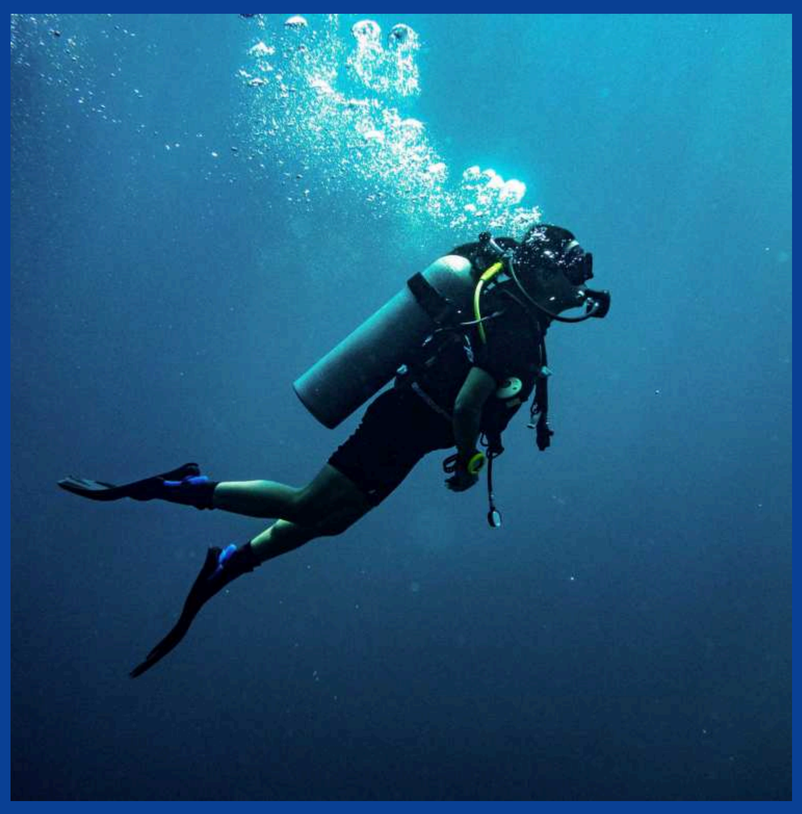
Forty pounds of dynamite were detonated aboard a 165-foot vessel for the climax of the 1986 film "Fair Game." Today, the former Hollywood prop sits 110 feet underwater just off the coast of Miami as a major dive site accessible only by boat.

Make an escape to Whidbey Island

Get a Captained boat to head out to Whidbey Island, a rugged island in the Pacific Northwest with many beaches, hills and farmlands. Coupeville welcomes sailors with its waterfront, while Fort Casey Historical State Park displays the region's military history with its lighthouse and gun battery. For nature lovers, Langley offers whale-watching in summer months as the Village by the Sea.



Sailboat in the morning sunlight docked in Penn Cove



Deception Pass Park, Washington. Deception Pass is a strait separating Whidbey Island from Fidalgo Island



Learn about Polynesian seafaring techniques

Sail the Waikiki coast with a local guide that can teach you about ancient Polynesian seafaring techniques. Or grab your longboard and set course for Queen's surf break, known for its consistent waves.



Sail boat with Diamond head mountain in the background

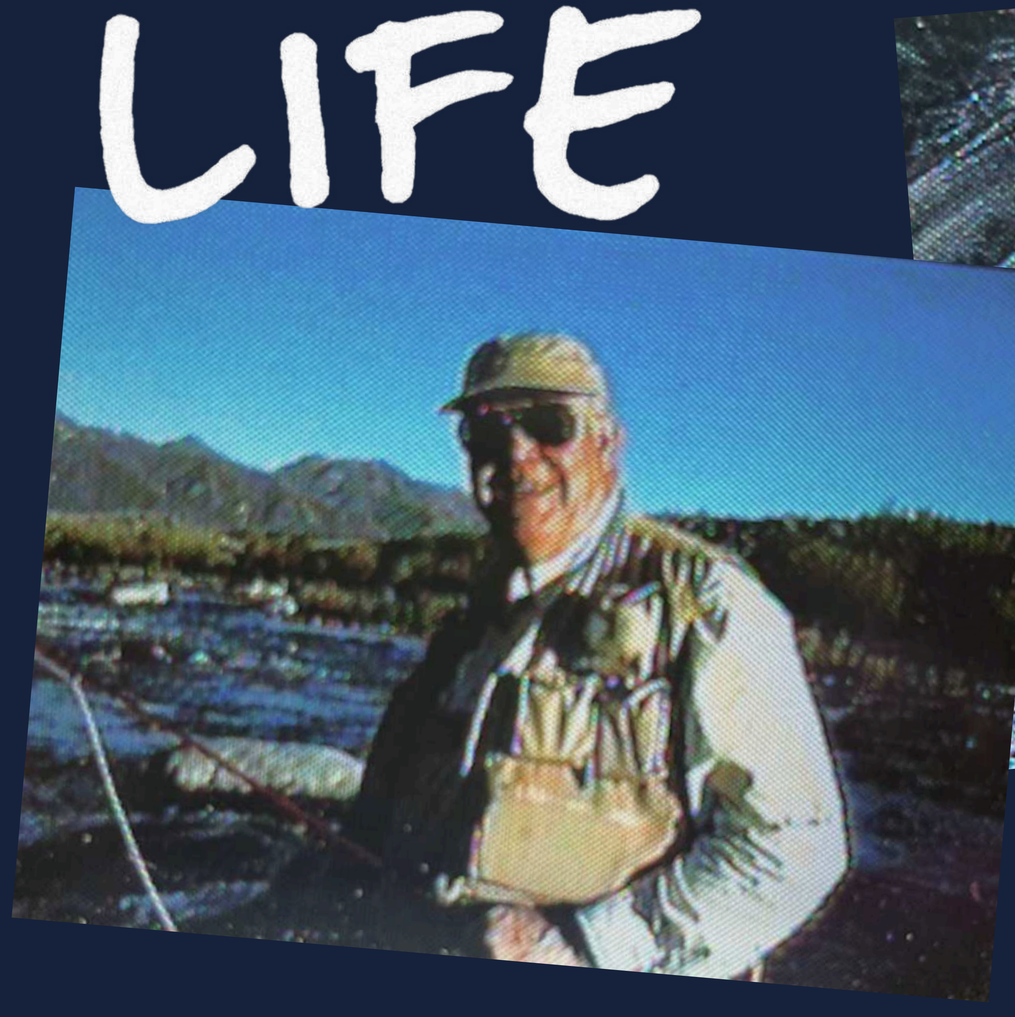
ALLAN'S ADVICE





Growing up in the country side of Texas, on-water exploration has always been a way for Allan Jones to connect with family, friends, and oneself. He believes that lessons learned from fishing could be applied to many of the obstacles life throws our way.

YOU OUGHT TO GO FISHING AT LEAST ONCE IN YOUR LIFE



Simplicity creates joy

In my earliest memories, I spent a lot of time catching small frogs along the lake shores. It didn't take long to learn if you didn't approach them slowly and carefully, they would jump before you could reach them. With the help of my older brother, I learned. When I was 7, my parents bought a beautiful mahogany wooden 14-foot boat. A whole new world opened for us. Instead of only fishing from shore, the entire lake was ours. We found beautiful beaches shaded by big oak trees to picnic and swim.

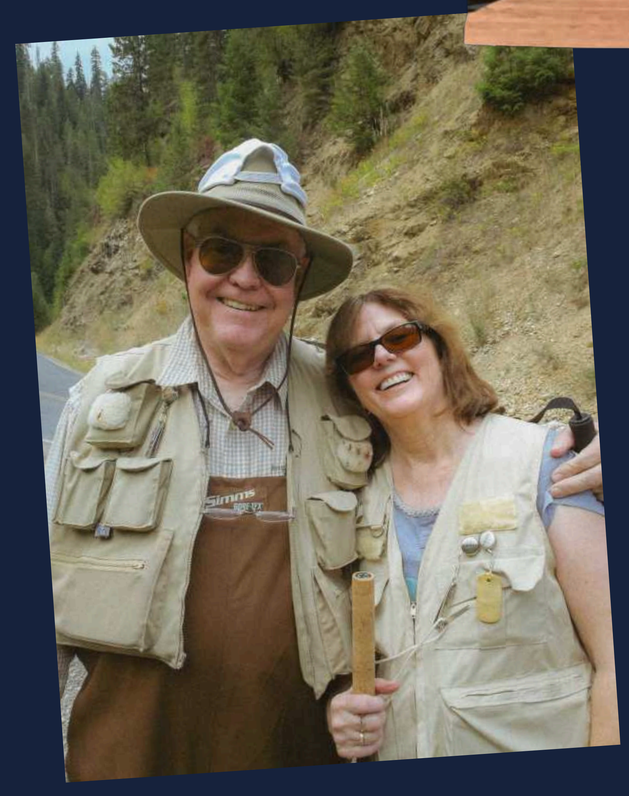




ALWAYS SOMETHING TO DO OUTSIDE

Friendship deepens waterside

Once my brother and I learned to water-ski, my parents had no peace. There was always something to do. Of course, my brother and I got old enough to take the boat out without our parents. Friends joined us on many of these trips.





Family traditions endure

In 1966, I got married to my best friend, and she joined me at the lakes, camping, fishing, swimming and skiing. Seven years later, we moved to Washington state with two children. Things changed some. There were a few years we didn't have a boat, but as soon as the kids were old enough, we got a small fishing boat. It was fun watching my wife cheering the kids on and the kids playing with the worms, baiting their hooks and catching fish. They were always so excited when a fish took their bait. Wonderful memories.



SPOKANE, WA 1998



Careful with who you fish with

A friend and I went fishing on a small lake in early spring. The ice was off the lake, but it was still quite cold. After loading the fishing rods, tackle boxes and connecting the battery cables to the electric motor, I told him to push us out and get in. He did as I asked; however, rather than step into the bottom of the boat, he put his foot up on the gunwale to get in. I wasn't looking; as he stepped up on the gunwale, the boat flipped. I was instantly sitting on the bottom of the lake with the battery and all of the tackle floating around me. I jumped to my feet as quickly as possible, and my friend asked, "Did I do that?" There were two fellows launching their boat next to us; I don't know how, but they remained quiet as mice. I don't think I could have held it back if I were in their place.

When fishing with grandchildren, joy multiplies

Soon our grandkids came along. We got them started young just as we had with our kids. We took our grandsons to a private lake near the Canadian border. We caught so many fish, including beautiful brook trout. There were eagles in the trees around the lake, and we had a bull moose hanging around. The boys were having a ball, casting small spinners and using fly rods with streamers, wet flies and dry flies and catching fish. Our granddaughters joined us on fly-fishing trips on mountain streams for cutthroat and rainbow trout. These were always great fishing trips.

COEUR D'ALENE, ID



2000

CONTRIBUTOR
Allan Jones

A lifelong outdoorsmen with over 75 years of experience fishing all around the U.S and Canada., from Idaho to Florida and British Colombia.

2025 Destinations to Explore by Boat

01



Biscayne Bay, FL

Biscayne Bay becomes a world-class arena when the 98th Bacardi Regatta (Feb. 28-March 2) brings Olympic sailors to Miami's waters. Cruise the bay to see popular sites like Vizcaya Museum, an Italian Renaissance-style villa, or book a private boat tour to explore Biscayne National Park for coral reefs, mangrove islands and crystal-clear waters.

02



La Jolla, CA

La Jolla's underwater park encompasses seven marine life protection areas where visitors can snorkel with graceful leopard sharks and harbor seals. Guests who book boats with kayaks can explore the ancient sea caves and sandstone cliffs, or watch sea lions lounging on the rocks.

03



Lake Austin

Drop anchor at Devil's Cove, the lake's favorite gathering spot, or cruise beneath the iconic 360 Bridge for Austin's most photographed view. With numerous dock-and-dine options, you can easily pull up for a waterfront meal without leaving the lake.

04



Egmont Key, FL

Accessible only by boat, Egmont Key's secluded shores feel worlds away from mainland Florida. North Beach is home to one of Tampa's largest populations of gopher tortoises. Along the western shoreline, hidden coves offer peaceful anchorages where you can snorkel among tropical fish or beachcomb for sand dollars and lightning whelks.

05



Māmala Bay, HI

Located along Oahu's southern shore, Mamala Bay offers spectacular marine encounters. Humpback whales breach in these protected waters from December through April. Sail past Waikiki's iconic skyline or anchor near Kewalo Basin to watch the sun set behind Diamond Head.

06



Nassau, Bahamas

With a private boat charter, Nassau opens up to you. Rose Island, a short boat ride from Nassau, offers isolated beaches, snorkeling, and traditional fishing villages in the northern shores. The Exuma Cays lie within day-trip distance.

07



San Juan Islands, WA

This archipelago's waters are the home of one of the largest pods of resident orcas in the world. Navigate through channels between forest-covered islands, stopping at hidden coves and quiet harbors. Spring is a great time to spot gray whales passing by.

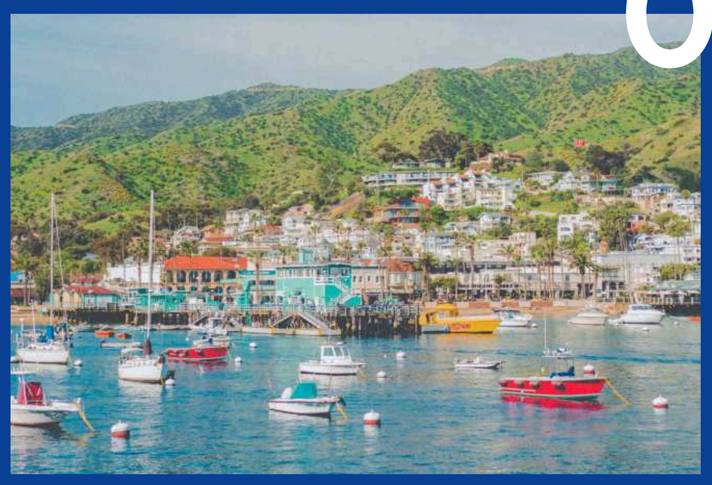
08



Lake Tahoe

Straddling California and Nevada, Lake Tahoe's crystal-clear waters reflect the surrounding Sierra Nevada mountains. Emerald Bay, with its Scandinavian-style castle Vikingsholm, offers one of the most photographed scenes in the country. The lake's depth and clarity create otherworldly paddling experiences.

09



Catalina Island, CA

Just off the coast of Los Angeles, Catalina Island beckons with its Mediterranean allure. Cruise Avalon, where pastel-colored buildings cascade down hillsides to meet crystal-clear waters. Anchor in secluded coves with visibility up to 50 feet, perfect for spotting the island's famous bright orange Garibaldi fish.

10



Islamorada Village, FL

Known as the Sport Fishing Capital of the World, this coastal village hosts world-record catches and fishing spots where sailfish and tarpon swim through patch reefs and seagrass beds. Besides deep-sea fishing, discover hidden sandbars and waterfront tiki bars accessible only by boat.

Austin's Lake Life through Local Eyes

by Christina Decker



Just a few minutes out, we immediately began to see an entirely different side of Austin. The limestone cliffs, the eclectic mix of water-side architecture, the hidden coves and gems only accessible by boat.

Growing up in the San Francisco Bay Area, I've sought energy, mental clarity and calm by spending time near water. I'm relatively new to Austin, having moved here less than two years ago. Living life away from the ocean has been an adjustment, but I've quickly found Austin, nestled around the Colorado River, offers its own water fix.

With our sons visiting from Southern California and having seen many of the typical sites during past visits, we wanted to experience something new together. So we got out on a pontoon for a few hours on Lake Austin. At the dock, we met Tom, our captain, under the 360 Bridge. He gave us a run-down about the boat and safety protocols, then Tom asked, “East or West?”



CONTRIBUTOR
Christina Decker

A creative business strategist, brand advisor, and writer specializing in wellness, beauty, fashion, design, and travel.

Christina went out on a 2024 Bentley pontoon. Explore this boat.

The best-kept secret 3:30pm

First, we stopped at a hidden, yet well-known spot dubbed "The Party Cove." Our captain, Tom, told us it's packed with boats in the summer; we got lucky because we had it mostly to ourselves.

Then we cruised toward what would become my very favorite part of the experience - a tranquil ride through Little Italy. We entered this serene, picturesque spot through an arched waterway. This part of the lake is truly one of Austin's best-kept secrets since this vantage point can only be accessed by water.

Dock ‘n’ dining 4:30pm

During this leg of our journey, we were delightfully surprised when we saw some favorite places to eat are also dock-and-dine restaurants: Quince, Hula Hut and our favorite coffee and pastries shop, Mozart's.

We passed by Red Bud Isle, a hiking spot with a small dock for boats. Then we were face-to-face with the Tom Miller Dam, a 100.5-foot-high and 1,590-foot-long dam. I'd never been this close to it.

Tom explained dock-and-dine is an experience where you arrive at a waterfront restaurant by boat. He said the food tastes better this way.

A blue oasis 5:30pm

We spent the last hour taking in the sights, but now heading westward. On this side of the bridge, we entered blissful hill country. The hills were steep with several gorgeous homes and a lot more nature like the marsh grass that framed the lake.

We saw one of our favorite places for breakfast is Ski Shores. Unfortunately, they were closed on Monday, but we pulled right up to their waterside dock to stretch our legs. I highly recommend a stop here; the food is good and the atmosphere will make you feel like you're on vacation - especially by boat.

As the sun dipped lower in the sky and the air turned cooler, Tom turned the boat around, guiding us back to the launch zone. Though reluctant that our time on the water had ended, I left with a newfound perspective.

Our time on Lake Austin brought me a joy that comes from stepping outside routines to discover new vantage points and explore new paths, avenues, and waterways.

The Best Waterfront Restaurants in the U.S.

From award-winning restaurants to mom-and-pop shacks, our local experts helpedcurate a list of America's most mouthwatering, waterside restaurants.

AUSTIN, TEXAS

The Oasis on Lake Travis

The largest outdoor restaurant in Texas overlooks Lake Travis. With just over 20,000 Google reviews and countless praises from Lake Travis owners, the Oasis lives up to its name. For a truly unique experience, plan to come here right before the golden hour to join locals and visitors in the Oasis sunset tradition.

MIAMI, FL

Rusty Pelican

“Rusty Pelican has the best views of the Miami skyline if you're looking for Instagram-worthy pictures," says Enrique, Miami local and competitive fisherman. Minutes away by boat, you can explore the Vizcaya, a 1914 mansion-turned-museum; Bayfront Park with Miami's observation wheel; and the historic shores of Virginia Key Beach Park.

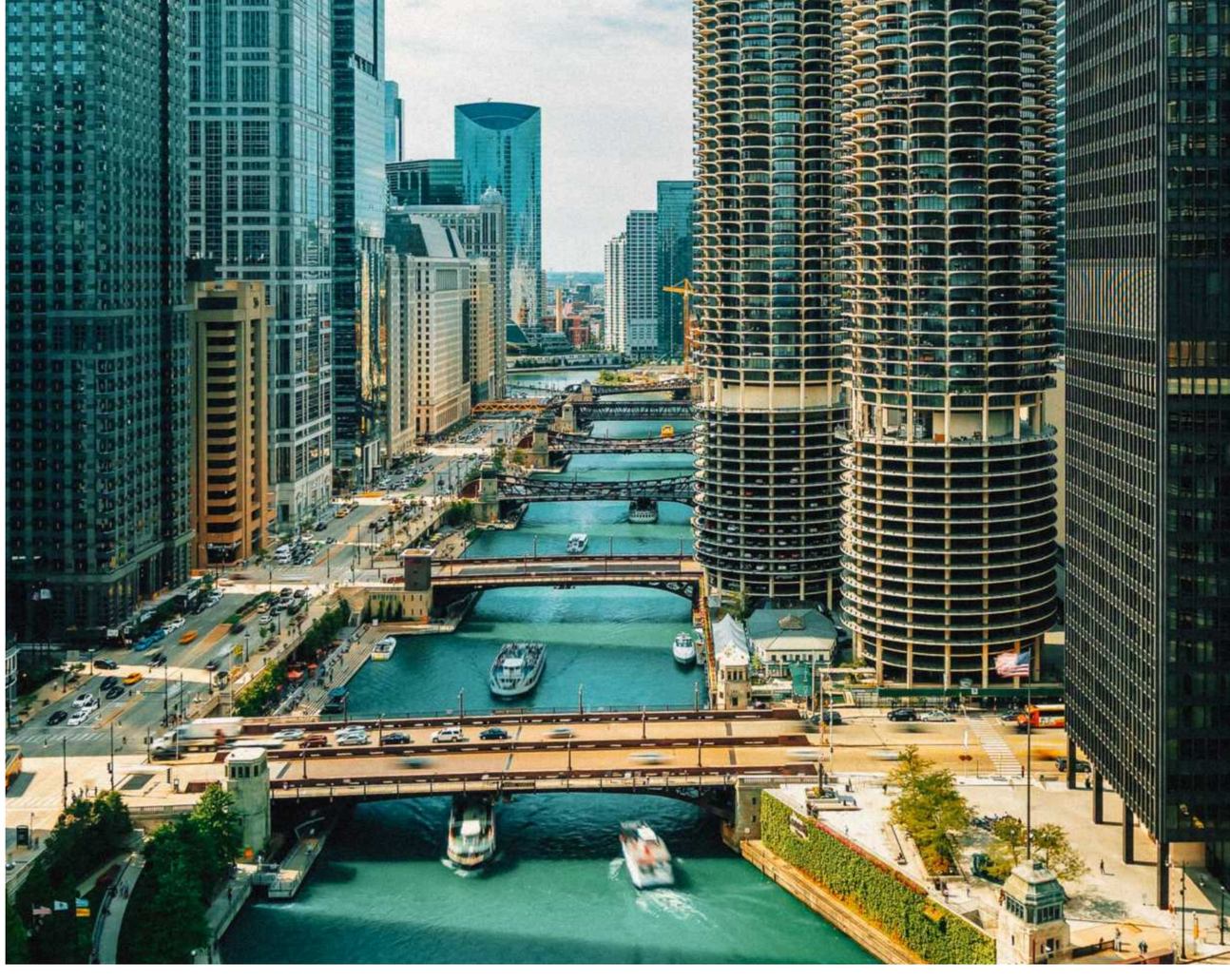
HILTON HEAD, SC

Hudson’s Seafood House

If you want to taste authentic local traditions, make plans to dock ‘n’ dine at Hudson's and experience Hilton Head Island's oystering heritage. This oyster factory-turned-seafood restaurant has served guests since 1912. All seafood is locally caught, with over 450,000 oysters shucked on-site annually.

Pictured below is Newport Beach, CA where Zinque is located





Pictured above is the Chicago River where Pizza Portofino is located in Chicago, IL

CHICAGO, IL

Pizza Portofino

Chicago has such a rich sailing season and waterside community, from anchoring at the Playpen to architecture boat tours. While you have a ton of options for dock ‘n’ dining experiences, every time Erik, Chicago native and avid boater, visits the windy city, he goes to Pizza Portofino for their famous hand-stretched pizza. Get the tiramisu to go to enjoy during a post-meal cruise.

CLEARWATER, FL

Caretta on the Gulf

Named after the loggerhead sea turtles that grace Clearwater's shores, Caretta is the area's only AAA Four Diamond restaurant. Located in the Sandpearl Resort, this fine-dining destination offers incredible Gulf of Mexico views. Perfect for date night, the restaurant pairs seasonal cuisine with sunset vistas.

NEWPORT BEACH, CA

Zinque

Zinque is by far Elisa's, Newport local and avid photographer, favorite place to grab a bite with friends. "It's a classic hangout spot," says Elisa. "You can enjoy incredible French food and watch boats zip by." Next door, Lido Isle offers shopping and waterfront walks. Get on a cruiser or sailboat and explore Newport Bay after your meal.

Beyond Whale Watching



Image provided by dolphinsafari.com



Dave and Gisele Anderson are Dana Point owners offering educational whale and dolphin boat tours. Dave is also an award-winning documentarian known for his film "Wild Dolphins and Whales of Southern California. We discussed 30 years of exploring the whale capital of the world, their passion for marine environments, and their mission to educate more people about marine mammals.

Image provided by dolphinsafari.com

How One California Couple Creates Deep Ocean Connections



Image provided by dolphinsafari.com

Tell us about the experience you offer Guests in Southern California.

GA: We have six different vessels that offer unique experiences with marine life. Our tagline is "experience the connection" because we have a threefold mission. First, we want to connect personally with our guests - recognizing them by name and keeping our experiences intimate so people can get to know our crew. Second, we encourage groups to disconnect from their phones and be present in nature together. Third, we facilitate a meaningful connection with the animals.

Each vessel serves a different purpose. Our first boat, Dolphin Safari, was designed to be low to the water with spy nets so people could lie suspended over the animals. The Manute'a is our most unique vessel - it's the only boat in the world with underwater viewing pods. We have bulletproof glass underneath the water where dolphins come right up to the windows. Sometimes they'll bring their babies over to look at us! We also have two smaller zodiacs for close-to-water experiences, a luxury motor yacht for upscale trips, and our newest boat, the Hoku Nai'a, for larger groups up to 149 passengers.

The way you describe it, it seems like this goes beyond just whale watching as entertainment. There's clearly a passion here. When did you and Captain Dave discover your love for marine environments?

GA: I grew up in Rhode Island near the beach and always loved being on the ocean. I remember doing a fifth-grade research paper on Jacques Cousteau. Dave got his first boat at sixteen, and marine biology was his favorite class in high school—actually, he says it was probably the only class he got an A in. As we've gotten older, we've leaned more into facilitating that connection experience, because we believe nature is incredibly healing for people.

Speaking of healing - what unique properties do you think being on the water has?

GA: The ocean has unique advantages due to negative ions from moving water and wind. Stanford did a meta-study showing the vast medical, psychological, and social benefits of being in nature. Negative ions have been linked to physical healing—reducing migraines, boosting natural killer cells, and lowering stress hormones. During the COVID-19 pandemic when we were shut down, just getting out on the water helped remind me everything would be OK. The dolphins were still out there playing, the whales were still migrating—it helped put things in perspective.

I understand you and Captain Dave founded the first whale rescue group. Could you tell me about that?

GA: In 2005, we saw a humpback whale wrapped in fishing gear and discovered there was no local rescue team available. We learned that nearly 1,000 dolphins and whales die in nets and gear every day globally. Some countries have nets 30 miles long with bycatch rates up to 92%. We started educating every guest about this issue and took action by starting a local rescue team, buying specialized equipment, and a rescue boat. We also support other initiatives—from local marine mammal centers to digging wells in Uganda.



Image provided by dolphinsafari.com

Here's a fun one - what's your favorite whale species? Don't worry, we won't tell the others!

GA: I love them all, but I have a special affection for gray whales, though that wasn't always the case. I used to think of them as unengaging, just migrating past without stopping. But then we visited San Ignacio Lagoon in Mexico where they breed. There we had an incredible experience with a mother gray whale who wanted us to touch her and her baby - they were so gentle despite their massive size. The mother was 45 feet long, pushing her 16-foot baby toward our small boat so we could interact. I even got to rub her tongue! Now sometimes gray whales will come up to our catamaran here and rub against it, though nothing compares to the lagoon experience.

From left to right: Gisele and Dave Anderson their first boat and summer together and then 29 years later





Last question, and this has been wonderful - what do you want people to take away from your story?

GA: I want people to come experience the connection. If I could bring that to the world, I would. I think if everyone had that kind of experience - connecting with our team and these animals - it could be life-changing. For many people, it is, and that's the best gift we get to go home with.

Craving your own close encounter with these majestic giants?
Reserve your spot with Captain Dave.

NEWPORT BEACH, CA

VanDutch 40

Bought by the renowned Italian-based Cantiere del Pardo family shipyard, the VanDutch 40 is one of the iconic yachts on the market. This VanDutch sits in Newport, CA.





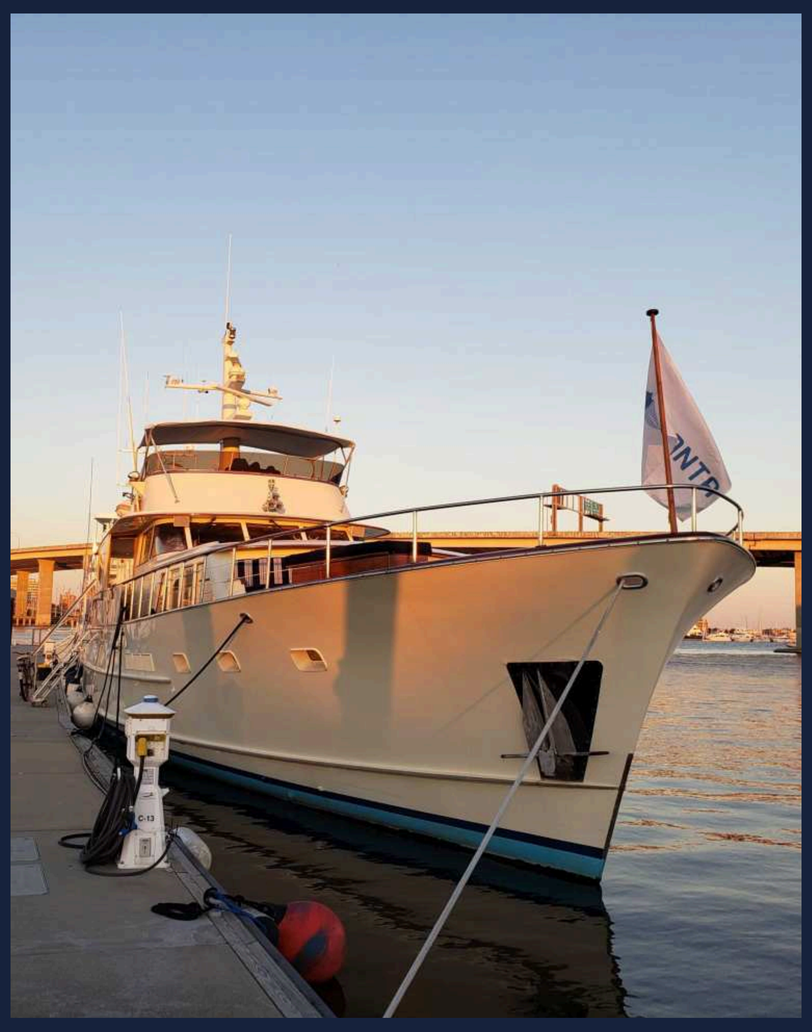
KEY WEST, FL

Classic 1939 John Alden Schooner

John Alden was the world's most celebrated marine architect, known for the Malabar schooners that won the Newport to Bermuda races of 1923, 1926, and 1932. *When and If* is a classic 1939 schooner designed by Alden, commissioned for Col. George Patton III, and now in the possession of Seth, a Key West Owner.

The Most Unique Boats in the U.S.

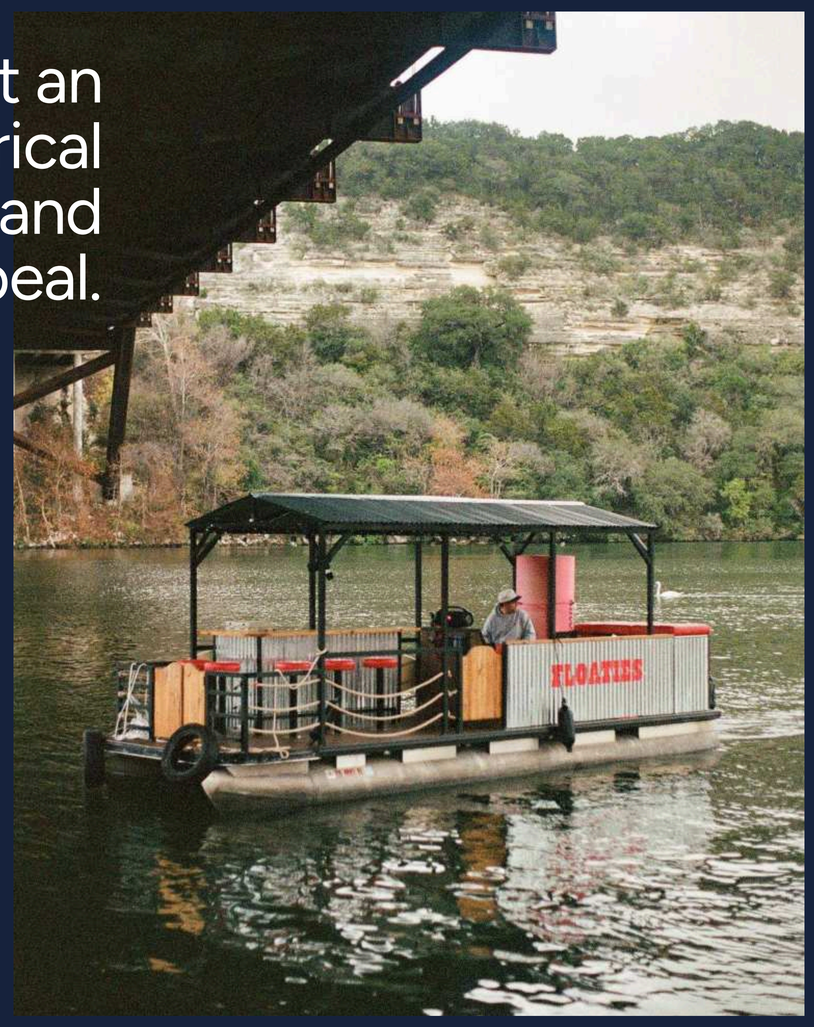
These vessels represent an extraordinary blend of historical significance, elegance and celebrity appeal.



CHARLESTON, SC

1971 Burger Mega Yacht

Featured in serveral music videos and Season 3 of "Outer Banks" as Carlos Singh's megayacht, this boat has become a local celebrity. The vessel which features a sky lounge, grand salon, and galley, shares proceeds with a local marine-science nonprofit.



AUSTIN, TX

The Floatin' Saloon Pontoon

Two former college roommates transformed their dream into reality when they turned their Sun Tracker pontoon into a floating saloon. With its reclaimed wood bar, red round bar stools, and Western-style flair, a posse of nine friends can cruise Lake Austin.



WEST PALM BEACH, FL

The Hinckley Picnic Boat

Inspired by the beautiful sailboats passing by Mount Desert Island, Benjamin B. Hinckley created boats based on three pillars: toughness, quality, and beauty. When the Picnic Boat entered the market in 1994, they were all the rave.

When and If has a sturdy construction of double planked mahogany over black locust frames and an oak keel made her heavier than Alden's signature racing schooners, more suited to her transoceanic cruising agenda.

She was launched in November of 1938 and in 1939 General George Patton took delivery of her to Massachusetts where the Patton and Ayer families lived. Shortly thereafter, Patton was deployed in Europe.



When and If

By Fall 2030, Captain Seth Salzmann Plans to Sail His John Alden Schooner Around the World

When and If is a 1939 schooner designed by marine architect John Alden and commissioned by World War II General George Patton. When and if Patton returned, he hoped to sail the world with his wife. Unfortunately, he never did, but this sailboat's story wasn't over.

After several chance encounters with *When and If* — from Maine harbors to a secluded Caribbean bay — Seth brought her under his care and today runs a program to fulfill her destiny: sailing around the world.

In this conversation, we talked about sailing expeditions, the moment he found *When and If*, and his mission to set sail with her in the fall of 2030.

What's the earliest memory you have of sailing? Did you come from a family of sailors?

SS: My first sailing experience came at age 11 in Burlington, Vermont, on Lake Champlain. I still remember the sail like it was yesterday on my father's lawyer's boat. We sailed all afternoon on a perfect summer day. I was at the helm nearly the entire time. I was amazed by how natural it felt. I didn't sail again until we moved to Key West when I was 13. I quickly found a schooner whose captain and crew loved teaching sailing. Before I turned 14, I had progressed from volunteer to hired deckhand. Both my siblings have since become sailors and made it their career.

I can only begin to imagine the epic seafaring stories you have in your back pocket. What is the most daring sailing expedition to date?

SS: I have sailed a 16-foot Hobie Cat from Key West to Cuba in 2015, captained a 102-foot schooner yacht in a trans-Atlantic race from the Canaries to the Caribbean. I have won my class in the 2022 Newport to Bermuda race, and the St. Barths Bucket Superyacht Regatta in 2023. *When and If* and I have sailed to Cuba four times, Bermuda, Newfoundland, Gulf of St. Lawrence, and throughout the Great Lakes, which we're doing again this summer....

Could you tell me about how you found the *When and If* or how it found you?

SS: I first saw *When and If* in 2000 while sailing the coast of Maine aboard a schooner where I worked as deckhand. I kept seeing her in the oddest of places: in 2009, I sailed into a secluded bay in the Caribbean; in 2010, she sailed into Key West harbor. A close friend bought her and hired me as her captain in 2012. We struck an agreement and she has been under my care since 2015.

The sailboat followed you for 15 years? What are the odds. And, *the When and If* is a John Alden schooner. Is that right? For those that don't know, can you explain what a John Alden schooner is?

SS: John Alden was the premier cruising/racing yacht designer from the 1920s through the 1960s. His inspiration came from the Gloucester fishing schooners of the late 1800s and early 1900s; he pioneered scaled-down versions of those craft to design and build family cruising yachts that could be sailed with minimal crew. This was his way of preserving the heritage of the New England fishing schooner. His passion was racing and winning. John Alden's designs have won more Newport to Bermuda races than any other yacht designer.

Did you know about the vessel's connection to General Patton?

SS: I had barely heard the name until I met the vessel. Now, however, you'd think I got a degree on General Patton. His dream of sailing the world with his family in the late 1930s, when the world was at war and facing so many unknowns, inspires me. And his words remain: "When the war is over and if I live through it, Beatrice and I are going to sail around the world."

And, have you connected with any of Patton's family members about your mission to fulfill the boat's destiny?

SS: Yes, I had the privilege of hosting Pattons from both his and his wife's side of the family. His daughter-in-law Jo-Ann Patton sent me a letter in 2015, with her admiration for our program and sailed on board with me on four occasions before her passing in 2024 at 95 years old. Jo-Ann recounted stories of sailing on the *When and If* with George Patton Jr. We sailed with his grandkids, great-grandkids, and great-great-grandkids.





Image provided by sailwhenandif.com

Seth Salzmann is the Captain and caretaker of the 1939 John Alden Schooner. Explore this boat.



How much of the original boat remains today? What efforts have gone into its preservation?

SS: I'd say about 60%. The vessel underwent two large restorations. In the mid-1990s, a shipyard in Martha's Vineyard, Gannon and Benjamin, made a name for itself by taking ownership of the *When and If* after she broke free from her mooring during a severe storm and crashed into the rocky shore. G&B orchestrated a grass-roots effort to rebuild the yacht. Walter Cronkite, James Taylor, and many more helped in fundraising. Four years later, the *When and If* was relaunched in impeccable condition.

Do you think General Patton would be surprised about how his boat has been preserved and used over the decades?

SS: I like to think he would be proud of all our voyages and extremely proud of all the crew who have earned their salt aboard his exceptional vessel.

So, tell us about the program. How far have you gotten? Where are you now?

SS: Making money with a boat is no easy feat. We sail daily in Key West, FL (winters) and Salem, MA (summers) doing shared charters, keeping us going between tall ships festivals, regattas, and film shoots, all while maintaining a wooden yacht.

The COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 changed our course, but we endured. The schooner remains in great shape while my two young boys, ages 4½ and 3, grow their sea legs, giving us time for improvements at an affordable pace.

Prep work for the voyage has always driven our work, but the real work has yet to begin. The watermaker, power regeneration, electronic upgrades—all that. We intend to set off in fall 2030.

How do you balance preserving the historical authenticity of the vessel while ensuring it meets modern safety standards for a world journey?

SS: We're Coast Guard-certified, and safety is always top priority. While modern technology has made boating safer, there's a common misconception that an old boat isn't a safe boat. I beg to differ. We would be more likely to sail through the storm less scathed than 90% of the yachts that are built today.

In general, sailing isn't for the faint of heart, but I would say that with experienced hands at the helm, or guiding you, it's a life-altering experience.

What is your “When and If”?

SS: When my boys are older, and if we've raised the funds, my family and crew will sail around the world.

Notes

The Art of Letting Others Lead: A Fly-Fisher's Story

My earliest fly-fishing memory dates back to a trip with my aunt Anne on the Yakima River. I had no idea what I was doing — I could barely manage a cast and had no idea what a tippet was. I remember being impressed by aunt Anne's skill with the oars and her ability to read shifting current and place us exactly where the fish were.

Other anglers with fancy casts were floating by; I was afraid to move my fly line and make a knot. Anne smiled and said, "Don't worry about having a fancy cast. Those guys can't catch a fish when their fly is in the air. Keep the fly in the water; you'll catch a fish."

I realized that perfection could wait — it was about simply doing the thing: putting your fly on the water, trusting the drift, and learning from every knot and nibble along the way. That simple invitation welcomed me into fly-fishing.

From that day forward, I was in: monitoring insect hatches, scanning bubble lines for life, checking what lurks beneath the surface riffles and ensuring you don't snag the branches behind you.

I picked fly-fishing back up later in life after accomplishing other skills, like training horses and being a National Board Certified teacher. I realized I was starting from a blank slate. It had been years since I'd been out with aunt Anne, and I was always the only woman in sight during my hours on the water. After months of catching more trees than fish, I knew I needed help.

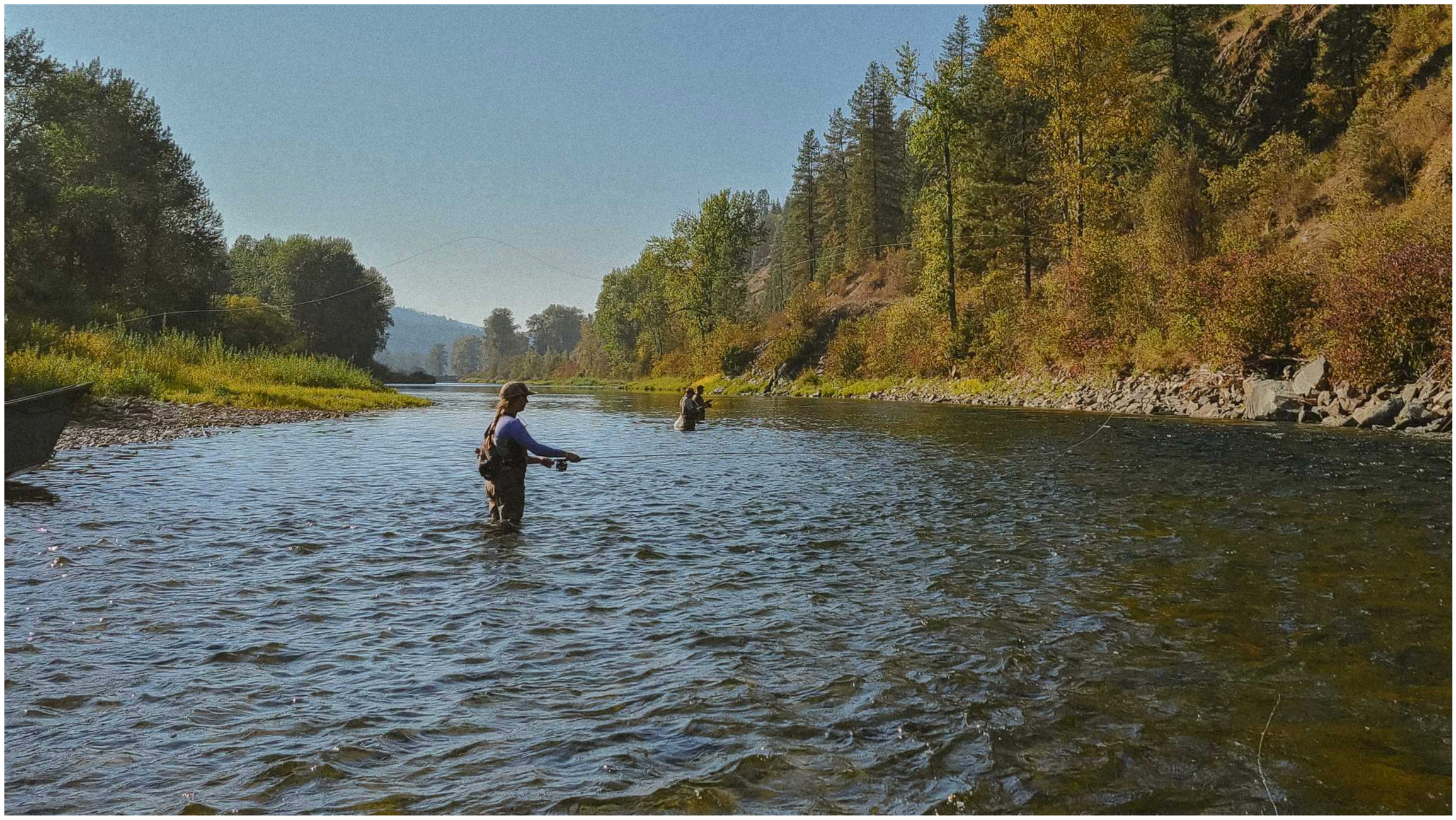
Notes

That's when I discovered Spokane Women on the Fly (SWOTF). At my first fly-casting practice in the park, I learned the simplest way to thread my line in the first minute. My only cost? A few pounding heartbeats as I approached a circle of experienced strangers asking for help. Since that moment, SWOTF has transformed my experience.

One of my most memorable moments happened during a chilly winter float in the Pacific Northwest. After days of unsuccessful solo fishing, SWOTF encouraged me to hire a guide, which I was reluctant to do at first. But once on the water, I realized what an incredible opportunity this was and how social platforms seek to connect and, hopefully, inspire each other for the better. This was just another form of that.

During our trip, my guide helped point out subtle nibbles and highlighted where I went wrong; I was waiting for a distinct tug. He'd say, "That's an eat." By day's end, I learned to recognize visual cues.

Because of that trip, I soon landed my first fish on a solo trip on the North Idaho River. But what I found is that the steepest learning curves become shared adventures, and every obstacle feels a little more conquerable. That sense of community can turn the noisiest river bend into a place of quiet possibility.



That sense of community can turn the noisiest river bend into a place of quiet possibility.





CONTRIBUTOR
Trish Dotts

A teacher who has spent decades exploring the backcountry of the West with her family. A lifelong angler, she joined the Spokane Women on the Fly (SWOTF) in spring of 2024.

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