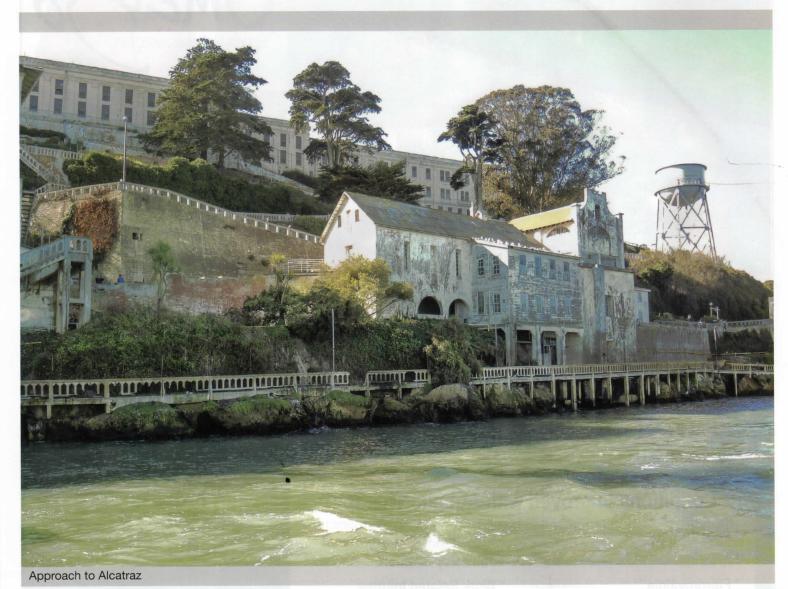
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Pictures From the Page 8 Trinity Episcopal Cathedral by Lee Viray Cahill

ALCATRAZ CRUISES

Enjoy a ride on the nation's first hybrid ferry to Al Capone's former home



By Diane LeBow • Photography by John Montgomery

In their wildest dreams, famous prisoners Al Capone, Machine Gun Cruises and Hornblower Cruises and Events." Kell and the Birdman of Alcatraz, would never have conjured up the cutting edge hybrid ferries that now carry happy visitors to The Rock, Alcatraz Island, in the middle of San Francisco Bay

As the nation's first hybrid ferry, "The Hornblower Hybrid is not only the next step in Alcatraz Cruises' goal of becoming the greenest concessionaire in the National Park Service; with this vessel we hope to become a model of environmental innovation for the city of San Francisco and state of California," said Terry Macrae, CEO of Alcatraz 22 Silicon Valley Community Newspapers

It is a model of alternative energy innovation. The ship combines (wind turbines, photovoltaic solar panels to charge batteries that supply power to all functions on the vessel, and electric motors, combined with infrequently used diesel-powered generators. The result is an ecological and very quiet ride, as well as economical.

Aboard the Hornblower Hybrid, even the carpeting, signage, and

countertops (created from recycled vodka bottles!) are made from recycled materials, containing no harmful chemicals, and all lighting is LED.

Alcatraz Cruises offers daily round trips throughout the day to Alcatraz Island in partnership with the National Park Service, leaving from Pier 33 on the Embarcadero in San Francisco. Book well in advance for this popular outing.

Alcatraz history, nature, education

In addition to being one of the world's most legendary prisons, there's a lot of history and beauty to experience while on the island. From 1934 to 1963, this federal penitentiary was home to some of America's most notorious criminals. Two of the many films set on the island include Birdman of Alcatraz (1962) with Burt Lancaster and Escape from Alcatraz (1979) with Clint Eastwood.

Self-guided audio tours are available, as well as Park Service docents' free programs on topics such as prison escapes, American Indian occupation, military history and natural history. While on your tour, you can experience the infamous solitary confinement cells (although the door is left unlocked while you're inside!) and see the lifelike papier-mâché heads that Frank Morris and three other prisoners left in their cots to fool the prison guards as they escaped through the tunnels they dug with kitchen spoons. They were never found, so possibly they were the only Alcatraz prisoners to escape from this fortress.

In addition to these macabre memories, the island is home to unique plants and flowers, marine life, and thousands of nesting sea birds. Remnants of Civil War era buildings remain on the island, reminders that during the 19th century, Alcatraz served as a harbor defense fort and military prison. American Indian rights history was made here during the 1969 Indian Rights movement occupation. Some signs and graffiti from this significant episode are still visible.

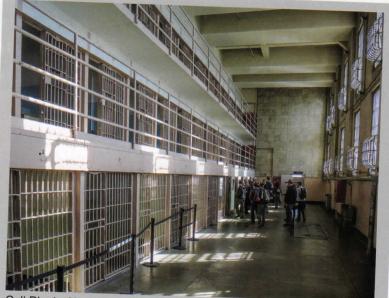
Educational Experiences

Alcatraz Cruises partners with Aquarium of the Bay, a local nonprofit, to offer a Discover the Bay program for 5th through 8th grade students, focusing on Bay and wetlands' life and conservation, hybrid technology, climate change and more. Led by expert naturalists from the aquarium, the five hour program includes a visit to the aquarium as well as hands-on learning aboard the Hornblower Hybrid. This Discover the Bay program is coordinated with California State Science Standards for 6th grade.

Hybrids around the World

In additional to San Francisco Bay, Hornblower's Hybrids have replaced the historic Niagara Falls' Maid of the Mist on the Canadian side of the falls, as well as New York City's cruise around Manhattan and the Statue of Liberty. Abroad, Germany and Australia are also using hybrid vessels.

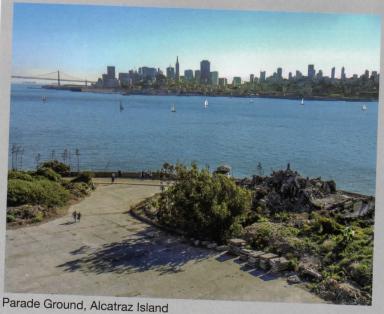
Come enjoy the beauty of San Francisco Bay, along with the infamous history of Alcatraz Island aboard the Hornblower Hybrid, one of the nation's cutting edge vessels.



Cell Block, Alcatraz Island



Hornblower, Hybrid Boat, Alcatraz Clipper



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