

## Discover San Francisco Bay Aboard the USS Potomac Wednesday, October 25



Bay Visions invites members of all six Bay Area garden clubs to a Bay Discovery Cruise aboard FDR's presidential yacht, the USS Potomac. We'll leave from Jack London Square in Oakland for a 3-hour sail around San Francisco Bay. Along the way, Save the Bay Executive David Lewis will tell us about his organization's latest wetland restoration projects and advocacy efforts. Bay Visions sold out this cruise in 2017, so get your ticket early. Online ticket sales (50 tickets available) start on September 15.

**What:** Bay Discovery Cruise about the historic USS Potomac  
**When:** Wednesday, October 25 from 10 am to 1:30 pm  
**Where:** Jack London Square, Oakland  
**Who:** Open to members of all six Bay Area garden clubs  
**Cost:** \$115 per person (includes lunch and rental audio headsets), plus a \$3.50 credit card processing fee  
**Registration:** Online registration link opens at 8:30 am on Friday, Sept. 15 at <https://www.piedmontgardenclub.org/events/sf-bay-discovery-cruise/>  
Please list Marin Garden Club under the "Company" field when filling out payment information.

**Questions:** Contact Faith Brown at [brownsf@aol.com](mailto:brownsf@aol.com) of 415-531-5320

**Need a gluten-free or vegetarian lunch?** Contact Janet Riley at [bjriley@pacbell.net](mailto:bjriley@pacbell.net)

### About the USS Potomac

Built as a Coast Guard cutter in 1934, the vessel was commissioned by the US Navy in 1936, renamed the USS Potomac, and served as Franklin Delano Roosevelt's presidential yacht until his death in 1945. FDR hated flying and preferred to travel by train or ship during his presidency. Throughout the Great Depression and World War II, he found respite from the daily stress of the White House by

cruising on the USS Potomac. It was the site of informal strategy sessions with his advisors, as well as fishing, poker games, family gatherings, and other relaxing pursuits.

A paraplegic since he was stricken with polio at the age of 39 in 1921, FDR's greatest fear was being caught in a fire and being unable to escape. A hand-operated elevator was installed inside a false stack on the ship, and the President—who had developed an extremely strong upper body—was able to use ropes and pulleys to move the elevator up and down between the saloon and upper boat deck.

On Monday, August 4, 1941, four months before Japan's attack on Pearl Harbor, FDR boarded the USS Potomac ostensibly for a fishing trip and a visit to Martha's Vineyard. The President, however, was secretly transferred to the heavy cruiser USS Augusta on the morning of August 5 to travel to Newfoundland where he would meet with British Prime Minister Winston Churchill—their first meeting as heads of state. During this top-secret rendezvous, the two world leaders forged the principles of the Atlantic Charter, forming the Allied partnership during World War II, and what Roosevelt called the "United Nations," to plan the post-war peace. With the United States' direct involvement in the war at the end of 1941, the President's recreational use of the USS Potomac came to an end.

**After FDR's death in April 1945**, the USS Potomac began a long and ignominious decline from her former role in world affairs. After many adventures and many owners—including Elvis Presley at one point—she was seized in 1980 in San Francisco as a front for drug smugglers and impounded at Treasure Island, where she sank. Two weeks later, the ship was re-floated by the Navy and sold to the Port of Oakland for just \$15,000. The Port of Oakland spearheaded a cooperative effort with organized labor, maritime corporations, and dedicated volunteers to complete a \$5 million restoration. Opened to the public in 1995, the Association for the Preservation of the Presidential Yacht USS Potomac now operates this National Historic Landmark as an active memorial to Franklin Delano Roosevelt.

*Source: USS Potomac Association*

Read more at:

<http://www.usspotomac.org/>

