

BEFORE AND AFTER
4 amazing yacht makeovers

JURASSIC PARK
Wooden boats get new life

THE NEED FOR SPEED
Touring Italy's Motor Valley

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A WARRIOR RETURNS

How the record-breaking *Mari-Cha IV* became *Samurai*

DAZZLING DISPLAYS

Best 4th of July anchorages

PLUS

Why the man behind BurgerFi doesn't put yachting on the back burner

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WHERE NEXT?

3 Fourth of July yachting destinations

Edited by Kara Murphy



BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

With so many sites associated with the beginning of the American Revolution, Boston is an intriguing place to celebrate this special day.

On the morning of July 4, stand below the balcony of the Old State House, listening to a reading of the Declaration of Independence and imagining how Boston's residents would have felt as they stood here on July 18, 1776, hearing these same words. Later, marvel at the Boston Pops Fireworks Spectacular, set along the Charles River, on the Esplanade between the Longfellow and Massachusetts Avenue bridges. "Take the tender, loaded with wine and cheese, and anchor right up the Charles River in and among all the other boats," suggests Captain Greg Russell of the motor yacht *Bella Vita*.

While here, make sure to walk the 2.5-mile Freedom Trail, which travels past historic sites between Charlestown Navy Yard and Boston Common, America's oldest public park. At its start, tour the USS *Constitution* (usconstitutionmuseum.org), the world's oldest commissioned warship afloat; along the way, satiate the need for retail therapy (and lunch!) at Faneuil Hall Marketplace (faneuilhallmarketplace.com), more than 100 shops and restaurants housed in three restored 19th-century buildings. Afterward, head to Fenway Park for a Boston Red Sox baseball game.

Leaving the harbor, cruise east toward the edge of Stellwagen Bank, a shallow, kidney-shaped plateau on the eastern edge of Massachusetts Bay. The bank is the centerpiece of the Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary (stellwagen.noaa.gov), a rich feeding ground for whales, dolphins and more.

Continuing your whale-watching adventure, head northwest to Marblehead, where you can anchor in the town harbor (or, for larger yachts, in the harbor mouth) and stroll its historic district. Finally, call into nearby Salem, where you can visit the Salem Witch Museum (salemwitchmuseum.com), which explores the notorious witch trials of 1692, and then check out sites associated with *The Scarlet Letter* author Nathaniel Hawthorne, who was born here on Independence Day in 1804.

FUN FEST

A 35-year-old tradition celebrating Boston's harbor and history, Boston Harborfest runs from July 1 to 4, and includes a U.S. Navy Welcome and live music in Columbus Park. bostonharborfest.com

TRY THE PIE

Parker's Restaurant in the Omni Parker House is the birthplace of Boston Cream Pie, which the hotel has been serving since 1856. omnihotels.com



FREEDOM WALK

Boston's Freedom Trail passes 16 historic sites, including the Bunker Hill Monument on Breed's Hill, the site of the first major battle of the Revolutionary War; Old North Church, where two lanterns were briefly hung to alert patriots that the British were advancing by boat, and Faneuil Hall, which hosted America's first town meeting. thefreedomtrail.org

CHOOSE YOUR RIDE



FAR NIENTE

► This 2014 Westport includes a Jacuzzi and a skylounge movie theater and tows a 35-foot Boston Whaler rigged for fishing. Visit www.fraseryachts.com.

SIZE	PRICE/WEEK	GUESTS
130'	\$130,000	10



M3

► Two tenders and three WaveRunners complement this elegant Intermarine Savannah, which also features an elevator and beach club. Visit www.oceanindependence.com.

SIZE	PRICE/WEEK	GUESTS
147'	\$150,000	10



BELLA VITA

► This Feadship features a steam room, exercise equipment, a Jacuzzi, zero speed stabilizers and a full beach party setup. Visit www.burgessyachts.com.

SIZE	PRICE/WEEK	GUESTS
147' 7"	\$189,000	12

PHOTOGRAPHS: JIM RAYCROFT (TOP), COURTESY OF BOSTON HARBORFEST (INSET TOP), ISTOCK/GREGOBAGEL (BOTTOM RIGHT)



WASHINGTON, D.C.

Washington, D.C.'s Fourth of July festivities include the National Independence Day Parade and "A Capitol Fourth," a 90-minute evening concert on the U.S. Capitol's west lawn that features the National Symphony Orchestra and serves as the soundtrack to the fireworks extravaganza. The best place for watching the spectacular display from your yacht is in the Potomac River, between the 14th Street Bridge and the Arlington Memorial Bridge, says Sean Noel, Fleet Miami's sport fleet captain. "Position early for the best anchorage spot."

With a wealth of attractions close to the Potomac, you could easily spend five or more days chartering here. Start out around the Georgetown area, where author and historian Garrett Peck can come aboard to tell you how the Potomac helped keep glasses wet during the Prohibition or about its Civil War history. Later, cycle along the C&O (Chesapeake & Ohio) Canal Towpath, kayak or paddleboard upriver, near Three Sisters rocks, and attend a performance at the Kennedy Center.

Next, relocate four nautical miles south to the Washington Channel, which parallels the Potomac, and spend a day or two touring the nearby Smithsonian museums, the Washington Monument, the memorials and the U.S. Capitol, or take in a Washington Nationals baseball game.

Afterward, cruise another four nautical miles south, pausing at Old Town Alexandria to explore the George Washington Masonic National Memorial. Then check out the Torpedo Factory Art Center and visit historic breweries.

Moving downriver, call into Mount Vernon, George Washington's riverside estate, and take a VIP tour of the restored mansion, original outbuildings and the tomb where the Washingtons are buried.

Finally, cruise into the Chesapeake Bay and north to Annapolis, Maryland (about 40 nautical miles from Mount Vernon), where you can savor Maryland crab cakes in a colonial-era tavern and visit the U.S. Naval Academy.

SIZE MATTERS

Yachts with an air draft of more than 18 feet won't be able to clear the railroad bridge near the 14th Street Bridge and move upriver to Georgetown, says Captain Noel. However, they can dock or anchor in the Washington Channel and then navigate the Potomac south.



PIECES OF PATRIOTISM

To see the original Declaration of Independence (as well as the U.S. Constitution and Bill of Rights), head to the National Archives (archives.gov), then over to the National Museum of American History (americanhistory.si.edu), where you can marvel at the flag that inspired Francis Scott Key to pen "The Star-Spangled Banner."



MANGIA!

Follow President Obama's lead and spend an evening in Georgetown dining at *Fiola Mare*, an Italian restaurant specializing in seafood, recommends Captain Noel. fiolamaredc.com

NEW YORK CITY

In 1976, Macy's department store set off its first Fourth of July fireworks display to commemorate the U.S. bicentennial. Now in its 40th year, it's one of the biggest fireworks shows in the nation; this year, more than 45,000 pyrotechnic shells will be fired. To watch the spectacle, positioning "around the Statue of Liberty is always fun, but it can be extremely busy," says Captain Vareek Breden of the motor yacht *Namoh*.

Either very early that day (at 3 a.m.) or on the evening of July 3, join a walking tour of Lower Manhattan, where you'll learn about the city's rich Revolutionary War history. Tours are hosted by the Fraunces Tavern Museum (frauncestavernmuseum.org), housed in an 18th-century building, where George Washington gave his farewell address to officers in the Continental Army in 1783.

One of the closest marinas to the museum is North Cove Marina (igy-northcove.com) at Brookfield Place. Other nearby options include the new One^o15 Brooklyn Marina (one15brooklynmarina.com), on the Brooklyn side of the East River, with berths for yachts up to 250 feet, and Liberty Landing Marina (libertylandingmarina.com), across the Hudson River, with views of the city skyline and the Statue of Liberty.

The 305-foot-tall Statue of Liberty, a gift of friendship from France and a universal symbol of freedom and democracy, is an excellent exercise opportunity. Three hundred and seventy-seven steps lead from the main lobby to the crown platform — just make sure to schedule any celebratory July 4 toasts for after your climb as the only restrooms are in the lobby.

When you've seen your fill of Broadway shows, dined at the hottest restaurants, danced at the best clubs and shopped so much that you now actually need new shoes, cruise east to 118-mile-long Long Island, where you can extend your New York state of mind at a slower pace, visiting wineries, fishing and kayaking.



FRESH TAKE ON HISTORY

"Hamilton," an award-winning hip-hop and rap-driven musical about Alexander Hamilton and some other founding fathers (all portrayed by black or Hispanic actors), is playing at Richard Rodgers Theatre. hamiltonbroadway.com

FRENCH FEAST



At Le Bernardin, a French seafood restaurant with three Michelin stars, the Chef's Tasting Menu includes eight courses, such as seared langoustine-foie gras, lacquered lobster tail, and grilled escarol and seared Wagyu beef. le-bernardin.com

CHOOSE YOUR RIDE



MOKSHA

► This Warren Yachts accommodates six guests in three staterooms. She boasts a sophisticated A/V system, with a huge library of music and movies, as well as a variety of water toys. Visit www.fleetmiami.com.

SIZE	PRICE/WEEK	GUESTS
87' 5"	\$42,000	6



CHANTAL MA VIE

► This six-stateroom Feadship includes two Jacuzzis and a range of water toys, including three paddleboards and four kayaks. Visit www.fraseryachts.com.

SIZE	PRICE/WEEK	GUESTS
179'	\$230,000	12

CHOOSE YOUR RIDE



NAMOH

► This Cheoy Lee sleeps 10 guests in four guest staterooms and one master suite. Two al fresco dining options are available and the huge sun deck offers plenty of space to relax. Visit www.oceanindependence.com.

SIZE	PRICE/WEEK	GUESTS
125'	\$89,500	10

HOT-DIGGITY DOG

Captain Breden recommends a trip to Coney Island, where Nathan's Famous hosts a hot dog-eating contest every Fourth of July. The 2015 winner ate 62 hot dogs and buns. That just can't be good for you... nathansfamous.com



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