

ON AND OFF THE BEATEN TRACK

1,000 PLACES TO SEE BEFORE YOU DIE

NEW YORK TIMES
BESTSELLER

A TRAVELER'S LIFE LIST

by PATRICIA SCHULTZ

THE WORLD'S WONDERS: A BALLOON SAFARI OVER MASAI MARA
♦ THE TASMAN GLACIER ♦ SAILING THE GRENADINES ♦
THE HIGHLAND GAMES AT BRAEMAR ♦ CANYON DE CHELLY
♦ GUBBIO ♦ OAXACA'S SATURDAY MARKET ♦ (continued on back cover)

America's Maritime Museum

MYSTIC SEAPORT

Mystic, Connecticut, U.S.A.

Mystic is one of the Northeast's most visited tourist destinations, primarily due to Mystic Seaport, the Museum of America and the Sea. America's leading maritime museum, it houses the largest collection of historic

boats and ships in the world. Much of its 17-acre riverfront site is taken up by a re-created coastal village complete with a schoolhouse, church, and dozens of homes, stores, and workshops that bring salty 19th-century maritime America to life. A number of fully rigged sailing ships docked here are open for visits, among them the *Charles W. Morgan* (1841), America's last surviving wooden whaleship (complete with "blubber room"), and the 1882 Danish vessel *Joseph Conrad*. The Seaport's most ambitious exhibit ever, "Voyages: Stories of America and the Sea," examines our nation's connection to its oceans, rivers, and lakes. The area's other major site, the important Mystic Aquarium and Institute for Exploration, offers more than forty live exhibits of sea life, including more than 4,000 specimens and the 1-acre "Alaska Coast,"

one of the world's largest beluga whale exhibits.

Take to the hills for a sweeping view of the harbor (and crowds), and follow privacy-seeking Lauren Bacall and Humphrey Bogart to The Inn at Mystic: The couple honeymooned here in what is now The Inn's main house, a regal Colonial Revival mansion built in 1904. A new annex has increased the number of rooms, all enjoying the same acclaimed kitchen and lovely views of the Long Island Sound, but hold out for the more atmospheric rooms of the original main house.

WHAT town, site, hotel. MYSTIC: 127 miles northeast of New York City, 47 miles south of Hartford. MYSTIC SEAPORT: 75 Greenmanville Ave. (Rte. 27). Tel 888-973-2767 or 860-572-5315; www.mysticseaport.org. Cost: admission \$17. MYSTIC AQUARIUM: 55 Coogan Blvd. Tel 860-572-5955; www.mystic-aquarium.org. Cost: admission \$12.

THE INN AT MYSTIC: junction of Routes 1 and 27. Tel 800-237-2415 or 860-536-9604, fax 860-572-1635, www.innatmystic.com. Cost: doubles with fireplace and Jacuzzi from \$150 (low season), from \$185 (high season). **BEST TIMES:** May for Lobster Fest; Jun for Sea Music Festival; the 5-day Antique and Classic Wooden Boat Rendezvous late Jun; Chowder Fest, Columbus Day weekend; Lantern Light Evening Tours, during the Christmas holidays.



Handling the sails of the *Charles W. Morgan*