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38th Voyage Traveling Dockside Exhibit

On her 38th Voyage, the whaleship *Charles W. Morgan* will be accompanied in select ports by a traveling dockside exhibit that will be open to the public. The 22,000 square-foot exhibit is intended to provide context for boarding the ship in a fun and entertaining manner for all ages with a variety of activity zones.

Visitors can watch a brief video on the history of the ship and view a series of information panels that explain and explore the role American whaling industry in this country's history, how the *Morgan* and whaleships were an early connector of different cultures, how our perception of the natural world has changed since the *Morgan*'s heyday, the recent restoration of the ship, and details of the 38th voyage.

There will be several performance and demonstration stages where visitors will be able to see Mystic Seaport staff interpreters demonstrate the skills of the cooper, shipsmith, carver, rope maker, sail maker and rigger. Live performances include a "Tale of the Whaler" interactive theatre piece, a condensed rendition of "Moby Dick in Minutes," a roleplayer from 1876, and live music and sea chanteys.

In-water activities involve the opportunity to row in a whaleboat, plus expert demonstrations of the boat's gear. Whaleboat races are scheduled in several of the ports.

A goal of the 38th Voyage is to inspire public discussion of the science and conservation of the oceans. Visitors will be invited to participate in a "Wishes for the Whales" activity by writing down their wish or thought for the whales, which will be attached to a humpback whale sculpture.

Mystic Seaport has partnered with NOAA's Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary, who will be present with an exhibit booth to highlight how the National Marine Sanctuaries interpret our maritime past, promote ocean conservation, and engage in cutting edge research. Touchable "props", such as baleen, will be available to help talk about how whales feed and what they feed on. Multimedia display with videos as well as static interpretive panels will feature information on the National Marine Sanctuary System, Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary, whales, whale research, and whaling heritage. Kids will be invited to create their own whale hat.

A visual highlight of the exhibit will be Spouter, Mystic Seaport's 46-foot-long, life-sized inflatable model of a sperm whale.

The exhibit will be open from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. There is a suggested admission of \$5 per person.

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For the list of ports and days of operation, please visit
www.mysticseaport.org/38thvoyage/itinerary/.

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