

New and Upcoming Exhibitions

A selection of current and upcoming exhibitions with a maritime connection. Please check museum websites for the latest dates and information.



From the *Deep Waters: Four Artists and the Sea* exhibition: Ayana V. Jackson, *Some people have spiritual eyes II*, 2020, archival pigment print on German etching paper. Courtesy Museum of Fine Arts Boston. Lucy Dalbiac Luard Fund and funds donated by the Curators Circle: Black Arts and Artists

Sorolla and the Sea

Norton Museum of Art
West Palm Beach, Florida, USA
Until April 13, 2025

An exhibition of forty works by Spanish painter Joaquín Sorolla y Bastida. Described by Claude Monet as a “master of light,” Sorolla balanced the Spanish tradition of realism with modernist trends. The exhibition explores Sorolla’s lifelong connection to the sea. “Collectively, these works create a portal across the Atlantic Ocean to the Mediterranean seaside of early twentieth-century Spain.” <https://www.norton.org/exhibitions/sorolla-and-the-sea>

Take Me to the Water: Histories of the Black Pacific

Maritime Museum of San Diego
San Diego, California, USA
Opening August 2025

The aim of this exhibition is to call attention toward the deep-rooted and historic relationship between people of African descent and the Pacific Ocean. Exhibited within galleries on the Maritime Museum of San Diego’s historic steamboat, *Berkeley*, the exhibition includes six featured narrative sections spanning the topics of Journeying into the Pacific, Black Ecologies, African Maritime Traditions, Building Communities, Patrolling the Pacific, and Black Labor at Pacific Docks. Nautical artifacts and objects of the maritime industry are included, along with historical records, interactive activities, and live storytelling. <https://www.blackpacificproject.com/public-exhibitions>

Deep Waters: Four Artists and the Sea

Museum of Fine Arts Boston
Boston, Massachusetts, USA
Until November 9, 2025

Works in this exhibition have origins across centuries and throughout the Atlantic, presenting lived experiences and artful histories, united by the ocean. *Vertigo Sea* (2015), a film installation by John Akomfrah, is featured, offering an exploration of our interactions with the sea and the creatures within it, and the relationship between the sea and slavery. Also included is the work of photographer Ayana V. Jackson, whose display of femininity and divine nature stems from an Afrofuturistic vision of a mythical utopia of Drexciya, inhabited by the descendants of pregnant women who died on the Middle Passage. <https://www.mfa.org/exhibition/deep-waters-four-artists-and-the-sea>

Entwined: Freedom, Sovereignty, and the Sea

Mystic Seaport Museum
Mystic, Connecticut, USA
Until December 2025

A major exhibition centering maritime histories in Indigenous, African, and African-descended worldviews and experiences. Unraveling the threads of existing maritime narratives for the history of the Dawnland (New England), Indigenous dispossession, and racialized slavery, this exhibition is rooted in voices and histories that have been silent or silenced. *Entwined* explores the enduring legacies,

strength, and resilience of Sovereign Indigenous Nations and African-descended peoples of the Dawnland. Foregrounding ancestral and descendant voices, *Entwined* reweaves a narrative of African and Indigenous maritime cultures whose histories are forever interwoven in the stories of freedom, sovereignty, and the sea.

A Nation Takes Place

Minnesota Marine Art Museum
Winona, Minnesota, USA
Until March 2, 2025

This exhibition examines the ways seafaring imaginaries are connected to the lethal technologies of enslavement, colonialism, genocide, dispossession, and extraction. Nearly forty transnational artists are represented, filling historical gaps created by purposeful erasure or inaccessibility, and aiming to contribute toward reframing maritime art that provides Indigenous and Black communities with narrative equity. <https://mmam.org/a-nation-takes-place>

The Divided Sea

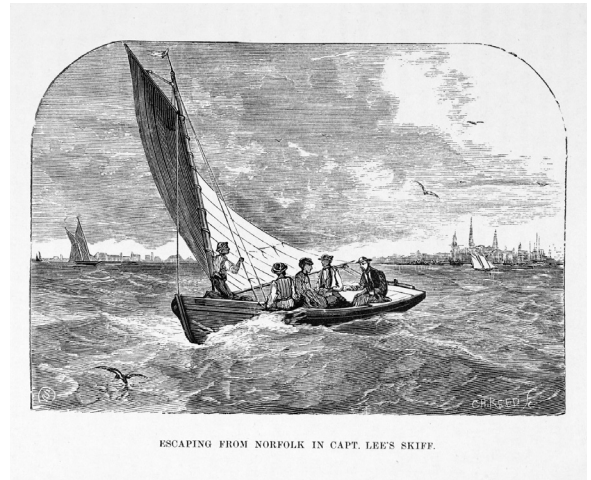
Vrak Museum of Wrecks
Stockholm, Sweden
Ongoing

A multimedia and interactive exhibition of photography and archival material exploring the underwater cultural heritage of the Baltic Nations. Topics include the submerged Stone Age settlement of Tybrind Vig in Denmark, the *Vrouw Maria* trade ship which was carrying luxury goods for Catherine the Great when it sank off of Finland, and the wreck of a German U-boat off the coast of Estonia. <https://www.vrak.se/en/visit-the-museum/exhibitions/the-divided-sea/>

OCEAN

Louisiana Museum of Modern Art
Humlebaek, Denmark
Until April 27, 2025

Art, culture, and science meet in this exploration of historic and contemporary art. Art and cultural objects are displayed to explore three themes: 1) the ocean between art and science, 2) the sublime and mythological ocean, and 3) the Anthropocene ocean. *OCEAN* has been endorsed by the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development. <https://louisiana.dk/en/exhibition/ocean/>



From the *Sailing to Freedom* exhibition: *Escaping from Norfolk in Capt. Lee's Skiff*, engraving by C. H. Reed from William Still, *The Underground Railroad: a record of facts, authentic narratives, letters, &c*, 1872. Courtesy Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum

Sailing to Freedom: Maritime Dimensions of the Underground Railroad

Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum
St. Michaels, Maryland, USA
Until December 2026

Sailing to Freedom: Maritime Dimensions of the Underground Railroad highlights little-known stories and describes the less understood maritime side of the Underground Railroad, including the impact of African Americans' paid and unpaid waterfront labor. Self-emancipation along the Underground Railroad was not entirely by overland routes. A great number of enslaved persons made their way to freedom using coastal water routes along the Atlantic seaboard, including the Chesapeake Bay. Enslaved African Americans often escaped by sea aboard merchant and passenger ships, or smaller watercraft. Based upon the book *Sailing to Freedom*, the exhibition expands the understanding of how freedom was achieved by sea and what the journey looked like for many African Americans. <https://cbmm.org/>

Te Rā: Navigating Home

Tāmaki Paenga Hira Auckland War Memorial Museum
Auckland, New Zealand
Until August 17, 2025

This exhibition is focused on Te Rā, the only known customary Māori sail in existence, which has returned to its home in Aotearoa for the first time in over 200 years. On loan from Trustees of the British Museum, this sail can now be visited in the homeland of its creator. <https://www.aucklandmuseum.com/visit/exhibitions/te-ra>

Whales

Winchester Cathedral
Winchester, UK
January 22 – February 26, 2025

This art installation features the work of British environmental advocate and sculptor, Tessa Campbell Fraser. It consists of three monumental sculptures of sperm whales that will hang from the cathedral's nave ceiling, which has often been compared to an upside-down ship's keel. Fraser seeks to highlight the interspecies relationship between humans and whales, and her work recalls the industrial-scale whaling which reduced sperm whale numbers to critical levels in the nineteenth century. <https://www.winchester-cathedral.org.uk/event/whales/>

Hawai'i Triennial 2025: ALOHA NŌ

Hawai'i Contemporary
Honolulu, Hawai'i, USA
February 15 – May 4, 2025

A multi-site exhibition of contemporary art from Hawai'i, the Pacific, and beyond, *ALOHA NŌ* is centered on rebirth and resilience, Hawai'i's embrace of humanity, and the compassionate care that makes up "aloha." The exhibition explores connection with each other and with the land and sea, in relationship with self-determination, sovereignty, and solidarity. <https://hawaiicontemporary.org>

Jaws: Welcome to Amity Island

Martha's Vineyard Museum
Vineyard Haven, Massachusetts, USA
May 24 – August 31, 2025

Celebrating the fiftieth anniversary of the movie *Jaws*, this exhibition explores maritime cinema history. It includes art, artifacts, and photographs as well as oral histories to depict how Martha's Vineyard was transformed into Amity Island. <https://mvmuseum.org/exhibition/jaws/>

New and Upcoming Virtual Exhibitions

The Story of Sarga

World Ocean Day
Until June 4, 2025

A free, virtual exhibition following an American eel named Sarga and her 4,000-kilometer journey from the Atlantic Ocean to the Ottawa River. Oriented toward families and children, this exhibition is a valuable, enriching tool for educators looking to explore the Sargasso Sea and the impressive feats of eels. <https://worldoceanday.org/event/the-story-of-sarga/>

Learning to Sail, Living at Sea: Vernaculars of Transatlantic Knowledge

John Carter Brown Library of the Early Americas
Ongoing

An online exhibition that explores the manuscript and printed records left by a diverse range of people who crossed the Atlantic Ocean. Drawing on the John Carter Brown Library's collection, it explores themes such as navigational instruction, victualing of supplies, the economics of the slave trade, and cartography advances through the prism of the printed word. <https://americana.jcblibrary.org/exhibitions/learning-to-sail/>

To submit an exhibition for possible inclusion in the next issue of *Mainsheet*, please email a brief description and link to mainsheet@mysticseaport.org

Academic Opportunities and Happenings

Conferences

North American Society for Oceanic History

Natchez, Mississippi, USA
May 15–17, 2025
<https://nasoh.org/conferences>

NASOH's 2025 theme is *Continental Connections: Inland Waters and the Shaping of Maritime North America*. The conference will be held in Natchez, a point of exchange and a place of historical importance for Indigenous, French, English, Spanish, African, and American histories.

Council of American Maritime Museums (CAMM) Annual Conference

Pensacola Lighthouse and Maritime Museum,
Pensacola, Florida, USA

April 9-11, 2025

<https://councilofamericanmaritimemuseums.org/>

The 2025 conference theme is *Beacons*. The lighthouse is a well-known metaphor for guidance and leadership. We lead within our disciplines, our museums, our communities, and our field. The CAMM program will include sessions on aspects of maritime museum leadership including communities and audiences, resources and collections, governance and stewardship, and innovation and growth.

Unquiet Shores Conference

Edinburgh Napier University, Edinburgh, Scotland,
and online

June 18-20, 2025

<https://haunted-shores.com/>

From the hypnotic swirling of the tide around rocks and the skittering of littoral creatures dancing across the sands, to the mechanical and recreational noise of the human shore, the coast is a region readily identified by its distinctive soundscapes. This conference invites contributions that attend to the wealth of gothic, weird, and uncanny media that explore and exploit the haunting potential of the coast's unquiet atmospheres. We are also interested in the ways in which coasts are haunted by less readily detectable sonic phenomena: consider, for instance, the submarine cables that run beneath our feet on many beaches, carrying the noise of humanity's global communication networks up inland and far out to sea, or the distressing sight of mass whale strandings caused, it is thought, by anthropic noise in the deep ocean.

The 8th International Congress for Underwater Archaeology (IKUWA8)

Oostende, Belgium

October 13-17, 2025

<https://vliz.be/ikuwa8/en/theme-ikuwa-8>

It is the ambition of the Underwater Cultural Heritage community to convince society of the significant role underwater as well as coastal cultural heritage can play in achieving the goals of the Decade of Ocean Science. This conference offers a valuable opportunity to showcase the significant interactions between humans and oceans and to grasp their significance for the future of marine environments.

Exploring underwater and coastal cultural heritage enables researchers to access the collective memory of humanity and to enrich it with compelling narratives, thereby creating a tool that can provide insights into sea level fluctuations and climate change. By incorporating underwater cultural heritage into discussions on the sociocultural significance of the oceans, we can deepen our emotional connection with these vast bodies of water. Submissions are due by March 15, 2025.

A Water's History of the United States

Roosevelt Institute for American Studies,
Middelburg, Netherlands

May 21-23, 2025

<https://www.roosevelt.nl/en/nieuws/conference-a-waters-history-of-the-united-states/>

A conference examining how the shaping of the United States has been influenced by water resources and management of them, through naval endeavors, conservation, American power, and more. The conference seeks to de-territorialize United States historical narratives by shifting attention toward the processes carried by the sea and how water has played a role in American democracy.

New Researchers in Maritime History Conference 2025

Hull, UK

April 11-12, 2025

<https://www.maritimehistory.org.uk/>

The British Commission for Maritime History (BCMh) announces its 30th Conference for New Researchers in Maritime History. The Conference, which is supported by the Society for Nautical Research and the University of Hull Maritime History Trust, is designed to enable those in the early stages of their research careers to present their ideas, plans, and findings to an informed and enthusiastic audience, and to build relations with other maritime historians. We warmly encourage applications from postgraduate students and independent scholars, whose contributions can address any aspect of maritime history in its broadest sense.

The 12th Maritime Heritage Conference

Buffalo, New York, USA

September 24-27, 2025

<https://seahistory.org/maritime-heritage-conference/>

Maritime museums, scholars, advocates, and leaders of the maritime heritage community are invited to gather for discussion and presentation on a variety of topics, including maritime art, literature, and music, historic vessel restoration, national marine sanctuaries, and more. Paper proposals are due by May 31, 2025.

Britain, Conflict, and the Sea

Royal Museums Greenwich, Greenwich, UK

September 12-13, 2025

<https://www.rmg.co.uk/collections/research>

This conference seeks to explore the ways in which modern Britain has been shaped by ideas and practices of maritime war. Understandings of “Britishness” have been bound up with conflict and seafaring for centuries. The sea has served as a barrier, marking the mental borderlines of an “island people” and distinguishing them from European “others.” It has also facilitated the development and projection of British imperial power and capital on a global scale. This conference aims to explore the production, consumption, evolution, and impact of these ideas and developments between the Napoleonic Wars and today.

Port Cities and Maritime Cultures International Conference

Portsmouth, UK

June 10-11, 2025

<https://www.port.ac.uk/research/research-groups-and-centres/centre-for-port-cities-and-maritime-cultures>

The increasing concern about social and economic deprivation in coastal communities has underscored the importance of focusing scholarly work on the waterfront. This interdisciplinary conference aims to unite scholars and practitioners from around the globe working at the intersection of urban and maritime arts, humanities, and social science research and impact. Themes include the construction and experience of urban-maritime cultures, representations of urban-maritime spaces and cultures, recovering marginalized voices, and the conservation of tangible and intangible maritime heritage.

Europeport 2025

Rotterdam, Netherlands

November 4-7, 2025

<https://www.europeport.nl/>

Europeport, taking place in the world port city of Rotterdam, serves as the premier international maritime event for cutting-edge technology and complex shipbuilding. Europeport covers all aspects of the maritime industry, with a particular emphasis on high-tech vessels. The exhibition promises to be a display of the latest advancements in maritime technology.

Ocean Sciences Meeting 2026

Glasgow, Scotland

February 22-27, 2026

<https://www.agu.org/ocean-sciences-meeting>

For the first time ever, in 2026, the Ocean Sciences Meeting will be held outside of the US. The Ocean Sciences Meeting is a scientific gathering that provides attendees with the opportunities to share research, collaborate across disciplines, and create deeper connections with the diverse group of attendees from universities, research centers, and across the wider scientific community as they access the world-class content that this meeting offers. An Endorsed Decade Action program with the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development.

European Maritime Day

Cork, Ireland

May 21-23, 2025

<https://maritime-forum.ec.europa.eu/theme/governance>

Europe’s maritime community meets annually at this event to network, discuss, and outline joint action on maritime affairs and sustainable blue economy. The EMD is also the place where “Ocean Leaders Meet.” It provides an engaging and interactive experience to catch up on the current state of play on a broad range of issues concerning the blue economy and the marine environment and to discuss ways of moving forward. It features inspirational speakers, thematic sessions, stakeholder workshops, exhibitions, and lots of networking opportunities. The EMD targets professionals from businesses, governments, public institutions, NGOs, and academia, as well as EU citizens interested in the sea. Organized by the European Commission.

Internships and Fellowships

AIMS Black and Indigenous Maritime Studies Internship

Mystic Seaport Museum, Mystic, Connecticut, USA
Applications due February 21, 2025
<https://mysticseaport.org/about/internships>

Mystic Seaport Museum seeks applicants for the 2025 AIMS Black and Indigenous Maritime Studies Internship. This interdisciplinary internship engages with BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, People of Color) maritime histories and contemporary communities through academic exploration and hands-on practice in public engagement, curation, and community conversations. The program benefits undergraduate students with an interest in the public humanities, particularly public history, education, curation, or public engagement. We'll explore the role of museums in commemorating the nation's Semiquincentennial in 2026. In collaboration with the Museum's America 250 Committee, interns will develop projects, programming, and research that expand and challenge existing narratives of commemoration, and center more inclusive, community-grounded storytelling. In addition to working on independent projects, interns will gain experience as interpreters, work in the Museum's exhibition *Entwined: Freedom, Sovereignty, and the Sea*, and travel on weekly field seminars to regional cultural institutions across Southern New England. This is a paid internship (stipend: \$6,300) with opportunities for on-site housing. Open to upper-level undergraduates in good standing in any academic field.

2025 Marine Energy Fellowship

U.S. Department of Energy Water Power Technologies Office
Various host locations
Applications due March 7, 2025
<https://orise.orau.gov/internships-fellowships>

Offering two tracks, one for graduate and one for postgraduate students, the 2025 Marine Energy Fellowship invites accepted applicants to work with leading researchers and scientists to gain insight and expertise in the marine energy sector.

The Paul Cuffe Memorial Fellowship

Mystic Seaport Museum, Mystic, Connecticut, USA
Rolling deadline
<https://mysticseaport.org/learn/college-graduate/paul-cuffe-memorial-fellowship/>

The Paul Cuffe Memorial Fellowship has been offered by Mystic Seaport Museum since 1989 and is named for Paul Cuffe, an African American and Indigenous mariner and businessman. This fellowship aims to foster research surrounding African American and Native American maritime history and activities in America, especially focused on the New England region. Cuffe Fellowships are offered on a rolling basis to support research and writing that takes place in part at Mystic Seaport Museum. The Museum's research collection, housed in the G.W. Blunt White Library, has nearly one million documents pertaining to maritime history. Cuffe Fellowships are also available to support research and writing projects by participants in the Museum's Munson Institute, with a March 15, 2025, deadline.

Student Opportunities

Williams-Mystic Coastal & Ocean Studies Undergraduate Semester

Mystic Seaport Museum, Mystic, Connecticut, USA
Applications for Fall 2025 due April 15, 2025
<https://mystic.williams.edu/>

Williams-Mystic, a semester program in coastal and ocean studies located in Mystic, CT, welcomes applications from undergraduates in all majors for the fall 2025 and spring 2026 semesters. The program was founded in 1977 as a partnership between Williams College and Mystic Seaport Museum. Students at Williams-Mystic are on the front lines of studies in climate change, environmental justice, coastal resilience, and related topics through the lens of four Williams College courses: maritime history, global ocean literature, marine and environmental policy, and marine science. Students travel to some of the nation's most dynamic coastal communities and ocean environments, engage in independent research and meet with local stakeholders on ocean and coastal topics.

Undergraduate students in good academic standing are eligible to apply. Students are selected based on academic merit, faculty recommendations, and their interest in a semester of study at Williams-Mystic in coastal and ocean studies. Several funding opportunities are available.