

MOHEGAN SUN FOR WICKED FUN IN '21!

The Yankee Chapter of POCI and the Mohegan Sun Hotel and Casino look forward to welcoming you to the 49th Annual POCI Convention in Uncasville, Connecticut, July 11-15, 2021.

UNIQUE SEAFARING VILLAGES, DESTINATIONS AND NEARBY ATTRACTIONS AWAIT YOU!

Located within 20 miles of our 2021 POCI Convention headquarters at the Mohegan Sun Casino are three historic seafaring towns situated along the banks of the Thames and Mystic Rivers. During your free time at the convention — or whenever else your vacation plans might allow — be sure to check out these fascinating destinations and all that they offer.

The first town is Groton, home to the United States Navy's primary East Coast submarine base and to the Navy's main submarine builder, General Dynamics Electric Boat Division. Not surprisingly, Groton hosts the Submarine Force Museum operated by the Naval History and Heritage Command. The museum focuses on a variety of vessels, components, and artifacts relating to submarines.



The United States Navy Submarine Force Library and Museum is located on the Thames River in Groton, Connecticut. It is the only submarine museum managed exclusively by the Naval History & Heritage Command division of the Navy, and this makes it a repository for many special submarine items of national significance.

The star of the museum is the USS Nautilus, the world's first operational nuclear submarine. It was built in Groton and commissioned in 1954.

If instead the Revolutionary War and its forts might hold more interest for you, then Fort Griswold State Park should be on your list of places to visit. The largest battle fought in Connecticut during the Revolutionary War took place on the eastern bank of the Thames River in 1781. At the Battle of Groton Heights, a force, as led by Benedict Arnold, took Fort Griswold after bitter fighting. The fort's earthworks are still intact, and a few of the buildings have been restored. The adjacent Monument House Museum also welcomes visitors as it shares the tales, history and artifacts of the battle itself.

The second town is New London, located on the natural harbor of the Thames River. Two hundred years ago, New London was one of the most important whaling ports in the world. It is also home to the United States Coast Guard Academy, which relocated to New London in the 1930s. The Coast Guard training ship USS Eagle is berthed there.

Though the Coast Guard is the only military branch without a major dedicated museum, the Academy does have a collection of weapons, figureheads, uniforms, medals, flight suits and paintings on display at their Mohegan Avenue Parkway facility.

Fort Trumbull State Park is located on the western bank of the Thames River. A fort has existed there since 1777, with the present structure having been built between 1839 and 1852. It was part of the Third System, a network of 42 forts built to protect America's harbors. Fort Trumbull has five sides and four bastions, able to accommodate 52 guns. Inside, there are information markers, armed gun emplacements, and living quarters

Built at the Blohm + Voss Shipyard in Hamburg, Germany in 1936, and commissioned as Horst Wessel, Eagle was one of three sail-training ships operated by the pre-World War II German navy. At the close of the war, the ship was taken as a war reparation by the U.S., re-commissioned as the U.S. Coast Guard Cutter Eagle, and then sailed to New London, Connecticut, where it has found its permanent homeport. Eagle has offered generations of Coast Guard Academy cadets, and more recently officer candidates, an unparalleled leadership experience at sea.





The United States Navy Submarine Force Library and Museum has 33,000 artifacts including the USS Nautilus, the first nuclear-powered submarine in the world. Nautilus was launched in 1955 and decommissioned in 1980. It traveled under the polar ice cap and reached the North Pole during the Cold War. Visitors may take a 30-minute self-guided audio tour of the Nautilus.

that can be toured.

Another New London attraction is the Maritime Society, housed within the Custom House. The Society cares for the New London Ledge Light, the Race Rock Light and New London Harbor Light. In 1839, the Custom House was

the landing site of La Amistad, the famous Spanish slave ship captured during a revolt, resulting in a court case that edged America closer to abolition. Interestingly, at the Custom House, one door is carved from timber that once belonged to the USS Constitution.

Inside, one can dip into New London's whaling industry, do in-depth research on La Amistad, check out model ships, and read about the many lighthouses in the region.

Speaking of lighthouses, New London is the home port for lighthouse tours, bay cruises, sailing ship cruises, and more. There are a number of companies that offer these types of cruises.

The final town is Mystic, situated next to New London on the

Mystic River. The town's top attraction is the Mystic Seaport Museum, established in 1929. You will need at least a full day to explore this comprehensive maritime museum. There are more than 60 historic buildings in the 19th-century maritime village where each building retains its original role. Along the waterfront there is a whole fleet of vessels including sloops, schooners, a steamer and a whaling ship from 1841. That whaling ship is the Charles W. Morgan, which is the world's oldest surviving merchant vessel and the only wooden whaling ship from the American merchant fleet still afloat.

There is also a working preservation shipyard located within the bustling old-time waterfront. The Mayflower II recently completed a three-year, \$11.2-million restoration at the preservation shipyard.

The Sabino Steamboat tours leave from the Mystic shipyard. There are 30-minute, 90-minute, and 2-hour cruises of the Mystic River. Operating for over 110 years, the 57-foot Sabino is the oldest wooden, coal-fired steamboat in regular operation in the United States.

The steamboat came from Maine in 1973 and was declared a National Historic Landmark in 1992.

Not far from the Seaport Museum is downtown Mystic, a quaint, walkable, New England seaport. On Main Street and on the attached little streets and alleys, you can wander through a variety of unique boutiques, galleries and shops.

For nautical inspired items, be sure to check out Mystic Knotworks which is the first and oldest knot shop in the U.S.

For dining pleasure, there is Main Street Mystic Pizza where a slice of pizza can be enjoyed in a memorabilia-filled pizza joint that inspired the 1988 film.

If pizza isn't what you're craving, there are several other restaurants and taverns that might be calling your name — especially those serving seafood. After lunch or dinner, the Mystic Draw-bridge Ice Cream shop is a great place to enjoy a scoop or two while watching the water traffic negotiate the famous Mystic River Bascule Bridge.

Located along the route into Mystic is Olde Mystick Village. This shopping village is a recreated 18th century New England Village, reflecting the shopping experience before malls. The ladies will be able to browse more than 60 small and unique shops as they stroll along cobblestone streets. There are stores to satisfy nearly every need and curiosity, including a general store, a Christmas store, jewelry stores, clothing stores, boutiques, and Connecticut's largest retail chocolate manufacturer. Shopkeepers often dress in period



New London Harbor Lighthouse. In 1760, the colonial legislature of Connecticut passed an act creating a committee to pursue the funding, construction, and staffing of a new lighthouse for the harbor entrance at New London.



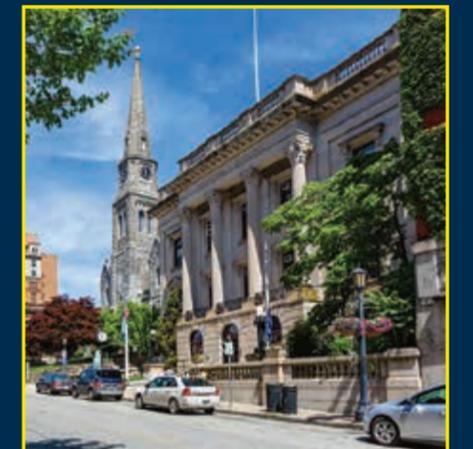
One of many vessels at the Mystic Seaport, Joseph Conrad is named after author Joseph Conrad. She is an iron-hulled and fully rigged sailing ship which was used to train sailors in Denmark. She sailed around the world as a private yacht in 1934, then served as a training ship in the United States. She was acquired by Mystic Seaport in 1947, and currently continues in her role as a training ship.

costumes during summer, and are very knowledgeable about their surroundings. Some of Mystic's best restaurants are also found here. There are plenty of large parking lots around the village.

Located next to the shopping village is Mystic Aquarium. This maritime attraction holds more than 10,000 animals and has many species that can't be found anywhere else in New England. The

stars of the aquarium are the beluga whales, and this is one of only three facilities in the United States that features Steller sea lions.

There is also a large colony of over 30 African black-footed penguins, as well as mammals such as California sea lions, Atlantic harbor seals, and northern fur seals. Touch pools allow visitors to feel the backs of



Beautiful downtown New London, Connecticut.

bamboo sharks and stingrays, while the animatronic dinosaurs at the Jurassic Giants exhibition are likely to capture your child's imagination.

These are but a small sampling of the attractions found within a short drive of the Mohegan Sun Casino and Resort. Be sure to plan enough extra time in your 2021 vacation schedule to explore these and many other local destinations. **118**