

TOUR THE WESTERN FLYER

Floating Classroom Visits the Maritime Museum

Tour the legendary fishing vessel, famously used by John Steinbeck and Ed Ricketts during their 1940 *Sea of Cortez* expedition.

Step aboard the 77-foot sardine boat as part of the Museum's general admission experience, exploring its rich history and enduring legacy.

Don't miss this chance to explore a living piece of history and learn more about its role in shaping the future of marine science.

Complimentary Visitor
Tours Included with
General Admission

See Ticket Booth for details.

ONE DAY ONLY

Wednesday,

March 26, 2025

10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.



Purchase general admission tickets at sdmaritime.org



MARITIME MUSEUM of SAN DIEGO

AT *Star of India* WHARF | 1492 N. Harbor Dr., San Diego, CA 92101-3309 | sdmaritime.org



A Floating Classroom Returns to the Sea

The *Western Flyer*'s 2025 voyage marks the 85th anniversary of Steinbeck and Ricketts' groundbreaking journey, which shaped modern ecological thinking and conservation efforts.

An Enduring Legacy of Exploration and Conservation

Published in 1941, *Sea of Cortez: A Leisurely Journal of Travel and Research* chronicled the historic voyage, leaving a profound impact on both the scientific and literary worlds. The book was among the first public calls for conservation in the region and played a key role in raising awareness about the ecological significance of the Gulf of California. Over the decades, it has inspired countless students to pursue careers in marine and field biology.

Though the book endured, the *Western Flyer* itself was nearly lost to history. After decades of obscurity, the vessel reappeared 20 years ago—only to sink twice and face the threat of being dismantled for a tourist attraction in Salinas, CA. However, thanks to the efforts of the *Western Flyer Foundation*, the boat has undergone a meticulous restoration.



MARITIME MUSEUM of SAN DIEGO

AT *Star of India* WHARF | 1492 N. Harbor Dr., San Diego, CA 92101-3309 | sdmaritime.org

