



MONTY'S ARK LOGBOOK

July 2026

Monty's Ark July Logbook

Welcome to Monty's Ark Logbook where we give all the exciting news and updates of Monty's Ark Adventures.

Exploring Iconic Lighthouses from the Water



Stratford Shoals Middle Ground

The Pierce Lighthouse Tour

One of the great joys of being on the water is seeing familiar places from an entirely different perspective. Our recent Pierce lighthouse tour was a perfect reminder of that.

Over the course of the excursion, we had the opportunity to explore and view some of the region's iconic lighthouses from the best possible vantage point: the water. There is something special about approaching a lighthouse by boat. The structure, the surrounding rocks, the harbor entrance, the shoreline, and the open water all come together in a way that simply cannot be experienced from land.

These lighthouses are more than beautiful landmarks. They are part of the maritime history of Long Island Sound and coastal New England. Seeing them from aboard Monty's Ark gave everyone onboard a closer appreciation of their setting, their purpose, and their enduring character.

Day two of the excursion began and ended in the wonderful harbor of Clinton, Connecticut. Clinton Harbor was a beautiful and memorable part of the trip, offering the perfect start and finish to a day spent exploring the coast.

Its classic New England harbor feel, working waterfront character, and easy access to nearby lighthouse waters made it an ideal base for the day's adventure.

For anyone interested in learning more about Connecticut's lighthouses and lighthouse cruising, the New England Lighthouses website offers several helpful resources:

Boat Tours to Connecticut Lighthouses provides a guide to Connecticut lighthouse boat tours and ferries, moving generally from Greenwich eastward to Groton. The page notes that some trips are dedicated lighthouse cruises, while others pass lighthouses as part of charters, wildlife tours, historic tours, ferries, fishing trips, or other excursions. It includes information on operators and the lighthouses they view, including Great Captain Island Light, Sheffield Island Light, Pecks Ledge Light, Greens Ledge Light, Tongue Point Light, Lynde Point, Old Saybrook Breakwater, New London Ledge, New London Harbor Light, and others.

Connecticut's Southwestern Lighthouses: Greenwich to Norwalk focuses on the Greenwich, Stamford, and Norwalk region. It highlights lighthouses such as Great Captain Island Light and Sheffield Island Light, along with Stamford Harbor Light, Pecks Ledge Light, and Greens Ledge Light. The page also explains why so many Connecticut lighthouses are best viewed by boat, noting that many are located on rocky islands, ledges, and harbor approaches along Long Island Sound.

Connecticut Lighthouses: Bridgeport to Stratford Region covers the Fairfield, Bridgeport, and Stratford area, including Fayerweather Island / Black Rock Harbor Light, Stratford Point Light, Penfield Reef Light, Tongue Point Light, and Stratford Shoal Light. The page describes the importance of these lights to mariners navigating fog, commercial traffic, harbor entrances, treacherous ledges, and Long Island Sound's exposed waters. It also includes Monty's Ark Adventures as a private charter option for close-up lighthouse viewing along the Long Island and Connecticut shores.

For guests who love history, photography, boating, coastal scenery, or simply a unique day on the water, lighthouse tours remain one of the most rewarding Monty's Ark experiences.

Fireworks from the Water: A July 4th Night to Remember



What a Night on the Water

There are fireworks displays, and then there is the Macy's Fourth of July Fireworks show seen from the deck of a private boat in New York Harbor. This year's July 4th charter aboard Monty's Ark delivered exactly the kind of once-in-a-season experience that makes a night on the water unforgettable.

From our vantage point near the Brooklyn Bridge and lower Manhattan, guests had a front-row seat to a spectacular display as bursts of red, white, gold, and silver rose above the bridge, reflected off the East River, and framed the New York City skyline. The view was dramatic in every direction: the Brooklyn Bridge in silhouette, One World Trade Center glowing to the west, the harbor alive with boats, and fireworks filling the sky.

Adding to the drama was the weather. Earlier in the evening, storms threatened the area and the official show time was moved up to get ahead of the incoming weather. From the boat, we could see the atmosphere building around the city, but the worst of it skirted just to the north. That narrow break gave us the window we needed: the skyline stayed visible, the harbor remained electric, and the fireworks unfolded in spectacular fashion.

This was the 50th edition of Macy's Fourth of July Fireworks, part of the larger America 250 celebration. The show included tens of thousands of shells, multiple launch points, and pyrotechnics from the Brooklyn Bridge itself. From the water, the scale was unmistakable. Fireworks did not simply appear in the distance; they surrounded the scene, rising above the bridge, bursting over the skyline, and washing the harbor in color.

For guests aboard Monty's Ark, the experience was far more intimate than watching from shore. There were no barricades, no shoulder-to-shoulder crowds, and no fighting for a viewing spot. Instead, guests relaxed onboard, took photos and videos, and watched the display unfold from a private charter platform in the middle of one of the most iconic harbors in the world.

The night was also a reminder of why private boat charters are such a special way to experience New York. The city changes when seen from the water. Landmarks line up differently, the skyline opens up, and major events like the Fourth of July fireworks become immersive rather than distant. On this July 4th, Monty's Ark was right where we wanted to be: close enough to feel the energy, far enough to take in the full panorama, and perfectly positioned for an unforgettable Independence Day celebration.

Thank you to our guests who joined us for this special charter. Nights like this are why we do what we do: sharing New York Harbor, Long Island Sound, and the surrounding waterways in a way that feels personal, memorable, and completely different from the ordinary tourist experience.

Interested in a private charter?

Monty's Ark Adventures offers private boat tours for up to six passengers, including skyline cruises, lighthouse tours, dock-and-dine excursions, and special-event charters. Advance reservations are strongly recommended for holiday weekends and major New York Harbor events.

Two New Ways to Explore by Water



Some of the best days on the water are not the ones that follow the usual route. They are the ones that carry you a little farther, into quiet coves, island shorelines, river bends, tucked-away anchorages, and destinations that feel more like an adventure than an outing.

That is why Monty's Ark Adventures is excited to introduce two new charter experiences designed for guests and fellow boaters who want to explore more of the Northeast by water: private boat-supported remote camping excursions and captain-led small-group cruising adventures for private boat owners.

Both experiences reflect the same spirit that guides every Monty's Ark trip: private, intimate, customized time on the water, led by Capt. Steve and planned around real destinations, real conditions, and the needs of each small group.

Two Different Experiences, One Shared Spirit of Adventure

Remote Camping by Boat

For guests who want to travel aboard Monty's Ark to reach legal remote camping destinations, island sites, riverfront camping areas, and coastal locations that are easier and more memorable to access by boat.

Potential formats may include passenger transport, camping gear support, drop-off assistance, boat-assisted access, and overnight or multi-day adventure planning.

Captain-Led Cruising

For private boat owners who want to cruise farther, explore unfamiliar destinations, and build confidence with Capt. Steve leading the group from aboard Monty's Ark.

This is designed for boaters who operate their own vessels but want help with route planning, timing, tides, currents, destination logistics, and practical cruising decisions.

Private-Boat Supported Remote Camping Excursions

Remote camping by boat can open the door to places that feel far removed from the road: quiet islands, shoreline campsites, protected estuaries, scenic riverbanks, and coastal areas where the journey is part of the experience.

A remote camping excursion with Monty's Ark Adventures may be customized around the destination, weather window, passenger count, landing or anchoring conditions, and any required campground, park, municipal, or private-property permits. Guests remain responsible for appropriate camping equipment, personal gear, reservations, and site-specific requirements unless otherwise arranged.

Possible cruising areas may include Long Island Sound, the Norwalk Islands, the lower Connecticut River, Hudson River destinations north toward Albany, and selected coastal New England areas where access, rules, and safe operating conditions make the trip appropriate.

Watch our website for details.

Captain-Led Small-Group Cruising for Private Boat Owners

Captain-led cruising is a different kind of adventure. Instead of every guest riding aboard Monty's Ark, participating boat owners cruise in their own boats as part of a small coordinated group. Capt. Steve leads from Monty's Ark, helping with pre-trip planning, route selection, timing, conditions, and destination logistics.

This experience is especially useful for newer boat owners, couples or families building cruising confidence, small groups of boating friends, or owners who want to visit unfamiliar harbors, marinas, moorings, anchorages, or raft-up locations with more support than they would have traveling alone.

Potential trip formats may include one-night introductory cruising trips, weekend flotilla-style cruising excursions, marina-to-marina itineraries, anchoring and mooring practice trips, Hudson River cruising, Long Island Sound adventures, and multi-day cruises into coastal New England.

Watch our website for details.