

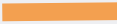
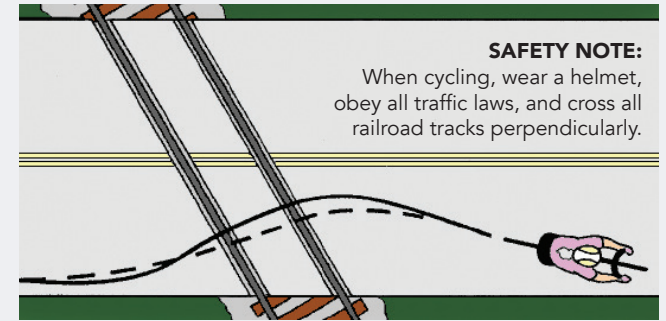


# LAP OF THE SHIPYARD

A 3.5 mile (mostly flat, with one short hill) family-friendly bike, or hike (or even drive) around the history of the Mare Island Naval Shipyard, with some out-and-back additional routes available for those feeling more adventurous.

## KEY GUIDE

-  Bike Route
-  Preserve Route
-  Golf Route

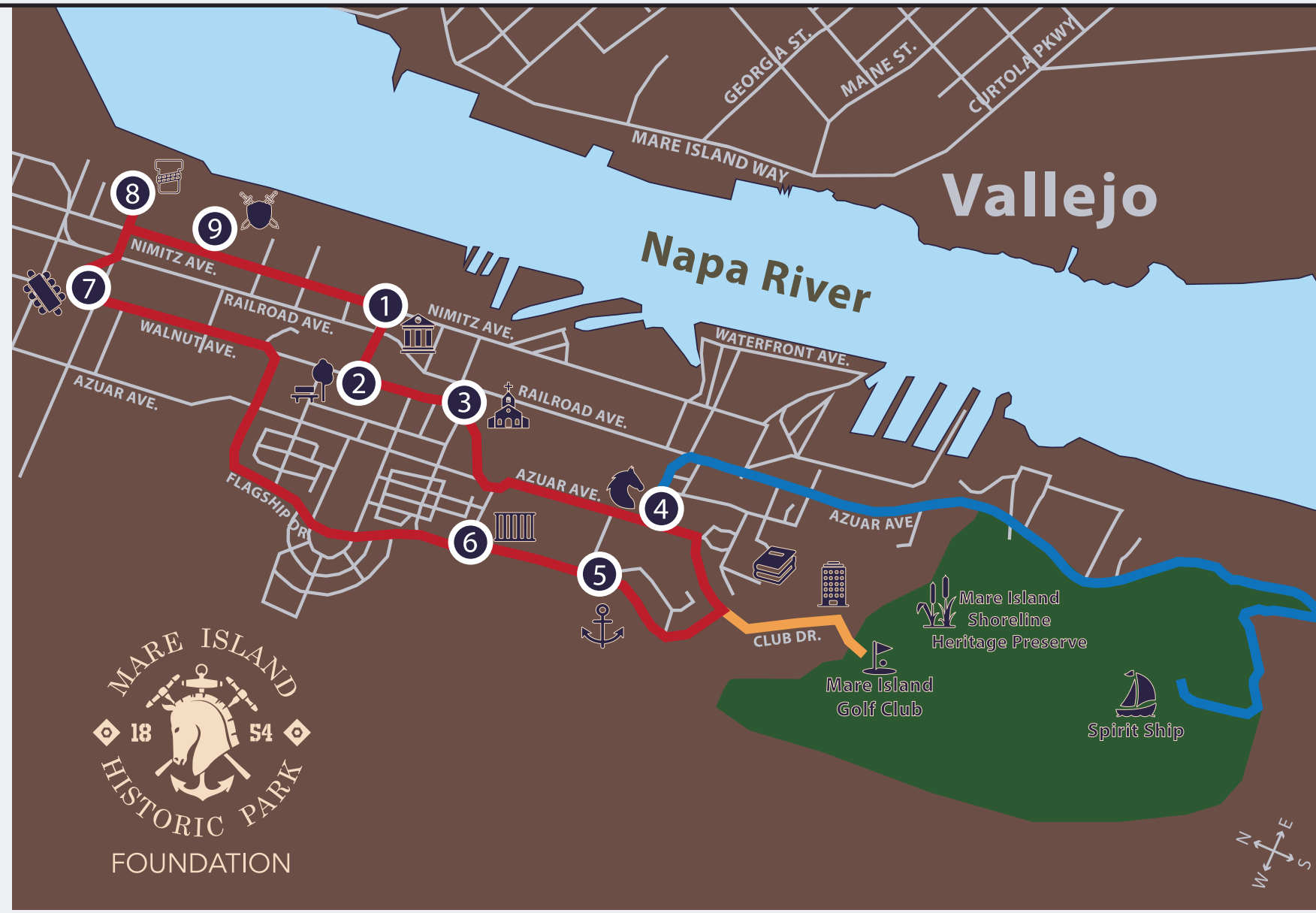


## DESTINATIONS

- 1 Historic Core
- 2 Alden Park
- 3 St. Peter's Chapel
- 4 Stables
- 5 Marine Grounds
- 6 Old 84 Prison
- 7 Roundhouse
- 8 LCS Landing Ship
- 9 Coal Sheds and Haunted Armory

**The Lap of the Shipyard:** an 8th grade school community service project by resident Owen Fortner for the Mare Island Historic Park Foundation (Museum).

Graphic design in partnership with Solano Community College Graphic Design program.



# LAP OF THE SHIPYARD

## 1] HISTORIC CORE [MUSEUM AND MORE]:

This is the historic core. The Museum is housed in BLDG 46, the oldest building on the shipyard and a former blacksmith shop. The Ways/Gantries are the site of the construction of the largest ships constructed on Mare Island, including the battleship USS California (the largest ship ever built on Mare Island) as well as the nuclear submarine USS Mariano G Vallejo (the sail of which is now displayed in the Ways). Dry Dock One is the oldest dry dock on the West Coast; construction began in 1872 and took 19 years, with the granite being quarried from the Sierra, transported to Mare Island, and finished by hand on site to form the watertight fit.

## 2] ALDEN PARK [AND MORE]:

Alden Park was the site of multiple Mare Island military ceremonies. North across the street lies BLDG 47, the administrative building for the Island from 1870 until closure. Throughout Alden Park are some of the air-raid bunkers erected just after Pearl Harbor to prepare for what was, at that time, assumed to be an imminent Japanese invasion. The Captains Mansions along Walnut Ave housed the Island's brass, with the blue trimmed mansions for the Navy, and the maroon trimmed mansions for the Marines. The largest "Admirals Mansion" (Quarters A), directly across from Alden Park, was reserved for the commanding officer of the Island, and it is available today for special events (inquire at Museum).

## 3] ST. PETER'S CHAPEL:

Built in 1901, St. Peter's Chapel is the oldest interdenominational Naval Chapel in the Nation. The Chapel features 29 stained glass windows, 25 of which are from famed Tiffany Studios in New York and represent the single largest collection of Tiffany stained glass under one roof. The Chapel also houses a glorious working pipe organ. St. Peter's Chapel is available for weddings and events (inquire at Museum).

## 4] STABLES:

Before the turn of the 20th century, people and goods on Mare Island moved by horse and oxen power. Those beasts of burden were housed in this building until the gas engine replaced them. \*This is also the turn-off to access the optional "Preserve Route," \*\* and near the turn off for the optional "Golf Route" of the Lap of the Shipyard.

## 5] MARINE GROUNDS:

This was the center of Island's Marine Corps activity from 1917 until the 1990's, including the Marine barracks still standing today. In the distant flats one can see the ammunition bunkers where the ammunition for visiting ships was stored for safety while the ships were serviced on the other side of the Island. Directly behind the barracks lies the former Parade Grounds, where—with the San Pablo Bay and Mt. Tam in the background—the professionalism, discipline, and esprit de corps of the United States Marines would be on display.

## 6] OLD 84 PRISON:

Originally constructed in the 1870's, making it the oldest purpose-built naval prison in the United States, this was a brig known to everyone serving in the Pacific Fleet; it was a terrifying place for the worst. But yet the Prison also had an

award-winning prisoners' garden and dairy cattle program. The chain gangs from Old 84, clothed in blue jumpsuits with red badges, performed much of the hard labor of construction on the Island until the closure of the prison in 1946.

## 7] THE ROUNDHOUSE:

Originally built to host events at Treasure Island during the 1939-1940 World Fair, the Roundhouse was subsequently dismantled, moved to Mare Island, and reconstructed. Today it houses facilities for indoor soccer, basketball, volleyball, batting cages, and Crossfit.

## 8] MIGHTY MIDGET:

A late 1940's gunboat that served under the American flag in WW II, and later in the Japanese and Thai navies, USS LCS 102 is the last remaining example of 130 identical vessels used as landing support and air-defense ships in the Pacific. A group of veterans is restoring the ship and welcomes visitors aboard at posted hours.

## 9] COAL SHEDS AND HAUNTED ARMORY:

The Coal Sheds were erected around 1900 to store and load coal for the Navy's steam ships. They were later converted to house various shipwright's trades for servicing the approximately 10,000 ships that visited the Shipyard during its 142-year history. Across Nimitz street from the Coal Sheds sits BLDG 77, an old brick armory that is said to be haunted by the ghost of Samuel Wilson, whose remains were stored here in three boxes for a number of years due to an administrative snafu with his burial at Mare Island Cemetery. When the shipyard was operational, the lights in BLDG 77 were ordered from on high to be left on every night to help reduce the paranormal encounters.



[www.mareislandmuseum.org](http://www.mareislandmuseum.org)

1100 Railroad Ave  
Mare Island, CA 945923

\*The optional "Preserve Route" takes you to the Heritage Preserve and its welcome center, the cemetery, and spectacular bay views at the "Spirit Ship" atop the hill (1 mile steep hike/bike).

\*\*The optional "Golf Route" takes you up the hill to the site of the first radio station, and then to the Mare Island Golf Club, one of the oldest courses on the West Coast.

Map Printing sponsored by  
the Mare Island Brewing Co.:

