



As we cruise along the shoreline of Commencement Bay you will see many familiar sights from a different perspective. You will probably see some tugs at work and a ship arrive or leave the Port of Tacoma, the fifth largest port in the United States, handling more cargo than Seattle. These ships appear a lot larger when you are on the bay. However, Homeland Security does not allow up close inspection.

Hungry? Here is the galley. There are treats in the cupboards. This is the main attraction for the grandkids.

Sailing along at a relaxing pace, here is your skipper, Lowell, eager to demonstrate the principles of sailing. You will probably hear more than you ever wanted to know, but just on a chance you also might catch the fever and want to come back for more. Take the helm yourself and you will feel the tug of the rudder against the ever changing currents.

After some fresh air, you may want to relax in the cabin. Here you have all the comforts of home, with hot and cold running water, built in stereo, a furnace if it gets cold and a refrigerator full of cool drinks. Lie down and take a nap if you need to stretch out. Let the waves rock you to sleep.

Here is what you will see below. Five adults can gather around the table on the left and a couple more can sit at the game table across the aisle. The head (nautical term for biffy) is located right behind the wall at left.



So what is the main attraction here for landlubbers, who have bigger kitchens at home and do not have to ration the water supply? Every day is different than the one before. If you keep an eye out, you may see an eagle, a whale or dolphins. You will always see seals and seagulls. Sometimes you will spot a blue heron or other exotic critters.

You will wave at other passing boaters and see clouds forming a kaleidoscopic design in the sky, with rays of sun streaming through, turning golden at sunset, then pink or red, as the long twilight gives you time to recall the beauty of the day and all that God has created for us.

Come sail with me and experience the overwhelming sensation of being driven by the wind. Nature provides the power when we are willing to accept it. If we are short on patience or time there is always the engine.

Sights on Commencement Bay



Harbor seals riding on log boom at left.

More typically found resting on a buoy or just swimming beside the boat.

Herron and eagles are commonly seen.



Mt. Rainier and Port of Tacoma seen through the rigging.



Sunset over the Olympic Mountains from Commencement Bay