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Maritime Lady and Naples Princess cruise Naples waterways

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The Maritime Lady.

Mary Gilbert

The luxurious waterfront estates, white sandy beaches, mangrove-laced islands and marine life of [Naples](#), Fla., beckon exploration by boat, and [Naples Boat Charters' Maritime Lady](#) and the [Naples Princess](#) are two popular, year-round sightseeing options.

With salty breezes and the shimmering waters of Naples Bay, the Gordon River, the Gulf of Mexico,

and
some
two
dozen
canals
as



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backdrop, each boat offers its own uniquely deluxe experience in this premier southwest [Florida](#) destination. The cruises showcase both the natural and man-made splendor, featuring views of the multi-million dollar mansions of the Port Royal, Aqualane Shores and Royal Harbor neighborhoods.

Capt. Jim Albert (or Capt. Jim, as he prefers to be called) owns and operates Naples Boat Charters, the sightseeing charter business he established in 2010. Capt. Jim is a U.S. Merchant Marine officer and a U.S. Navy veteran who piloted the nuclear submarine, *USS Benjamin Franklin*.

He helms *Maritime Lady*, a sleek, 24-foot Hurricane Sundeck available for private charters. His vessel, which is U.S. Coast Guard-compliant, takes up to six passengers for narrated sightseeing charters, sunset cruises and dolphin watches. He also offers four-and-five-hour lunch trips to Marco Island and Isles of Capri. As a notary public and ordained Christian minister, he performs wedding ceremonies at venues of choice on land and sea, and conducts the releasing of ashes of loved ones at sea.

“Safety first, fun second” is the captain’s motto. An affable and engaging storyteller, he is well versed in the history of Naples, real estate listings and sales, and local sites, and readily shares his knowledge during the cruise.

Boarding for the *Maritime Lady* occurs at the docks by **The Bayfront Inn**. Naples Boat Charters provides complimentary water, ice, beverage koozies, and music. Capt. Jim requests that guests wear boat shoes and weather-appropriate clothing. He invites them to bring their own alcoholic beverages (no red wine). Charters are weather-permitting.

The *Naples Princess*, certified to carry up to 150 passengers and a crew of six, offers a more communal voyage. The elegant yacht measures 105 feet long, 25 feet across, and needs about six feet of water to operate. Built in 2008 by Skipperliner Industries in La Crosse, Wisc., the yacht cost \$4.2 million.

Guests on the *Naples Princess*’ daily public cruises may choose to relax in the enclosed, air-conditioned interior salons, or bask in the sun and fresh air in outdoor seating as they listen to the narrated tour. Two full-service bars offer an assortment of beverages and snacks, while those on the lunch buffet and dinner cruises may enjoy freshly prepared meals.

The *Naples Princess* departs from her dock at the **Port of Naples Marina** near downtown Naples and adjacent to the shopping area of Tin City. It so happens that Capt. Jim is one of her captains as well.

Whether opting to cruise on the *Maritime Lady* or

Naples Princess (or even both), seeing Naples from the water is sure to please.

When you go

Naples Boat Charters/Maritime Lady

Located at Bayfront Inn Marina

1221 5th Ave.

South Naples, Fla., 34102

239-593-7475

naplesboatcharters.com

Naples Princess

550 Port O Call Way

Naples, Fla., 34102

239-649-2275

naplesprincesscruises.com

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