



Contact: Tegan Firth  
415-983-8208

## **ALCATRAZ CRUISES CELEBRATES 2<sup>ND</sup> ANNIVERSARY WITH TWO GREENEST BOATS ON THE BAY**

**New Boats will Take 1.4 Million Annual Visitors to Famous Island**

**Summer Schedule Extended Through October – Great Time for Local Visitors**

Alcatraz Island, CA --- Alcatraz Cruises began operating the two greenest boats on the San Francisco Bay today, as the *Alcatraz Clipper* and *Alcatraz Flyer* became the two primary vessels for the National Park Service ferry operations to Alcatraz Island. Alcatraz Cruises celebrates its second anniversary as the concessioner of ferry service this month.

Both vessels have state-of-the-art Tier 2 Marine Diesel Engines, which are 80% more fuel efficient than standard marines engines. In addition, these vessels have selective catalytic reduction units, which use an organic compound to dissolve the emissions that do come from the engines. These two systems combined create an operating system that has 90% less emissions than most other vessels operating on the bay.

Not only are the engines cleaner, but the vessels have recycled vinyl seat coverings, recycled carpeting and environmentally friendly paints used inside and out.

“We wanted to use our new boats as a demonstration of how environmentally conscious and innovative our partnership with the National Park Service is. We have worked together towards our vision of sustainability, and this is one more step toward that goal,” said Alcatraz Cruises General Manager Scott Thornton.

The vessels themselves are also recycled. The *Clipper* and *Flyer* were owned and operated by the previous concessioner of ferry service to Alcatraz Island, the Blue & Gold Fleet. Alcatraz Cruises took over the contract in September 2006. Alcatraz Cruises purchased both boats from Blue & Gold and completed a total refurbishment, including the new engine systems, new seating, major hull repair, new paint, new carpet, remodeled snack bar, renovated restrooms and the addition of fully accessible restrooms. Alcatraz Cruises chose to keep the names of the vessels in honor of the years of service both vessels provided in the San Francisco Bay.

The *Clipper* and *Flyer* both have a capacity of 700 passengers, full snack bars with liquor licenses that allow them to sell beer and wine on the return trip, and high definition flat screen monitors to play interpretive content on the trip to and from the island.

Alcatraz Cruises and the National Park Service have extended the summer season hours through the end of October. This means that there are 14 daily departures for the Island, and two of the always-popular Alcatraz Night Tour. Tickets should be purchased and printed in advance on the website [www.AlcatrazCruises.com](http://www.AlcatrazCruises.com) or by calling 415-981-7625. Alcatraz Cruises is located at Pier 33 on the Embarcadero between Bay and Chestnut streets.

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