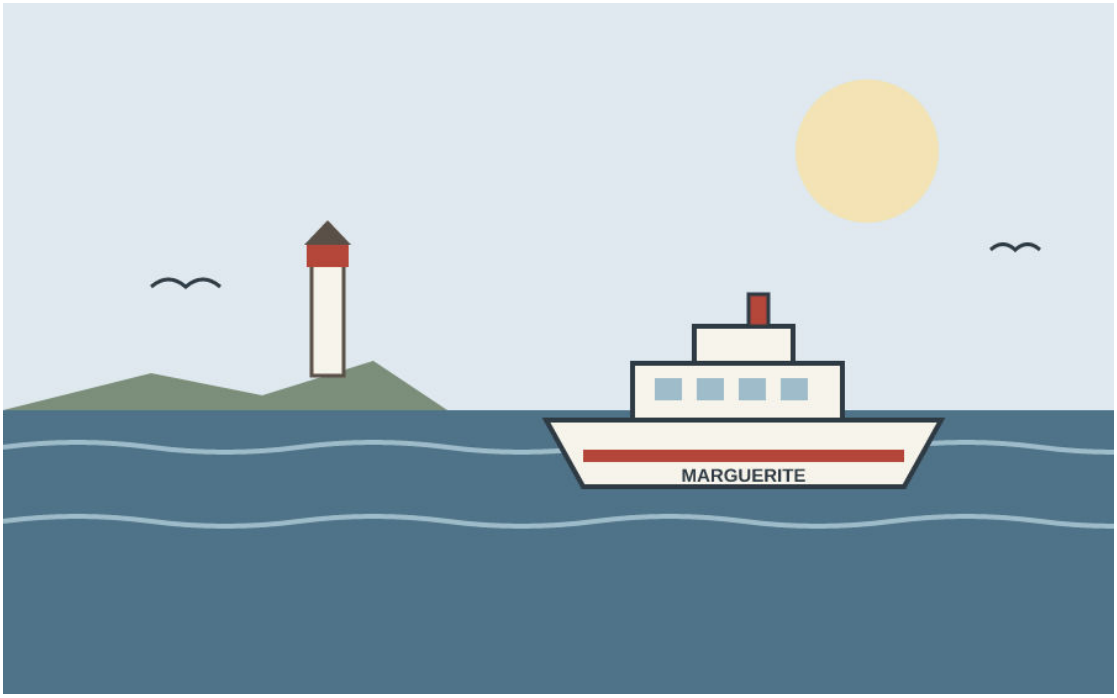



# Gull Point Ferry

*A Rider’s Handbook*

Gull Point Ferry Company · Summer edition

Gull Point Ferry Company is a fictional company. This handbook is a sample written for pdfconversionapi.com and released under CC0 1.0; the boats, places, people, times and fares in it are invented.

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CHAPTER 1

# How the *Marguerite* got her name

The first boat on the Gull Point run was a retired oyster dredge. Ada Whitcomb bought it at a county auction in the spring of 1952 for $1,400, painted it white, bolted twelve benches to the deck and nailed a timetable to the bait shop door: four crossings a day, weather permitting. For a full year the islanders called the boat “the dredge,” and Ada didn’t argue.

The name came from a passenger. On an October morning that year the fog came down so thick that Ada could not see her own bow from the wheel, and halfway across, the horn died. A schoolteacher named Marguerite Doyle, on her way to the island school with a box of readers, took the hand lantern forward and called out every buoy as it came out of the gray.

“Can you see the can?” Ada shouted.

“Red, to port,” came the answer. “And the bell’s just past it.”

They tied up at Osprey Island twenty minutes late, which, Ada said afterward, was the best time she ever made. That night she wrote in the logbook:

> *October 14. Fog to the waterline. Horn out off Bell Rock. Mrs. Doyle called the cans and nuns all the way in. The boat is the Marguerite from today. (A.W.)*

Three boats have carried the name since. The current *Marguerite*, launched in 2019, carries 149 passengers and 18 cars, and a brass lantern still hangs in her cabin above the forward bench. Riders who ask are told it is the lantern. The crew does not say whether that is true.

CHAPTER 2

# Timetable and fares

Boats leave Gull Point on the hour and Osprey Island on the half hour. The crossing takes 25 minutes in fair weather. The times below are the summer schedule, which runs from June 1 through Labor Day.

**Summer departures from Gull Point**

| Departs Gull Point | Arrives Osprey Island | Runs |
|---|---|---|
| 6:00 a.m. | 6:25 a.m. | Monday–Saturday |
| 7:00 a.m. | 7:25 a.m. | Daily |
| 12:00 p.m. | 12:25 p.m. | Daily |
| 3:00 p.m. | 3:25 p.m. | Daily |
| 6:00 p.m. | 6:25 p.m. | Daily |
| 9:00 p.m. | 9:25 p.m. | Friday and Saturday |

## Fares

**Fares in US dollars**

| Ticket | One way | Round trip |
|---|---|---|
| Adult | $6.50 | $12.00 |
| Child, 5–12 | $3.25 | $6.00 |
| Bicycle | $2.00 | $4.00 |
| Car and driver | $24.00 | $44.00 |

**Last boat.** The last boat from Osprey Island leaves at 9:30 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays and at 6:30 p.m. on other days. If you miss it, ask at the dock office; the Harbor Inn keeps two rooms for riders who do.

## On board

- Dogs on a leash are welcome on the outside decks.
- Bicycles ride on the car deck, front wheel toward the bow.
- The snack counter takes cash and cards and closes ten minutes before docking.
- No fishing from the upper deck. The crew means it.

CHAPTER 3

# Crossing Haddock Sound

The route is 3.2 miles long. Outbound, the boat leaves the Gull Point landing, swings wide of the ledges off the point and passes Bell Rock to port before it turns for the Osprey Island town dock.

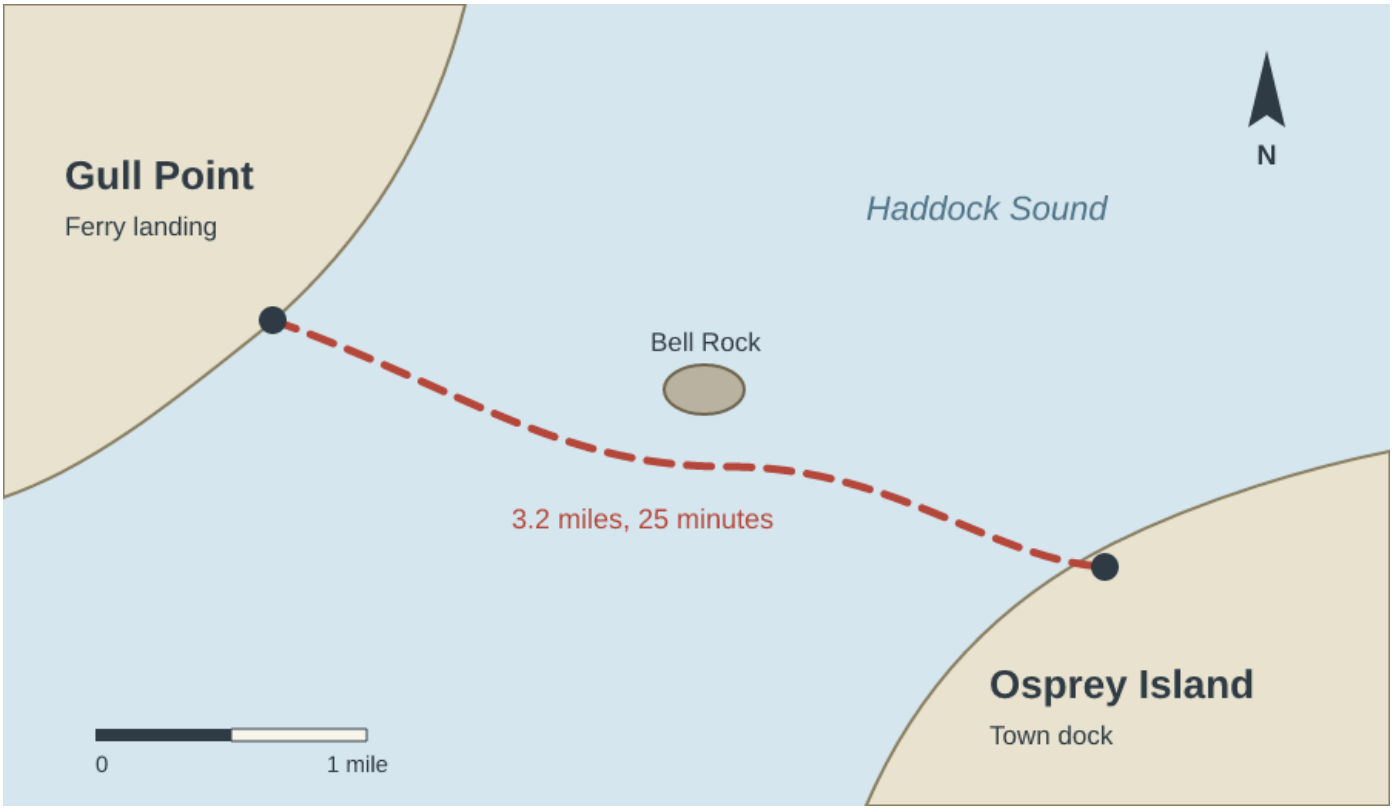



Figure 1. The Gull Point to Osprey Island route. The dashed line is the usual track in fair weather.

## Boarding, step by step

1. Buy your ticket at the dock office or from the deckhand at the gangway.
2. Cars line up in the marked lanes no later than 15 minutes before departure.
3. Walk-on riders board after the cars, when the deckhand waves you on.
4. Keep your ticket. It is checked again on the return trip.

Fares are listed in chapter 2. Service alerts for fog and high wind are posted at example.com/gull-point-ferry, an example address used in this sample.

When the fog horn sounds on the crossing, you will hear it three times a minute. Nobody on the crew will mind if you look for the bell off Bell Rock. Most riders do.