

Webcams: Viewing the Maritime World Online—LIVE

Ever since the first webcam was aimed at a coffeepot in 1991, people have used video cameras connected to the internet to see what's happening outside their field of vision. From bird's nest webcams to traffic webcams—there's lots to see. Maritime activities are no different, except that a camera focusing on a single location isn't much help once the ship moves out of camera range. That said, a webcam from a ship's bridge or mast can be a great way of seeing some other part of the world (and a big chunk of the ocean) without leaving your easy chair.

A handful of maritime museums offer webcams that show you their campuses regardless of the weather. The Maritime Museum of the Atlantic offers a view of its wharves at www.novascotiawebcams.com/en/webcams/museum-wharves. The Lake Superior Maritime Museum Association has a pair of webcams focused on the canal at the entrance to St Louis Bay, in Duluth, at www.lsmma.com/webcam/webcam.html. Through the local TV station, the Columbia River Maritime Museum, in Astoria, Oregon, has a nice view outdoors at www.koin.com/weather/webcams.

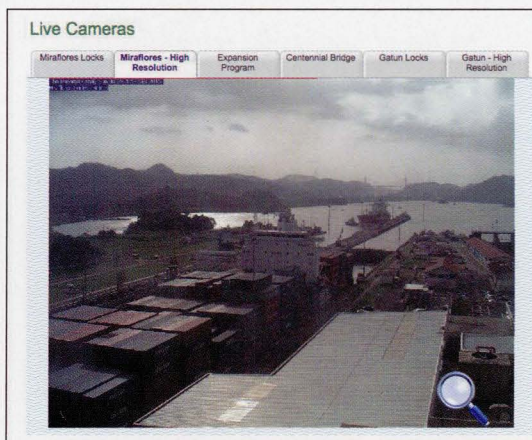
Many ports and canals offer webcams. The Gatun Locks webcam in the Panama Canal (www.pancanal.com/eng/photo/camera-java.html) provides a great view of the action, though like some others, they post an image every 10-20 seconds, rather than sharing an actual live feed. Massachusetts Maritime Academy in Buzzards Bay offers a great view of the Cape Cod Canal at www.maritime.edu/live/canal.html. PTZtv.com runs webcams at many harbors in Florida and the Caribbean. You might need to turn off ad-blocking software before you use them, but many of these sites offer audio, including marine radio feeds in some ports, and constantly updated maps showing vessels in port.

In addition to links to nearly 500 webcams in cruising ports at www.cruisin.me/cruise-port-webcams, this site offers links

to 250 onboard cruise ship cameras. From this site, I viewed the bridge camera from the Cunard ships *Queen Mary 2* and *Queen Victoria*. Unfortunately, the *Queen Elizabeth* was out of range at the time. Greenpeace's *Rainbow Warrior* offers an image from its mast camera.

A few sites bring together many different webcams, though the ephemeral nature of the feeds can make aggregation sites a

challenge to use. **EarthCam** (www.earthcam.com) offers a wide range of feeds and has a nice map-based search function at www.earthcam.com/mapsearch. **Webcams.travel** (www.webcams.travel) lists webcams around the world, though the database appears to be fairly out of date. Using their mapping feature is much more effective. A volunteer-run site at www.liveworldwebcam.net might be useful if the bugs are ever worked out. Following the "Harbor" or "Harbors" links can identify the existence of an interesting webcam; the link won't take you there, but you can then use



Webcam shot of the Miraflores Locks, Panama Canal.

Google (for instance, "brest harbor webcam") to find the actual site.

Webcams come and go with remarkable speed. Technical glitches, of course, are distressingly common, and you may need a strong internet connection to get some to play on your computer or device. To search on your own, you can use a geographic term plus "+webcam" to find a lot of interesting links via Google. Do note, however, that there are a lot of webcams that are *not appropriate for family viewing*. I aim to highlight ones of maritime interest, but you can accidentally see a lot more than you intended if you're not careful about which links you click.

Suggestions for other sites worth mentioning are welcome at peter@shipindex.org. See www.shipindex.org for a free compilation of over 150,000 ship names from indexes to dozens of books and journals. ⚓



OSWEGO - "oldest U.S. freshwater port"

Open Mon - Sun 1-5 pm
July & Aug 10-5 pm

West 1st Street Pier, Oswego, NY
www.hlwmm.org
315-342-0480

THE NAUTICAL RESEARCH GUILD


"ADVANCING SHIP MODELING THROUGH RESEARCH"


Annual membership includes our world-renowned quarterly magazine, *Nautical Research Journal*, which features photographs and articles on ship model building, naval architecture, merchant and naval ship construction, maritime trade, nautical and maritime history, nautical archaeology and maritime art.

Other benefits include discounts on annual conferences, ship modeling seminars, NRG products and juried model competitions which are offered exclusively to Guild members. We hope you will consider joining our ongoing celebration of model ships and maritime history.

YEARLY
MEMBERSHIP

\$48.00 USA
\$60.00 Foreign





For more information contact us at www.thenrg.org