



News Release

BATTLESHIP USS IOWA LAUNCHES UNIQUE ESCAPE ROOM / SCAVENGER HUNT EXPERIENCE

“Escape the Mothball Fleet” Allows Visitors to Experience the Challenge of Rescuing the Historic Battleship from Suisun Bay

SAN PEDRO, Calif., Sept. 30, 2022 – When Battleship USS Iowa (BB-61) was donated to the Pacific Battleship Center in 2011 by the U.S. Navy, the primary challenge was rescuing the historic battleship from its anchorage alongside other mothballed ships in Suisun Bay, Calif. [Battleship USS Iowa Museum](#), one of the top five museums and attractions in Los Angeles, today announced the launch of “[Escape the Mothball Fleet](#),” a unique, hands-on experience aboard the ship that recreates the Suisun Bay experience.

“Suisun Bay is used as a storage area for inactive ships that are likely destined for the scrap yard, and successfully towing the ship through the bay and underneath the bridge, presented an incredible challenge,” explained Jonathan Williams, President and CEO of Battleship USS Iowa Museum. “The equipment needed to tow the battleship was stored over her 13 decks, the Navy towing checklist was pages long, and there were no documents to provide any guidance. For six weeks, our team crawled through darkened compartments, finding what they could, closing hatches, adding water ballast to the bow to raise the stern, and a hundred other tasks necessary to prepare the ship for tow.”

“[Escape the Mothball Fleet](#)” is a two-hour hybrid escape room/scavenger hunt in which participants can experience the challenge of rescuing Battleship IOWA from Suisun Bay. Participants solve problems, follow unusual map markers, and descend into the bowels of the ship, into areas that are off limits to the general public and not even seen on private tours. They climb ladders and search passageways as they hunt for steering locks, bilge alarms, liquid loading diagrams, and more, on a mission to save the ship from being stuck in the mothball fleet, dooming this engineering marvel to the scrapyard to be lost forever.

“Escape the Mothball Fleet” is a rigorous hands-on experience that requires participants to climb up and down steep stairwells, traverse narrow passageways, and navigate through the tight spaces of the historic battleship. The experience must be booked in advance through the museum’s website and is only available as an add-on experience for visitors who have already purchased a general access pass to Battleship USS Iowa Museum.

For more information and to book the “Escape the Mothball Fleet” experience, visit the Battleship USS Iowa Museum website at <https://www.pacificbattleship.com/escape-the-mothball-fleet/>.

Resources:

- Video: [Escape the Mothball Fleet](#)
- Website: <https://www.pacificbattleship.com/escape-the-mothball-fleet/>

About Battleship USS Iowa Museum and the National Museum of the Surface Navy

Scheduled to open in 2025 aboard the historic Battleship USS Iowa Museum, the National Museum of the Surface Navy is the museum for America’s Surface Navy. The museum’s mission is to raise America’s awareness of the importance of the United States Surface Naval Forces’ role in international relations, free trade, humanitarian assistance, and technological innovation, not just in the past but today and into the future.

Located in the Port of Los Angeles in San Pedro, Calif., Battleship USS Iowa Museum is one of the top five museums and attractions in Los Angeles, bringing the ship’s history to life through in-person and virtual tours and educational programs for youth. In addition to providing a natural platform for veterans and patriotic civilians to come together as a community, Battleship USS Iowa Museum provides a wide array of impactful programs and resources that support the critical needs of our military and veterans.

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