



Travel along the North Shore Heritage Trail (25A) and Discover the Secrets Hidden in its Backroads and Byways!

Port Jefferson

- Select an itinerary for the day or stay for a few days and undertake a comprehensive excursion.
- Avis Car Rental at the Huntington Hilton Long Island Hotel at 631-896-2423.
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- For Package Vacations, Events and Members' Listing visit our homepage.

Whether you are traveling from Connecticut aboard the Port Jefferson Ferry, or driving along Rt. 25A, as you arrive in Port Jefferson, a lively Village of quaint shops and fantastic restaurants await you.

It seems that Port Jefferson has always had excitement and adventure dating back to the Prohibition era. According to one local historian, the village had a lively Temperance Movement to stop the manufacture, sale and transportation of intoxicating beverages. One story describes a "hog fight" that broke out on Main Street between two prohibitionists – one accusing the other of "violating his pledge and drinking liquor." It was, however, not difficult to find liquor in Port Jefferson. In fact, the *Port Jefferson Times* said that hell had been "let loose" in the village by

those who opposed prohibition and these violators “led the charge” across speakeasies, social clubs and Route 25A.

According to rumor, the **Belle Terre Club**, along Port Jefferson Harbor, was owned by Dutch Schultz, a notorious crime figure that was engaged in the rum running business. Legend has it that during this time, Bootleggers on their way to the Belle Terre Club, sped along the highway in an automobile, apparently trying to outrun a train speeding along between Smithtown and Saint James (trying to make up time lost at a delay in Smithtown). The locomotive was unable to slow down and the car was hit broadside with such force that the occupants and contents were thrown yards away. Everyone who had been in the car was killed and his (or her) firearms were strewn about.



Belle Terre Club, circa 1909- owned by Dutch Schultz, a notorious crime figure that was engaged in the rum running business.



Bayles Chandlery on East Broadway in Port Jefferson- The Sons of Temperance met on the second floor to encourage prohibition. This location is now the Maritime Explorium at Port Jefferson Harbor. (c/o Port Jefferson Historical Society)

Today, while you visit **Danfords Hotel and Marina (25 E Broadway Port Jefferson, NY 11777; 631-928-5200)** overlooking Port Jefferson Harbor, you can enjoy a lunch or dinner at their restaurant. Tell them “**Joe Sent Me**” and they will give you a special **Dutch Schultz** cocktail. The Children’s Maritime Museum, just down the street from Danfords, was formerly known as the **Bayles Chandlery**, the site of temperance movement meetings to encourage prohibition.

If you’re traveling from Connecticut on the **Port Jefferson Ferry (102 West Broadway, Port Jefferson, NY 11777; 631-473-5383)**, you can enjoy Danfords “Sail, Sip, Sleep & Save” package which includes a luxurious overnight accommodations, continental breakfast for two in the Wave restaurant and other amenities.

The **Port Jefferson Ferry** is a relaxing 1 ½ hour ride taking passengers round-trip to Bridgeport, Connecticut. Passengers can either walk or drive their car on the ferry and enjoy food service and a steamboat lounge on board.

As you step or drive off the ferry, you will see **Port Jefferson Harbor** that was home to high-speed chases during Prohibition. One story tells that after firing 500 rounds of ammunition, the Coast Guard finally was able to bag one vessel off Belle Terre capturing its 800 cases of liquor that was also on board. Another win for the coast guard included the capture of the infamous runner called the *Porpoise*, and its stash of contraband whiskey, after a high speed chase off of PJ's harbor.

“Rumrunners built some of the fastest, sleekest boats afloat. Crammed with aircraft engines, lined with bullet proof glass, and designed to haul the greatest volume of booze, these custom busters became legendary.” One legendary craft was the *Artemis*, a rum runner captured three times and purchased back by her owners. In 1931, the *Artemis* was discovered in Port Jefferson boatyard where she had been secretly towed for repairs following a fight the night before that culminated in smoke screens, bullet fire and narrow escape by the vessel's crew. She had new plankings on her bow.

On land, authorities managed to read the Sundodgers, a private social club on upper Thompson Street, and dumped their sixteen cases of home-brew on the backyard. Federal agents also nabbed a man for distributing moonshine from his house on Liberty Avenue.

By 1932, the majority of Port Jefferson's residents had tired of Prohibition and on December 5, 1933 the Eighteenth Amendment was repealed by the states.

Today, enjoy a quieter time through Port Jefferson Village and stop to enjoy many quaint shops and restaurants.

The Port Jefferson Historical Society (115 Prospect Street, Port Jefferson, NY 11777; 631-473-2665) has put together three self-guided walking tours of historic Port Jefferson. Be sure to see The Mather House Museum and Museum Complex which includes the Craft House, Country store, Marine Barn and Sail Loft, Tool Shed and the Spinney Clock Museum. Open July and August.

You may be interested to know that the following films and TV Show were filmed in Port Jefferson: **Growing Up Twisted (TV) (2010); She Devil (1989)**