



## MTA Press Releases

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Press Release

May 9, 2012

LIRR

IMMEDIATE

### Take the LIRR to the Tall Ships Spectacular in Greenport

***Save \$10 on Admission to Ship Tours on Saturday, May 26 and Sunday, May 27***

MTA Long Island Rail Road will provide extra train service between Ronkonkoma and Greenport on Saturday, May 26 and Sunday, May 27 when the beautiful seaside village plays proud host to a breathtaking array of sailing ships participating in the annual Tall Ships Challenge along the Atlantic Coast.

The four-day stopover in the North Fork hamlet will include a rare opportunity to tour the tall ships, among them Greenport's own HMS Bounty. And anyone who purchases the LIRR's special Greenport Tall Ships travel package gets an added bonus. Your round trip rail tickets come with a \$10 discounted admission voucher that gets you on the tour (regularly \$15) for \$5.

"We are excited to be partnering with the Greenport community to offer our customers extra service to this great event on the North Fork as well as discounted admission," said LIRR President Helena Williams. "Avoid the traffic and take the train to see some of the most spectacular tall ships in the world."

Greenport Mayor David Nyce said: "The village is extremely pleased to partner with the LIRR for this exciting event. The participation of the Railroad is an important component to the success of our event in allowing people to visit without concern for traffic and parking on this busy weekend. Our thanks go out to the LIRR for their enthusiastic response to our request for additional service and we all look forward to a wonderful, successful event."

It was Mayor Nyce who first raised the possibility of extra train service with MTA Board Member Mitch Pally, who passed the request on to LIRR President Williams.

"The Tall Ships is a great event for Greenport and I'm delighted the LIRR is able to offer extra service and a discount for LIRR customers to the event," said Pally, Suffolk County's representative on the MTA Board since 2005. "The MTA wants to help promote the North Fork as a destination and one that can be reached while leaving behind the hassles of parking. I'm pleased we were able to assist the village and the LIRR to help make this happen. It's a win-win for the Railroad and the North Fork."

The Tall Ships Challenge Race, sponsored annually by the Newport, R.I. non-profit Tall Ships America <http://www.sailtraining.org/> begins in Savannah, Georgia, where the first of an exciting series of sailing races, cruises, crew rallies and maritime festivals organized is held. This year's Tall Ships Challenge commemorates the bicentennial of the War of 1812, an added theme at every port. The ships are scheduled to drop anchor in Greenport and open for tours on Friday, May 25 and continuing through Memorial Day. Early Tuesday, May 28 they depart for Newport, Rhode Island and then Halifax, Nova Scotia.

**The LIRR's Greenport Tall Ships Package is good for Saturday, May 26 and Sunday, May 27 only.** The cost of the \$15 tour ticket is reduced to \$5 when customers purchase the LIRR package. People of all ages will thrill at the size and scope of ships that evoke images of long ago adventures on the high seas.

The Village of Greenport has a full schedule of activities planned – all within walking distance of its docks and the LIRR's Greenport station. Entertainment, exhibitions and displays will be held on the waterfront in Mitchell Park. Merchants and restaurants will create a festive atmosphere offering fine dining and street side refreshments. Also, the village's popular antique Carousel will be open from 10am – 9pm daily. For more information, visit the Village of Greenport website <http://greenportvillage.com/about.cfm>

#### Getting There

Take Ronkonkoma Branch trains and transfer at Ronkonkoma station to the Greenport bi-level trains listed below. This list includes extra trains available Saturday & Sunday only. Because above normal ridership is expected, bicycles will not be permitted on trains to and from Greenport on Saturday and Sunday.

#### Eastbound to Greenport:

- 8:40 AM from Ronkonkoma, arriving Medford 8:51 AM, Yaphank 8:59 AM, Riverhead 9:25 AM, Mattituck 9:41 AM, Southold 9:55 AM, Greenport 10:05 AM.
- 10:40 AM from Ronkonkoma, arriving Medford 10:51 AM, Yaphank 10:59 AM, Riverhead 11:25 AM, Mattituck 11:41 AM, Southold 11:55 AM, Greenport 12:05 PM
- 12:15 PM from Riverhead, arriving Mattituck 12:31 PM, Southold 12:45 PM, Greenport 12:55 PM.
- 3:40 PM from Ronkonkoma, arriving Medford at 3:51 PM, Yaphank 3:59 PM, Riverhead 4:25 PM, Mattituck 4:41 PM, Southold 4:55 PM, Greenport 5:05 PM
- 3:25 PM from Riverhead, arriving Mattituck 3:41 PM, Southold 3:55 PM, Greenport 4:05 PM.

#### Westbound from Greenport

- 1:11 PM from Greenport, arriving Southold 1:21 PM, Mattituck 1:34 PM, Riverhead 1:50 PM, Yaphank 2:16 PM, Medford 2:24 PM, Ronkonkoma 2:35 PM.
- 2:11 PM from Greenport, arriving Southold 2:21 PM, Mattituck 2:34 PM, and Riverhead 2:50 PM. Customers will board buses at Riverhead to continue to Yaphank, Medford and Ronkonkoma.
- 5:11 PM from Greenport, arriving Southold 5:21 PM, Mattituck 5:34 PM, Riverhead 5:50 PM. Yaphank 6:16 PM, Medford 6:24 PM, Ronkonkoma 6:35 PM.
- 6:11 PM from Greenport, arriving Southold 6:21 PM, Mattituck 6:34 PM, Riverhead 6:50 PM, Yaphank 7:16 PM, Medford 7:24 PM, Ronkonkoma 7:35 PM.

### How to Purchase the LIRR "Greenport Tall Ships" Package

You can purchase the LIRR's Greenport Tall Ships Package (round-trip rail ticket and tour voucher) in advance at open ticket offices and LIRR's blue, green or gray ticket machines now through Sunday, May 27. The package will not be sold on-board trains. Customers boarding at stations east of Ronkonkoma (Medford, Yaphank, Riverhead, Mattituck and Southold), which do not have ticket offices or ticket machines will receive a coupon which should be redeemed at tour admission booths in Greenport. All LIRR ticket machines accept credit and debit cards; gray and green machines also accept cash. When purchasing at a ticket machine, follow these steps: select "Deals & Getaways," then "Long Island Getaways," then "Greenport Tall Ships." Ticket offices accept cash, credit and debit cards or personal checks. Due to traditionally heavy holiday travel on diesel branches, the LIRR will not be able to provide additional service to Greenport or the \$10 voucher on Monday, Memorial Day.

In addition to full-rigged HMS Bounty, Long Islanders may recognize the topsail schooner Summerwind, the cadet training vessel of the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy in Kings Point. Also participating will be the Canadian barque Picton Castle, the top sail schooners Unicorn of Bridgeport, Ct., Pride of Baltimore II, and Lynx from Newport Beach, Calif. and the schooner Roseway, from St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands.

For details about the LIRR's Greenport Tall Ships train service, pick up a copy of the special Greenport Tall Ships Timetable available at LIRR stations or go to [www.mta.info/lirr](http://www.mta.info/lirr) and click on Schedules and Fares. For more information, customers can call 511, the New York State Travel Information Line and say: Long Island Rail Road. If you are deaf or hard of hearing, use your preferred relay service provider or the free 711 relay to reach LIRR at 511.