

Submarines

RICHARD PEKELNEY scopes out three underwater attractions.



Though the Beatles all lived in a yellow submarine, the rest of us only get to go on tours of submersibles. Not that we're complaining. "There's something that just grabs the imagination about being in a boat underwater," says submarine enthusiast and restoration specialist Richard Pekelney. A veteran volunteer and preservation engineer on the *USS Pampanito* in San Francisco, he serves on the Board of Directors of the Historic Naval Ships Association. Get below the surface with Pekelney's picks.

USS Drum
MOBILE, ALABAMA

One of World War II's unsung superstars has become a National Historic Landmark, now resting permanently on the grass at Battleship Memorial Park near the *USS Alabama*. Because *Drum* is out of the water, visitors can check out the entire hull from top to bottom, providing a rare and interesting perspective. Inside, the sub still attracts admirers who come to see the original equipment. ussalabama.com

USS Cod
CLEVELAND

A waterfront fixture, *Cod* is one of the most beautifully preserved subs in the country and the only one that hasn't cut doors or stairways into the hull for easier visitor entry. You have to climb down the same hatch and vertical ladder that the sailors did. Once inside, the detailing of this boat—credited with sinking more than a dozen enemy vessels—really hits you. Original cups and plates stand in the galley alongside food cans with replicas of World War II-era labels. It feels like the original crew just walked off for a moment. usscod.org

USS Pampanito
SAN FRANCISCO

Berthed at Fisherman's Wharf, *Pampanito* remains one of the finest restored World War II subs. And I'm not just saying that because I volunteer here. More than half of the equipment still works, including a 4-foot-by-5-foot torpedo data computer and an 800-pound ice cream machine designed so that it could be disassembled and squeezed through a 21-inch hatch. An excellent self-guided audio tour provides a haunting sense of what the crew of 80 endured during *Pampanito's* service in the Pacific. maritime.org/pamphome.htm



Topsider On blocks in Alabama, the *Drum* bares all.