



A DAYTRIP

Fishing Onboard the Adventurer

BY JOSH KINNEY

When you're standing on the shore and looking out at the ocean a part of you always wonders what it looks like to see the beach from the sea. Cruising the bay is one thing, but being miles out on the ocean is quite another. The vastness envelops and engulfs everything. The sheer size is incomprehensible and there's nothing like heading east knowing that the only thing in front of you is (eventually) Europe and Africa. Seems surreal, having left port in New Jersey.

At 10 AM every day Captain Gary's Adventurer fishing boat heads out from the harbor beside the Rio Grande Bridge. The boat snakes its way through Wildwood's back bays, through the Cape May Inlet and out into the immensity of the open ocean, traveling approximately ten miles from the coast. Out in the distance you can see Wildwood on the horizon: the white rounded convention center, the Ocean Towers and The Grand in Diamond Beach. The Cape May Lighthouse looks like a spec, but you can make that out as well.

Captain Gary cuts the engines to the boat and all rods drop their lines simultaneously. Everyone's hoping for a big catch to be the possible winner of the 'pot' for the biggest fish caught, or just for the thrill of the tug and bringing a fish up out of the water. Captain Gary's helping hands Jay and Todd come around to make sure everyone is situated, baiting rods and unhooking fish. "Make sure the weight on your rod hits the bottom," said Todd, an experienced fisherman. Letting the line out a little more it can sometimes be easy to overthink a slight jerk of the rod or nibble from a flounder. However, fishing out on The Adventurer is especially relaxing. With very little prior experience, my first deep sea fishing trip was guided by the patient and helpful crew of The Adventurer who willingly showed my friend Jason and I the ropes, despite his incessant references to the movie "Jaws." With our rods cast deep we didn't have to wait long before bites and tugs led to flounder, sea robins and even a 14 inch sea bass that we kept and immediately grilled up and ate when we got back to shore. Delectable!

So now I know what it's like to see from all the way out there and if you haven't, I encourage you to do so. It's a strange feeling knowing that at night while I sleep on the five mile island that giant seemingly endless ocean is right down the street, something Captain Gary knows all too well. All these years spent on land admiring the sea, for a day I got to become a part of it thanks to Captain Gary and the crew of The Adventurer.