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By Kari Bodnarchuk | GLOBE CORRESPONDENT OCTOBER 17, 2015



Hotel Zephyr

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FUN NEW BAY AREA HOTEL LOOKING SHIPSHAPE

Step into the lobby of the new Hotel Zephyr at Fisherman’s Wharf in San Francisco and you will find re-created portholes, shipping containers, sloped metal walls (like a ship’s hull), and a giant mermaid sculpture. The transformed hotel, a Radisson property until last summer, has elements found on a cargo ship (the story is that it traveled the world before landing here and turning into a hotel). Claiming to be “upscale but not uptight,” the Zephyr has 361 modern rooms, many with Alcatraz views, and all the latest technology, including flat-screen TVs that can become large displays for your smartphone or tablet. The property’s coolest spot: A guest-only outdoor area called The Yard (named after The Yard at Alcatraz), which serves as a funky and colorful gathering spot. Here, you can play tubular Ping-Pong and shuffleboard, see the city and bay through a giant working periscope, and buy food from a big camper van. Rates start at \$229 per night, based on availability. 415-617-6565, www.hotelzephyrsf.com