

# National Parks of New York Harbor



Stretching from The Battery at the southern tip of Manhattan into three other boroughs, and beyond the Verrazano Bridge to New Jersey, the National Parks of New York Harbor includes 10 national parks with 22 natural, historic and recreational sites. These national parks preserve special places that tell the story of America and its greatest city, from the nation's early defenses to its first steps as


a new democracy, from the waves of immigrants to the rise of a commercial powerhouse unrivaled in the world. They include powerful international icons and places of extraordinary beauty where you can experience our history and natural heritage on the land and on the water.




## Gateway National Recreation Area


### Jamaica Bay Unit

Visitor Center: 718-338-3799  
www.nps.gov/gate



**Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge** ▲  
718-318-4340  
The only wildlife refuge in the national park system, Jamaica Bay is the largest bird sanctuary in the northeastern United States with over 325 species of birds sighted in the past 25 years. Covering 9,155 acres, visitors can walk nature trails, explore woodlands, and bird watch.






**Floyd Bennett Field** ▲  
718-338-3799  
Dedicated in 1931 as New York City's first municipal airport, Floyd Bennett Field was later converted to a naval air station during World War II. During the early days of aviation, renowned pilots like Howard Hughes, Jacqueline Cochran and "Wrong Way" Corrigan used the field to launch their flights.


**Breezy Point** ▼  
718-318-4300  
At the tip of the Rockaway Peninsula, Breezy Point provides substantial nesting habitat for many threatened and endangered bird species as well as one of the best recreational fishing spots in the area.

**Fort Tilden** ▼  
718-318-4300  
Fort Tilden was a key military site in the early 1900s overlooking the approach to New York Harbor. Today, the fort's grounds provide athletic fields, public gardening and hiking trails. Several of the former post buildings serve the community as a center for the arts on Rockaway Peninsula.




### Staten Island Unit

Visitor Center: 718-354-4500  
www.nps.gov/gate



**Great Kills Park** ▼  
718-987-6790  
Located on the southeastern tip of Staten Island, the park is a fine location for walking, jogging, in-line skating, cycling, fishing, boating, summer beach activities and bird watching.




**Fort Wadsworth** ▲  
718-354-4500  
The "Guardian of the Narrows" is one of our nation's oldest military sites. Strategically located at the entrance to New York Harbor, the fort stood watch over the City for more than 200 years. Ranger-led tours are available.

**Miller Field** ▼  
718-351-6970  
Originally built to serve as a landing field for military aircraft, this 187-acre open space now hosts almost one million children and adults each year who participate in organized athletics. Picnic areas and public gardens are also available.

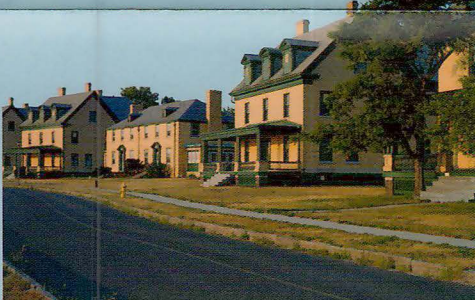
### Sandy Hook Unit

Visitor Center: 732-872-5970  
www.nps.gov/gate


**Sandy Hook** ►  
The Sandy Hook Peninsula, located in Monmouth County, New Jersey, includes six miles of ocean beaches, saltwater marshes, the waters of Sandy Hook Bay and historic Fort Hancock. Visitors may also enjoy fishing, hiking and biking along a 5-mile long pathway.




**Fort Hancock** ▼  
Built at the end of the 19th Century as the outermost defensive point for New York City, Fort Hancock comprises abandoned coastal defense batteries and a collection of period buildings that recall a time of elegant, refined military architecture. Also located on the fort, the Sandy Hook Lighthouse is the oldest active lighthouse in the country, guiding ships since 1764.




## Historic Treasures In and Around Manhattan




**African Burial Ground National Monument** ◀  
212-637-2039  
The story of the burial ground teaches how free and enslaved Africans contributed to the physical and spiritual development of Lower Manhattan during the 17th and 18th centuries, and New York's role in the trans-Atlantic slave trade. An estimated 15,000 men, women and children were buried within the 6.6-acre burial ground, part of which is now a national monument marked by a memorial.  
290 Broadway  
www.nps.gov/afbg




**Castle Clinton National Monument** ▲  
212-344-7220  
Originally built to defend New York Harbor before the War of 1812, Castle Clinton was later named Castle Garden, serving as an entertainment venue from 1824 to 1854. From 1855 to 1890, it was converted into an immigration center, processing 8 million immigrants to the United States. The castle was remodeled again in 1896 to house the New York City Aquarium, which closed in 1941.  
Battery Park, Lower Manhattan  
www.nps.gov/cacl

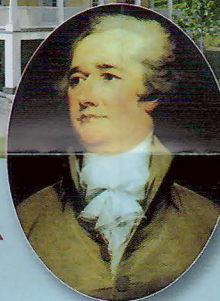


**Governors Island National Monument** ▲  
212-825-3045  
For more than two centuries, the military communities on Governors Island were woven into the intricate social, political and economic tapestry that is New York City. From 1776-1996, Governors Island's Fort Jay and Castle Williams stood as silent sentinels in New York Harbor. Visitors can explore the island to appreciate its history and architecture as well as incredible views of the New York skyline.  
Ferry Departure: Battery Maritime Building, Slip 7, 10 South Street  
www.nps.gov/gois




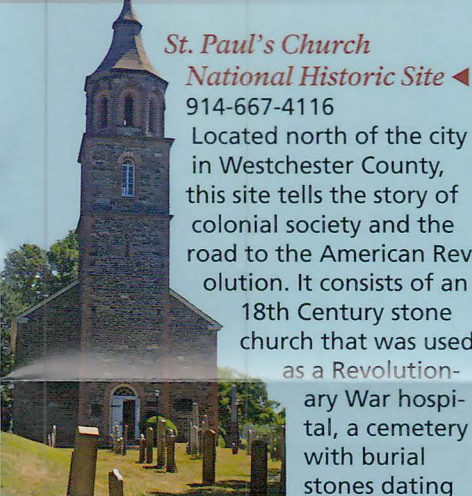


**Hamilton Grange National Memorial** ▲  
As the nation's first Secretary of the Treasury, Alexander Hamilton developed plans for funding the national debt, secured federal credit and organized a federal bank. Hamilton constructed a "country" home in northern Manhattan and named it "The Grange" after his family's ancestral home in Scotland. Moved to a new location in 2007, the newly restored home will re-open to the public in 2011.  
St. Nicholas Park, W 141st Street  
www.nps.gov/hagr




**Lower East Side Tenement Museum** ▼  
212-982-8420  
Affiliated with the National Park Service, this museum works to preserve and interpret the history of the immigrant experience on Manhattan's Lower East Side. The first museum in the United States to preserve a tenement building, the site tells representative stories of an estimated 7,000 people from over 20 nations that populated the tenement's cramped living spaces between 1863 and 1935.  
108 Orchard Street  
www.tenement.org






**St. Paul's Church National Historic Site** ◀  
914-667-4116  
Located north of the city in Westchester County, this site tells the story of colonial society and the road to the American Revolution. It consists of an 18th Century stone church that was used as a Revolutionary War hospital, a cemetery with burial stones dating to 1704 and the remnant of a Village Green that was the scene of the famous Election of 1733 which raised issues of Freedom of Religion and the Press.  
897 South Columbus Avenue, Mount Vernon, NY 10550  
www.nps.gov/sapa



**Theodore Roosevelt Birthplace National Historic Site** ▲  
212-260-1616  
Theodore Roosevelt, the 26th President of the United States, lived at this site from birth until he was 14 years old. "Teedie," as young Roosevelt was nicknamed, was born into an affluent New York City family during the Victorian era. The home features five period rooms that reflect the lifestyle of the Roosevelts circa 1865, and two galleries containing original artifacts from T.R. and his family.  
28 East 20th Street  
www.nps.gov/thrb




## Statue of Liberty National Monument and Ellis Island



**Statue of Liberty** ►  
212-363-3200  
Located on 12-acre Liberty Island in New York Harbor, the Statue of Liberty was a gift from the people of France to the people of the United States. Dedicated on October 28, 1886, it was designated a National Monument in 1924 and has become a universal icon of freedom and liberty. It remains one of the City's most popular attractions, hosting millions of visitors each year.  
www.nps.gov/stli



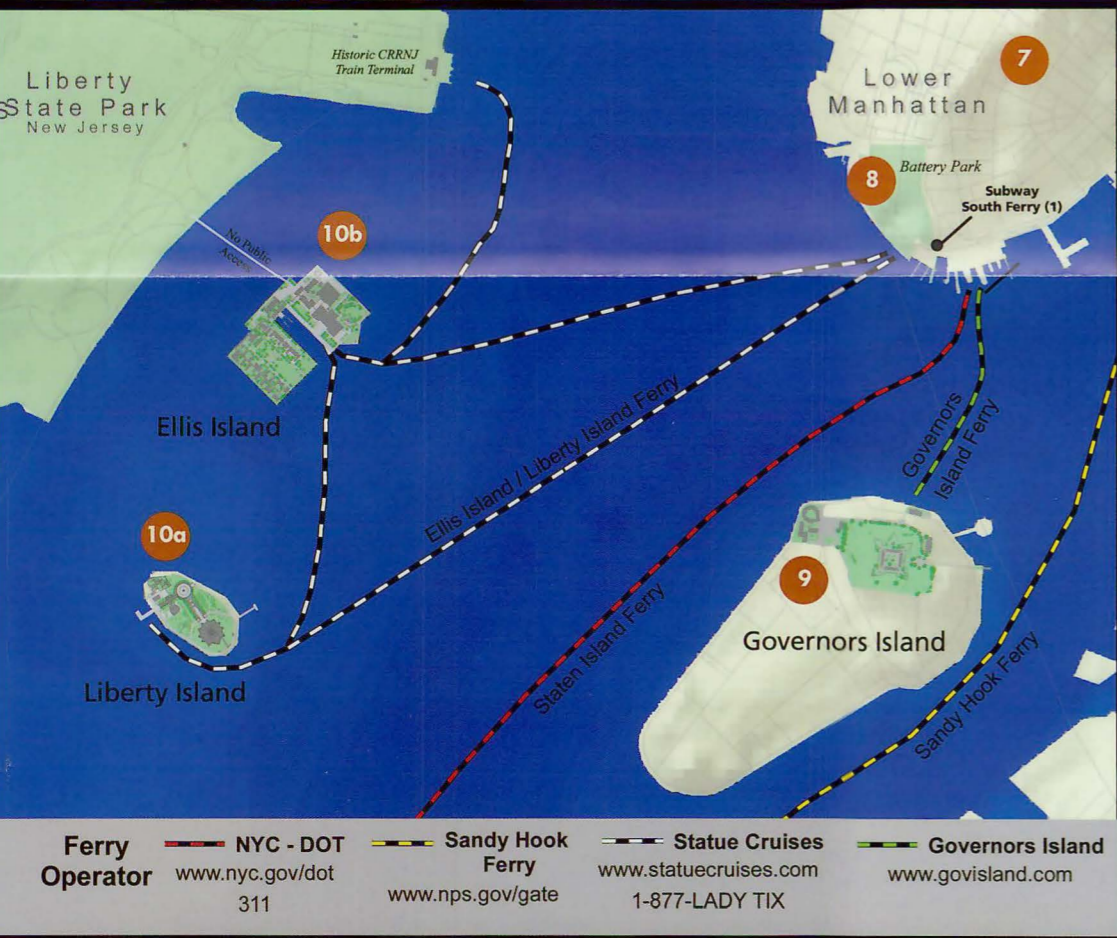


**Ellis Island** ▲  
212-363-3200  
From 1892 to 1954, 12 million immigrants entered the United States through Ellis Island. Established in the late 19th Century as the Federal Government's central immigration processing point for New York City, up to 5,000 immigrants were processed each day during the peak years of operation. The restored Main Building of Ellis Island is home to the Ellis Island Immigration Museum.  
www.nps.gov/elis

**STATUE FACTS**  
Top of base to torch: 151'1"  
Ground to torch: 305'1"  
Length of nose: 4'6"  
Weight of steel: 250,000 lbs.  
Weight of copper: 62,000 lbs.  
Thickness of copper: 3/32" (two pennies)  
In 50 mph winds, the Statue sways up to 3 inches and the torch up to 6 inches.  
Seven rays of crown represent the seven seas and continents of the world.  
Broken chains around her feet represent freedom from oppression.  
The tablet in her arm represents a book of law and reads "July 4, 1776," the date of American Independence.  
The torch is a symbol of enlightenment and its flame is covered in 24k. gold leaf.  
The 25 windows in the crown symbolize gemstones and heaven's rays shining over the world.



# National Parks of New York Harbor



## National Parks of New York Harbor

- 1

St. Paul's Church National Historic Site
- 2

Hamilton Grange National Memorial
- 3

General Grant National Memorial
- 4

Theodore Roosevelt Birthplace
- 5

Lower East Side Tenement Museum
- 6

African Burial Ground National Monument
- 7

Federal Hall National Memorial
- 8

Castle Clinton National Monument
- 9

Governors Island National Monument
- 10a

Statue of Liberty
- 10b

Ellis Island
- 11a

Fort Wadsworth
- 11b

Miller Field
- 11c

Great Kills Park
- 11d

Floyd Bennett Field
- 11e

Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
- 11f

Canarsie Pier
- 11g

Breezy Point
- 11h

Fort Tilden
- 11i

Jacob Riis park
- 11j

Fort Hancock
- 11k

Sandy Hook Beaches

### Gateway National Recreation Area

#### Staten Island Unit

- 11a

Fort Wadsworth
- 11b

Miller Field
- 11c

Great Kills Park

#### Jamaica Bay Unit

- 11d

Floyd Bennett Field
- 11e

Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
- 11f

Canarsie Pier
- 11g

Breezy Point
- 11h

Fort Tilden
- 11i

Jacob Riis park

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- 10a

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- 10b

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#### Sandy Hook Unit

- 11j

Fort Hancock
- 11k

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