

Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island

Statue of Liberty
National Monument
New Jersey / New York

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



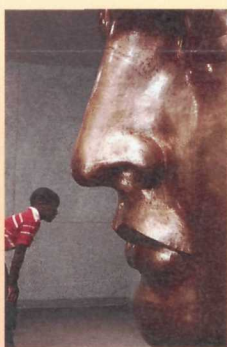
Even before it took its place at America's gateway, the Statue of Liberty overwhelmed those who saw it. Parisians, watching the statue's construction in their city in the 1880s, proclaimed it "the eighth marvel of the world." Set atop its pedestal in 1886, it was the tallest structure in New York City—and the tallest statue in the world. A German immigrant whose ship passed by in the 1920s recalled that "my mother rushed us to the window, to see this magic statue standing there. Now we were going to go to heaven." To visitors today, the statue's sheer size can obscure its meaning. As you explore Liberty Island and the statue, consider the philosophy of its sculptor, Auguste Bartholdi: "Colossal statuary does not consist simply in making an enormous statue. It ought to produce an emotion in the breast of the spectator, not because of its volume, but because its size is in keeping with the idea that it interprets, and with the place which it ought to occupy."

Besides this full-scale replica of the face, the Statue of Liberty Exhibit has artifacts and explanations of the statue's history, construction, and symbolic role. The exhibit is one level above the lobby.

Some Statistics
Height from ground to top of torch—305 ft., 1 in. (92.99 m)

Height of statue—151 ft., 1 in. (46.05 m)

Thickness of copper "skin"— $\frac{3}{32}$ of an inch (2.37 mm), about the thickness of two pennies



The Making of Liberty

Liberty, this most American of Americans, was itself an immigrant. In 1865 a group of French intellectuals led by Edouard de Laboulaye, protesting what they saw as political repression in their own country, decided to honor the ideals of freedom and liberty with a symbolic gift to the United States. The time was right: the Civil War was over, slavery was abolished, and the nation looked toward its centennial. Nationalism, prosperity, and new technology brought forth an era of monument building. Auguste Bartholdi, Laboulaye's young sculptor friend, seized the chance to create a modern-day Colossus.

Twenty-one years later and an ocean away, "Liberty Enlightening the World" stood complete in New York Harbor. At the 1886 dedication, the president of France proclaimed that Liberty would "magnify France beyond the seas."

But Liberty's image was already being transformed in its adopted home. Amid massive immigration in the late 19th century, the notion of Liberty as the "Mother of Exiles" touched the minds and hearts of the public despite a growing number of restrictive immigration laws. As immigration plummeted during World War I, Liberty's role

evolved: staring out from glossy posters, telling citizens to buy war bonds or enlist in the military, Liberty was America personified.

Later years have seen an endless parade of guises. The image of the statue has been used to lead political movements, satirize national policy, sell lemons, illuminate living rooms, and attract tourists from around the world. The shaping and reshaping of its symbolism, over time and throughout the world, make experiencing the original statue in its original setting all the more important—and wondrous.

1811 Star-shaped Fort Wood is built on Bedloe's (Liberty) Island.

1871 Bartholdi tours U.S., chooses site in New York Harbor.

1876 Liberty's arm and torch are displayed at the Centennial Exposition in Philadelphia.

1877 Congress authorizes site for statue but no money; private fundraising begins in U.S. for pedestal construction.

1879 Gustave Eiffel designs statue's internal framework.

1881-84 Statue is assembled in Paris. Work begins on foundation on Bedloe's Island. Emma Lazarus writes "The New Colossus."

1884 Richard Morris Hunt completes pedestal design.

1885 Statue is dismantled and shipped to New York. Joseph Pulitzer begins nationwide fundraising for pedestal.

1886 Statue is reassembled on Bedloe's Island. Dedicated on Oct. 28.

1924 Statue of Liberty is declared a national monument.
1933 National Park Service takes over administration of statue from War Department.

1956 Bedloe's Island is renamed Liberty Island.

1986 Restoration is completed for statue's centennial celebration.

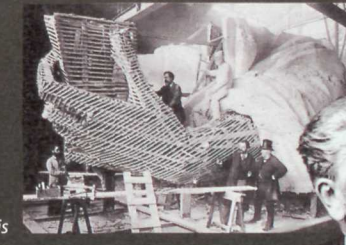
2001 Statue closes due to September 11 attacks. Island reopens Dec. 20.

2004 Statue opens on Aug. 3 with safety and security upgrades.

Edouard de Laboulaye



Frédéric Auguste Bartholdi



Alexandre Gustave Eiffel



Richard Morris Hunt



Emma Lazarus



Joseph Pulitzer

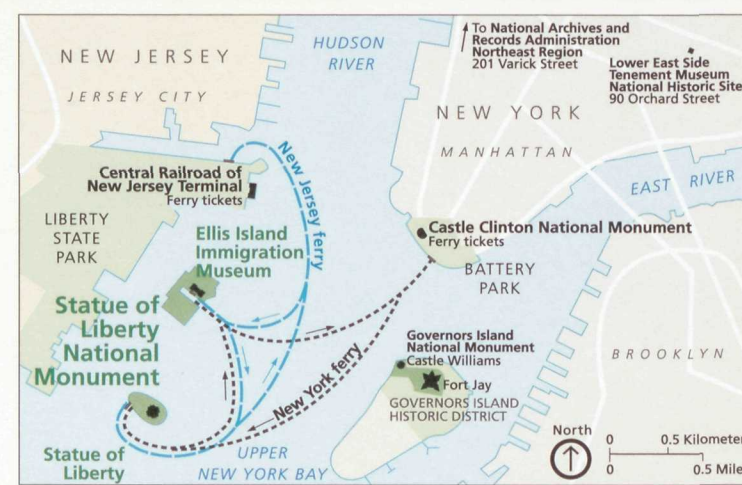
Planning Your Visit

The Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island are open daily except December 25. For hours, call 212-363-3200 or visit www.nps.gov/stli.

You can reach Liberty Island and Ellis Island only by Statue Cruises, LLC; call 1-877-LADY TIX or visit www.statuecruises.com. Advance purchase is recommended. Ferries depart from Battery Park in Lower Manhattan or Liberty State Park in New Jersey, exit 14B from New Jersey Turnpike.

If you wish to visit both islands in one day, plan to take an early ferry.

Security and Safety
Due to strict security screening, please do not bring large bags, backpacks, suitcases, or other large items into park.
• All visitors and their belongings are subject to search before boarding vessels.
• All weapons and dual-use and dangerous items are strictly prohibited. No pets allowed other than service dogs.
• Private boats are not permitted to dock at either island.



• No skating or skateboarding.
• If you have special needs or questions, contact the park before you visit.

More Information
Statue of Liberty National Monument, which includes Ellis Island, is one of over 390 areas in the National Park System. To learn more visit www.nps.gov. The park is a World Heritage Site.

Statue of Liberty National Monument
New York, NY 10004
212-363-3200
www.nps.gov/stli

Your Visit to Liberty Island

Liberty Island has interpretive outdoor exhibit panels, a National Park Service information center, and a food and gift concession building. Ranger-guided tours are conducted daily. Program schedules are posted at the information center and around the island grounds. Self-guiding audio tours are available in several languages at the concessions area for a nominal fee. Liberty Island is open every day except December 25.

If you only have a brief time, visit the outdoor exhibit panels, stroll around the island for spectacular views of the colossal statue and New York Harbor, and join a scheduled program.

Museum and Observation Level in Pedestal
You must have a Monument Pass to enter.
Passes allow you to view the statue's interior and other public areas and visit the Statue of Liberty exhibit and original torch. Crown access is by reservation only.

You can get Monument Passes with the advance purchase of ferry tickets: 1-877-LADY TIX or www.statuecruises.com. A limited number of passes are available each day at no charge to walk-ins at the ferry ticket offices.

Security Information
A second security screening, similar to airport security procedures, is required for all visitors with Monument Passes.

Please allow extra time for this screening.
• A limited locker facility is provided on the island for small items and strollers.
• If you have questions or special needs, contact the park staff before visiting.

For updated park and security policies, please contact the park staff: 212-363-3200; www.nps.gov/stli.

If you have questions or need assistance while in the park, please contact a National Park Ranger or United States Park Police Officer. Emergencies only: Command and Control Center, 212-363-3260.

The thin copper "skin" is supported by a web of steel bars, which are connected to four main pylons.

Observation Level
Visitors can take an elevator to the 10th floor pedestal and climb 24 steps to view the statue's interior from underneath. Outside are views of New York Harbor, Manhattan, Brooklyn, Staten Island, and New Jersey.

From the lower promenade visitors may exit onto historic star-shaped Fort Wood.

Statue of Liberty Exhibit

The main entrance to the statue is at the rear of the base at sidewalk level.

The New Colossus
By Emma Lazarus, 1883

*Not like the brazen giant of Greek fame,
With conquering limbs astride from land to land,
Here at our sea-washed, sunset-gates shall stand
A mighty woman with a torch, whose flame
Is the imprisoned lightning, and her name
Mother of Exiles. From her beacon-hand
Glows world-wide welcome, her mild eyes command
The air-bridged harbor that twin-cities frame.
"Keep, ancient lands, your storied pomp!" cries she,
With silent lips. "Give me your tired, your poor,
Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free,
The wretched refuse of your teeming shore;
Send these, the homeless, tempest-tost to me,
I lift my lamp beside the golden door!"*

CREDITS
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Ellis Island



Over a hundred million Americans can claim ancestors who came through Ellis Island. "There were probably as many reasons for coming to America," wrote President John F. Kennedy in *A Nation of Immigrants*, "as there were people who came." Religious persecution, political strife, unemployment, family connections, the lure of adventure: these were the circumstances of the greatest migration in modern history, when shipload after shipload of people, mostly Europeans, came to the United States. Beginning in 1892, the majority—some 12 million—took their first steps toward becoming Americans at Ellis Island. Today Ellis Island is a memorial to all who have made this nation their adopted home. Here we can see where the Old World met the New.

Through America's Gate

In the decade after the American Revolution, about 5,000 people immigrated to the United States every year. By the early 1900s, that many arrived at Ellis Island each day, with a record 11,747 on April 17, 1907. All told, some 12 million immigrants came through Ellis Island.

The immigration station at Ellis Island opened on January 1, 1892. Five years later the wooden structure burned, along with many immigration records. On December 17, 1900, a new, fireproof French Renaissance-style building welcomed 2,251 new arrivals. Ferries and barges brought steerage passengers out to Ellis from steamships. (First- and second-class passengers were quickly processed on board ship.) Doctors watched as immigrants entered the building and climbed the stairs; a limp, labored breathing, or other suspected troubles warranted further medical exams.



In the Registry Room, inspectors questioned each individual. Included among the 29 questions were name, home town, occupation, destination, and amount of money they carried. A Jewish immigrant from Russia recalls the uniforms worn by officials: "We were scared of uniforms. It took us back to the Russian uniforms that we were running away from." Those allowed to pass continued downstairs, exchanged money, bought provisions and perhaps rail tickets. A third or so stayed in New York City; others headed elsewhere. Only one to two percent were denied entry.

After the inspection process was transferred to U.S. consulates in the 1920s, only a small number of detained immigrants passed through Ellis Island. In 1954 it closed completely. Buildings deteriorated until restoration began in the 1980s. Today at Ellis Island you can retrace the steps of those who chose a future as Americans.

1808 Fort Gibson is built on Ellis Island for coastal defense.

1830s Immigrants begin to arrive in U.S. in large numbers from Ireland, Great Britain, and Germany.

1855–90 Castle Garden (now Castle Clinton) serves as New York state immigration station.

1862 Homestead Act makes land widely available. Immigrants begin to arrive from Scandinavia.

1870s Congress enacts first restrictions on immigration. Italians, Russians, and Austro-Hungarians begin to arrive in large numbers.

1880s 5.7 million immigrants arrive in U.S.



Trunk from Sicily, 1919

1890–91 Immigration station, now under federal control, is located at Barge Office in Battery Park.

1892 Immigration station opens at Ellis Island January 1.

1897 Fire destroys original wooden immigration station. Processing returns temporarily to Barge Office.

1900 Present Main Building opens December 17.

1901–1910 8.8 million immigrants arrive in U.S.; 6 million processed at Ellis, with 860,000 persons in 1907 alone.

1914–18 WW I curbs immigration; enemy aliens are detained here.



Main Building, 1900

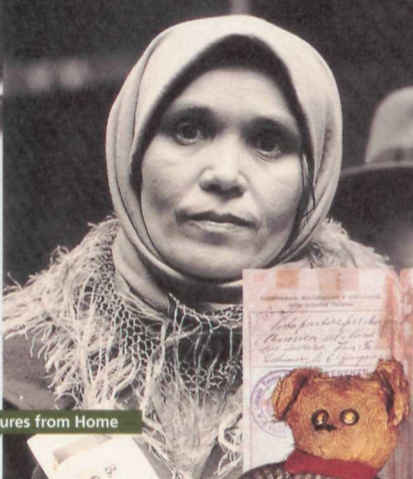
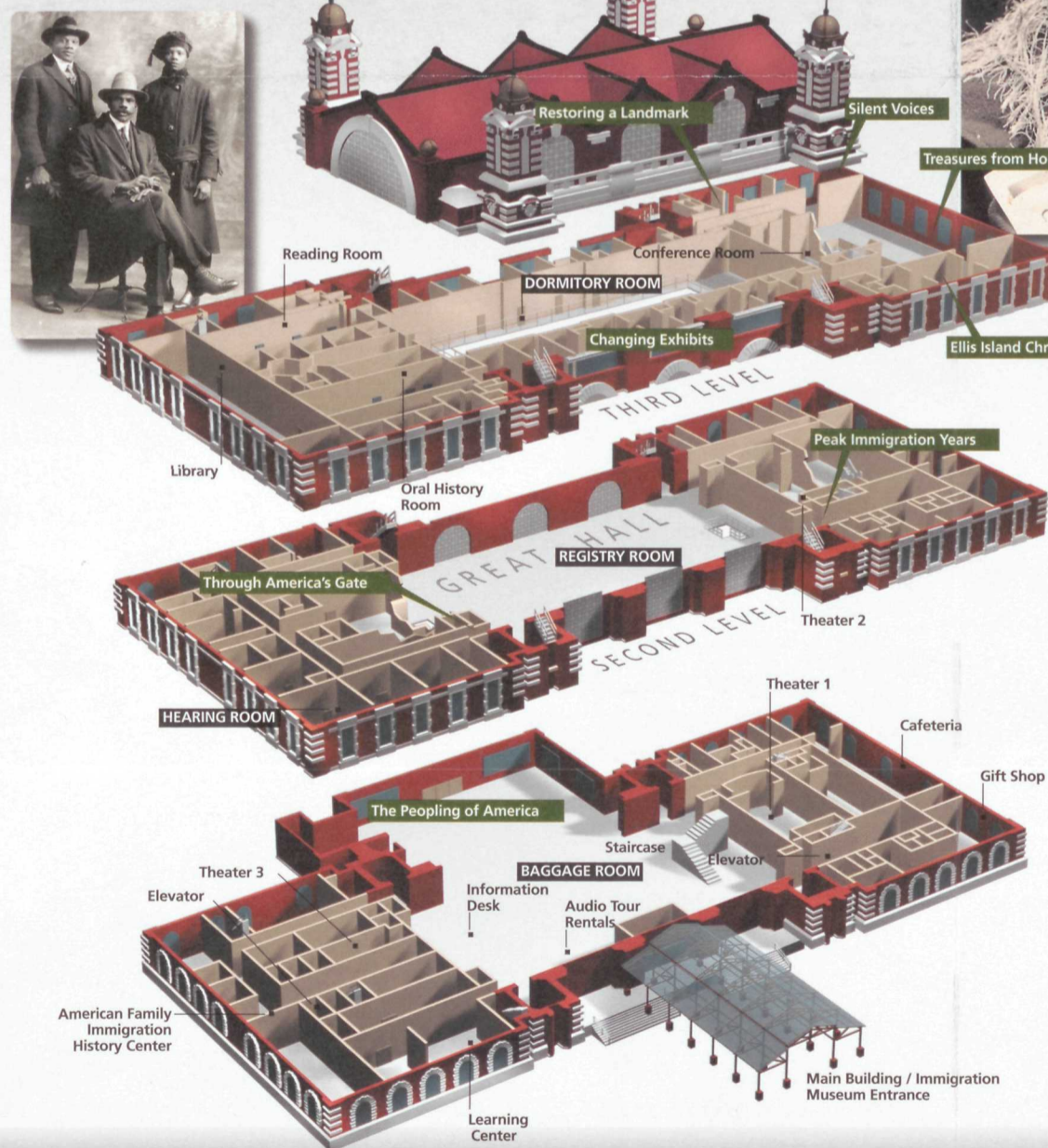
1920s Federal laws set immigration quotas based on national origin. In 1924 U.S. consulates take over immigration inspection. In later years, Ellis serves as deportation center, Public Health Service hospital, and Coast Guard station.

1939–45 World War II. Japanese, Italian, and German aliens are interned at Ellis.

1954 Ellis Island immigration station is closed permanently at the end of November.

1965 National origin quotas abolished. Ellis Island becomes part of Statue of Liberty National Monument.

1990 Restored Main Building opens as an immigration museum on September 10.



Charles Petioni, with his brother James and sister Blanche, arrived from the West Indies in 1918 (far left). A woman waits to board a ferry exiting Ellis Island after inspection (above). You can follow the complete inspection process in the "Through America's Gate" exhibit.

The exhibit "Treasures from Home" on the third floor displays over 2,000 possessions that immigrants brought from their homelands. These include a teddy bear (above left) from Swiss immigrant Gertrude Schneider Smith and shoes worn by an Austrian immigrant child (left).

Museum Exhibits

Photographs and objects from the Ellis Island museum tell a story of their own. Newly arrived immigrants (top) wait to enter the Main Building, 1920. A doctor uses a buttonhook to check for trachoma, a highly contagious eye disease that could result in a failed inspection (far left).

The passport above, from the "Peak Immigration Years" exhibit, belonged to Kalotina Kakias Fatolitis and her daughter Eleni. They came from Greece in 1923.

Your Visit to Ellis Island

Ellis Island is open year-round except December 25. Visitor facilities, exhibits, a gift shop, and cafeteria are located in the Main Building, the former immigration processing center. Built in 1900, it served until 1954 and is restored to its appearance in 1918–1924.

For general information about transportation, safety, and park contacts, see "Planning Your Visit" on the other side of this brochure.

To fully explore the Main Building, plan to spend at least three hours. Use the diagram at left to help plan your visit.

The Ellis Island Immigration Museum A 30-minute film "Island of Hope, Island of Tears" introduces you to Ellis

Island. Museum exhibits occupy three floors of the Main Building. The exhibits document immigrants' experience at Ellis Island, as well as the history of immigration in the United States.



The American Immigrant Wall of Honor

Through monetary contributions, some 600,000 names are inscribed on this wall (above), a memorial to America's immigrants. It is located outside the Main Building, through the "Peopling of America" exhibit. Inquire at the Statue of Liberty-Ellis Island Foundation desk.

Other Buildings Other historic buildings include hospital and contagious disease wards, a dormitory, doctors' housing, offices, maintenance facilities, and a restored ferry terminal that dates from the 1930s.

