

Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island

Statue of Liberty
National Monument
New York/New Jersey

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



Main Building, Ellis Island

Statue of Liberty

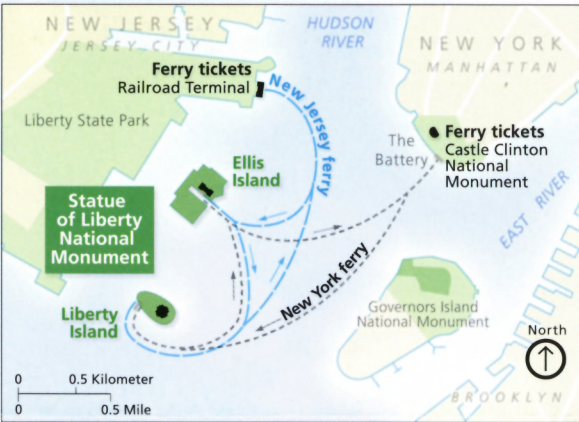
Plan Your Visit to the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island
You can reach the sites only by the National Park Service-authorized ferry operator. www.nps.gov/stli/playyourvisit

Your roundtrip ferry ticket includes access to the grounds and museums on Liberty and Ellis islands. For Pedestal and Crown access, you must make specific reservations with the authorized ferry operator. Pedestal and Crown tickets are limited.

Ferries depart from Liberty State Park in New Jersey and

The Battery in Manhattan. To visit both islands in one day, plan to take an early ferry.

Closed Thanksgiving Day and December 25.



For Teachers You can find educational opportunities on the park websites under "Learn about the Park."

Security and Safety Visitors and belongings are subject to search before boarding vessels. Due to strict security screening, do not bring large bags, backpacks, suitcases, or other large items into the park. • All weapons and dangerous items, including pocket knives, are strictly prohibited. • No animals are allowed except service dogs. • Private boats are not allowed to dock at either

island. • No skateboarding or skating allowed.

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

Statue of Liberty National Monument, which includes Ellis Island, is one of over 400 units in the National Park System. Visit www.nps.gov.

The Statue of Liberty is a World Heritage Site.

Liberty Enlightening the World

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 1870s and 1880s, proclaimed it the "eighth wonder 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.

Protesting political repression in their own country, a group of French intellectuals led by Edouard de Laboulaye decided in 1865 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 forged an era of monument building. Sculptor Auguste Bartholdi, de Laboulaye's young 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. After the 1886 dedication, France's president proclaimed Liberty would "magnify France beyond the seas."

But Liberty's image was already being transformed by its adopted home. Amid massive immigration in the late 1800s, 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. In 1883 the young writer Emma Lazarus wrote a poem for a fundraiser for the statue's pedestal. She titled it "The New Colossus" after the Colossus of Rhodes, the ancient statue that inspired Bartholdi. Her work gained lasting fame in 1903 when it was inscribed on a bronze plaque and placed inside the pedestal.

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 the United States personified. Later years have seen the statue's image used to lead political movements, satirize national policy, sell lemons, illuminate living rooms, and attract tourists from around the world.

As you explore Liberty Island and the statue, consider Bartholdi's philosophy: "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." 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.

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.



LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

"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!"

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

1865 Bartholdi, de Laboulaye, and others conceive idea of a monument to liberty.

1871 Bartholdi tours the United States; chooses site in New York Harbor.

1874 Fundraising for statue begins in France.

1876 Liberty's arm and torch displayed at Centennial Exposition in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

1879 Gustave Eiffel designs statue's internal framework.

1881–84 Statue assembled in Paris, France. Foundation work begins on Bedloe's Island.

1884 Noted architect Richard Morris Hunt designs pedestal.



Bartholdi (second from right) in Paris workshop. Left: "New York—Welcome to the Land of Freedom," from Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper, 1887.

1885 Statue dismantled and shipped to New York. Joseph Pulitzer begins fundraising for pedestal in *New York World*.

1886 Statue reassembled on Bedloe's Island. Dedicated October 28.

1892 Ellis Island immigration station opens.

1916 Torch closed to public.

1924 Statue declared national monument.

1933 National Park Service takes over statue's administration from War Department.

1956 Bedloe's Island renamed Liberty Island.

1986 Restoration completed for statue's centennial celebration.

2001 Island closes after 9/11 attacks; reopens in December. Pedestal reopens in 2004; Crown in 2009.

2019 Statue of Liberty Museum opens.

Your Visit to the Statue of Liberty and Liberty Island

Accessibility

We strive to make facilities, services, and programs accessible to all. Go to the Information Center, ask a ranger, call, or check the park website.

Liberty Island Grounds

Liberty Island has an Information Center, museum, bookstore, cafe and gift shop. Audio tours are available in multiple languages, audio description, and American Sign Language. Check the Information Center for ranger tours and programs.



Statue of Liberty Museum

Statue of Liberty Museum

Explore the statue's history, construction, and changing meanings through exhibits and a 10-minute film.

Pedestal Access

A Pedestal ticket allows you to access the observation level at the top of the pedestal to view the statue's interior.

Crown Access

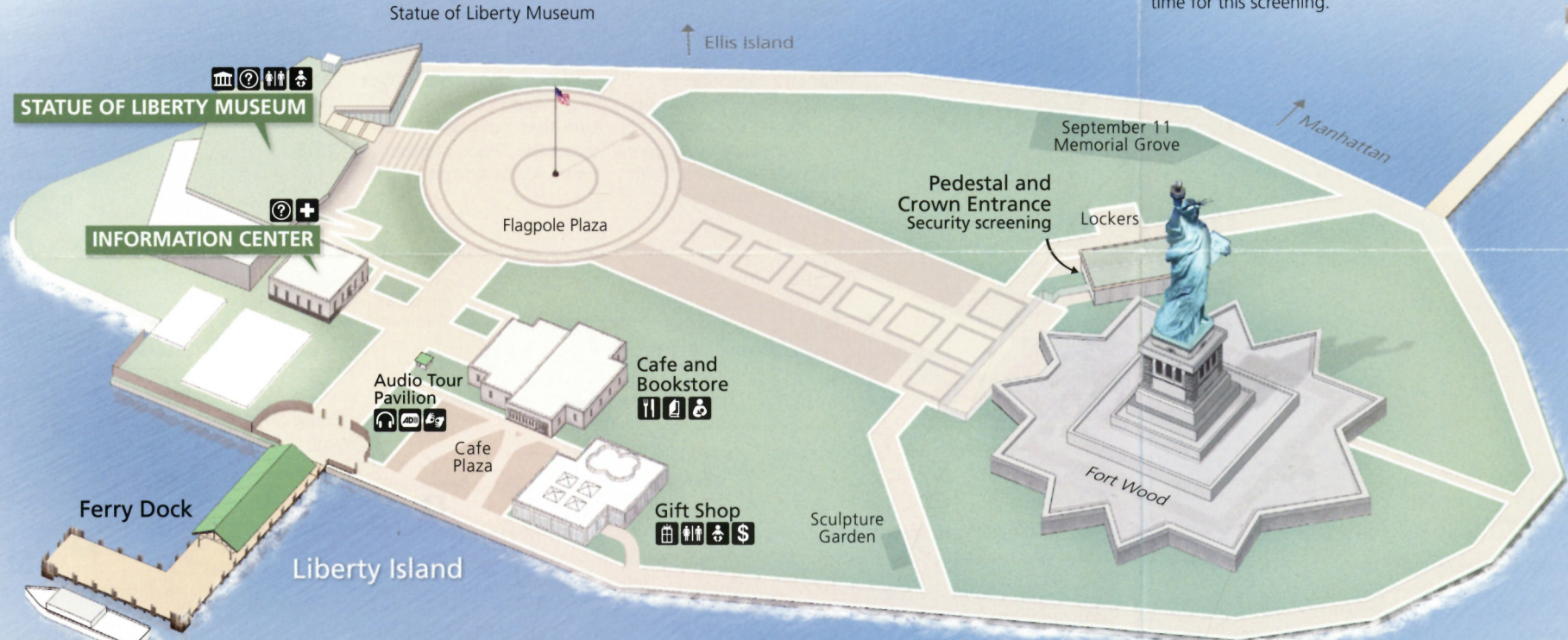
Crown access is limited and by reservation only. For ticket information see "Plan Your Visit" above.

Pedestal and Crown Ticket Holder Information

A second security screening, similar to airport security procedures, is required for all visitors with Pedestal and Crown tickets. Allow extra time for this screening.

- Many items allowed on the island may be prohibited inside the pedestal and statue.
- Lockers (fee) are provided for prohibited items.

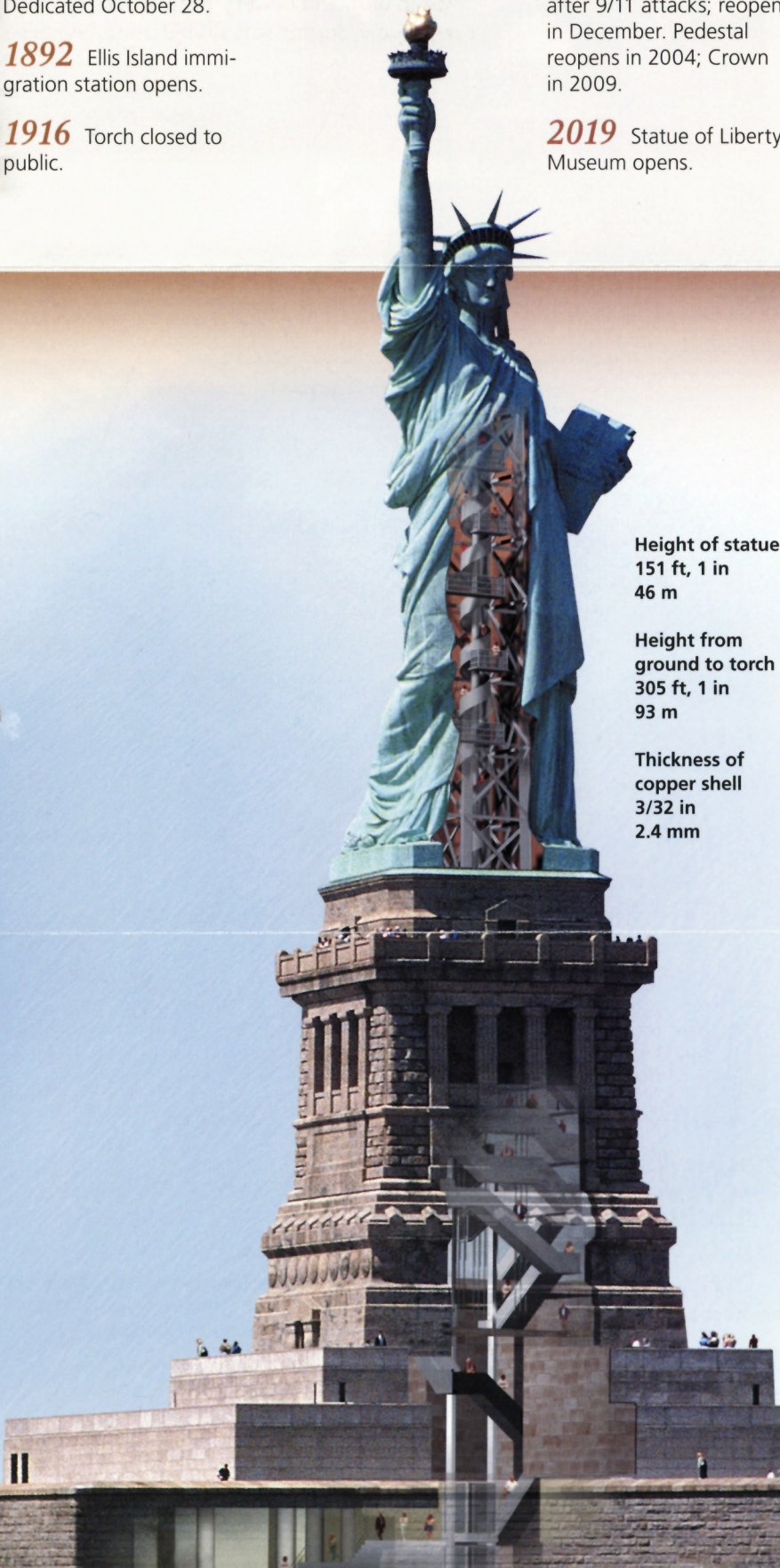
For updated park and security policies contact park staff; see "Plan Your Visit" above. If you have questions or need assistance while in the park, please contact a ranger or US Park Police officer.



- Information
- Food service
- Bookstore
- Gift shop
- Restrooms
- Baby changing station
- Breastfeeding station

- Sign language interpretation
- Audio tour
- Audio description
- Museum
- ATM
- First aid
- All buildings are wheelchair-accessible

North 0 30 meters 100 feet



Height of statue
151 ft, 1 in
46 m

Height from
ground to torch
305 ft, 1 in
93 m

Thickness of
copper shell
3/32 in
2.4 mm

Ellis Island



Millions of Americans and people around the world can claim ancestors who came through Ellis Island. Religious persecution, political strife, unemployment, family connections, the lure of adventure: these were the circumstances of one of the greatest migrations in modern history, when shiploads of people, mostly Europeans, came to the United States. Beginning in 1892, the majority 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.

1774 Samuel Ellis buys the island.

1808 US federal government acquires the island for harbor defense. Fort Gibson is completed in 1811.

1855–90 Immigration is processed by each state. Immigration station for New York is Castle Garden (Castle Clinton National Monument).

In the decade after the American Revolution, about 5,000 people immigrated to the United States each 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 people 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. A new building—fireproof and in the French Renaissance style—welcomed arrivals on December 17, 1900.

1886 Statue of Liberty dedicated.

1890–91 Federal government takes control of US immigration. New York station is at the Barge Office in Battery Park.

1892 New station opens at Ellis Island. Fire destroys it in 1897.

1900 Present Main Building opens, built of brick trimmed with granite and limestone.

Ferries and barges brought steerage passengers from steamships. As immigrants entered and climbed the stairs, doctors watched for a limp, labored breathing, or other suspected troubles. In the Registry Room (Great Hall) inspectors asked immigrants their name, hometown, occupation, destination, and amount of money they carried—up to 31 questions in all. Those allowed to pass continued downstairs, exchanged money, bought provisions and perhaps rail tickets. A third or so stayed in New York City. About 20 percent were

1901–10 8.8 million immigrants arrive in the United States; 6 million are processed at Ellis.

1914–18 World War I curbs immigration. Enemy aliens are detained at Ellis.

1920s Federal laws set immigration quotas based on national origin. In 1924 US consulates take over inspection and processing. Ellis has a deportation center, US Public Health Service hospital, and later Coast Guard facility.

held for further legal or medical examination. Only about two percent were denied entry.

After the inspection process was transferred to US 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 people pursuing new lives in a new land.

1939–45 World War II era. Italians, Germans, and Japanese are interned at Ellis, regardless of citizenship.

1954 Ellis Island immigration station closes.

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

1990 Restored Main Building opens as an immigration museum.



Above: Newly arrived immigrants, early 1900s; worker's identification; immigrant child's teddy bear; inspector's cap.

IMMIGRANTS—NATIONAL ARCHIVES

Your Visit to Ellis Island



Registry Room (Great Hall), circa 1912 (top) and today.

Make the most of your visit. Consult the Main Building maps (right) and "Plan Your Visit" (below).

The Ellis Island National Museum of Immigration in the Main Building has exhibits, theaters, gift shop, cafe, and visitor facilities. Check the Information Desk for guided tours, programs, and documentary film schedule.

The museum's three floors of exhibits document the immigrants' experiences at

Ellis Island and the general history of immigration to the United States. Audio tours offer a range of ways to explore the Ellis Island exhibits and are available in multiple languages, audio description, and American Sign Language.

View the rest of Ellis Island's buildings—the 1930s Ferry Building, hospital, morgue, contagious disease wards, offices, housing, and maintenance facilities—only by guided tour.

We recommend you schedule tours in advance. For more information about the Hard Hat Tour and park partner Save Ellis Island, visit www.saveellisland.org.

Fort Gibson, on Ellis Island 1811–60s, was near today's Wall of Honor. Uncovered during work on the Wall, its foundation is visible. For more about Ellis Island's military history, visit the "Ellis Island Chronicles" exhibit on the museum's third floor.

The Statue of Liberty-Ellis Island Foundation built the **American Immigrant Wall of Honor** to commemorate all immigrants to the United States. The wall is in back of the Main Building. Through donations, people can have a name added to the wall. *This is not a comprehensive list of the nearly 12 million immigrants who passed through Ellis Island.*

Ellis Island National Museum of Immigration



Bob Hope Memorial Library has historical materials on Ellis Island and the Statue of Liberty for researchers. Hope immigrated through Ellis Island in 1908.

A restored **Dormitory Room** shows accommodations for detainees circa 1908.

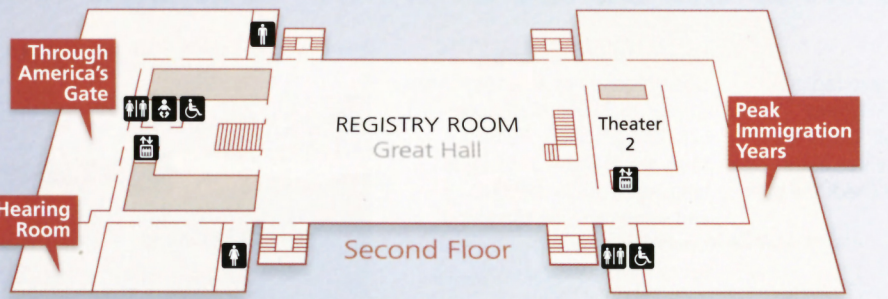
The **Changing Exhibitions Gallery** has temporary exhibits about Ellis Island and the Statue of Liberty.

Restoring a Landmark describes restoration led by The Statue of Liberty-Ellis Island Foundation and the National Park Service.

Silent Voices explores the aftermath of the 1954 closing and abandonment of the immigration station.

Treasures From Home displays possessions that immigrants brought from their homelands, most donated by immigrants or their families.

Ellis Island Chronicles traces the history and expansion of the island from when the federal government took over in 1808 (3.3 acres) to today's 27.5 acres.



Through America's Gate follows the immigration process: initial questioning in the Registry Room, medical inspections, and temporary detention for some. Detained immigrants could plead their case to the Board of Special Inquiry in the **Hearing Room**. Most were allowed through.

In the **Registry Room** (Great Hall) immigrants underwent legal and medical examinations. After inspection, some immigrants waited for further examinations, which could lead to detention or exclusion, but most walked down the "Stairs of Separation." At the bottom of the

stairs, many met friends or family members at the "Kissing Post." Most then boarded ferries bound for New York or New Jersey.

The magnificent Guastavino tile ceiling was installed by 1918.

Peak Immigration Years explores the 1880–1924 immigration wave, why people left homelands, and how they adapted to new lives in the United States. The exhibit also documents how changing attitudes toward immigration led to new laws and processing procedures.

Plan Your Visit

Visit Registry Room (Great Hall) and related exhibits on the second floor.

Visit exhibits on the first and third floors (floor plans at right).

Take a ranger-guided tour (30 minutes).

Take the audio tour (30–90 minutes).

Experience the documentary film *Island of Hope, Island of Tears* (30 minutes).

Participate in the National Park Service Junior Ranger Program (pick up at the Information Desk).

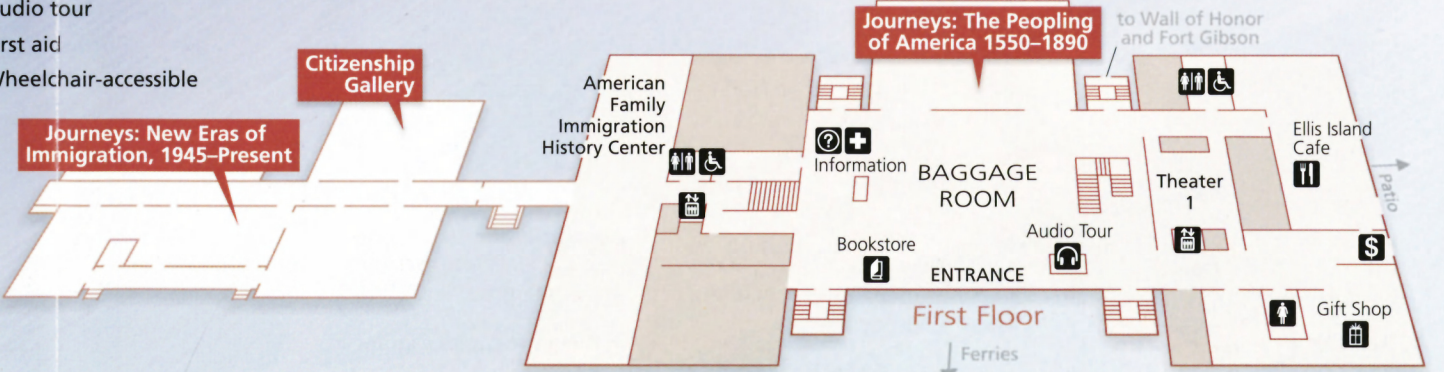
Take a Hard Hat Tour (fee) of the South Side of Ellis Island (90 minutes).

Look up ancestors in the American Family Immigration History Center (fee).

Visit the American Immigrant Wall of Honor.

Visit Fort Gibson.

- Information
- Restrooms
- Baby changing station
- Elevator
- Food service
- Gift shop
- Bookstore
- ATM
- Audio tour
- First aid
- Wheelchair-accessible



Journeys: New Eras of Immigration, 1945–Present continues the immigration story beyond the Ellis Island years to today.

The **Citizenship Gallery** describes the changing meanings and requirements of US citizenship.

American Family Immigration History Center, operated by The Statue of Liberty-Ellis Island Foundation, maintains a database of immigrant ships' manifests from the Port of New York in the years 1820–1957. Search here (fee) or libertyellisfoundation.org.

You enter the **Baggage Room** through the same doors as the immigrants. They would have left their belongings here before continuing the examination process. Today, there is an Information Desk, audio tour pickup, bookstore, and exhibit about the room's original use.

Journeys: The Peopling of America 1550–1890 begins in the former railroad ticket office behind the Baggage Room. It tells the story of immigration to the United States before the federal government opened Ellis Island.

National Park Foundation. Join the park community. www.nationalparks.org

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