

OUTDOOR EVENTS ON GOVERNORS ISLAND



OctFest on the Parade Ground, 2018



Governors Island lies just 800 yards from the southern tip of Manhattan and even closer to Brooklyn. Its 172 acres comprise a historic district dotted with buildings from across its 200-plus-year history and over 120 acres of award-winning open space.

Open to the public May 1 through October 31 each year, Governors Island provides a unique escape for New Yorkers and a distinctive destination for visitors from across the United States and the world. Visitors flock to experience its stunning parkland, intriguing history, fantastic food and drink offerings and diverse lineup of engaging public programs spanning arts, science and education every year.

WHY GOVERNORS ISLAND?

One-of-a-kind setting

Governors Island is unlike any other setting in New York City. Minutes from Lower Manhattan and Downtown Brooklyn, the Island's venues range from expansive open areas with sweeping views of the city skyline and Statue of Liberty, to more intimate locations that feel like a world away. Each year since opening to the public in 2005, the number of organizations hosting programs and events has grown, as has the scope and range of events hosted at this iconic location.

Built-in audience

Governors Island attracts nearly 1M annual visitors of all ages and backgrounds from across New York, the United States and abroad. With New York City, one of the most vibrant and diverse communities in the world, only minutes away by ferry, Governors Island offers exposure to an engaged audience that knows the Island as a destination for events of all kinds. For private functions, Governors Island provides an unforgettable setting with widespread recognition and appeal.

Professional, experienced staff

Our staff has experience working with organizers of all sizes on productions that range from small, single-day affairs to expansive, long-running festivals that become their own significant presence on the Island. Whatever vision you have for your event, our staff knows how to make it happen.

WAYS WE CAN SUPPORT YOUR EVENT

Easily arrange staff you need

We make it easy to contract necessary staff services, including security, medical and waste management personnel to serve your event's needs. Our events team will also be on-call during your event should any day-of needs arise.

Marketing and promotion assistance for public events

Public events both free and ticketed on Governors Island can receive marketing and promotion assistance on official Island channels including social media, our weekly e-newsletter and the Island's website as well as space for physical advertisements on the Island and our ferries.

WHAT KIND OF EVENTS CAN YOU HOST ON GOVERNORS ISLAND?

Organizations of all sizes and purposes from across New York and the world have held events on Governors Island during and outside its public season, including live concerts, cultural festivals, art fairs, science symposiums, theatrical performances, film screenings, galas, celebrations and many more.

Governors Island offers flexibility for its venues outside of the regular public season and operating hours, providing a year-round destination for distinctive events.

Previous events on Governors Island have included:



Longines Global Champions Tour
Play Lawns



The Jazz Age Lawn Party
Colonels Row



OctFest
Parade Ground



South 'N The City Picnic
Colonels Row



NYC Holi Hai Spring Color Festival
Play Lawns



The Vendy Awards
Colonels Row



Blue Point Brewing's Dinner on an Island
Liberty Moment



World Ocean Festival
Picnic Point



Japan Performing Arts, Inc.'s Bon Odori Festival
Outlook Hill Summit

SERVICES

Many events on Governors Island require staff services including security, waste management and stand-by emergency medical professionals. Pricing packages are available at every venue for events of all sizes that include the services you need to host your event on Governors Island.

TRANSPORTATION

Ferry service to Governors Island is fast, frequent and easily scalable, running to the Island year-round from the Battery Maritime Building in Lower Manhattan. On weekends during the public access season, ferries also run from Pier 6 in Brooklyn and NYC Ferry runs a shuttle from the Wall St/Pier 11 transfer hub. The Coursen, one of the Trust for Governors Island's two passenger ferries, can accommodate up to 1,100 passengers and 36 cars and trucks per 8-minute voyage.

The Battery Maritime Building is easily reachable from the 1, 4, 5 and R trains as well as the M15, M20, M55 buses.

Please note that there are no regular weekend ferries outside of the public access season. All events outside of the public season will require additional ferry service at the organizer's expense, as will some events during the public season.





Outdoor Films on Governors Island on the Parade Ground, 2018

FAQS

What are the fees for hosting an event?

Customized pricing packages are available on request. Events may require additional services such as dedicated ferries, security, custodial services, grounds crew consultation and emergency medical services. The organization producing the event will be responsible for these costs.

Can events be held when the Island is closed to the public, either after hours or during the off-season?

Events can be held on the Island outside of public hours and during the off-season with permission from the Trust. Please note that events that do not take place during normal public hours may involve additional costs associated with dedicated services.

Can dates be placed on hold?

Event dates can be placed on hold after the Trust has received and reviewed your proposal and statement of intent. Programs are not confirmed until a signed agreement has been received and approved by both parties.

How do the ferries work?

Events anticipating 4,000 or more attendees are required to provide additional ferry service, at their expense, to supplement Governors Island's regularly scheduled ferries. The Trust will work with event producers to arrange these services.

Are electricity and potable water available for events?

Electricity varies throughout the Island. Some outdoor events must bring portable generators to meet their electricity needs. Please include your needs for water in your proposal. Potable water is not available at all event sites.

Does Governors Island have tents or A/V equipment available to rent?

The Trust has tents of varying sizes available for events to rent.

The Trust does not own or rent stages, generators or A/V equipment.

Is there Wi-Fi on the Island?

Governors Island has free, public Wi-Fi in many outdoor areas on the Island. Event producers may be able to purchase dedicated Wi-Fi service with additional bandwidth from the Island's wireless provider, or they may install wireless hotspots.

Can alcohol be served at events?

Event organizers are responsible for securing a permit from the New York State Liquor Authority to serve alcohol at their event. The Trust must receive a copy of the permit and approve all logistical plans for the area where alcohol will be served. Visitors are not permitted to bring their own alcohol to Governors Island.

What is the typical response time for proposals?

Approximately three weeks.

Still have questions?

Send an email to programming@govisland.org.

OUR VENUES

Site plans and supplemental materials are available for all our venues.

Fees vary by venue and are based on the scale and scope of the event. Customized pricing packages are available on request.



Parade Ground

Capacity: up to 9,000
Great for concerts, athletic events, screenings and performances

This rolling lawn at the heart of Governors Island puts everything GI has to offer at your fingertips, while the Lower Manhattan skyline makes for an iconic backdrop.



Play Lawns

Capacity: up to 8,000
Great for concerts, large festivals, tented parties

Just steps from The Hills, Governors Island's newest park, these expansive, grassy lawns feature fantastic views of the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island, and can accommodate the largest events and most complex site builds.



Colonels Row Lawn

Capacity: up to 4,000
Great for cultural festivals, concerts

Surrounded by towering trees and historic buildings, this spacious lawn provides a refined atmosphere for large events in Governors Island's Historic District.



Picnic Point

Capacity: up to 2,000
Great for corporate outings, picnics, festivals, performances

Picnic Point, located at the southern tip of Governors Island, features spectacular Statue of Liberty and harbor views in one of the Island's most versatile venues.



Nolan Park Lawn

Capacity: up to 1,000
Great for cultural festivals, intimate performances

Situated in a neighborhood-like circle of historic houses, Nolan Park feels truly removed from the rest of the city and provides an idyllic setting for medium-sized events.



The Oval

Capacity: up to 1,000
Great for corporate outings, picnics, performances

An inviting lawn in the center of the South Island's gorgeous parkland that makes a perfect venue for group outings, picnics, or field days.



Liberty Moment

Capacity: up to 300
Great for dinners, small activations

Nestled between Discovery and Outlook Hills and with an unmatched view of the Statue of Liberty, Liberty Moment provides smaller functions with one of the most scenic settings Governors Island has to offer.



Outlook Hill Summit

Capacity: up to 100
Great for small performances, gatherings

The plateau at the top of Outlook Hill, while the smallest venue on the Island, offers the most dramatic setting with breathtaking, 360-degree views of New York Harbor, Lower Manhattan, Brooklyn and New Jersey, as well as Governors Island itself.



Japan Performing Arts, Inc.'s Bon Odori Festival on Outlook Hill Summit, 2019

BRING YOUR EVENT TO GOVERNORS ISLAND

Head to govisland.org/permits for more information on how to hold your public or private outdoor event on Governors Island.

Have questions? Send an email to programming@govisland.org.

We look forward to hearing from you!

THE TRUST FOR
GOVERNORS ISLAND

Photography courtesy of Blue Point Brewing, The Friends of Governors Island, Japan Performing Arts, Inc., Jazz Age Lawn Party, Longines Global Champions Tour, NYC Bhangra, Trey Pentecost, Octfest, Timothy Schenck, The South N' The City Picnic, The Street Vendor Project, World Ocean Festival.
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