

NYCEDC and TGI Announce NYC Ferry Service to Governors Island

April 18, 2017

New South Brooklyn Service Will Connect More than 34,000 New Yorkers Directly to Governors Island

Weekend Service Starts May 6 on East River Route; June 3 on South Brooklyn Route

NYCEDC President and CEO James Patchett and Trust for Governors Island President Michael Samuelian today announced the official start dates of the seasonal service to Governors Island on the new NYC Ferry. The newly relaunched East River Route will provide direct connections starting Saturday, May 6, the first weekend of the Governors Island season. The new South Brooklyn Route, scheduled to launch Thursday, June 1, will begin providing direct connections to Governors Island starting Saturday, June 3.

Governors Island will open to the public on Monday, May 1, adding a full month to the public season in 2017. For the first time, New Yorkers will be able to experience the spring season on over ninety acres of open space on the Island, including the newly opened Hills, a ten-acre park offering rolling vistas, spectacular views of New York Harbor, public art, and the city's longest slide. Building off a successful 2016 with nearly 600,000 visitors, the Island will host more free arts, cultural, and educational programming than ever, as well as brand new recreational activities. For a full calendar of events and activities, visit www.govisland.com.

"Like the brand new NYC Ferry, Governors Island is opening a month ahead of time this year," said **Mayor Bill de Blasio**. "By connecting the two, we celebrate our City's seafaring history and continue putting a premium on access to jobs, community, and recreation."

"Governors Island is a big part of what makes summer in New York City so special, and with NYC Ferry we're making it even easier for families to get there," said **NYCEDC President and CEO James Patchett**. "It's just one more way that NYC Ferry is helping thousands of New Yorkers get where they want to be."

"NYC Ferry will transform how we travel along our great waterfront and plays a critical role in the future of Governors Island becoming a year-round resource for New York City. I applaud the Mayor and NYCEDC for delivering an affordable and easy way for commuters to travel between the City's historic and new waterfront neighborhoods," said **Michael Samuelian, President and CEO of the Trust for Governors Island**. "With an early start to our season and these improved ferry connections, more New Yorkers than ever will have the opportunity to enjoy Governors Island this year."

"Seasonal ferry service from Brooklyn Heights, DUMBO, and Red Hook to Governors Island will enhance the quality of life for thousands of Brooklynites, proving once again the power of our waterways to connect and improve our city," said **Brooklyn Borough President Eric Adams**. "Efforts like these make me excited for the potential of continued expansion for NYC Ferry service in the months and years ahead, connecting transit-starved communities to opportunities across the five boroughs."

"I'm proud to say that Governors Island is part of Manhattan, but it's a treasure that all New Yorkers should be able to enjoy," said **Manhattan Borough President Gale A. Brewer**. "I'm glad that NYC Ferry service will make Governor's Island accessible from more ferry stops—on both sides of the East River and the harbor—than ever before."

"Governors Island is the perfect weekend escape and it's now closer than ever" said **Council Member Dan Garodnick**. "Thanks to NYC Ferry, East Siders can easily access this unique open space and I look forward setting sail on this new transit option over the summer."

"As the Council Member representing Governors Island, I am excited that New Yorkers will have even more ways to experience our historic waterfront area this summer," said **Council Member Margaret S. Chin**. "This new NYC Ferry Service provides increased direct access for residents and visitors looking to spend the day, or just a couple of hours, taking in the growing number of events, outdoor activities, and food that Governors Island has to offer. I thank Mayor de Blasio, NYCEDC President Patchett and Governors Island Trust President Samuelian for working together to make this treasure in New York Harbor is accessible to all."

On the South Brooklyn Route:

- The first ferry will depart for Governors Island from Brooklyn Bridge Park at 10:27am, and from Red Hook at 10:35am
- The last ferry will depart Governors Island for Red Hook at 6:48pm, and for Brooklyn Bridge Park at 6:56pm

On the East River Route:

- The first ferry will depart for Governors Island from DUMBO at 9:56am, and from Wall Street at 10:15am
- The last ferry will depart Governors Island for Wall Street at 6:21pm, and for DUMBO at 6:39pm

All ferries arriving at and departing from Governors Island will land at Pier 102. The Island is open every day from Monday, May 1 through Sunday, October 1. On weekdays, the Island is open from 10:00am to 6:00pm. On weekends, Memorial Day, and Labor Day, the Island is open from 10:00am to 7:00pm. The Island will be open on Tuesday, July 4 from 10:00am to 6:00pm.

Detailed timetables, along with a map of all 2017 routes, can be viewed [here](#). When NYC Ferry is fully launched in 2018, the combined routes will cover more than sixty miles of waterway.



This week, Mayor Bill de Blasio welcomed the first of twenty total NYC Ferry vessels into the New York Harbor. In keeping with maritime tradition, the arrival ceremony included the christening of the first NYC Ferry vessel. Named “Lunchbox” by Bay Ridge’s P.S. 170 second-graders, the first ferry was christened by Deputy Mayor Alicia Glen who will serve as “godmother” to the ferry boat.

NYC Ferry is hiring for various jobs, including captains and deckhands. Job seekers can apply directly through Hornblower’s website, ferry.nyc. NYC Ferry will ultimately provide two hundred jobs, all of which will pay the City’s Living Wage or higher and provide comprehensive benefits. For more information on NYC Ferry and to stay up-to-date on the latest information, visit ferry.nyc.

More Details on NYC Ferry Service

Routes:

- Rockaway, South Brooklyn and Astoria routes are scheduled to launch in 2017.
- Rockaway route will connect to the Brooklyn Army Terminal and Wall Street.
- Astoria route will connect to Astoria, Roosevelt Island, Long Island City, East 34th Street, and Wall Street.
- South Brooklyn route will connect Bay Ridge, Brooklyn Army Terminal, Red Hook, Brooklyn Bridge Park’s Pier 1 and Pier 6, and Wall Street, with weekend service to Governors Island.
- Soundview and Lower East Side routes to launch in 2018.
- Routes from Coney Island and Stapleton on Staten Island will be considered in future studies after the 2018 routes launch.
- Combined routes will cover over 60 miles of waterway.

Commuting Times:

- Rockaway to Wall Street (1 stop): Approximately 1 hour
- Astoria to E 34th Street (2 stops): Approximately 22 minutes
- Astoria to Wall Street (3 stops): Approximately 38 minutes
- Soundview to Wall Street (2 stops): Approximately 43 minutes
- Bay Ridge to Wall Street (4 stops): Approximately 48 minutes

Pricing:

- Cost per ride will equal that of a single subway ride.
- Over 4,000 daily East River Ferry customers will see fares reduced from \$4 to the cost of a single subway ride.
- Fare will allow for free transfers to any other ferry route within the system, including the East River Ferry.
- Both paper and smartphone ticketing will be available, with payments accepted via cash, credit, or debit card. Discounts will be available for seniors, children and New Yorkers with disabilities.
- Passengers will be allowed to bring bicycles on board for a \$1 fee.

The Boats:

- Each boat will be able to carry 150 passengers.
- All boats will be equipped with WiFi.
- Boats will be fully accessible to New Yorkers with disabilities, and will comply with the requirements of both the Americans with Disabilities Act and New York City Local Law 68 of 2005.
- New boats will be equipped with the most modern engine design available to reduce emissions and noise, as well as an efficient hull design that will limit wakes and maximize fuel economy.

City Support:

- The city is investing \$55 million in infrastructure upgrades, including building 10 new ferry landings. Barge construction is currently underway at a facility on Staten Island.
- The city is providing \$30 million in operating support per year, over a period of six years. Based on a projection of 4.6 million annual trips, the per-trip subsidy for NYC Ferry Service will be \$6.60, lower than the nearly \$8 per trip subsidy on the Long Island Railroad or the nearly \$15 per trip subsidy for express buses. The city is providing \$10 million for additional startup costs, such as vessel upgrades and ticketing machines.
- City negotiated an option to acquire ferry vessels, allowing for greater operational flexibility and providing significant savings to taxpayers over the life of the service (roughly up to \$5 million per year).
- City will receive a portion of fare-box revenue if ridership exceeds 5.6 million passengers.

About NYCEDC

[New York City Economic Development Corporation](#) is the City's primary vehicle for promoting economic growth in each of the five boroughs. NYCEDC's mission is to stimulate growth through expansion and redevelopment programs that encourage investment, generate prosperity and strengthen the City's competitive position. NYCEDC serves as an advocate to the business community by building relationships with companies that allow them to take advantage of New York City's many opportunities. Find us on [Facebook](#) or follow us on [Twitter](#), or visit our [blog](#) to learn more about NYCEDC projects and initiatives.

About The Trust for Governors Island

The Trust for Governors Island is the nonprofit corporation created by the City of New York that is responsible for the redevelopment and operation of 150 acres of Governors Island. The Trust's

mission is to transform Governors Island into a vibrant resource for New York City, making this island at the center of New York Harbor a destination with extraordinary public open space, as well as educational, not-for-profit and commercial facilities. For more information, visit www.govisland.com.