

THE TRUST FOR GOVERNORS ISLAND

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[Images](#)

Trust for Governors Island Announces 2018 Season and Spring Program Calendar

A robust calendar of free programs exploring art, culture and the environment from organizations across New York will celebrate the diversity of the city

New Yorkers are invited back to enjoy the Island's acres of expansive, open park space, car-free cycling, play areas, hammocks and spring blooms all with unforgettable views of the Harbor

Governors Island opens on Tuesday, May 1 and will be open every day through October 31

Ferries will be free for all visitors opening week, May 1-6

April 5, 2018. New York, NY. The Trust for Governors Island (The Trust) today announced its six-month public season and spring program calendar. Beginning May 1, New Yorkers are invited to enjoy the Island's open and expansive park spaces with unforgettable views of New York Harbor, car-free recreation and a robust calendar of free public programming just a short ferry ride away from Lower Manhattan and Downtown Brooklyn. Building on a record-breaking 2017 season welcoming nearly 800,000 visitors, Governors Island will be open every day from May 1-October 31. Ferries will be free for all visitors during the first week of the season, from May 1-6.

"For the second year in a row, from May to October, New York families and friends can explore, on bike and on foot, the history and cultural diversity of our amazing island park – Governors Island. Enjoy!" said **Mayor Bill de Blasio**.

"From May to October, Governors Island is the easiest way for New Yorkers to get away from the hustle and bustle of the city, gather, relax and discover something new," said **Michael Samuelian, Trust for Governors Island President**. "Come May 1, a world away awaits, and we invite all New Yorkers to explore free arts programming from all corners of the city, a one-of-a-kind park in the harbor and springtime blooms in a car-free environment."

Kicking off the season, the Island will host several special events in May. On May 12, NYC Bhangra will celebrate the start of spring with Holi Hai, a free festival featuring traditional Indian and Nepali dance, music and celebration in a sea of color. For classical music lovers, Rite of Summer will host free concerts throughout the season, starting with performances in Colonels Row on May 19. Returning for its 14th year, the Friends of Governors Island will present its annual free Family Fun Day on Sunday, May 27, featuring live music, theatrical performances, storytelling, arts and crafts and hands-on education for families.

During opening week, from Tuesday, May 1 to Sunday, May 6, ferries to Governors Island will be free for all visitors, including daily service from Lower Manhattan and weekend service from Brooklyn Bridge Park Pier 6. New Yorkers will be invited to experience the first taste of the

Island's spring blooms within its over 90 acres of public open space. The Island's diverse food offerings, including popular waterfront bar and restaurant Island Oyster, will open for the season on May 1.

This year, nearly three dozen non-profit organizations working in the arts, the environment and education will activate the Island's historic former officer's homes in Nolan Park and Colonels Row with free public programming throughout the season. Nolan Park will anchor season-long exhibitions, offering a variety of programming that responds to the Island's unique landscapes, ecologies, histories and relationship with the Harbor. Free exhibitions will be showcased throughout the season, including programs produced by returning organizations Children's Museum of the Arts, the New-York Historical Society, the Billion Oyster Project, NYC Audubon, Dysfunctional Collective and HoloCenter.

Building on the Island's reputation as a leader in sustainable urban design and track record in engaging audiences in climate-related topics, new organizations will increase environment-focused programming through multiple mediums, spanning visual arts, educational exhibits and hands-on workshops. Artist Mary Mattingly will expand her *Swale* project, a floating food forest built atop a barge that travels to piers in New York City, through new exhibitions in both the Island's Urban Farm and Nolan Park that engage the public in farming and food access. *Works on Water*, a group show dedicated to New York City's "sixth borough" of 520 miles of coastline, will bring artists and curators together to investigate water in the urban environment through artworks, theatrical performances and site-specific experiences.

Opportunities for children to engage in environmental programming will expand this year on Governors Island. Christodora will provide day-camp opportunities and public programming for children focusing on environmental exploration. The Island's popular Urban Farm, home to GrowNYC's Teaching Garden and the Compost Learning Center hosted by Earth Matter, will reopen on May 5.

The Trust's unique platform for arts and culture celebrates the diversity of New York City, offering organizations from all five boroughs the opportunity to showcase exhibitions, performances and more to an expanded audience on Governors Island. In addition to season-long exhibitions, organizations from across the city will host free cultural festivals, performances and short-term rotating exhibits in Colonels Row. New organizations producing special events this season include ARTs East New York presenting *The Gathering of Hands*, a week-long cultural experience celebrating drumming, unity and community. The West Harlem Art Fund will present *Early Encounters*, a mixed-media exhibition that focuses on the early interactions of Governors Island's first inhabitants, the Lenape tribe and European explorers.

The Trust's 2017 commission by artist David Brooks, *Rock, Mosquito and Hummingbird: a Pre-History of Governors Island*, will be extended into 2018 and will remain on view in Fort Jay through mid-summer. The sculptural installation winds through Fort Jay's magazine and digs down to the core of Governors Island, telling the story of this ancient place through excavated core samples of cobbles, soil, silt, shells, clay and bedrock.

An exciting new public artwork, specially commissioned for the 2018 season, will be announced in the coming weeks.

"Governors Island is a gem in New York Harbor -- providing marvelous open spaces, fantastic views of the city skyline, and great artistic, cultural and educational activities. Just minutes from Lower Manhattan and Brooklyn, it's clear why a record 800,000 people visited Governors

Island last year, and I hope 2018 is once again a record year,” said **New York State Senator Brian Kavanagh**. “I’d like to thank the dedicated staff of the Trust, the Friends of Governors Island and everyone who has made the Island what it is today. I look forward to visiting this spring and summer.”

“The first of May is fast approaching, marking the exciting opening day of this year's public season at Governors Island,” said **New York State Assembly Member Yuh-Line Niou**. “I have had the privilege of spending time on Governors Island, and I hope that with each new season, more and more New Yorkers will make the short trek to the Island. With incredible views and robust programming, Governors Island is one of the best places to visit and enjoy time with family and friends. I look forward to working with the Trust for Governors Island in continuing to make Governors Island a welcoming place for everyone.”

“With nearly 200 acres of lush greenspace and incredible views of New York Harbor, Governors Island has long been recognized as a dazzling world unto itself,” said **Council Member Margaret S. Chin**. “This spring, as the Island kicks off a new robust six-month program calendar, more New Yorkers of every generation will have an opportunity to experience the wonder of Governors Island up close, learn about its rich history and participate in environmental programming to learn how they can be an active partner in the efforts to preserve and improve our environment. Thank you to Mayor De Blasio, Michael Samuelian of the Trust for Governors and everyone who is a part of this programming for your commitment to secure the future of the Island and ensure that everyone has an opportunity to unlock its beauty.”

“Governors Island is the crown jewel of New York Harbor – an incredible, 172-acre collection of green spaces, history, art and culture,” said **Manhattan Borough President Gale A. Brewer**. “It’s my pleasure to encourage all New Yorkers to enjoy Governors Island during the spring, summer, and fall.”

“We all look forward to May 1 when Governors Island reopens,” said **Anthony Notaro, Jr., Manhattan Community Board 1 Chairman**. “It has become a jewel of lower Manhattan, indeed for all New York and the world. Wandering through and enjoying the Hills while taking in views of the city makes this such a special place, yet you feel like you’re in another world. We look forward to the new season and hope for even more exciting programming and developments. See you there...”

Visitors will also once again be able to enjoy guided programs exploring the rich history of the Governors Island National Monument. Fort Jay and Castle Williams will be open throughout the summer. The National Park Service will offer frequent ranger-led tours and may exciting programs. Visit www.nps.gov/GOIS for more information about upcoming tours and hours.

“The National Park Service is excited about partnering with the Trust for Governors Island and looks forward to its 16th season welcoming visitors to enjoy the Island’s stories,” said **Shirley McKinney, Superintendent, Governors Island National Monument**. “New York City welcomes more than 50 million visitors every year from all over the world to experience the many cultural and historical sites like Governors Island National Monument, Federal Hall National Monument, Hamilton Grange National Monument and other national park sites that make-up the National Parks of New York Harbor. We look forward to visitors exploring Fort Jay and Castle Williams and learning about the Island’s important role in the history of New York City and beyond.”

Opportunities for recreation and play expand in 2018. *Adventures at GI* will return this season with its zipline and climbing adventures, along with a brand new mini-golf course near Liggett Terrace opening later this summer. The Island's play areas near Hammock Grove, play:ground NYC's Yard, New York's only adventure playground, and New York City's longest slide at the Hills will offer fun for children and the young at heart. Kayakers will be able to access the Island's kayak dock at Pier 101, including free kayaking with the Downtown Boathouse on weekends starting in June. Collective Retreats, a new overnight retreat will open later this summer, offering New Yorkers the opportunity to sleep under the stars in their own city for the first time on Governors Island.

New Yorkers will be able to enjoy miles of car-free cycling, strolling and jogging in the Island's Historic District and in the Island's park and public spaces, as well as the complete surrounding promenade. Visitors can bring their own bikes to the Island or rent one while visiting. Blazing Saddles' Free Bike Mornings allows visitors to borrow a bike for free for one hour between 10 and noon every weekday. Citi Bike kiosks can also be found once again at Soissons's Landing, Yankee Pier and Picnic Point.

"We can't wait to welcome hundreds of thousands of visitors to this oasis in the Harbor," said **Merritt Birnbaum, Executive Director of the Friends of Governors Island**. "Governors Island's 2018 season has something for everyone. Whether you love nature, art, science, sports—or simply relaxing in a hammock with an ice cream cone, our growing visitor services team is ready to help you plan the perfect visit."

Below is the current calendar of events for May and June, as well as general information about the Island's public access season. More details on exhibitions, special events and new Trust-led art commissions will be announced in the coming weeks. For the most up-to-date information, visit www.govisland.org. All events are free unless otherwise noted.

PROGRAMMING CALENDAR -May through June

ISLAND SPECIAL EVENTS

NYC Holi Hai – Spring Color Festival, Saturday, May 12, 10 AM – 5 PM, Ball Fields

Holi Hai on Governors Island is a celebration of colors, culture, spring and diversity in the capital of the world, New York City. The festival is open to all ages and free for everyone to attend. Celebrate a day of serene fun overlooking the Statue of Liberty and the Manhattan skyline in the backdrop. Get messy in a sea of colors and eliminate boundaries between people. Attractions include kid's activity area, henna art, face painting, photo booths, color splashing, multi-cultural artisan booths and ethnic food preparations. Bring your family, kids and friends to enjoy the day long eclectic stage programming presented by professional dance groups and music bands. [Register here](#) to RSVP for you and your group.

Rite of Summer, May 19, June 9, July 7 and August 18, Colonels Row

Rite of Summer, now in its eighth season on Governors Island, is a classical contemporary music festival that takes place over four weekends during the summer months. The festival features many of NYC's most engaging and innovative artists & ensembles. The Rite of Summer "concert hall" is Colonels Row, a short walk from both the Manhattan & Brooklyn ferries. www.riteofsummer.com

Family Fun Day Festival, Sunday, May 27, 11 AM-4 PM Nolan Park

Family Fun Day celebrates Governors Island's playful attitude and bucolic environment. Held Memorial Day Weekend, this outdoor festival features award-winning live music and theatrical performances, storytelling, arts and crafts, science and nature workshops, ice cream and snacks, a build-your-own playground and more. The event is free and open to the public.

www.govisland.org

New York Harbor School Oyster Classic 5K

Grab your running shoes, hop on the ferry, and enjoy an early morning run on Governors Island before it opens to the public for the day! NYHOC5K participants will take in the sweeping views of New York Harbor, featuring the lower Manhattan skyline, the Statue of Liberty, and the Brooklyn Bridge, while passing the dozens of historic buildings, art installations and inviting green lawns. To register visit www.oysterclassic5k.com. All proceeds support the Urban Assembly New York Harbor School and its programs.

The 13th Annual Jazz Age Lawn Party, June 16-17 and August 25-26, Colonels Row

The Jazz Age Lawn Party, now entering its 13th year, is New York City's original prohibition-era inspired gathering. Hosted and conceived by Michael Arenella, the event started as a small gathering of about fifty friends and fans in 2005, who came together on Governors Island to revel in the music of the Jazz Age, as performed by Michael Arenella and His Dreamland Orchestra. This historically sold out event attracts 20,000 fans over two weekends, who come together to discover music and zeitgeist of the 1920s and 1930s, learn the hottest dance steps of the time, frolic in their flapper dresses and glad rags and enjoy sophisticated bites and vintage-inspired cocktails in a romantic, playful setting. For tickets visit: www.JazzAgeLawnParty.com

ARTs East New York (AENY) and TheHAND™ Presents *The Gathering of Hands*, June 23-29, Pershing Hall

The Gathering of Hands is a week-long cultural experience celebrating drumming, unity, and community. June 23rd kicks off this three-part series with performances from AENY University Kids, the Nubian Messengers Ancient Future Ensemble (NMAFE), and alumni from Fredrick Douglas Academy VIII. In between musical sets all are invited an opening exhibition from our AENY University Teens. From June 25th-28th, all ages are invited to participate in our Comm[unity] djembe workshop and lectures, exploring traditions behind the djembe and its potent expression of the African Diaspora. "The Gathering of Hands" concludes on June 29th with Rhythm Spark, a workshop and closing drum circle which invites drummers from across the city of all experiences to join us for a village style drum circle. For more information visit: <http://artseastny.org/>

FIGMENT, June 23-24, Colonels Row

FIGMENT is a free annual participatory arts event that celebrates creativity by challenging artists and participants to find new ways to create, share, and dream. FIGMENT's vision for art looks past the white-walled galleries and into the realm of participation. Art is not just something that you stand still and quietly look at—it is something you participate in. You touch it, smell it, write on it, talk to it, dance with it, play with it, learn from it. For more information and a call for art, visit <http://newyork.figmentproject.org/>.

Porch Stomp, June 24, Nolan Park

Set on the beautiful greenery of Governors Island, Porch Stomp invites over 70 bands, artists, and performing arts organizations to use the historic porches of Nolan Park as a platform for performance and education, highlighting artistry ranging from traditional folk to old-time, blues, roots, bluegrass and Americana. Porch Stomp has its roots as part of Make Music New

York, a city-wide day of free outdoor music on the summer solstice.
<http://www.makemusicny.org/>

Additional special events will be announced in the coming months.

ONGOING

On View

Rock, Mosquito and Hummingbird: A Pre-History of Governors Island, Daily, 10AM-4PM, Fort Jay

Commissioned specifically for Governors Island, *Rock, Mosquito and Hummingbird* is a new work by award-winning artist David Brooks. The winding sculptural installation digs down to the core of Governors Island, exposing the strata of history of this floating rock in NY Harbor. Probing three sites on the Island's original footprint, Brooks bored through the surface of the ground to depths of 90 to 125 feet, telling the story of this ancient place through excavated core samples of cobbles, soil, silt, shells, clay and bedrock. The narrative leads visitors beyond the dominant military history of the site, to imagine a landmass that for millions of years played a part in a larger story. www.govisland.org

Nolan Park Season-Long Programs

Billion Oyster Project, Saturdays and Sundays, May 26-October 31

The Billion Oyster Project aims to restore a sustainable oyster population and reignite a passion and appreciation for the Harbor by engaging New Yorkers directly in the work of restoring one billion oysters. Partnering with 110 schools, we provide in-school and public environmental education through hands-on oyster restoration activities and research. Come "dive" into NY Harbor, experiencing some of NY Harbor's marine creatures up close and personal! Interactive educational activities for youth to learn about oysters and the natural marine habitat within our concrete jungle. Bring out the scientist in you and perform water quality tests of our local waters! www.billionoysterproject.org

Children's Museum of the Arts Free Island Outpost, Saturdays and Sundays, May 26-October 31

Visit CMA's Free Art Island Outpost on historic Governors Island every Saturday & Sunday this summer for free hands-on art making workshops and art-viewing experiences. The open outdoor space of the Free Arts Island Outpost beckons you to come collaboratively create! Young artists will be inspired and challenged to explore big projects utilizing found objects and traditional mediums. www.cma.org

Christodora: Nature, Learning, Leadership, Saturdays, May-October

The "Christodora Clubhouse" is a gathering place where students and the public can participate in hands-on learning about local wildlife, including skulls and owl pellets; celebrate the sights and sounds of nature with art and music projects; and embark on hikes and exploration of the island. The Christodora residency on Governors Island gives program alumni the opportunity to share their passion for the environment and citizen science, and lead hikes, team-building and "camp 101" activities. www.christodora.org/govisland2018/

Dysfunctional Collective, Saturdays and Sundays May 5-October 31

The Dysfunctional Collective turns House 8B on Nolan Park into a grab box of art, theater, music and dance. Stop by any weekend between 12-5 to hear a song, write a poem, see a play,

learn to dance, solve a mystery, to make something new or just come and explore the house with us. www.dysfunctionaltheatre.org

Harvestworks presents *The TEAM lab: Artworks and Experiences*, Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays and Holiday Mondays, May 25-October 21

Harvestworks will host artists open studios, an exhibition of digital media art and provide a workshop and research room to educate the public about how artists use new and emerging technology for artistic expression. In the TEAM (Technology, Engineering, Art and Music) lab, the public will experience artworks by the most creative artists in our community. TEAM Lab workshops may include 3D modeling, DIY artwork (including Arduino and raspberry pi), and illustration/animation. Artworks may rotate during the exhibition. www.harvestworks.org

NYC Audubon, Saturdays and Sundays, May-October

Join NYC Audubon's seasonal residence on Governors Island! This year's nature center will feature displays on conservation, a children's room with books and activities, bird-inspired artwork and studio space showcasing artists creating work inspired by Governors Island and its variety of avian residents. Guests can borrow binoculars and participate in one of the free guided bird walks or strike out on their own to discover the bright and bustling bird life all over the island. Visit and learn all about the feathery friends who share our urban environment and what we can do to help them out. www.nycaudubon.org

New-York Historical Society (Opening July 2018, exhibit to be announced)

Founded in 1804 as the first museum in New York City, the New-York Historical Society has moved forward into the 21st century, offering to visitors on-site and online a vast collection of art, objects, artifacts and documents and an ongoing collecting program that aims to facilitate a broad grasp of history's enduring importance and its usefulness in finding explanations, causes, and insights. The 2018 exhibit on Governors Island will be announced shortly. www.nyhistoricalsociety.org

Rare Air, Saturdays and Sundays, May-October

Rare AIR is an experimental neon sculpture gallery located in Governors Island's Nolan Park. A nod to the noble (rare) gases found in the Earth's atmosphere and the eccentric properties within them; Neon to glow, Helium to float, Xenon to propel spacecraft, Rare AIR will exhibit new work monthly from New York women and visiting artists. Join us this summer for public outdoor presentations on topics ranging from air and environmental sciences to the history of illuminated works, videos, performances and more!

Swale, Saturdays and Sundays, June-October

Established in 2016 by artist Mary Mattingly, *Swale* is a floating food forest built atop a 5,000 square foot barge, welcoming the public to harvest herbs, fruits and vegetables for free. Swale strives to strengthen the stewardship of public waterways and land, while working to bring awareness to issues of food insecurity. This year on Governors Island, Swale will expand to land-based educational programs through a seasonal exhibit, creating a garden within the Island's Urban Farm and hosting public workshops in Nolan Park. Visitors will engage hands-on around issues of food access, ecology and horticulture. www.swaleny.org

Works on Water, Saturdays and Sundays, May 5-October 31

Works on Water and Underwater New York invite you to join visual, performing and literary artists working on, in and with the water on Governors Island this summer. Works on Water artist residency program provides an incubator space for diverse investigations of water in the urban environment. Open studios, performances, monthly conversations and an exhibition

feature work from around the world and invite the public into a dialogue about the emerging field of Water Art. Works on Water works to build and strengthen the community of artists and practitioners working in water-based planning, science, policy and art to define the future of our waterways.

www.worksonwater.org

Colonels Row Early Season Programs

4heads Artists in Residency, Saturdays and Sundays, May 5-October 31

4heads recognizes the importance and need for affordable workspaces for artists and created their AIR Program on Governors Island to help support the cultural future of New York City. Each summer, free studio residences are provided for selected artists and, as with GIAF, each artist is given a full room to use as their studio in the historic homes on Colonels Row. The public are invited directly into the creative process and these historic spaces during Open Studio Weekends over the summer. www.4heads.org

Art Force 5, May-August

The Art Force 5, working in collaboration with Alfred University, uses the accessibility of art and the popularity of superheroes to explore issues of equality, violence, history, community and empathy. Through a SUNY grant, the Art Force 5 team will serve New York City by engaging communities in community-based art, workshops, Heroes Within craft stations, and Drawn to Diversity art exhibits. www.drawntodiversity.culturalunity.org

Art of Intuitive Photography, Saturdays and Sundays, May 26-July 29

This year's exhibition showcased winners of the annual juried Art of Intuitive Photography gallery show. The images showcase photographs captured in an intuitive moment and are captured from our children and adult students as well as teachers. The exhibition is open Saturdays and Sundays, and classes will be offered at the house on selected afternoons.

www.artofintuitivephotography.com

HoloCenter, Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays and Memorial Day, May 4-June 10

Explore classic and innovative holographic art, learn about holograms, light, 3D and more at the HoloCenter on Governors Island. www.holocenter.org

Mosaic Color Fete, Saturdays and Sundays, May 5-July 28

Mosaic ColorFete is a group of individuals who have a passion for textile, nature and believe in creating beautiful environments using sustainable practices. The installation utilizes repurposed materials in an immersive interpretation of a Secret Garden. The rooms of a beautiful, historic house on Governors Island will be adorned in bursts of color and whimsy with flora and fauna made from a variety of mixed media.

Nut Island Creative Colony, Tuesdays - Sundays, June 9 - July 16

The Nut Island Creative Colony takes over a house on Colonel's Row and fills it with theater, installation art, classes, a documentary video project and a multi-writer playwrighting residency. Every project included in the creative colony will be free and open to the public—either entirely, or in part. Visitors will discover that the work being shown and made there investigates and engages with Governors Island in dynamic, revealing ways: with the island's history; with the island's present-day ecology and climate; and with the island as it lives in our minds. Come participate in immersive theater piece *Nine Cases*, log your weather observations in The Observatory, take a workshop on solar power, or spend the day writing alongside one of our playwrights-in-residence. www.nutislandcreative.org

West Harlem Art Fund Presents *Early Encounters*, Saturdays and Sundays, May-July

The West Harlem Art Fund is hosting a mixed-media exhibition on Governor's Island that focuses on the early encounters and interactions of the Lenape Indians and European explorers. WHAF intends to show the natural riches of the island were appreciated at that time with various installations using grass, moss, paper, ceramics, glass and video. Further spotlights, shown in contemporary art styles, will explore how early inhabitants responded to light, sky, and their earthly surroundings of this New World. In addition to featured artists, WHAF will work with two artist collectives that work in glass and digital works. The digital works will help link the stories together through projections and sound creating an immersive exhibition.

www.westharlemartfund.wordpress.com

Urban Farm Programs

GrowNYC Teaching Garden, Saturdays and Sundays, May 5-October 31, Urban Farm

GrowNYC's Teaching Garden is a 21,000 square foot urban farm that aims to engage, excite, and educate its visitors in all aspects of urban farming and environmental sustainability. The garden features over 65 vegetable beds made from recycled plastic lumber, a 1/4-acre small-scale vegetable farm, an aquaponics system, an outdoor kitchen, a large solar oven, a high tunnel greenhouse, fruit trees, several rainwater harvesting systems, a rain garden, and much more. Visitors can take a self-guided tour of the space or drop in on a rotating offering of gardening activities, including garden maintenance, a scavenger hunt and cooking demonstrations.

www.grownyc.org

Earth Matter NY, Saturdays and Sundays, May 5-October 31

Soil Start Farm Saturdays, 12-4PM, Compost Learning Center, 12-4PM

Earth Matter NY's Soil Start Farm, open Saturdays, is a demo space for the "Table to Farm" model of "closing the loop." Visitors and volunteers have many ways to dig your hands in the earth and participate in special activities offered every Saturday at 2:30 pm. Visit Earth Matter NY's Compost Learning Center on Sundays to explore numerous devices and methods for making compost are showcased, including care for upwards of 60 animals (50,000 if you count the worms and bees!). Earth Matter also composts yard waste from Governors Island and 60,000 pounds of food scraps from Governors Island and NYC community members each month! www.earthmatter.org

General Information about Governors Island's 2018 Public Season

Operating Hours

Governors Island is open every day from May 1 through October 31. On weekdays, the Island is open from 10 AM to 6 PM. On weekends, Memorial Day and Labor Day, the Island is open from 10 AM to 7 PM. The Island will be open on July 4th from 10 AM to 6 PM.

Ferries

Ferries will run from Lower Manhattan every day from the Battery Maritime Building at 10 South Street. Direct service from Brooklyn will run from Pier 6, Brooklyn Bridge Park on Saturdays, Sundays, Memorial Day and Labor Day.

All weekday and weekend afternoon ferries from Brooklyn and Manhattan are \$3 round trip for adults. Children under 12, IDNYC holders and Governors Island Members ride for free at all times and senior citizens' fares are half price.

Morning ferries (10 AM and 11 AM and 11:30 AM from Manhattan and 11 AM and 11:30 AM from Brooklyn) on Saturdays and Sundays are free for all. There is no surcharge for bicycles.

Visitors will be able to purchase ferry tickets at the Battery Maritime Building in Lower Manhattan or at Pier 6 in Brooklyn. Only cash is accepted.

Ferries will be free for all visitors opening week, from May 1-May 6.

A full ferry schedule is available at www.govisland.org.

Visitor Services

Welcome Centers are located at both Soissons Landing and Yankee Pier on Governors Island. Visitors can pick up an information guide, receive personalized assistance on the day's activities from our friendly Visitor Services team, purchase souvenirs and Island essentials like sunscreen and cold drinks and learn about membership and volunteer programs.

Soissons Landing Welcome Center hours:

Wednesday-Friday 10AM-4PM

Saturday-Sunday 10AM-5PM

Yankee Pier Welcome Center hours (opening May 26, 2018):

Saturday-Sunday 10AM-5PM

Biking

Every day, visitors can bring their own bikes, or rent one while visiting. Free Bike Mornings allows visitors to borrow a bike from Blazing Saddles for free for up to one hour every weekday between 10 AM and noon. Citi Bike kiosks can be found at both Soissons Landing and Yankee Pier. Visit www.govisland.org/activities for more information.

Gatherings and Grills

Visitors may reserve grills for gatherings, parties, reunions or any celebration when the Island is open to the public. Reservations must be made at least two weeks in advance and are booked on a first come, first served basis. All applicants will be charged a \$26 non-refundable. For more information and to apply visit www.govisland.org/permits.

Food

There is a wide range of food options available seven days a week on the Island. Beginning in May, [Island Oyster](#), the popular bar and restaurant by the team behind Grand Banks, will be open seven days a week near Soissons Landing, featuring easygoing summer fare, a tropically inspired cocktail program and panoramic views of New York Harbor and lower Manhattan. Taco Beach, a new Mexican themed restaurant, will open on May 5 on the Eastern side of Soissons Landing. Several vendors will return to Liggett Terrace this season, including Little Eva's, Governors Beer Co., Fauzia's Heavenly Delights and Blue Marble Ice Cream. Food Trucks will be available weekends at Kings Avenue. For more information, visit www.govisland.org.

Adventures at Governors Island

Adventures at Governors Island is New York City's premiere summer destination for thrill-seekers and adventure enthusiasts of all ages. This unique "pop-up" amusement park currently features three exciting amusements. The Flywire Zipline offers soaring views of the city and Statue of Liberty from a 35-foot peak while guests zip down a 300 foot-long, parallel cable. The Amazen' Maze spans nearly 3,600 square feet that tests guests' problem-solving skills as they navigate through this fun, large-scale challenge. And the versatile Climbing Challenge features three unique, 25-foot high walls with a self-guiding belay system that enables guests to conquer each vertical climbing course at their own pace and skill level. A new mini-golf course will open in June 2018. For more information, visit www.adventuresgovisland.com.

Collective Governors Island

Beginning this summer, Collective Retreats will bring unique, temporary seasonal lodging for New Yorkers and visitors to sleep under the stars against the back drop of the Island's iconic views of the Lower Manhattan skyline, New York Harbor and Statue of Liberty. Collective Governors Island will accommodate approximately 100 overnight guests and will offer both full hotel-style service and experiential dining, as well as premium select service accommodations. The retreat will also feature the ability to host weddings and events, as well as a dining options and a public open space on the site for programming and activities available to visitors who aren't staying overnight on the Island. For more information, visit www.collectiveretreats.com

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.org.

About Governors Island National Monument

The National Park Service manages Governors Island National Monument, which consists of twenty-two acres, including the historic fortifications Castle Williams and Fort Jay. The Monument is one of twenty-two sites operated by the National Park Service in the New York City area. Its purpose is to preserve and protect Castle Williams and Fort Jay, and to interpret them and the harbor's rich history and ecology for the public. More information can be found at www.nps.gov/gois.

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