Staten Island - ARLIS Local Guide

If time permits, take the short but memorable 25-minute ferry ride from the tip of Lower Manhattan to Staten Island, and see a great view of Lower Manhattan, the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island en route. Sunset is a good time to go. Leave from Whitehall Terminal just South of the South Ferry subway stop, at the end of the 1 and 5 subway lines. Arrive in downtown Staten Island at the St. George Terminal. St. George is the future site of the New York Wheel, scheduled to be opened in early 2018. It will be the world’s tallest such structure, at 630 feet.

Official NYC tourist website
Visit Staten Island

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Attractions

Alice Austen House (American photographer, 1866-1952)
http://aliceausten.org/
2 Hylan Boulevard, Staten Island, NY
The photographer’s house, also known as Cold Comfort, is a National Historic Landmark. One can take bus S51 from the Staten Island ferry to this site in the Rosebank section of Staten Island. A late 17th/early 18th-century home purchased by Austen’s grandfather in the mid 19th-century, the house was altered and expanded several times in the 1800s. Austen, a prolific photographer, lived here with her companion Gertrude Tate. The site has rotating photographic exhibitions; the bulk of Austen’s collection is owned by Historic Richmond Town (below). For more, see “She Did it Her Way,” in the New York Times, written 6/27/14.

Borough Hall
https://www.statenislandusa.com/borough-hall.html
10 Richmond Terrace, Staten Island, NY 10301
Directly across from the ferry terminal, the 100-year old French Renaissance-style building and historic landmark is the seat of government for the borough. Designed by Carrere & Hastings. The lobby contains 13 large WPA murals documenting Staten Island history by Frederick Charles Stahr.

Historic Richmond Town
https://www.historicrichmondtown.org/
441 Clarke Avenue, Staten Island, NY 10306
Visit this historic town and farm complex with numerous buildings, activities, and a museum featuring items back to the mid-1600s. The main site (Richmondtown) was the former government seat of Staten Island prior to it joining New York City in 1898. Consists of 100 acres spread over 4 sites. Costumed personnel engage in numerous activities of interest to kids and adults. Daily guided tours are available. A 30-45 minute ride on the S74 bus from the ferry terminal.

Postcards Memorial (for 9/11)
Bank Street, Staten Island, NY 10301
An impressive outdoor sculpture on the Esplanade consisting of 30-foot tall “postcards” to loved ones that frame One World Trade. Excellent view of Manhattan may be seen here. The monument was designed by Masayuki Sono in a 2003 design competition. The monument, located in St. George near the ferry terminal, commemorates the 274 residents from Staten Island killed that day, including one in the 1993 World Trade Center bombing and one on Flight 93 that crashed in a field in Pennsylvania.

St. George Ferry Terminal
1 Bay St, Staten Island, NY 10301
A transportation hub located about 5 miles from Manhattan. The original ferry and rail terminals were destroyed by fire in the 1940s. About 75,000 passengers are transported between here and the Whitehall Terminal, renovated and modernized in 2005, in Lower Manhattan each day.

Snug Harbor Cultural Center & Botanical Garden
http://snug-harbor.org/
1000 Richmond Terrace, Staten Island, NY 10301
Includes Newhouse Center for Contemporary Art, New York Chinese Scholar’s Garden, Staten Island Museum, Staten Island Children’s Museum, and Noble Maritime Collection. Only the first two charge admission. Snug Harbor is an 83-acre campus with 28 buildings, and is one of seven institutions in New York State that has a formal affiliation with the Smithsonian Institution.
The Staten Island Museum
http://www.statenislandmuseum.org/
A. 1000 Richmond Terrace, Staten Island, NY 10301
A general community art, science and history museum, which in 2015 moved to a 19th-century building on the Snug Harbor campus. It is known for its local plant and animal specimens, and has a 60,000 image photography collection.

Other Museums & Galleries

Art Gallery at the College of Staten Island (City University of New York)
https://www.csi.cuny.edu/campus-life/csi-buildings/art-gallery-csi
2800 Victory Blvd Building 1P Room 112
The College of Staten Island, offering both undergraduate and graduate degrees, is part of the City University of New York system, and its central campus is the largest in the five boroughs. There is a shuttle bus from the ferry terminal, which stops in front of building 2A at the Ferry Shuttle Shelter.

Garibaldi-Meucci Museum
http://garibaldimeuccimuseum.org/
420 Tompkins Ave, Staten Island, NY 10305
A museum located in the Rosebank section of Staten Island focused on Italian-American heritage where Antonio Meucci lived, an inventor of the telephone, and Giuseppe Garibaldi, a military figure and politician who played a major role in the development of the modern state of Italy and stayed with Meucci at one point. Take the S78 or S52 bus to the corner of Chestnut and Tompkins Avenues from the SI Ferry.

Jacques Marchais Museum of Tibetan Art
http://www.tibetanmuseum.org/
338 Lighthouse Ave, Staten Island, NY 10306
Features the art and culture of Tibet and the Himalayas founded by an important collector and expert. Marchais designed the house in the style of a Tibetan mountain monastery, one of the first of its kind and the first such museum in the U.S. Exhibits are on display and classes in meditation and tai chi are offered, along with peaceful gardens to visit. Take the S74 bus from the ferry, which meets each one. The bus ride can take 35-45 minutes depending on traffic.
Libraries & Archives

The New York Public Library includes local branch libraries in Manhattan, the Bronx and Staten Island: see map for locations. (Queens and Brooklyn each have their own library systems.)

Food & Drink

SI Dining 101 (2013)

Beso
http://www.besonyc.com/
11 Schuyler St, Staten Island, NY 10301
Known for tapas and cocktails. Within walking distance of the ferry terminal. Lunch and dinner.

Enoteca Maria
http://www.enotecamaria.com/wp/
27 Hyatt St, Staten Island, NY 10301
Italian regional cuisine and wine bar. Cash only. Also within walking distance of the ferry in the St. George neighborhood.

Flagship Brewery
http://www.flagshipbrewery.nyc/age_verification.php
40 Minthorne St, Staten Island, NY 10301
Within walking distance of the ferry or one stop on the SI subway. No food is served.

Pier 76
http://www.pier76si.com/
76 Bay St, Staten Island, NY 10301
Italian restaurant, also close to the ferry terminal. Come for the pizza, which is the excellent and the same as that served at Joe and Pat’s, a legendary SI place: it’s not the “tourist kind” from Manhattan. Brunch, lunch and dinner are served, and there’s a kid’s menu.

Shopping

Empire outlets
http://www.empireoutletsnyc.com/index.html
A complex of outlet retailers to open at the base of the ferry terminal in 2018.

EveryThing Goes
http://www.etgstores.com/map.html
140 Bay St, Staten Island, NY 10301
A group of four thrift stores near the ferry selling furniture, books and media, and clothing. The bookstore has a cafe, an art gallery, hosts events and music performances, and is “the biggest used book store on Staten Island.”

Post Offices & Business Centers

St. George post office

Transportation

Staten Island Ferry
4 Whitehall St, New York, NY 10004
(from Lower Manhattan to St. George Terminal)
Staten Island has a subway as well, which also takes Metrocards used for the NYC subway. Ride to the end of the line to the Tottenville neighborhood to see stately, Victorian-style homes that are atypical of the five boroughs generally.

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*ARLIS/NA does not endorse commercial businesses. Proceed at your own discretion.