Summer is the Perfect Time to Explore Some of Staten Island’s Best Kept Secrets

The Garibaldi-Meucci Museum, a gem nestled in Rosebank, was home to true inventor of the telephone Antonio Meucci and his wife while they lived on Staten Island. An Italian immigrant and inventor, Meucci welcomed freedom fighter Giuseppe Garibaldi into his home for nearly two years while he was in the New York City area. After leaving his friend in 1884, Garibaldi led the military forces that would ultimately lead to the unification of Italy, making him a hero throughout the world. Open as a museum under the Order of the Sons of Italy, the home houses artifacts of both Garibaldi and Meucci. There is also a library of works of Italian culture and history on the second level. The Alice Austen House was home to one of America’s earliest and most accomplished female photographers. Alice Austen captured more than 8,000 photographs over the course of her life and is best known for her street photography, images of immigrants arriving from Ellis Island, shoe-shiners and policemen. Her seaside home, Clear Comfort, dates from the 1890s and provides one-of-a-kind views of New York Harbor. In addition, the museum displays Austen’s work, an exhibit about her life and contemporary photo exhibits.

United States. Founded in the early 19th Century, the community arose from a settlement of free Blacks from New York, MARYBOROUGH and DORAL. By harvesting oysters and farming, this resilient community thrived and became a safe haven on the Underground Railroad. Today, Sandy Ground is home to 30 families that are descendants of original settlers. The museum educates and inspires the public with exhibitions, photographs and art documenting the history of Sandy Ground and African Americans. A visit to Sandy Ground guarantees a lesson in our Nation’s history.

Conference House Park is a great destination for both nature and history buffs. This 267-acre site features four historic buildings from Staten Island’s history. The Conference House, the BHOP...
Summer Fun in Staten Island

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House, the Ward House and Rutan-Beckett House are all of American history. History surrounds you as you stroll along beautifully kept pathways. Nearby is the Conference House, named for an unsuccessful Revolutionary War peace attempt held between a British delegation and John Adams, Edward Rutledge and Benjamin Franklin in 1776. No agreement was reached and the war continued for seven years. In addition to historic landmarks and breathtaking views, the park also boasts a newly refurbished playground, a Visitors Center, 2.5 miles of beach, paths for hiking and biking, and a "South Pole," which marks New York's southernmost point.

Snug Harbor Cultural Center & Botanical Garden is a bustling cultural center that is one of the predominant artistic hubs that Staten Island has to offer. With everything from gallery openings to live concerts, Snug is a vibrant and dynamic place to visit this summer. The New York Chinese Scholars Garden, botanical garden and museum are just some of the permanent specialities on site. On July 12, the Pridefest 5K Fun Run and Festival will be taking place on the North Meadow Lawn. Sponsored by the St. LGBT Center, the event will be free and all are welcome to attend. From July 18-22, the In The Wings Theater Company will be putting on their summer production of "Streets." The Musical! in the Music Hall. Tickets can be purchased for $25, $25, $30, or $35 or can be purchased at www.inthewingsproductionsny.com. There will be two SHARP exhibits opening this summer, allowing emerging artists to show their work in a supportive environment. The first exhibit was on June 14, showing Marcus Allen and Arjuna Routiere-Friel. The second exhibit will take place on August 5, featuring Aruma Huey and Eric Mapp. For more information about these events, and to see what other fun and enriching days you can plan at Snug Harbor, please visit www.snug-harbor.org.

The Staten Island Museum is a wonderful way to be acquainted with Staten Island. The museum - just steps from the Staten Island Ferry - is home to various exhibitions, from its extensive collection of insects to paintings and curiosities in jars. Founded in 1881, the Museum is home to more than 2 million artifacts and specimens from ancient to contemporary periods, including art, minerals and native animals. Visitors can also experience the life of the Lenape, the first Staten Islanders. With artifacts dating back 12,000 years, this is the most comprehensive exhibits about the region's Native Americans in New York City.

Before each feature film, short film clips will be played by filmmakers from all across America. Parking is first come first serve and the vehicle line will open up at 6 p.m. For the pricing (based on car type), you must visit the Historic Richmond Town website. Last but certainly not least is the wonderful Richmond County Fair. With spectacular rides, over 180 vendors, carnival foods, pony rides and more, there is no better way to close out the summer. The Fair will take place in Aug; 30, 31 and Sept. 1, and proceeds goes towards the educational programs at Historic Richmond Town. For more information about any of these events, or to learn about the history of the town please visit www.historicrichmondtown.org.

New Carousel and wildlife at The Staten Island Zoo

This summer, don't miss the Staten Island Zoo's newest attraction - a colorful reimagined Carousel. Take a ride on the back of a soaring bald eagle, a giraffe or a racing rhino. There is even a baby friendly "Infant seat" on a pink flamingo. Two Amur Leopards, the world's rarest big cats, prowl their new three story high outdoor exhibit. Also new at the Zoo, a giant anteater, ostrich and Galapagos Tortoises. There is a Children's Farm Yard where you can feed the animals, a Tropical Forest, African Savannah, Aquari-um and world-famous Reptile Wing. For more information call (718)442-3100 or visit statenislandzoo.org.

Zoo Cool

Zoo Cool - Summer Series
Sponsored by Con Edison

The Mighty Rainforest
Saturday, June 24: Noon to 3 p.m.
Alta the Wolf
Sunday, June 22: Noon to 1 p.m. and 2-3 p.m.
Orcas (Japanese fish printing)
Sunday, June 29: Noon to 3 p.m.
ZooQuest
Saturday, July 8: Noon to 3 p.m.
Dinosaurs and Fossils
Saturday, July 15: Noon to 3 p.m.
Penguin Visit
Sunday, July 20: Noon to 3 p.m.
Origami USA
Sunday, July 27: Noon to 3 p.m.
Serpent Day
Saturday, August 5: Noon to 3 p.m.
Animal Photography
Saturday, August 8: Noon to 3 p.m.
Forensic Entomology
Sunday, August 17: Noon to 3 p.m.
Animal Training Demonstration
Sunday, Aug. 24: Noon to 3 p.m.
Monkey Monkey Music
Sunday, Aug. 31: Noon to 3 p.m.