See several attractions as the ferry approaches St. George

Staten Island Borough Hall  St. George Ferry Terminal  Staten Island Museum  Staten Island Yankees (Ballpark)  Esplanade  Postcards, 9/11 Memorial

As you exit the ferry, follow signs for the ballpark. This leads to the terrace on the west side of the terminal, a great spot to take pictures of family or friends with Manhattan as a spectacular backdrop. Upland is the Beaux Arts-style Borough Hall (1906), with its tall clock tower, and the Neo-Classical Richmond County Courthouse (1919). Both were designed by architects Carrere and Hastings, famous for the New York Public Library on 42nd Street. One block to the west (right) of the courthouse, you can see the rear of the Staten Island Museum. Look west along the water front: the gleaming white structure is Staten Island’s Postcards, 9/11 Memorial, which commemorates those lost while sending a message of hope across the harbor. Walk down the broad steps and take the pedestrian ramp just before the ballpark up to Richmond Terrace, which was once a Lenape Indian trail. Across Richmond Terrace is the Renaissance Revival style 120th Precinct Station House (1922), and behind it, at the corner of Wall St. and Stuyvesant Place, is the Staten Island Museum (1918).

As you exit the ferry, follow signs for the ballpark. This leads to the terrace on the west side of the terminal, a great spot to take pictures of family or friends with Manhattan as a spectacular backdrop. Upland is the Beaux Arts-style Borough Hall (1906), with its tall clock tower, and the Neo-Classical Richmond County Courthouse (1919). Both were designed by architects Carrere and Hastings, famous for the New York Public Library on 42nd Street. One block to the west (right) of the courthouse, you can see the rear of the Staten Island Museum. Look west along the water front: the gleaming white structure is Staten Island’s Postcards, 9/11 Memorial, which commemorates those lost while sending a message of hope across the harbor. Walk down the broad steps and take the pedestrian ramp just before the ballpark up to Richmond Terrace, which was once a Lenape Indian trail. Across Richmond Terrace is the Renaissance Revival style 120th Precinct Station House (1922), and behind it, at the corner of Wall St. and Stuyvesant Place, is the Staten Island Museum (1918).

Staten Island and its Ferry

- Thousands of years before the arrival of the Europeans, Staten Island was settled by the Lenape Indians who gathered oysters and practiced agriculture.
- After several wars between the Dutch and the Lenape, Staten Island was permanently settled in 1661, and soon became home to Dutch settlers, Huguenots (French Protestants), English, and both slave and free African Americans.
- In the centuries that followed, Staten Island supplied the region with superb oysters as well as cherries and peaches from its notable orchards. It became a popular beach resort destination, and was also known as a location where Ivory soap was made and ships were built.
- Today, Staten Island is the fastest growing borough in New York City; two and a half times as large as Manhattan in area, with a population of 500,000.

On the Boat

- On October 25, 1905, the Staten Island Ferry became a New York City operated service under the Department of Transportation.
- Every year, the Staten Island Ferry carries over 21 million passengers, about 65,000 a day.
- A chance encounter on the Ferry in 1876, brought together three of the young men who founded the Staten Island Museum in 1881.

As you exit the ferry, follow signs for the ballpark. This leads to the terrace on the west side of the terminal, a great spot to take pictures of family or friends with Manhattan as a spectacular backdrop. Upland is the Beaux Arts-style Borough Hall (1906), with its tall clock tower, and the Neo-Classical Richmond County Courthouse (1919). Both were designed by architects Carrere and Hastings, famous for the New York Public Library on 42nd Street. One block to the west (right) of the courthouse, you can see the rear of the Staten Island Museum. Look west along the water front: the gleaming white structure is Staten Island’s Postcards, 9/11 Memorial, which commemorates those lost while sending a message of hope across the harbor. Walk down the broad steps and take the pedestrian ramp just before the ballpark up to Richmond Terrace, which was once a Lenape Indian trail. Across Richmond Terrace is the Renaissance Revival style 120th Precinct Station House (1922), and behind it, at the corner of Wall St. and Stuyvesant Place, is the Staten Island Museum (1918).

The present Whitehall Ferry Terminal is the fourth one on the site since the early nineteenth century, when Whitehall Terminal was the site of the new Battery Maritime Building next door. The new terminal designed to resemble the Lenape Indians canoes that once crossed the Harbor.


This is a schematic rehabilitation of a 1940s structure (plus additions). The architects breathed new life to attract site visitors, open, and through the terminal.

14. Bayonne Bridge (1931)

The Bayonne Bridge, designed by engineer Othmar Ammann, who also created the George Washington Bridge and the Verrazano Bridge, was modeled after the Hell Gate Bridge between Queens and the Bronx.

15. Kill van Kull

In Dutch, a “kill” is a river. It is a tidal strait between New Jersey and Staten Island. A “Robbins Reef Lighthouse” was the twin to the green Jersey and Staten Island. A tidal strait between New Jersey and Staten Island. A tidal strait between New Jersey and Staten Island.

16. Postcards

This 2004 Staten Island 9/11 memorial was designed by Maruski Sano and hosts 274 Staten Island residents killed in the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks and the 1993 attack on the World Trade Center.

8. Central Railroad of New Jersey Terminal (1889)

An inter-modal facility for trains, ferries, and buses that today is an exhibition space in Liberty State Park.

9. Ellis Island (1892)

From 1892 to 1954, over twelve million immigrants entered the United States through the portal of Ellis Island, a small island in New York Harbor. It was named after the last private owner of the island, Samuel Ellis.

10. Statue of Liberty (1886)

This gift to America from the people of France is modeled in copper by Auguste Bartholdi with internal metalwork designed by Gustave Eiffel. It functioned as a lighthouse from 1886-1902 and was the first electrified lighthouse in the United States.

11. Robbins Reef Lighthouse (1883)

“Robbins” means “nose” in Dutch, for the 17th century seals that roamed themselves on the rocky reef that caused shipswrecks before the first lighthouse was erected here in 1869. When the keeper died 3 years later, his German-born wife took over his duties.

12. Staten Island Museum (1881)

Founded in 1881, the Staten Island Museum, New York City’s only general interest museum, engages visitors with multidisciplinary exhibitions and educational programs that explore the dynamic connections between natural science, art, and history based on its diverse collections. The Museum also operates the Staten Island History Center in Building A at Snug Harbor Cultural Center. This is part of an expansion project, the Museum is renovating Building A.

13. Battery Weed at Fort Wadsworth (1861)

The stone fortess on the water, in the shadow of the Verrazano-Narrows Bridge, was built as an addition to Fort Wadsworth, which was constructed after the War of 1812 to strengthen harbor defenses.

3. Brooklyn Bridge (1883)

Designed by German engineer John Roebling. After his death in 1869, his son, Washington, took over the job, but was disabled by decompression illness from working below water in a provisional caisson. Washington’s wife, Emily, assisted her husband by exploiting changes in the competitors and respecting the finished work. In 1884, it burned wood. Her actions demonstrated the bridge’s safety by parading 21 elephants across the span.

4. Castle Clinton (1811) & Castle Williams (1811)

Castle Clinton, once an off-shore fort, worked in tandem with Castle Williams to defend Manhattan. It was built for the War of 1812 between the United States and Britain. Despite the cannon on the roof, no shots were ever fired in anger.

5. Governors Island (1784)

Under British rule, the island was the residence of royal colonial governors. Long a Coast Guard base, the island is now a national monument, open seasonally. The large octagonal structure in the harbor (not shown on the map) is a ventilator tower for the Brooklyn Battery Tunnel that connects Brooklyn to lower Manhattan.

6. Verrazano Narrows Bridge (1964)

The Verrazano Narrows Bridge is named for Giovanni da Verrazano, the first European explorer in the harbor. It is America’s longest suspension bridge, constructed of steel cables that connect and expand seasonally making the double-deck roadway 22 feet lower in summer than winter.

WHICH BOAT ARE YOU ON?

Each deck of ferryboat has a distinctive design and is named after an individual important to Staten Island or in honor of a group or an event.

1. Kennedy Class, 1965, 3,500 Passengers

2. Barberi Class, 1981-82, 4,000 Passengers


4. Molinari Class, 2004-05, 4,300 Passengers


6. Molinari Class, 2004-05, 4,300 Passengers

7. Jones Beach, 1956-63, 260 Passengers

8. Castle Clinton (1811) & Castle Williams (1811)

9. Governor’s Island (1811)

10. Castle Clinton (1850)

11. Battery Weed at Fort Wadsworth (1861)

12. Staten Island Museum (1881)

13. Battery Weed at Fort Wadsworth (1861)

14. Bayonne Bridge (1931)

15. Kill van Kull

16. Postcards


The present Whitehall Ferry Terminal is the fourth one on the site since the early nineteenth century, when Whitehall Terminal was the site of the new Battery Maritime Building next door. The new terminal designed to resemble the Lenape Indians canoes that once crossed the Harbor.