

Liberty State Park, the Gateway to America

A Group Travel Itinerary to Liberty State Park

Liberty State Park is a must-visit New Jersey destination for tourists and locals alike. Known as the Gateway to America, the park offers a variety of activities that are sure to please everyone in your group.

We've put together a comprehensive guide to Liberty State Park to help your group plan your trip. Read on to learn how to plan the perfect day visiting this Hudson County gem.

HISTORIC TRILOGY

No visit to the park is complete without stopping at what's known as the Historic Trilogy: **The Historic Central Railroad of New Jersey Terminal**, the **Statute of Liberty**, and **Ellis Island**.

Together, these three spots played a significant role in the history of the United States, as they welcomed millions of immigrants and served as the starting point for their American journey.

- **HISTORIC CENTRAL RAILROAD OF NEW JERSEY**

Start your day with a self-guided walk through the **CRRNJ**. Immigrants were greeted by the Statue of Liberty and processed at Ellis Island upon arrival to America. They then arrived at the terminal to purchase tickets and board trains to take them to their new homes throughout the United States.

- **EMPTY SKY MEMORIAL**

The terminal is also where ferries embark on the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island tours. But before you board, take a moment to reflect at the **Empty Sky Memorial**, located just beyond the terminal along the waterfront. This memorial was designed to commemorate the 749 New Jersey residents lost on 9/11.

- **LIBERTY ISLAND / STATUE OF LIBERTY**

After viewing the memorial, it's time to board the ferry. Access to Liberty National Monument and Ellis Island are only available via Statue Cruises. [Group ticket reservations are required](#), especially for those hoping to do a Pedestal tour of the Statute of Liberty. Unfortunately, the Crown is not open to visitors at this time, but availability is subject to change.

While Lady Liberty is, of course, the star of Liberty Island, you'll also want to stop by the island's [Museum](#), which tells the story of the statue's journey to America and houses the original torch.

- **ELLIS ISLAND**

From there, the ferry will take you to Ellis Island, where your group can explore the place where 12 million immigrants took their first steps on American soil. In the Immigration Museum, visitors can see historical artifacts or head to the American Family Immigration History Center to look up relatives with help from trained historians.

Once you're back on land, enjoy a picnic lunch in Liberty State Park's expansive fields. Groups of 20 people or less do not need a reservation to picnic, and permits or a picnic pavilion are available for larger groups. They even have charcoal grills available for your group to use. If you'd prefer, the park is also home to two full-service restaurants, [Maritime Parc](#) or [Liberty House](#).

After a bite to eat, take a stroll down the 2-mile Liberty Walk promenade to enjoy views of New York, Jersey City, and the harbor from a different angle.

If your group is ready to continue exploring, head to the [Liberty Science Center](#), an interactive science museum and learning center located at the park's western end. Here, budding scientists can explore an array of exhibits designed to make science fun, including wildlife exhibits, a dino dig, and the country's largest planetarium.

To finish out the day, more adventurous groups can check out [New York Media Boat](#). They offer speedboat rides and adventure sightseeing tours of New York Harbor upon request for groups of up to 32 people.

If kayaking or paddleboarding is more your style, [Urban Paddle](#) offers daily tours, including Sunset or Night Lights options, to see the harbor as night falls.

No matter what sights you choose, your group is sure to have a memorable day exploring Liberty State Park!