

## Events on Governors Island



Producing an event for the public on Governors Island is an incredible and unique opportunity to bring your organization to a whole new venue. Governors Island is a place that is coming back to life, and is an ideal place to hold outdoor festivals, performances, races, exhibitions, public art, and much more.

In the past five years, Governors Island has become increasingly popular with New Yorkers and visitors. Last year, we welcomed more than 275,000 people to the Island, compared to only 8,000 four years ago. We hope you will introduce Governors Island visitors to your organization's programs and events.

The Island is also a great place to hold private events like corporate picnics, retreats, parties, ticketed concerts and recreational opportunities for sports leagues.

Governors Island offers a variety of spaces that can accommodate events ranging from a large scale concert for thousands to a small corporate retreat for 25.



## Event Spaces on Governors Island

### *Nolan Park*



Nolan Park is a 4 acre manicured green surrounded by historic buildings



The Commanding Officers House is the largest house in Nolan Park



A group listens to a presentation in Pershing Hall

Nolan Park is a bucolic, four acre manicured green, surrounded by houses and buildings that date back to 1810. When the Island is open to the public, Nolan Park is generally used for picnicking and other leisure activities.

**Opportunities for outdoor events in Nolan Park.** Outdoor exhibits and public art often take place in Nolan Park. Additionally, smaller events like cocktail parties and corporate picnics are ideal in this space because of its size and beautiful setting. It is also a unique place to stage theatrical and musical performances.

**Opportunities for indoor events in Nolan Park.** Nolan Park is surrounded by more than a dozen historic homes and buildings, including the Commanding Officers House. These spaces provide limited opportunities for non-profit organizations and others to program these spaces. In recent years, the historic homes in Nolan Park have also been used for art exhibitions and installations.

The Commanding Officers House, a 12,000 square foot home built in 1850, is a stunning location for an indoor cocktail party, corporate meetings, lectures and retreats.

Pershing Hall is an outstanding indoor meeting space. With a main room that seats 75 people lecture style, 30 people classroom style, and 20 people board room style, it is ideal for retreats and board meetings.

## *Colonels Row*



Colonels Row is a two acre green located only five minutes from the ferry. Colonels Row is often used for concerts and other performances

When Governors Island is open to the public, Colonels Row is most often the site of outdoor concerts, larger performances and festivals. A two acre flat, triangular green, Colonels Row is lined with London Plane trees and historic homes. Up to 3,000 people can comfortably sit on the lawns of Colonels Row.

**Opportunities for outdoor events in Colonels Row.** Colonels Row is ideal for concerts and performances whose audiences range in size from several hundred to more than 3,000 people. Colonels Row is a five minute walk from the ferry landing.

**Opportunities for indoor programs in Colonels Row.** Colonels Row is framed by historic homes built in the 1870's. These homes provide limited opportunities for indoor exhibitions and art installations.

## *The Promenade*



The 2.2 mile promenade is ideal for walking, biking and running. The Promenade features unparalleled views of Manhattan, Brooklyn and the Harbor

**Opportunities for events on the Promenade.** The Promenade is ideal for races of all kinds including fun runs and kiddy races.

## *Parade Ground*



The Parade Ground is a 10 acre expanse that can be used for large scale concerts, festivals, and outdoor tented events.

The Parade Ground is a quick five minute walk from the ferry landing on Governors Island. It is currently used for concerts, picnics, and recreational activities by our visitors, and features an incredible backdrop of the Lower Manhattan skyline.

**Opportunities for outdoor events on the Parade Ground.** Large scale concerts and events for up to 10,000 people can take place on the Parade Ground. It is also a great location for recreational events, kite flying, and much more.

**Opportunities for tented events on the Parade Ground.** Tented events and parties can also take place on the Parade Ground. Tents must be weighted. The expansiveness of the space makes it a great spot for a large tented party or event.

## *South Island Fields*



13 acres of baseball fields, soccer fields and open space are ideal for fun and recreation.

The South Island fields are located on the southern portion of Governors Island. This area contains a volleyball court, basketball courts, a handball court, tennis courts and two baseball diamonds. The South Island fields are located a 15 minute walk from the ferry landing on Governors Island.

**Opportunities for events on South Island Fields.** Organized groups are welcome to use the fields for a wide range of recreational purposes. The large space could also host a large scale concert or event, and it has even been used for a polo match. Permits must be approved in advance for use of the fields for recreational or event purposes. Fields are only available for

organized league sports or events on Friday from 10:00 am - 5:00 pm, or Saturdays and Sundays from 10:00 am to 7:00 pm.

### *Picnic Point*



Picnic Point is an eight acre open space on Governors Island's southwestern corner. With unparalleled views of the Statue of Liberty and Upper New York Bay, it is the perfect place for a smaller group picnic or a several hundred person tented event. Picnic Point also features hammocks, Adirondack chairs and swings for visitors to enjoy. There is also a three acre organic farm on the site, run by the non-profit group Added Value.

**Opportunities for events on Picnic Point.** With an amazing view of the harbor this space is ideal for small festivals or fairs. The space can also be used for concerts with the Statue of Liberty as a backdrop. Picnic Point has also been used for awards ceremonies and tented private events.

### **How to Produce Events and Programs on Governors Island**

#### *Event Permit*

In order to hold an event on Governors Island, you need to fill out an event permit. A permit and certificate of insurance (for \$1 million) are required for all performances, events and film shoots on Governors Island.

The permit application must be submitted at least two weeks prior to the event date. Approval of permit requires three to four business days. You can download the permit [here](#). Permits should be submitted to Lynda Realmuto, Director of Special Events, at [lrealmuto@empire.state.ny.us](mailto:lrealmuto@empire.state.ny.us).

When applying for an event permit, please keep in mind that your event must end at least two hours prior to the Island's closing time, unless you have arranged for your own ferry transportation for event participants.

#### *Fees for Events*

There may be fees associated with every event on Governors Island. Fees are determined by the event's nature and actual costs.

Events and programs open to public have a different fee structure than private events.

For events that are open to the public, Governors Island will provide a green room for performers, the program/performance space, visitor amenities like public restrooms, food concessions, security, engineering, maintenance and marketing support. Should your event require additional ferry runs at non-scheduled times, ferry fees will be included in your rental agreement.

### *How to Get to Governors Island*

Governors Island is easily accessible by a free seven minute boat ride from Lower Manhattan.

Governors Island is open for business purposes Monday through Thursday from 9:00 am - 5:00 pm. The island is open to the public on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays between June 5 and October 10.

The Island's public hours are: Friday from 10:00am to 5:00 pm and Saturdays and Sundays from 10:00 am - 7:00 pm

The Governors Island ferry runs from between the Battery Maritime Building and the Island at least once an hour.

The Battery Maritime Building is located at the corner of South and Whitehall Streets, adjacent to the Staten Island Ferry Terminal. The Battery Maritime Building is accessible by the 1 train to South Ferry, the R, W trains to Whitehall Streets, or the 4,5 train to Bowling Green.

A free ferry service from Brooklyn is also provided to the public on Saturdays and Sundays. It runs approx. every 20 minutes to and from Fulton Ferry landing.

### *The Governors Island Ferry and Other Transportation*

The Governors Island ferry, the Coursen, has the ability to hold up to 950 foot passengers or carry a maximum of 30 automobiles. During the public hours, the Coursen is scheduled to run at least once an hour from 10:00am - 5:00 pm on Fridays and between 10:00am and 7:00 pm on Saturdays and Sundays. When the island is closed to the public (Monday - Thursday), the Coursen runs every hour between 9:00 am and 5:00 pm.

The Coursen can make special runs before 9:00 am and after 7:00 pm for event and production purposes. Prior notice is required and fees will be applied.

There are also opportunities for your event to use other commercial water taxis and ferries, at fees determined by these vendors. Governors Island is equipped with docks at which these vessels can land. If you choose to use a private water taxi or ferry service, you can work out a ferry schedule that meets the need of your event, including during non-public hours. These ferries can shuttle to Governors Island from various points in the Harbor.

Pending operations funding, ferry service will be available between the Battery Maritime Building, Brooklyn and the Island on Saturdays.

### *Transportation on the Island*

Production vehicles can access the Island via the Coursen. Vehicles can be no more than 12.5 feet high, 40 feet long and must be less than 30 tons. Only a limited number of vehicles can access the island once public hours have begun. This number is based on specific event needs and will be determined on a per case basis.

All vehicles must be registered 48 hours in advance. Drivers must check in with security and bring a picture ID. Vehicles are also subject to search and can be turned away at the discretion of Governors Island security.

The Coursen has limited capacity for vehicles. Vehicles will board on a first-come, first-served basis. Reservations for scheduled runs can not be taken.

Personal vehicles are not allowed. If the vehicle is not carrying equipment or materials, it must remain on the Manhattan side.

### *Marketing Support for Public Events*

Governors Island is pleased to offer marketing support of public events. This support includes potential inclusion in the Governors Island brochure, which is distributed throughout New York State and New York City in partnership with the I Love NY campaign and NYC and Company. Additionally, events can be listed in the River to River guide and on their website. Further, we will list all events in local newspapers and magazines, and weekly email blasts to Governors Island's mailing list. Governors Island will also pro-actively work to garner press coverage of your event.

### *Ticketed Events on Governors Island*

Governors Island has also been the venue for a variety of ticketed concerts and events. You are welcome to hold a ticketed event on the Island during non-public hours. Event producers must bring their own stage and equipment, and are required to provide for additional safety measures. If using the Governors Island ferry during non-public hours, additional fees will apply. For more information, contact Lynda Realmuto at 212-440-2225 or [lrealmuto@empire.state.ny.us](mailto:lrealmuto@empire.state.ny.us).

### *Events during Non-Public Hours*

Governors Island closes at 5 PM on weekdays and 7 PM on Saturdays and Sundays. After hours events are still possible on Governors Island after the Island is closed to the public. Additional security and maintenance costs will apply. Additionally, if you choose to use the Governors Island ferry during non-public hours, fees for ferry service will apply as well. Please contact Lynda Realmuto at 212-440-2225 or [lrealmuto@empire.state.ny.us](mailto:lrealmuto@empire.state.ny.us) to discuss the possibility of an after hours event.

### *Weddings on Governors Island*

Weddings are permitted on Governors Island at the Water Taxi Beach venue only. For more information on having your wedding on the island please contact Mark Davidoff at (212)742-1969 ext. 229 or [mdavidoff@harborexperience.com](mailto:mdavidoff@harborexperience.com)

### *Food and Alcohol at Events*

During the Island's public access season, there are a wide variety of reasonably priced vendors on the Island, selling sandwiches, ice cream, hamburgers, salads, soft drinks, water and more.

Events can be catered privately at the event producer's expense, and you are welcome to choose your own caterer.

Charcoal grills are permitted for private and ticketed events; however event producers must provide own fire extinguishers.

Liquor can be served as long as the event's caterer has a liquor pouring license. For public events, alcohol is only permitted in cordoned areas and must only be served to those over 21 years of age.

### **Water Taxi Beach**

Governors Island is the newest location for Water Taxi Beach. Water Taxi Beach is a private concession that is available for rent for both private and public events. This venue can be used during the day and evening hours. For more information about holding an event at Governors Island's Water Taxi Beach, Mark Davidoff at (212)742-1969 ext. 229 or [mdavidoff@harborexperience.com](mailto:mdavidoff@harborexperience.com)

## Additional Information on Governors Island

### *Governors Island Audiences*

Last year, the number of visitors to Governors Island increased more than 100% from the previous year, to 275,000 visitors.

The majority of Governors Island visitors are from New York City, and nearly 90% of them are from the tri-state area. While visitation from out of state and out of country visitors has increased over the past two years, about 4% of all visitors are from other countries.

### *Additional Experiences on Governors Island*

If you are holding a private event on Governors Island, your guests can have the opportunity to enjoy several additional Island experiences. These include tram tours, miniature golf, and bike rental. If you are interested in adding these opportunities to your event, please contact Lynda Realmuto, Director of Special Events at [lrealmuto@empire.state.ny.us](mailto:realmuto@empire.state.ny.us).

### *Emergency Services on the Island*

Emergency services are available on Governors Island when the Island is open to the public. EMTs and an ambulance are stationed on Governors Island during these times and are trained to follow medical evacuation procedures should that become necessary. If you wish to hold an event on the Island when it is normally closed to the public, additional fees for emergency services will apply.

### *Transportation on Governors Island*

Trams are available to the public to access various parts of Governors Island. At times when the Island is not open to the public, these trams are available for rental for a private group or event. Tram capacity is limited however to 14 per tram.

### *Electricity*

Electricity is available for events throughout the Historic District and in other areas as well; however, it is not available in all parts of the Island's southern portion. Governors Island staff will work with you to determine your electricity needs to ensure your event has adequate power.

## *Water*

We are working hard to restore potable water to Governors Island. In the meantime, events that require water should bring their own water, or can purchase it on the Island when the Island is open to the public.