



New York City Watertrail Guide



- BRONX**
BARRETTO POINT PARK 20
Foot of Tiffany Street, Hunts Point
Launch from a concrete ramp near the parking lot or a cove at the east end of the park. The view south towards Manhattan is spectacular.
Strong tidal currents, and heavy traffic in main shipping channel; restricted access on both of the Brother Islands (bird sanctuaries) and prohibited at Rikers Island (city's largest jail).
- CLASON POINT 18**
Foot of Sound View Avenue, Clason Point
A concrete ramp provides access to the East River, the Hutchinson River drainage, and Long Island Sound. Portage is about 150 ft. No facilities.
Strong currents in the East River, heavy commercial traffic, and lots of broken glass in launch area.
- HUNTS POINT RIVERSIDE PARK 19**
Edgewater Road & Lafayette Avenue, Hunts Point
A floating dock offers access to the Bronx River. Portage is about 200 ft. on an asphalt path. No facilities.
A half-mile north, a boom prevents motorized traffic on the Bronx River; to the south, there are strong currents and a busy shipping channel.
- PELHAM BAY PARK 17**
Orchard Beach Lagoon, Pelham
Near the northwest corner of the parking lot, a ramp provides access to a protected lagoon — ideal for beginning paddlers, and a good starting point for more experienced boaters to explore the many small islands at the mouth of Long Island Sound.
At low tide, launch off gravel and mud surface below the ramp; Orchard Beach is off limits to boaters except in an emergency; heavy boat traffic.
- BROOKLYN**
FLOYD BENNETT FIELD 21
Flatbush Avenue, Gateway National Recreation Area
A 1933 seaplane ramp provides access to southwestern Jamaica Bay. Landing on the islands (part of the Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge) is permitted below the high-tide line only. A cartop parking permit is required.
Some underwater obstacles on southeastern side of ramp; heavy boat traffic and strong currents in a large offshore channel.
- GOWANUS CANAL 9**
Foot of 2nd Street, Carroll Gardens
Floating dock maintained by the Gowanus Dredgers Canoe Club is a good starting point for exploring Brooklyn's waterfront. No facilities.
Narrow commercial channel; water not suitable for swimming.

- MILL BASIN MARINA 22**
Avenue Y & East 69th Street, Bergen Beach, (718) 241-5011
The marina sits on a protected arm of Jamaica Bay, whose 16,000 acres of open water, salt marshes, and beaches form the bulk of the Gateway National Recreational Area.
Paddling in groups is recommended in Jamaica Bay.
- NEWTOWN CREEK 11**
Provost Street & Pidge Avenue, Greenpoint
A nature trail winds to tiered steps that go straight into the water at this wastewater treatment plant, operated by the NYC Department of Environmental Protection. No facilities.
Commercial traffic; water not suitable for swimming.
- PAERDEGAT BASIN 23**
1400 Paerdegat Avenue North, Foot of Avenue N, Canarsie
There is a 300 ft. carry from easy parking to a wooden dock maintained by the Sebago Canoe Club. Non-member paddlers are allowed to land.
Paddling in groups is recommended in Jamaica Bay.
- VALENTINO PARK & PIER 10**
Foot of Coffey Street, Red Hook
A sloping gravel beach provides access to the Upper Bay. Portage about 50 yards. Restrooms at nearby Fairway Market.
Watch for fishing lines, swift currents off the end of the pier, commercial traffic and a 100-yard security zone around the Cruise Terminal.
- QUEENS**
BAYSIDE MARINA 16
Cross Island Pkwy. & 28th Avenue, Bayside
A concrete ramp near the marina and fishing pier offers direct access to Little Neck Bay; the wetlands of Alley Pond Park and Udall's Cove are a short paddle away. Parking and footbridge access at 28th Avenue.
Extensive rip-rap makes landing at high tide difficult heading south toward Alley Pond Park.
- BAYWATER PARK 25**
Beach 35th Street & Norton Avenue, Far Rockaway
Access to Norton Basin and the eastern end of Jamaica Bay is provided by this beach launch.
Launch perpendicular to shore, as large, jagged rocks protrude along shoreline; extensive mud flats at low tide.
- FRANCIS LEWIS PARK 14**
3rd Avenue at Parsons Blvd., Whitestone
Located beneath the Bronx-Whitestone Bridge, the beach is an ideal launch for exploring the easternmost reaches of the East River. Portage about two blocks from on-street parking.
Strong currents, passing ships and barges raise large wakes, and a 25-yard security perimeter around the bridge.

- HAILETS COVE 12**
31st Avenue & Vernon Blvd., Astoria
A small beach offers access to the east channel of the East River. Portage is just 10 ft. Facilities at Socrates Sculpture Park.
Even experts can be intimidated by the swift currents of the East River and turbulent waters of Hell Gate.
- IDLEWILD PARK PRESERVE 24**
Huxley and Craft Avenues, Rosedale
A narrow ramp offers access to a 160-acre nature preserve just east of JFK airport. Terrain ranges from wetlands to marsh islands to a large expanse of open water. No facilities.
Mud flats at low tide; ramp can be slippery.
- LITTLE BAY PARK 15**
Totten Avenue, Bayside
A natural beach on the west side of Fort Totten peninsula is an excellent spot from which to explore Little Neck and Eastchester Bays. Portage is about 40 ft.
Strong currents away from the shore; heavy pleasure boat traffic on weekends. In fall of 2008, parking area will closed for 18 months.
- WORLD'S FAIR MARINA 13**
122-01 Northern Blvd., Flushing
Access to Flushing Bay via a dock, submerged at high tide, at the eastern end of marina. If locked, key at Pete's Backyard on Pier 1.
Steep ramp and slippery dock, mud banks at low tide, motorized traffic, and a 100-yard security perimeter around La Guardia Airport.
- STATEN ISLAND**
GREAT KILLS PARK 27
Hylian Blvd., Gateway National Recreation Area
A floating dock at the trailer boat ramp provides access to Great Kills Harbor. Free parking except at trailer ramp which requires a permit.
Heavy pleasure boat traffic.
- LEMON CREEK PARK 28**
Hylian Blvd. and Sharrott & Seguire Avenues, Prince's Bay
Two beach launch sites provide access to Raritan Bay. Portage is 40 ft. at Sharrott, 150 ft. at Seguire.
Watch for fishing lines from the pier at Sharrott, the remains of a pier at Seguire, a marked channel in Lemon Creek, and a buoyed channel close to shore.
- MIDLAND BEACH 26**
Father Capadanno Blvd. & Lincoln Avenue, Midland Beach
The carry to water's edge is about 250 ft.
Midland Beach offers access to the Lower Harbor and Raritan Bay. Raritan Bay and the Lower Harbor are open to the ocean, and can be rough; launching and landing can be hazardous in high surf.

TAKE TO THE WATER WITH LOCAL CLUBS AND OUTFITTERS!

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| Appalachian Mountain Club
amc-ny.org | New York Kayak Co.
nykayak.com |
| Downtown Boathouse
downtownboathouse.org | New York Kayak Polo
nykayakpolo.org |
| Floating the Apple
floatingtheapple.org | New York Outrigger
nyoutrigger.org |
| Gowanus Dredgers Canoe Club
gowanuscanal.org | New York Rowing Assn.
nyrowing.org |
| Hudson River Paddlers Guild
hrpg.net | Red Hook Boaters
redhookboaters.org |
| LIC Community Boathouse
licboathouse.org | Sebago Canoe Club
sebagocanooclub.org |
| Manhattan Kayak Co.
manhattankayak.com | Touring Kayak Club
touringkayakclubny.org |

Emergency

- Emergency: Call 911
Mayday: USCG VHF CH16 or (718) 354-4120.
NYPD Harbor Unit: VHF CH 17 or (718) 765-4100.
Suspicious Activity: USCG VHF CH 16 or (718) 354-4353.
Traffic: Monitor VHF CH 16 & CH 13 (Hell Gate).

Permits

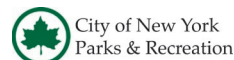
- Parks & Recreation Launch Permit: Annual launch sites permits for \$15 fee. Park's launch sites are open from dawn to dusk, April 1 to December 1. Call 311 or (212) 360-8133, or visit nyc.gov/parks.
NPS Gateway National Recreation Area: Car-top launch site parking permit. Jamaica Bay Unit: (718) 338-5094; Staten Island Unit: (718) 987-6790, nps.gov/gate
NYS OPRHP: (212) 866-3100, nysparks.state.ny.us
USCG Event Permit: (718) 354-4197, uscg.mil/d1/units/actny

Resources

- Bronx River Alliance: bronxriver.org
Hudson River Greenway: hudsongreenway.state.ny.us
Hudson River Watertrail Association: hrwa.org
Parks & Trails Network: ptny.org
Urban Park Rangers: nyc.gov/parks/rangers

For a complete, up-to-date listing of NYC Watertrail resources, new launch sites, and maps:
goingcoastal.org
nyc.gov/parks

The New York City Watertrail is a joint project of



Map created using Arch View donated by ESRI and an equipment grant from The Fund for the City of New York.

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PADDLE SAFETY

- ✓ Wear a USCG-approved lifejacket at all times.
- ✓ Boat with experienced guides and in groups.
- ✓ Dress in weather appropriate clothes, avoid cotton.
- ✓ Wear a wet suit if water temp drops below 65 F.
- ✓ Know and obey the navigation rules.
- ✓ Be prepared to swim.
- ✓ Be visible—carry a whistle, flares & lights.
- ✓ Communicate via VHF marine radio & cell phone.
- ✓ Bring plenty of drinking water and food.
- ✓ Wear sun protection: hat, sunglasses, & sun screen.
- ✓ Have on protective footwear.
- ✓ File a float plan.

New York City Watertrail

New York City is rich in **WATER**. If you're looking for a few hours of tranquil paddling or a full-day expedition, you'll find it here. The NYC Watertrail **CONNECTS** 160 square miles of rivers, bays, creeks, inlets and ocean in the five boroughs suitable for kayaks, canoes and openwater rowing craft. Novice and experienced paddlers alike can enjoy skyline panoramas, riverside parks, bird sanctuaries, tidal marshlands and boundless vistas of one of the world's premier harbors, **ALL** from a prime sea level vantage.

Points of Interest

- 1 The Cloisters
- 2 Inspiration Point
- 3 Little Red Lighthouse
- 4 Grant's Tomb
- 5 Riverside Church
- 6 Soldiers & Sailors' Monument
- 7 Pier 57, Grace & French Lines
- 8 Ellis Island
- 9 Statue of Liberty
- 10 Castle William
- 11 Castle Clinton
- 12 Woolworth Building
- 13 South Street Seaport
- 14 Brooklyn Bridge
- 15 Empire State Building
- 16 Chrysler Building
- 17 United Nations
- 18 Renwick Ruins
- 19 Blackwell Island Lighthouse
- 20 High Bridge
- 21 Peter J. Sharp Boathouse
- 22 Salt Marsh Center
- 23 Coney Island Light
- 24 Tobacco Warehouse
- 25 Gantry State Park
- 26 Citicorp Building
- 27 Socrates Sculpture Park
- 28 Fort Totten
- 29 Columbia University "C"
- 30 Yankee Stadium
- 31 Fort Schuyler
- 32 Snug Harbor
- 33 Alice Austen House
- 34 Fort Wadsworth
- 35 Conference House

	Launches
	Parking
	Storage
	Drinking Water
	Refreshments
	Comfort Station
	Ferry Route



FOR A SAFE AND ENJOYABLE EXPERIENCE, PLEASE OBSERVE THESE RULES:

- Launch sites are open from dawn to dusk.
- Do not disturb plants, wildlife or artifacts.
- Please don't litter. Keep streets and waterways free of litter and floating debris.

MANHATTAN
79th STREET BOAT BASIN 2
 W. 79th Street, Riverside Park
 A dock at the marina is open May through November. During other months marina staff will let you in. Limited paid parking; otherwise the nearest street parking is about a quarter-mile away.
 ⚠️ Dock is sheltered but there are strong currents in the Hudson; small boats are moored seasonally north and south of the marina.

INWOOD HILL PARK 1
 Foot of W. Dyckman Street
 A small beach provides a good trailhead for excursions on the Harlem River or across the Hudson to the Palisades. Parking on nearby streets is generally easy.
 ⚠️ Cove behind the pier is protected, but there are strong currents on the Hudson, with turbulence under the George Washington Bridge and at Spuyten Duyvil (the mouth of the Harlem River).

PIER 40 7
 W. Houston Street
 A good launch for experienced paddlers to explore the Upper Harbor. The public dock, operated by the Downtown Boathouse, is about 120 yards out on the south side of the pier. Paid parking available on the pier.
 ⚠️ Currents are strong at the pierhead line; 25-yard security zone around the Holland Tunnel ventilator shaft.

PIER 66 6
 W. 26th Street
 The New York River Sports Boathouse offers launch access to the Hudson River and hosts the programs of the Manhattan Kayak Co., NY Outrigger Canoe and NY Kayak Polo. Parking available at Chelsea Piers, three blocks to the south.

PIER 84 5
 W. 44th Street
 The launch is a wooden dock accessible when the non-motorized boathouse, maintained by Floating the Apple, is open. Paid parking is available on Pier 83.
 ⚠️ Currents on the Hudson can move swiftly; the security zone at the Cruise Line Terminal extends 100 yards out from pierhead line.

PIER 96 4
 W. 56th Street
 Clinton Cove Boathouse, operated by the Downtown Boathouse, is open on weekends and holidays. Boats can be dropped on the service road next to the West Side Highway, leaving a 200-ft carry; paid parking available on 59th Street.

RIVERSIDE PARK SOUTH 3
 W. 72nd Street
 The floating dock is right off the waterside esplanade at this park on the former site of the NY Central Freight Yard. Parking is on city streets, leaving a lengthy portage that involves descending a long stone staircase.
 ⚠️ Submerged/sunken boats and debris at low water.

SHERMAN CREEK 8
 W. 202nd Street
 Good access to the bucolic Harlem River - a designated no-wake zone. No facilities.
 ⚠️ Local college crews row on the Harlem River.

Map: Zhennya Slootskin; Copywriting: Rob Buchanan; Cover photos: Marcus Demuth, Kam Truhn; Yankee stadium photo: Kam Truhn; Design: Anne LaFond
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