



NYC BEACHES

Jamaica Bay – Rockaway Parks

Fun Things to Do in America's Great Urban Park



Summer 2013

GREATER JAMAICA BAY-ROCKAWAY PARKS

is a 10,000-acre wetland in Brooklyn and Queens that consists of a maze of islands, waterways, meadowlands, and beaches. It is an environmental sanctuary serving as home to hundreds of species, including 320 birds, 80 species of butterflies, and 75 types of finfish. More than 20 miles of greenway and open space for hiking, biking, overnight camping, and birding make this area unique in all of New York. It is America's great urban park for outdoor exploration.

Greater Jamaica Bay-Rockaway Parks is the result of a new partnership between the National Park Service and NYC Parks, who have combined land and resources to make this sanctuary more broadly accessible to New Yorkers. We invite you to go explore!

THINGS TO DO

Archery Range

Know how to shoot a bow and arrow but looking for a place to practice? Archery permits are available for Floyd Bennett Field. Call 718-338-3799 to apply or visit nps.gov/gate.

Biking

Rent a bike for the day at five locations: Jacob Riis Promenade (two locations), Riis Landing (mid-June), Marine Park (mid-June), or the Canarsie Pier (mid-June). Cruiser, multi-speed, kids and tandem bikes are available, along with surrey bikes that seat up to nine people. Visit wheelfunrentals.com.

Have your own bike? Try out the Jamaica Bay Greenway which stretches approximately 20 miles.

Birding

Over 320 different bird species call the Jamaica Bay region home, including herons, egrets, and ibis. Guided birding tours are offered at the Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge (718-318-4340) or through the Urban Park Rangers (718-421-2021). Visit nycgo.com/jamaicabay.

Camping

Camp out under the stars at Floyd Bennett Field. Floyd Bennett Field has 32 tent and six RV campsites available for a unique urban, yet rustic camping experience. For online reservations call 718-338-3799 or visit recreation.gov.

Family camping overnight programs are also available through the Urban Park Rangers. Space is limited and participants are chosen by lottery. You must supply your own sleeping bag and bedding. To enter your family in the lottery, call 718-421-2021 or visit nyc.gov/parks/rangers/register.

Canoeing, Kayaking and More!



Bring Your Own Boat (BYOB)

Jamaica Bay boasts seven water launches for small, privately owned hand-launched boats (canoes, kayaks, and rowboats). Gerritsen Inlet in Marine Park, Broad Channel Park, Mill Basin Marina, Paerdegat Basin Park, and Bayswater Park launches require an NYC Parks permit, which can be obtained by calling 718-393-7272. National Park Service permits are required at North Channel Beach and Floyd Bennett Field. Year-long boating permits are sold at the Floyd Bennett Field Ranger Station. Call 718-338-3799 or visit nycgo.com/jamaicabay.

Canoe Excursions

Trained Urban Park Rangers will lead you on canoe adventures that range from the gentle waters of protected lakes to the challenging open waters of rivers and bays. Advanced canoeing programs are for experienced canoers only. Children 8 years and older are welcome. Call 718-421-2021 or visit nycgo.com/jamaicabay.

Rentals

Starting in mid-June, families can rent several types of boats for all levels of experience, including canoes and single and double kayaks, at Marine Park, Canarsie Pier, and Riis Landing by the hour. Umbrellas and chairs are also available for rent so families can watch from ashore. For the more experienced, free kayaks are available for loan at Seaplane Ramp and Mill Basin Marina Launch site at Floyd Bennett Field. Visit nycgo.com/jamaicabay.

Fishing

Go saltwater fishing in Bayswater Park or angle for blue fish and fluke at Canarsie Pier. Or try our seining programs, which use nets to catch creatures close to shore – great for kids of all ages! Call 718-421-2021 or visit nycgo.com/jamaicabay or nps.gov/gate.

Golfing

The Brooklyn Golf Center, adjacent to Floyd Bennett Field, offers a driving range, pro shop and golf instruction. Call 718-253-6816 or visit brooklyngolfcenter.com.

The Riis Park Pitch and Putt Golf Course offers an 18-hole/par-3 executive course. Call 718-474-1623 or visit nycgo.com/jamaicabay.

For the Marine Park Golf Course, located on Flatbush Avenue near the Belt Parkway, call 718-252-4625 or visit golffmarinepark.com.

Hiking

The Jamaica Bay Wildlife Center offers several walking trails for hikers of all levels. For a “wild” experience try the Upland Trail (.25 mile), East Pond Trail (.25 mile), or the West Pond Trail (1.5 miles). Or try the newly restored Gerritsen Creek Trail (.8 mile) at Marine Park. Looking for a paved walk? The Jamaica Bay Greenway (approximately 20 miles) is the perfect venue.

Horseback Riding

Saddle up and ride horses along the beach! The Jamaica Bay Riding Academy offers group trail rides. Birthday parties, summer camp, and private lessons are also available. Call 718-531-8949 or visit horsebackride.com.

Stand-Up Paddleboarding

Available for rent at Jacob Riis Beach. Visit nycgo.com/jamaicabay.

Surfing

Surf's up at New York City's only surfing beaches located at Beach 67–69th Streets and Beach 88–92nd Streets in the Rockaways. Visit nycgo.com/jamaicabay.

FRONT COVER

Photo by Pentagram
Beach 92nd Street, Rockaways, Queens

PLACES TO EAT

Food

BEACH 116TH, ROCKAWAYS

- Paninico Café:
241 Beach 116th Street, 718-474-2002
- Cuisine by Claudette:
143 Beach 116th Street, 718-945-5511
- Belle Harbor Steak House:
268 Beach 116th Street, 718-318-5100
- O'Sake Japanese Restaurant:
263 Beach 116th Street, 718-945-8888

For a full list of restaurants, please visit nycgo.com/jamaicabay

JACOB RIIS BEACH, ROCKAWAYS

- Eddie's Pizza
- Lickety Split (snackbar food)
- Pura Vida (healthy foods and smoothies)
- Rickshaw Dumplings

MARINE PARK

- Ice cream-truck vendor – Fillmore Avenue and Madison Place

THE ROCKAWAYS

- Mobile food unit at B69 Street
- Snackbar at B86 Street
- Snackbar at B97 Street (July 4)
- Snackbar at B106 Street (June 20)

GETTING THERE

Canarsie Pier, Brooklyn

Take L train to Canarsie/Rockaway Parkway stop to B42. Walk three minutes southeast to destination.

Floyd Bennett Field, Brooklyn

BY BUS: Q35

Jacob Riis Park, Rockaways, Queens

BY TRAIN/BUS: Take 2 train to Flatbush Avenue-Brooklyn College. Take Q35 to Rockaway Beach Boulevard and Neposit Hospital.

BY BUS: Rockabus shuttle service from Williamsburg, Metropolitan Avenue and Meeker Avenue; from Grand Army Plaza, Flatbush Avenue, directly across from the Brooklyn Public Library; and from the Lower East Side: East Houston off of 1st Avenue. rockabus.com. Or take Q22, Q35, QM16.

BY FERRY: Weekends and holidays only from Pier 11 at South Street/Wall Street to Riis Landing. newyorkbeachferry.com

BY CAR: Take LIE/I-495 E to Exit #19 for Woodhaven Boulevard. Turn right onto Woodhaven Blvd. Continue onto Cross Bay Boulevard. Take exit for Riis Park.

Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, Rockaways, Queens

BY TRAIN/BUS: Take A train to Rockaway Boulevard, transfer to Q53-LTD. Walk three minutes northwest.

BY BUS: Q52, Q53

Marine Park, Brooklyn

BY TRAIN/BUS: Take the Q or R trains to Avenue U. Transfer to B3 heading east and exit at Avenue U and East 33rd Street bus stop.

Or take 2 train to Flatbush Ave-Brooklyn College. Walk two minutes southeast to Avenue H and Nostrand Avenue. Take B41 to Flatbush Avenue and Fillmore Avenue. Take B100 heading west and exit at Fillmore Avenue and Marine Parkway.

BY CAR: Belt Parkway to exit 11N, Flatbush Avenue North. Merge onto Flatbush Avenue heading north. Turn left on Avenue U. Continue .5 mile west along Avenue U. The park is located on the north and south side of Avenue U. Parking is available in the lot located opposite the Salt Marsh Nature Center located on Avenue U between East 33rd Street and Stuart Street.

Rockaway Beaches, Queens

BEACH 21ST STREET

BY TRAIN/BUS: Take A train to Far Rockaway/Mott Avenue stop. Transfer to the free shuttle bus going to Far Rockaway-Mott Avenue.

BEACH 86TH STREET

BY TRAIN: Take A train to Beach 90 Street. Walk four blocks northwest.

BY BUS: Rockabus shuttle service from Williamsburg, Metropolitan Avenue and Meeker Avenue; from Grand Army Plaza, Flatbush Avenue, directly across from the Brooklyn Public Library; and from the Lower East Side: East Houston off of 1st Avenue. rockabus.com

BEACH 108TH STREET AND BEACH CHANNEL DRIVE

BY TRAIN: Take A train to Beach 105 Street. Walk three blocks southwest.

BY FERRY: Weekdays from East 34th Street/FDR and Pier 11/Wall Street. seastreakusa.com

Weekends starting July 4th from Pier 11 at South Street/Wall Street. newyorkbeachferry.com

BY CAR: Take LIE/I-495 E to Exit #19 for Woodhaven Boulevard. Turn right onto Woodhaven Boulevard. Continue onto Cross Bay Boulevard. Take exit for Riis Park. Merge onto Beach Channel Drive. Turn left at Beach 108th Street.

GETTING AROUND JAMAICA BAY-ROCKAWAY PARKS

FREE SHUTTLE TRAIN: A special shuttle train operates between Mott Avenue/Beach 21st Street and Beach 90th Street.

BY BUS: Q22 provides local bus service between Mott Avenue/Beach 21st Street and Beach 169th Street (at Rockaway Point Boulevard).

BY BIKE: Take Ocean Avenue to Neptune Avenue, which turns into Emmons Avenue. This eventually turns into the Greenway.

*Due to MTA service changes, please check mta.info for updated trip directions.

BEACHES

- Rockaway Beach and Boardwalk (Beach 21 to Beach 169)
- Jacob Riis Beach and Promenade

BIKING

- Bike Rentals
- Greenway

GOLF

- Brooklyn Golf Center
- Marine Park Golf Course
- Riis Park Pitch and Putt

HISTORY

- Ryan Visitor Center

NATURE CENTERS

- Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
- Salt Marsh Nature Center

OTHER ACTIVITIES

- Floyd Bennett Field Archery Range
- Floyd Bennett Field Campground
- Hiking
- Jamaica Bay Riding Academy
- Places To Eat

WATER ACTIVITIES

- Fishing
- Kayaking
- Surfing
- Water Launch
- Boat Rental

TRANSPORTATION HUB

- A Train
- Beach 21 Street
- Beach 86 Street
- Beach 108 Street
- Beach 169 Street
- Ferry



GREATER JAMAICA BAY-ROCKAWAY PARKS

- New Boundary
- Road
- Greenway

NYC BEACHES

City of New York
 Michael R. Bloomberg, Mayor
 Veronica M. White, Parks Commissioner

U.S. Department of the Interior
 Sally Jewell, Secretary of the Interior
 Jonathan B. Jarvis, Director, National Park Service