



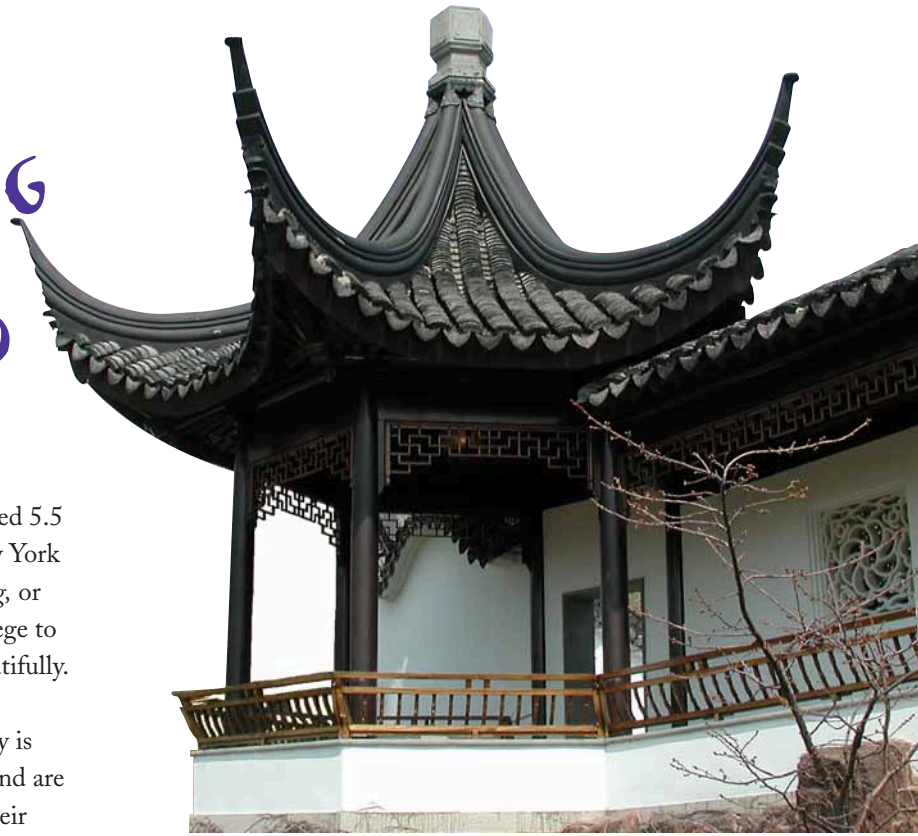
# A GUIDE TO SNUG HARBOR ON STATEN ISLAND

## Where is Staten Island?

Staten Island, New York's outermost borough is located 5.5 nautical miles south of Manhattan across Lower New York Bay. Known originally by its Indian name, *Monacong*, or Enchanted Woods, its inhabitants consider it a privilege to live on an island that merges city and country so beautifully. Putting pen to paper in 1776, during the American Revolution, a British officer wrote, "Surely this county is the Paradise of the world...the inhabitants of this Island are tall, thin, narrow shouldered people, very simple in their manners, know neither Poverty nor Riches, each house has a good farm, and every man a trade, they know no distinction of Persons, and I am sure must have lived very happily till these troubles."

## It's Easy (And a Pleasure) To Get To Snug Harbor

For the first leg of the trip to Snug Harbor take the 1 or 9 train to South Ferry, or the 4 or 5 train to Bowling Green. It's just a short walk to the Whitehall Ferry Terminal, where a pleasant surprise awaits you: there is no charge for the ferry ride to Staten Island. Spend a few minutes before boarding the ferry at the Staten Island Visitors' Center. The 20-minute ride on the ferry is an adventure by itself, providing dazzling panoramic views of New York's fabled harbor, including the famed Brooklyn Bridge, the spectacular skyscrapers of Lower Manhattan, the Statue of Liberty, and one of the longest bridges in the world, the Verrazano-Narrows Bridge. When you leave the ferry at the St. George Terminal, follow the crowd to Ramp D to the S40 bus for the short ride to Snug Harbor. Don't forget your camera. You are certain to take some memorable photos.



## About Snug Harbor

Snug Harbor's history dates back to 1801 when Robert Richard Randall was disturbed to see the number of former seamen who were homeless and ill on the streets of New York. After purchasing the property he began construction of "Sailor's Snug Harbor." Upon its completion in 1831, he sent his men into the streets of the city to gather up those "aged and decrepit merchant seamen" and transport them to Staten Island. Housing, meals, entertainment and the best of medical care were provided for all for as long as they lived. Most died there and were buried on the site. Around 1970, the few remaining seamen were relocated to another haven in North Carolina. The grounds today are host to a full cultural community while preserving the history of Sailors' Snug Harbor. The sizeable number of cultural institutions within this 83 acre site, many situated in



architecturally beautiful Greek revival buildings of this former seaman’s home, make it truly a center for the arts on Staten Island. Call (718) 448-2500 for specific information regarding hours and fees for the many attractions at Snug Harbor Cultural Center.

## Attractions

**1** The New York Chinese Scholar’s Garden, a showcase not to be missed, is the first authentic garden of its type in the United States. Located on a terraced hillside, beautified by a 20-acre pond and a landscape of flowering trees and bamboo, this one-acre walled garden is a superbly crafted example of Ming culture. More than 100 artisans labored for more than a year to produce the elaborately carved woodwork and hand-formed ceramic roof and paving tiles. Disassembled, it was then shipped to Staten Island in 40 containers and assembled by 40 Chinese laborers. Entered through a courtyard and gate, this breathtaking garden includes courtyards, pavilions, lotus ponds and a teahouse, and features intricately carved Tai Lake stone, sculpted by nature, and imported from Southern China. [Greeter’s Secret: look for the beer bottle mosaic.]



**2** The Staten Island Botanical Garden. Set within Snug Harbor’s gracious and historic landscape, the Staten Island Botanical Garden interprets and maintains the site’s collection of specimen trees and gardens. Combining natural areas, including fresh and saltwater wetlands,



woodlands and meadows. The displays include the Pond Garden, Heritage Rose, White, Butterfly, and Perennial Gardens. A unique Sensory Garden is designed to bring the garden experience to visitors who are physically

challenged. Opened in 1977, the garden is a living, working, growing scientific center as well as a site for observing flowers, birds and butterflies.

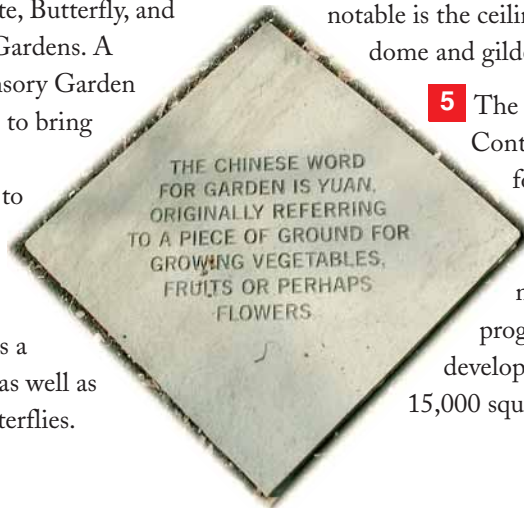
**3** Staten Island Children’s Museum is an award-winning museum whose interactive programs for children of all ages make learning fun for the whole family. Typical activities include Art Projects where the kids might make an Origami bat flier, or the Kidz Cook Program where kids of all ages learn to make such delights as butterscotch.

**4** The John J. Marchi Exhibition Hall is Snug Harbor’s oldest building, dating from 1833, and is a prime example of Greek Revival architecture.

Following its restoration in 1993 it has been recognized as a New York City Landmark. Its collection includes many elegantly crafted works of art. Particularly



notable is the ceiling mural highlighted by a skylight dome and gilded weathervane.



**5** The Newhouse Center for Contemporary Art is the premier space for modern and contemporary art in Staten Island. Each year, the Center presents a number of major exhibitions as well as creating programs for the growth and development of artists and the public in 15,000 square feet of gallery space, outdoor

and off-site projects, educational programs, artist studios, and an international residency program.

**6** The Noble Maritime Collection is a maritime museum and study center celebrating the people and traditions of



the working waterfront. It began as a collection of the works of John A. Noble (1913–1983), one of America's foremost maritime artists. A vibrant tribute to our nautical heritage, Noble's collection includes lithographs, paintings, his "row-boat drawings," more than 6,000 marine photos and his houseboat studio as well as classrooms and a permanent exhibition exploring the history of Sailor's Snug Harbor. A maritime library, the "Haunting Building D" oral history project and a printmaking studio are resources for scholars and artists. Truly a fascinating place.

**7** Veterans' Memorial Hall, originally a chapel for daily services, was built in 1856. A belfry was added in 1883. The chapel today seats 200 people and serves as a performance site. Among its past performances was a Staten Island Ragtime Revival.

**8** Snug Harbor's Artist-in-Residence Program makes it possible for visual and performing artists and scholars to research and develop new work. Housed in five Victorian



cottages dating from 1895 along Cottage row, their splendid architectural attributes include hexagonal slate shingles, wide porches, and arched dormer windows.

**9** The 1892 Music Hall is the second-oldest concert hall in New York City. Prior to closing thirty years ago it



provided entertainment ranging from vaudeville and theatre, to motion pictures and lectures. Currently undergoing renovation, it will seat more than 750 people.

**10** The Neptune Fountain, installed in 1895, originally a zinc statue, deteriorated over time and has since been recast in bronze. This striking statue with its hand-replicated ornamental lilies is on display in a dramatic alcove in the Visitor's Center.



**11** The Kill van Kull is a four mile long channel separating Staten Island from New Jersey. The word Kill, which survives from colonial days in several place names in and around New York, comes from the Dutch word meaning watercourse. In the 17th century, this part of the Staten Island shoreline was dotted with Lenape Indian camps. By the 18th century it had become a major center of New York's oyster industry. Today the Kill is a busy shipping artery, and is being dredged to accommodate large container ships. Spanning the half-mile-wide channel is the Bayonne Bridge, the second largest steel-arched bridge in the United States. It links Port Richmond on Staten Island to Bayonne, New Jersey.

## When It's Time To Eat

Sandwiches, salads and light lunches are available at the café in the visitor's Center.

Café Botanica. Refresh yourself with a spectacular view of the Staten Island Botanical Garden while dining on scrumptious salads and wraps served Tuesday–Sunday, 9–5. (718) 720-9737

R.H. Tugs, 1115 Richmond Terrace, (718) 447-6369. Overlooking the busy Kill Van Kull waterway, the restaurant offers a moderately priced lunch or dinner menu with an occasional Cajun flair. There is a full bar, and in the summer months, diners can enjoy their meal on the deck outside. The restaurant displays a fine collection of lithographs, photographs, and paintings by Staten Island artists. “Tugs” is two blocks west of Snug Harbor. [Greeter's Secret: look at the ceiling fans overhead.]

Adobe Blues Restaurant, 63 Lafayette Avenue, (718) 720-2583. The adobe styled building that houses this neighborhood-gathering place is a 2½-block walk from the east gate of Snug Harbor. The menu features Southwest cuisine. The bar is famous for its extensive list of beers from around the world. Prices are moderate, and the restaurant is open for both lunch and dinner.

## Web Links to Staten Island

The official guide to Staten Island, with a downloadable map, is at <http://statenislandusa.com/>

The Snug Harbor Cultural Center site is at <http://www.snug-harbor.org/>

For a historical look at Sailor's Snug Harbor, see <http://www.snug-harbor.org/history/sailor.html>

The New York Public Library maintains a site with links to cultural institutions on Staten Island at <http://www2.nypl.org/home/branch/staten/culture.cfm>

The Council on the Arts and Humanities for Staten Island has a calendar of cultural events at <http://www.statenislandarts.org/calndr/>

Staten Island Botanical Garden information and events are at <http://www.sibg.org/>

A toe-tapping, finger-snapping example from the Staten Island Ragtime Revival is at <http://www.rtpress.com/snug97.htm>

Photos by Bernard Saper, Snug Harbor, and John A. Noble Maritime Collection.

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## About Big Apple Greeter

Established in 1992, Big Apple Greeter is a “welcome visitor” program whose aim is to introduce foreign and domestic visitors to a “New Yorker's New York.” A large network of volunteer Greeters help visitors to feel welcome and comfortable and to make the most out of their stay in the world's most exciting and diverse city. Our goal is to encourage visitors to return to New York again and again. As a non-profit voluntary organization, Big Apple Greeter receives financial support from New York City's business and philanthropic communities, and offers its services to visitors free of charge. Greeters do not accept tips.

## Who Is A Big Apple Greeter?

Nearly 400 adults of all ages, from all of the five boroughs of New York City have volunteered to become Greeters. Each is eager to portray his or her enthusiastic view of New York City. More than 20 foreign languages are spoken among the volunteer Greeters.

## What Does A Greeter Actually Do?

Share with a visitor what life in New York is really like by walking in their own neighborhood, or a neighborhood familiar to the Greeter—not just to see the well known sights of New York, but to highlight the little things that distinguish one New York neighborhood from another. Share with visitors the wonders of New York's mass transit system using FUN PASSES generously donated by the Metropolitan Transportation Authority.

## How Do Visitors Learn About Big Apple Greeter?

Information about Big Apple Greeter is available on our multi-lingual Web site, [www.bigapplegreeter.org](http://www.bigapplegreeter.org), as well as extensive national and international newspaper, magazine and radio coverage. “Word-of-mouth,” travel agents, guidebooks and other pertinent information sources also disseminate information about Big Apple Greeter.

*Big Apple Greeter has a nondiscriminatory policy on race, religion, color, national origin, age, gender, sexual orientation, marital status and disability.*

