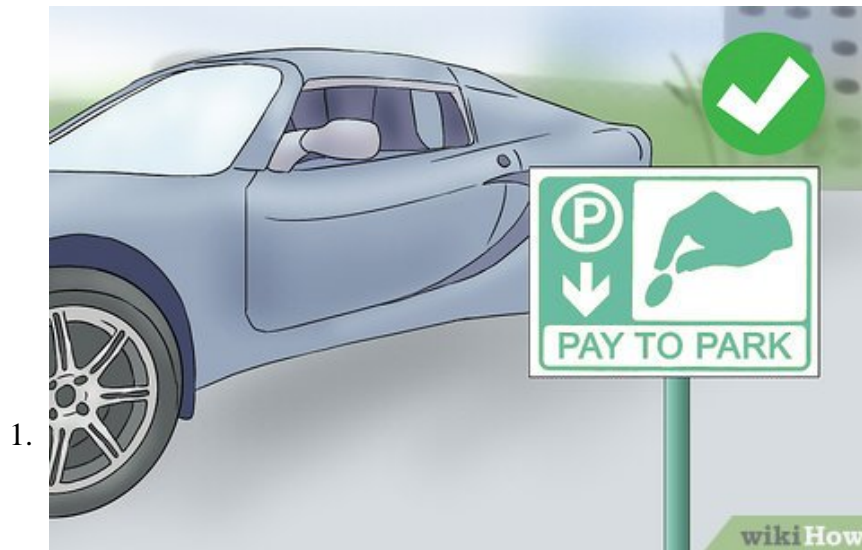


How to Take the Staten Island Ferry

With over 70,000 passengers transported daily, the Staten Island Ferry in New York City provides millions of New Yorkers with quick, efficient transportation between the Outer Boroughs and Lower Manhattan.<http://www.siferry.com/> Even if...

Part 1 of 3:

Planning for Your Trip



Pay to park in a nearby lot or garage if you're driving to the ferry. Since no vehicles are allowed on the ferry and New York is almost always busy, try and plan parking ahead of time. The St. George Ferry Terminal has 2 municipal parking lots priced at \$8.00 daily. You can also purchase 3-month permits for \$300. For the Whitehall terminal, the Quikpark garage is the closest parking garage at 81 Whitehall Street and costs \$40 for the day.^[2]

1. You can also park in the St. George Courthouse Garage for \$55 a month.
2. Private parking lots are much more expensive—avoid them if you can.

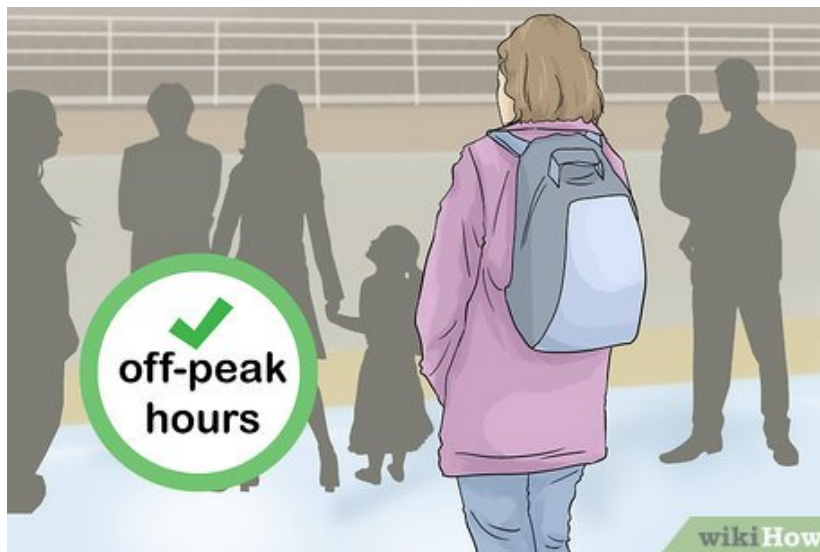
2.



Take the ferry during rush hour for more frequent service. Between the hours of 6:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., the ferry runs every 15 to 20 minutes for rush hour service. Weekend rush hour service runs every 30 minutes from 6:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. on Saturdays and from 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. on Sundays.^[3]

1. The ferry runs every 30 minutes on holidays. Updates and exceptions can be viewed on the Station Island Ferry site: <http://www.siferry.com/schedules.html>.

3.



Take the ferry during off-peak hours for smaller crowds. During the week, 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. or past 7 p.m. is the least busy. The ferry departs approximately every 30 minutes during off-peak hours.^[4]

1. The busiest off-peak periods during the week are 12 p.m. to 3 p.m. The busiest day of the week during these times is Wednesday.



Set aside at least 60 to 90 minutes for your trip. The ferry ride is about 25 minutes each way. Depending on the crowds, you might not be able to ride the same ferry back. If this is the case, you will be forced to join a queue.^[5]

1. You must always get off the ferry at the Staten Island terminal.

Part 2 of 3:

Riding the Ferry



Visit the ferry terminals in either Lower Manhattan or Staten Island. Choose the terminal closest to you. Both are accessible by a number of subway and local bus transportation lines. While there was once a fee implied to ride the ferry, it was eliminated in the late 1990s and there is currently no charge.

1. If you're traveling with children, keep a close eye on them as you prepare to board. The crowds can get unexpectedly large at peak times, and kids can easily become separated.

2.



Take the subway to a close-by ferry terminal. The R train goes right to Whitehall street about 2 minutes northeast of the Whitehall Terminal. The 1 train takes you to South Ferry station, which is about 1 minute northeast of the ferry. You can also head to Bowling Green Station—about 7 minutes north of the ferry—using the 4 or 5 trains.^[6]

1. Take the subway to the St. George ferry terminal by Line 1 or Line 5 subways. Both subways travel directly to the terminal.
2. The subway costs \$2.75 if you're using a MetroCard, and \$3.00 using SingleRide tickets. MetroCards are available at subway station booths, neighborhood merchants, and MetroCard vending machines, buses, and vans.^[7]
3. SingleRide tickets are only available through vending machines.

3.



Travel to the St. George terminal by bus. Located at 1 Bay Street on Staten Island, the St. George Terminal can be reached by the following bus routes: S40, S42, S44, S46, S48, S51, S52, S61, S62, S66, S74, S76, S78, S81, S84, S86, S90, S91, S92, S94, S96 and S98.^[8]

1. Purchase SingleRide bus tickets for \$3.00 through vending machines.
2. Buy a MetroCard and purchase each bus ride for \$2.75. These cards are available at subway station booths, neighborhood stores, and MetroCard buses, vans, and vending machines.

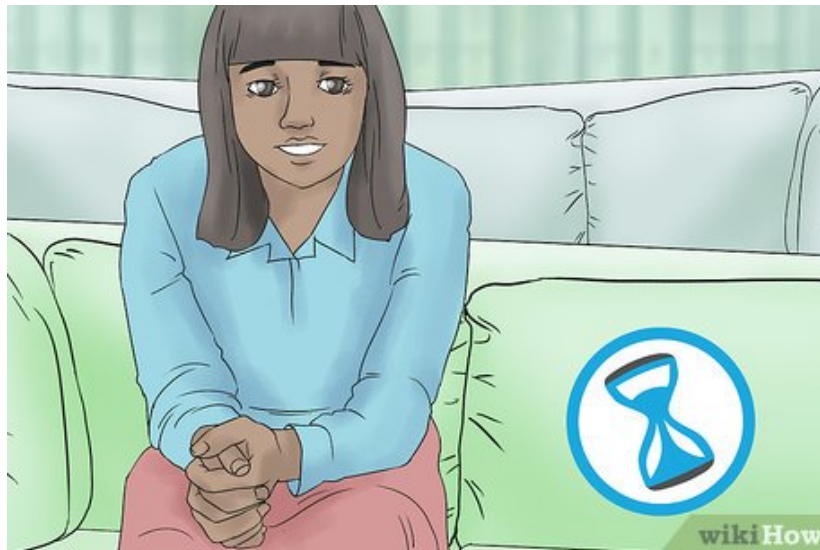
4.



Travel to the Whitehall Terminal by bus. Located at 4 South Street in Manhattan, you can reach the Whitehall Terminal by the following bus routes: M5, M15, M15 SBS and M20.^[9]

1. SingeRide bus tickets cost \$3.00 and are sold through vending machines.
2. Paying for a bus fare with a MetroCard is just \$2.75. You can purchase these cards at neighborhood stores, subway station booths, and MetroCard vans, buses, and vending machines.

5.



Head to the terminal waiting room until the ferry arrives. No matter which terminal you use, you can board from the lower or upper level. Passengers with disabilities are encouraged to board the ferry from the lower level.

1. If you have a disability, call 212-839-3061 beforehand to make a boarding arrangement and ensure you can travel without hassle.
2. Pets are not allowed in the terminals or on the ferry unless muzzled or caged.^[10]

Part 3 of 3:

Experiencing New York from the Ferry

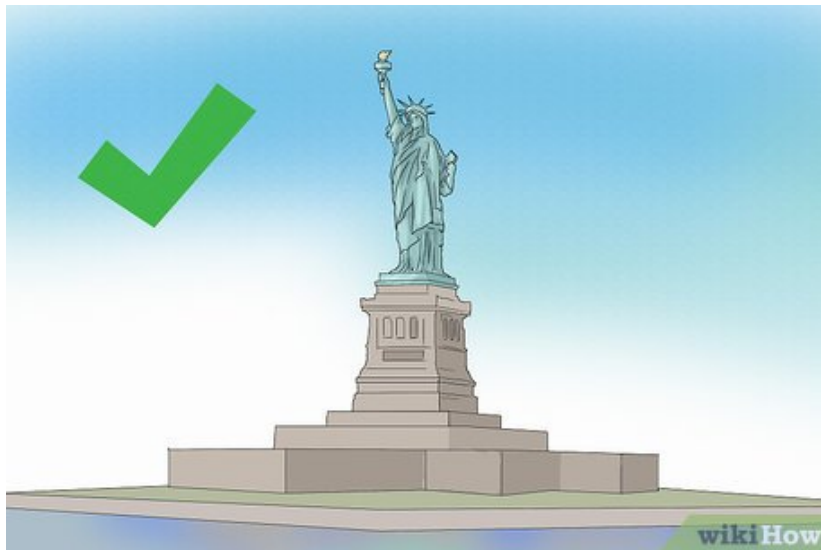
1.



Relax and take in the view during the 30-minute ride. A one-way trip on the ferry will typically take around 20-30 minutes, which offers plenty of time to relax your feet and savor the view. If the weather isn't ideal, head inside for some cover.

1. If you're taking the ferry for work, a pleasant boat ride across the harbor with the gentle breeze offers a great opportunity for a quick nap.

2.



Head to the ferry's right (starboard) side to see the Statue of Liberty. After boarding, make your way to the right side and head upstairs to the deck outside. Walk as far south of the ferry as possible and find a spot near the railings. This is going to be a busy area, but it's the best area to get a clear view of the Statue of Liberty.^[11]

1. Remember: you can't get off the ferry at the Statue of Liberty.



Capture the sights of New York with a camera. The ferry passes several landmarks and icons of New York City during the journey, including the Statue of Liberty, Ellis Island, the Brooklyn Bridge, and a variety of other ships and sailboats cruising the harbor.

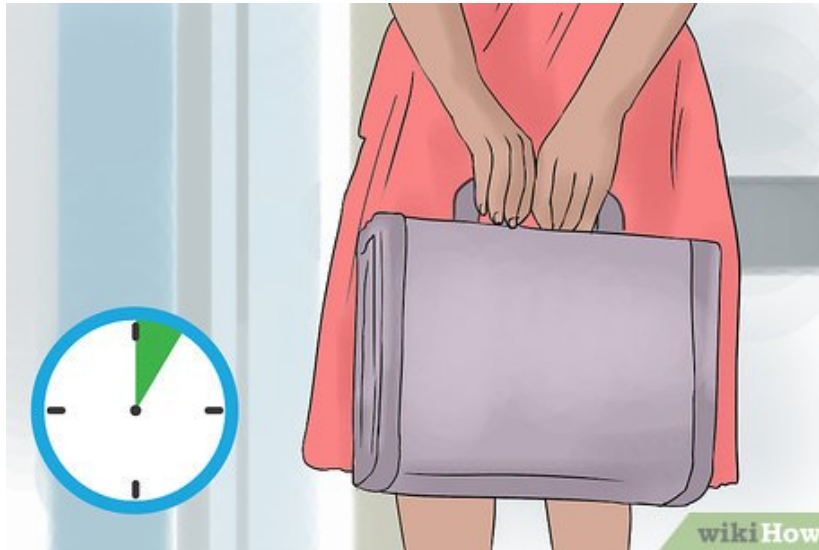
1. If you don't have a camera, you can purchase disposable cameras from the concession stand.



Visit the ferry's concession stand if you're hungry or thirsty. Your typical ballpark offerings are the food menu, which offers quick meals (nacho platter, breakfast sandwiches, burgers) and refreshing drinks (coffee, juices) while traveling between boroughs.^[12]

1. You can also purchase greeting cards for around \$5.50 and or a Polaroid camera for around \$189.
2. Beer is the only alcoholic beverage served on the ferries and costs around \$3.

5.



Gather your belongings 5 minutes prior to the end of the trip. Disembarking happens at the front of the boat. If you're in a hurry, make your way to the front at least 5 minutes prior to arrival. Make sure to keep an eye on children here as well in the swarm of people.

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