



# Roosevelt Island

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# The Bentley Hotel

## Roosevelt Island

- ❖ Small island just off the coast of Manhattan
- ❖ It is linked to Manhattan via aerial tramway, built in 1976.
- ❖ Redevelopment of the Island started in the 1970's with architects Philip Johnson and John Burgee.
- ❖ The island consists of luxury residential complexes, a national park, and is home to many historical landmarks.
- ❖ There is much to on the island in terms of activities.

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# History of Roosevelt Island

Roosevelt Island's history reflects a vastly different image from the place it is now.

- ❖ The Octagon was the New York City Lunatic Asylum from 1841 until 1894. (photo on the left)
- ❖ Renwick Smallpox Hospital was opened in 1856 as a quarantine hospital during the smallpox pandemic. (photo on the right)



[Chase Gaewski/New York Daily News](#)

## History of Roosevelt Island (continued)



- ❖ The Blackwell House, home of James Blackwell, is the sixth oldest farmhouse in New York City.
- ❖ The Roosevelt Island lighthouse was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1972 and made a New York City Landmark in 1976.



# Franklin D. Roosevelt Four Freedoms State Park

- ❖ It is named after a speech delivered by President Roosevelt, in 1941, in which he described his vision for a world founded on four essential human freedoms: freedom of speech and expression, freedom of worship, freedom from want, and freedom from fear.
- ❖ Event season: May-October
- ❖ The Japanese Cherry Blossom Festival (free), pop-up library events with readings of children's books (family-friendly), Park and Play with Sing for Hope's Artist-Designed Piano (anyone can perform, free), fundraising events, #AscendWithPride (LGBTQ+ friendly)





## Additional Information

- ❖ Visitors can get to Roosevelt island via aerial tramway, on 59th and 2nd avenue.
- ❖ Aerial Tramway only costs a Metrocard fare, and offers a beautiful, unique view.  
(Note: The tram only runs Sunday through Thursday: 6 a.m. - 2 a.m.; Friday and Saturday: 6 a.m. - 3:30 a.m.)
- ❖ The island is said to be haunted by its' eerie past, which can be marketing as niche tourism.
- ❖ The preferred time to visit the island is during it's event season: May-October. However, the island is beautiful, regardless of the season.
- ❖ Most restaurants are congregated on Main St.



# Questions

What happened to the prison on the island?

-The prison was relocated to, what we now call, Rikers Island. Some of the first inmates of Rikers Island came from penitentiary on Roosevelt Island.

What are the other ways to access the island?

-The F train is the only NYC Subway line that runs through Roosevelt Island. The island is also accessible through the NYC Ferry, for those coming from Astoria.

Is the food expensive?

-The price of dining varies. There are markets to buy more affordable foods, as well as in-dining restaurants that will cost around \$80 for two people.

Is the island working to expand their attractions?

-With the renovation/stabilization of historical landmarks, and expansion of dining options, the island is working to better cater to the needs of tourists in the future.