

# How to Fly a Kite



## **Choosing the right conditions and picking the right day are important.**

If there's a definite breeze but you don't feel bowled over, it's time to head for the kite-flying hills. The last thing you want to do is go out, spending hours just holding on. With a nice breeze, you can make your kite dance and soar and maybe even loops and tricks. If there are leaves on the ground and they're being tossed around gently, that's perfect. 5–25 mph (8.0–40.2 km/h) is the range you're looking for.

**Only fly in safe condition; that means no rain or lightning.** There's actually electricity in clouds that is attracted to wet kite lines. Ben Franklin was one foolish kite flier.

**Pick the right space.** Don't fly your kite near roads, power lines, or airports. Your best bets are parks, fields, and beaches. When it comes to kite flying, more room equals more fun. Trees may seem harmless, but the fewer the better. They've been known to eat a few kites in their time.

**Location:** Gantry Plaza State Park, 4-09 47th Road Long Island City, NY 11101 (LIC Piers - Long Island City, New York)

**Transportation:** Take the 7 train to the Vernon Blvd.-Jackson Ave Station and walk west on 50th Avenue towards the East River.



**Find a buddy to help you get the kite into the air.** Flying a kite is much, much easier with two people and it stays fun longer.



**Hold the ball of string and have your buddy hold the kite.** The kite should be facing you with your back to the wind. If the wind is behind the kite, it will fall.

**Unwind about 20 meters (60 feet) of string.** Have your partner back away from you this distance, with a bit of give. Make sure there are no obstacles near where the kite will set off from.

**Make sure the wind is going in a straight line from you to the launcher.** If you stay aware of this, you'll be able to fly your kite a lot longer.

**Release the length of string to allow the kite to go higher.** Be careful to monitor the end of the string, if your kite is shoddily made, the string may come off the bridle entirely, resulting in you losing your kite.

**Landing Tips;** in moderate winds, just reel in your kite slowly, pausing if too much tension causes it to loop. With a hard pulling kite, walk it down. While a friend holds the reel, put the line under your arm or hold it with a gloved hand and walk toward the kite. This brings it in without increasing the apparent wind speed.

#### **How to Fly a Kite Videos:**

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sBJwgqIaAic>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WHXjo5ohNYs>

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