

# Planning Your Visit

**Sandy Hook** is open sunrise to sunset.

The **Sandy Hook Visitor Center** is in the historic Spermaceti Cove Life-Saving Station. Open daily 10 - 5.

The **Fort Hancock Historic District** is a great place to stroll. Visit the Fort Hancock Museum, Battery Potter and History House, a restored home on Officers Row. Most sites are open weekends with extended summer hours.

The **Sandy Hook Lighthouse** is open daily in spring, summer and fall. The **Keepers Quarters** has a gift shop and exhibits on NJ Lighthouses. The **Keepers Barn** features

a video on the Lighthouse history.

Sandy Hook is a prime spot for **birding**. Try Plum Island, the Horseshoe Cove salt marsh, Spermaceti Cove boardwalk, North Pond and the fields at Fort Hancock. The NJ Audubon Society's **Sandy Hook Bird Observatory** has the latest birding information.



**Windsurfing and kiteboarding** is best on the bay across from Beach C.

**Hiking trails** begin at the Visitor Center and at Area M near 9-Gun Battery. Walking ocean beaches is permitted but during the spring and summer shorebird nesting season some areas are closed.

**Surf fishing** is permitted at all beaches except when lifeguards are on duty. An annual pass for nighttime fishing can be purchased at the Ranger Station or Visitor Center.

A **multi-use pathway** shared by bicyclists, skaters and pedestrians, extends 5 miles from the park entrance to Fort Hancock.

**Picnics:** Charcoal grilling is permitted only at Guardian Park. Blanket picnics are allowed on the beach. The North Beach Observation Deck has tables and a view of New York Harbor.

## Summer on the Hook

**Lifeguards** are on duty at five ocean beaches from Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day. Swim only at guarded beaches.

**Summer weekends** can be busy. When parking areas are full, the park closes until spaces become available. Avoid delays by

arriving before 10 AM or after 2 PM. Traffic is not a problem on weekdays.

There is no entrance fee to Sandy Hook but a **parking fee** is charged at beach areas during the lifeguard season. Daily and season parking passes are available.

The Interagency Senior and Access Passes give a 50% discount on parking. The National Park Pass is not accepted for beach parking.

## For more information

Write to the Sandy Hook Visitor Center, Gateway NRA, PO Box 530, Fort Hancock, NJ 07732 or visit the web at [www.nps.gov/gate](http://www.nps.gov/gate)

