



Statue of Liberty National Monument to Remain OPEN During Renovation

The National Park Service (NPS) will manage the interior renovation process, which includes the replacement of elevators, accessibility improvements, and upgrades to the electrical, air handling, fire protection, and security systems.

Start Date: October 29, 2011 – Estimated length of project is one year.

After the 125th anniversary celebrations on October 28, 2011 the upgrade project will begin at the Statue of Liberty National Monument. The project is expected to take up to one year to complete. More than 85% of the visitors who come to the island each year do not enter the Statue itself. Since the island remains open during the renovations, most visits will not be affected during this time. Views of Lady Liberty will remain unobstructed from both water and land. Rangers will remain on duty to provide interpretive walks and talks to visitors to Liberty Island. Audio tours are available for rent in many languages and children are encouraged to become Junior Rangers. Rangers at Information Centers located on both Liberty and Ellis Island are available to make suggestions for making the most of your time on the island. Food services, gift shops and bookstores are all still open to the public on both islands.

All interiors of the Statue itself; including the museum, pedestal and crown, will be closed to the public while this work takes place. The interior of the base of the Statue, and the historic fort that provides the foundation of the Statue, are scheduled for necessary upgrades to stairwells, elevators and mechanical systems.

Project Overview:

The NPS has awarded a \$27.25 million contract to implement life and safety upgrades at the Statue of Liberty. This award was made to Joseph A. Natoli Construction Corporation of Pine Brook, New Jersey. The work is being contracted and managed by the Denver Service Center of the NPS. Work includes installing code compliant stairways within the Monument, updating mechanical, electrical and fire suppression systems, replacing the elevators and rehabilitating restrooms.

Project Highlights:

- Wider and fire-separated staircases in the base of the monument,
- Upgrades to the fire suppression system, including sprinkler system, fire walls and exhaust fans,
- Improvements to the HVAC system,
- A new main elevator (replacing old elevator) with a fire rated shaft,
- New means of exiting the monument; two additional exits from the fort and two staircases from Level 3P (Pedestal) down to the fort,
- A new “fire break” between the Statue itself and the base.
- More accessibility for mobility-impaired visitors, who for the first time in history, will be able to reach the observation deck and look up into the Statue and see the Eiffel-designed internal structure.