

Fire Island

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Fire Island National Seashore
Long Island, New York



Visitor Programs and Events—December 2017

Save the Date—New Year's Day Hikes, Monday, January 1, 2018, 10 am

Wilderness Visitor Center

Celebrate the New Year on Fire Island. Discover the stark beauty of the winter beach during this invigorating 3-hour, 3-mile round-trip hike to the breach at Old Inlet. Dress for the weather and for walking on sand. Bring a snack and binoculars if you have them. Reservations required. For reservations and information email: fiis_information@nps.gov or call 631-281-3010 Fridays–Sundays.

Fire Island Lighthouse—meet at Robert Moses State Park, Field #5.

Join the staff and volunteers of Fire Island Lighthouse Preservation Society for a 1-hour walk around the Seashore's western end on the first day of the New Year. Afterwards, climb the lighthouse tower at the regular fee. Reservations required. For reservations and information call the Fire Island Lighthouse Preservation Society at 631-661-4876.

Wilderness Visitor Center

Call for reservations and information: 631-281-3010
Parking is available at Smith Point County Park.

Pick it Up! Coastal Cleanup

Saturday, December 2
10 am–12 pm

Join the Riverhead Foundation for Marine Research and Preservation and Fire Island National Seashore for this volunteer coastal cleanup—part of the *Pick It Up* initiative to eradicate debris from Long Island's beaches.

For more information and to register call: 631-369-9840 or email: education@riverheadfoundation.org

Late Fall Birding on the Barrier Beach

Sunday, December 3
9 am–12 pm

Wintering waterfowl are here for the season, and northern sparrows are hiding in the beach grass. A variety of gulls are all about the beach, and an occasional hawk or two might zoom by. Join a park ranger for this bird walk along the barrier beach at this late autumn time of year. Bring binoculars if you have them, dress warmly, and wear sturdy footwear for walking on sand. 3-miles round trip.

Winter Stars & Constellations

Friday, December 15
7 pm–9 pm

Reservation Required.

Join Astronomer Tom Carey for this program about the stars and constellation in the skies above Fire Island. After an indoor presentation, head out into the night for star viewing. A telescope will be provided, but you are welcome to bring your own. Dress for the outdoors.

Welcome Winter

Sunday, December 17
1 pm–2:30 pm

With the solstice just around the corner, it's time to welcome winter. Join this family friendly program to explore signs of winter on Fire Island and make an ornament celebrating the chilly season. Hot chocolate for all! Dress warmly and for the outdoors.



Fire Island Lighthouse

Call for reservations and information: 631-661-4876
Parking is available at Field #5, Robert Moses State Park.

Tower Tours

Daily, 10 am–4pm
42" Height Requirement. Fee.
Call ahead for weekday availability.

Evening Tower Tour

Sunday, December 3
4 pm–5:30 pm
Reservations Required. Fee.
Experience the sunset and the rise of the Snow Moon from the top of the lighthouse tower. Bring a flashlight for your walk back to the parking field. Sunset is at 4:26 pm.

Lighthouse Keepers Behind the Scenes Tour

Saturday, December 9
9 am–11:30 am
Reservations Required. Fee.
This bottom to top tour takes you from the auxiliary generator and Light Keeper's workshop in the basement of the Keeper's Quarters to the beacon in the lantern room of the lighthouse tower. This program includes a tour of the Lens Building which houses the historic first order Fresnel lens.

15th Reenactment of the Flying Santa

Saturday, December 9
11:30 am–12:30 pm
Back in 1953 Pilot Snow (a.k.a. "Flying Santa") flew his plane past the Fire Island Lighthouse and left a package of holiday gifts for the Lighthouse Keeper and his family. Relive this historic event and expect a special guest in a red suite. Arrive early and bring your camera.



Photo: Steven Von Hagen

Fire Island National Seashore Facilities—December 2017

Park Headquarters in Patchogue: 631-687-4750

Open all year, Monday–Friday, 9 am–4 pm (Closed on federal holidays)

Fire Island Lighthouse: 631-661-4876

Open daily 9:30 am–4 pm

Sailors Haven and Watch Hill Facilities

Closed until Spring 2018

Wilderness Visitor Center: 631-281-3010

Fridays–Sundays 9 am–4 pm

William Floyd Estate: 631-399-2030

Closed until May 2018—but watch for special programs!

Patchogue/Watch Hill Ferry Terminal

Closed until Spring 2018—but watch for special programs!

Backcountry Camping

Reservations Required: visit www.recreation.gov

Access to east and west zones are only from areas west while the breach at Old Inlet is open. There is no access from the Wilderness Visitor Center at this time.



For information and updates:

twitter.com/FireIslandNPS

facebook.com/FireIslandNPS

www.nps.gov/fiis

or email: fiis_information@nps.gov