

Atlantic Kayak Tours

Intermediate New York Harbor

Tour Description

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Atlantic Kayak Tours, Inc. 2018©

Meeting Time: 9:30 AM

Meeting Place: Liberty State Park, N.J. in the parking lot at the car top launch site near the park headquarters/restrooms (see map).

Distance: 12-18 miles

Skill Level: This trip is designed for intermediate paddlers. Strong currents, calm to moderate sea conditions, with many wakes under normal conditions, but if windy the harbor can be rough. Two years of paddling experience and strong paddling ability required. We cover a long distance with only one stop.

Equipment: Always dress for the water temperature, not the air temperature. Bring extra clothing. If you bring your own kayak it must be a minimum of 14 feet long and have bulkheads.

Note: If you are bring your own kayak you might need to get a permit (fee applies) from the park headquarters. The policy has changed from year to year.

Lunch: Bring a lunch and plenty to drink for our rest stops.

Note: Restrooms are located at the concession area.

Directions: From Brooklyn cross the Verrazano Bridge and take 278 to the Goethals Bridge. Get on the New Jersey Turnpike north. Go to Exit 14B on the New Jersey Turnpike Extension. Follow the directions below.

From New Jersey take the New Jersey Turnpike to Exit 14B on the Turnpike Extension. Follow the directions below.

From Manhattan go through the Holland Tunnel to Exit 14B on the New Jersey Turnpike Extension. Follow the directions below.

Continue: Follow signs to Liberty State Park. At the traffic circle go straight (left goes to the ferry). We will meet at the cartop boat launch site, which is the parking area near the park headquarters/restrooms.

By train from Manhattan: Take the Path train to Journal Square. Take a taxi from Journal Square to the boat ramp, *not the ferry landing or Liberty Science Center*, which are both on the *other* side of the park. Taxi's don't know where the cartop launch site is located, so you must look at the map on the other side and guide them. The launch site is on the southwest corner of the park. Leave plenty of time.

lat/lon: N40.6934/W74.0584

Description

This tour is designed for intermediate paddlers that can average a three to four knots pace. The trip will cover from 12 to 18 miles and we will have to contend with the harbor tides, ship traffic and afternoon winds. The exact route we take will depend on many factors including the weather and strength of the group. The plan is to try and find some good conditions to play in during the trip. Below is one possible route.

We will start by paddling past Ellis Island before we cross over to the Manhattan side of the river. We can head up the Hudson or around the Battery to the East River. We have a few choices for lunch stops depending on how we are moving and what conditions we find. After lunch we might cross over to Governors Island. The strong current will carry us down Buttermilk Channel between Brooklyn and Governors Island. Crossing the harbor we will head to Liberty Island for a look at the statue. Our arrival time back to Liberty State Park will be approximately between 4:30 and 5:30.

