

Yankee Stadium



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Yankee Stadium is a stadium located in the Concourse neighborhood of the Bronx in New York City. It serves as the home ballpark for the New York Yankees of Major League Baseball (MLB), and is also the home park for New York City FC of Major League Soccer (MLS). The \$2.3 billion stadium, built with \$1.2 billion in public subsidies, [4] replaced the original Yankee Stadium in 2009. It is located one block north of the original, on the 24-acre (9.7 ha) former site of Macombs Dam Park; the 8-acre (3.2 ha) site of the original stadium is now a public park called Heritage Field.

The stadium incorporates replicas of some design elements from the original Yankee Stadium, and like its predecessor, it has hosted additional events, including college football games, soccer matches, two outdoor NHL games, and concerts. Although Yankee Stadium's construction began in August 2006, the project spanned many years and faced many controversies, including the high public cost and the loss of public parkland. The overall price tag makes the new Yankee Stadium the most expensive stadium ever built. [21]

History

Planning

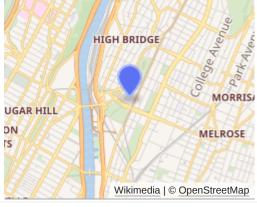
New York Yankees owner George Steinbrenner began campaigning for a new stadium in the early 1980s, just a few years after the remodeled Yankee Stadium opened. Steinbrenner at the time was reportedly considering a move to the Meadowlands Sports Complex in New Jersey. Governor Thomas Kean in 1984 authorized the use of land for a new baseball stadium in the Meadowlands, but the state legislature did not provide financing for the stadium. [22] In a statewide referendum in 1987, New Jersey taxpavers rejected \$185 million in public financing for a baseball stadium for the Yankees. [23]

Yankee Stadium

The Stadium.[1][2] The House That Jeter Built. [3]The House That George Built

File: Yankee Stadium Logo.png

File:Le Yankee Stadium.jpg 2011 photo



Address 1 East 161st Street

Location

Bronx, New York Coordinates 40°49'45"N 73°55'35"W

Public transit Metro-North Railroad:

Yankees – East 153rd

Hudson Line at

Street

New York City

Subway: 4 B D at 161st Street – Yankee

Stadium

New York City Bus:

Bx1, Bx2, Bx6, Bx6 SBS, Bx13

Owner City of New York Despite the rejection from New Jersey, Steinbrenner frequently used a threatened move there as leverage in negotiations with New York City.

In 1988, Mayor <u>Ed Koch</u> agreed to have city taxpayers spend \$90 million on a second renovation of Yankee Stadium that included luxury boxes and restaurants inside the stadium and parking garages and traffic improvements outside. Steinbrenner agreed in principle, but then backed out of the deal. In 1993, Mayor <u>David Dinkins</u> expanded on Koch's proposal by offering his Bronx Center vision for the neighborhood, including new housing, a new courthouse, and relocating the Police Academy nearby. [24]

In 1993, New York Governor Mario Cuomo proposed using the West Side Yard, a 30-acre rail yard along the West Side of Manhattan and owned by the Metropolitan Transportation Authority, as the location for a new stadium for the Yankees. However, Cuomo lost his reelection bid a few months later. By 1995, Steinbrenner had rejected 13 proposals to keep the Yankees in the Bronx. [25]

In 1998, Bronx Borough President Fernando Ferrer proposed spending \$600 million in public money to add dozens of luxury boxes to the stadium, to improve highway and public transportation access, and to create a Yankee Village, with shops, restaurants, and a museum. Steinbrenner rejected this as well. That same year, Mayor Rudy Giuliani unveiled a plan to relocate the Yankees to the West Side Yard for a \$1 billion stadium. However, with most of the funding coming from taxpayers, Giuliani tabled the proposal, fearing rejection in a citywide referendum. The West Side Stadium plan resurfaced in December 2001, and by January 2002, months after the September 11 attacks, Giuliani announced "tentative agreements" for both the New York Yankees and New York Mets to build new stadiums. He estimated that both stadiums would cost \$2 billion, with city and state taxpayers contributing \$1.2 billion. [26]

Michael Bloomberg, who succeeded Giuliani as mayor in 2002, called the former mayor's agreements "corporate welfare" and exercised the escape clause in the agreements to back out of both deals, saying that the city could not afford to build new stadiums for the Yankees and Mets. Bloomberg said that Giuliani had inserted a clause in this deal which loosened the teams' leases with the city and would allow the Yankees and Mets to leave the city on 60 days' notice to find a new home elsewhere if the city backed out of the agreement. At the time, Bloomberg said that publicly funded stadiums were a poor investment. Bloomberg's blueprint for the stadium was unveiled in 2004, at the same time as the plan for the

Operator	New York Yankees
Capacity	Baseball: 47,309 (2018–present) ^[9] 47,422 (2017) ^[10] 49,469 (2016) ^[11] 49,638 (2015) ^[12] 49,642 (2014) ^[13] 50,291 (2011–2013) ^[14] 50,287 (2009–2010) ^[15] Soccer: 28,743 ^[16] (Expandable to 47,309) ^[8] Football: 54,251 ^[17]
Record attendance	Baseball: 50,960 ^[18] Soccer: 49,653 ^[19] Football: 54,251 ^[20]
Field size	Baseball: Left field – 318 feet (97 m) Left center – 399 feet (122 m) Center field – 408 feet (124 m) Right center – 385 feet (117 m) Right field – 314 feet (96 m) Backstop – 52 feet 4 inches (16 m) Soccer: 110 yards (101 m) x 70 yards (64 m)
Surface	Kentucky Bluegrass
	onstruction
Broke ground	August 19, 2006
Opened	April 2, 2009 (reopening) (workout day) April 3, 2009 (exhibition game) April 16, 2009 (regular season)
Construction cost	US\$2.3 billion ^[4]

Mets' new stadium, <u>Citi Field</u>. The final cost for the two stadiums was more than \$3.1 billion; taxpayer subsidies accounted for \$1.8 billion. [4]

Construction



Architect Populous (formerly HOK Sport)[5] **Project** Tishman manager Speyer/International Facilities Group, LLC. Thornton Tomasetti^[6] Structural engineer **Services** M-E Engineers, Inc. [6] engineer Turner Construction[7] General contractor **Tenants** New York Yankees (MLB) (2009present) Pinstripe Bowl (NCAA) (2010-present) New York City FC (MLS) (2015present)[8]

Groundbreaking ceremonies for the stadium took place on August 16, 2006, the 58th anniversary of Babe Ruth's death, with

Steinbrenner, Bloomberg and then-Governor of New York George Pataki among the notables donning Yankees hard hats and wielding ceremonial shovels to mark the occasion. The Yankees continued to play in the previous Yankee Stadium during the 2007 and 2008 seasons while their new home stadium was built across the street. The community was left without parkland for five years.

During construction of the new stadium, a construction worker and avid <u>Boston Red Sox fan</u> buried a replica jersey of Red Sox player <u>David Ortiz</u> underneath the visitors' dugout with the objective of placing a "<u>hex</u>" on the Yankees, much like the "<u>Curse of the Bambino</u>" that had allegedly plagued the Red Sox long after trading Ruth to the Yankees. After the worker was exposed by co-workers, he was forced to help exhume the jersey. The Yankees organization then donated the retrieved jersey to the <u>Jimmy Fund</u>, a charity started in 1948 by the Red Sox' <u>National League</u> rivals, the <u>Boston Braves</u>, but long championed by the Red Sox and particularly associated with <u>Ted Williams</u>. The worker has since claimed to have buried a <u>2004 American League Championship Series</u> program/scorecard, but has not said where he placed it. These attempts didn't have much effect upon the home team, though: the Yankees went on to win the <u>2009 World Series</u> at the end of their first MLB season in the new stadium.

Features

The new stadium is meant to evoke elements of the original Yankee Stadium, both in its original 1923 state and its post-renovation state in 1976. The exterior resembles the original look of the 1923 Yankee Stadium. The interior, a modern ballpark with greater space and increased amenities, features a playing field that closely mimics the 1988–2008 dimensions of the old stadium. The current stadium features 4,300 club seats and 68 luxury suites.

Design and layout

The stadium was designed by the architectural firm <u>Populous</u>. The exterior was made from 11,000 pieces of <u>Indiana limestone</u>, along with <u>granite</u> and pre-cast concrete. [34] It features the building's name V-cut and gold-leaf lettered above each gate. The interior of the stadium is adorned with hundreds of photographs capturing the history of the Yankees. The <u>New York Daily News</u> newspaper partnered with the Yankees for the exhibition "The Glory of the Yankees Photo Collection", which was selected from the *Daily News*' collection of over 2,000 photographs. Sports & The Arts was hired by the Yankees to curate the nearly 1,300 photographs that adorn the building from sources including the *Daily News*, Getty Images, the Baseball Hall of Fame and Major League Baseball.



The Indiana limestone exterior, shown at Gate 4, mirrors that used on the original Yankee Stadium in 1923

The seats are laid out similar to the original stadium's stands, with grandstand seating that stretches beyond the foul poles, as well as bleacher seats beyond the outfield fences. The Field Level and Main Level comprise the lower bowl, with suites on the H&R Block Level, and the Upper Level and Grandstand Level comprising the upper bowl. [36] Approximately $\frac{2}{3}$ of the stadium's seating is in the lower bowl, the inverse from the original Yankee Stadium. [36] 50,287 fans can be seated, with a standing room capacity of 52,325. [37] The new stadium's seating is spaced outward in a bowl, unlike the stacked-tiers design at the old stadium. This design places most fans farther back but lower to the field, by about an average of 30 feet (9.1 m). Over 56 suites are located within the ballpark, triple the amount from the previous stadium. [34] Seats are 19–24 inches (48–61 cm) wide, up from the previous stadium's 18–22-inch (46–56 cm) wide seats, while there is 33–39 inches (84–99 cm) of leg room, up from 29.5 inches (75 cm) of leg room in the previous stadium. [36] Many lower level seats are cushioned, while all seats are equipped with cupholders. [36] To allow for the extra seating space, the stadium's capacity is reduced by more than 4,000 seats in comparison to the previous stadium. [36]



The iconic frieze that lined the roof of the original Yankee Stadium from 1923 to 1973 is replicated on the current stadium's roof

Many design elements of the ballpark's interior are inspired by the original Yankee Stadium. The roof of the new facility features a replica of the <u>frieze</u> that was a trademark of the previous ballpark. In the original Yankee Stadium, a copper frieze originally lined the roof of the upper deck stands, but it was torn down during the 1974–75 renovations and replicated atop the wall beyond the bleachers. The new stadium replicates the frieze in its original location along the upper deck stands. Made of steel coated with <u>zinc</u> for <u>rust</u> protection, it is part of the support system for the <u>cantilevers</u> holding up the top deck and the <u>lighting</u> on the roof. The wall beyond the bleacher seats is "cut out" to reveal the <u>4</u> subway trains as they pass by, like they were in the original facility. A manually operated auxiliary scoreboard is built into the left and right field fences, in the same locations it existed in the pre-renovation iteration of the original Yankee Stadium.

Between the exterior perimeter wall and interior of the stadium is the "Great Hall", a large concourse that runs between Gates 4 and $6.^{[39]}$ With seven-story ceilings, the Great Hall features more than 31,000 square feet (2,900 m²) of retail space and is lined with 20 banners of past and present Yankees superstars. [39] The Great Hall

features a 5-by-383-foot (1.5 by 116.7 m) LED (light-emitting diode) ribbon display as well as a 25' by 36' LED video display above the entrance to the ballpark from <u>Daktronics</u>, a company in <u>Brookings</u>, <u>South Dakota</u>. [39][40]

Monument Park, which features the Yankees' retired numbers, as well as monuments and plaques dedicated to distinguished Yankees, has been moved from its location beyond the left field fences in the original Yankee Stadium to its new location beyond the center field fences at the new facility. The newly relocated Monument Park is now situated under the sports bar; black shades cover the monuments on the back wall during games to prevent interference with the vision of the batter. [41] The



The Great Hall is situated along the southern front of the stadium

new location of the monuments is meant to mirror their original placement in center field at the original prerenovation Yankee Stadium, albeit when they were on the playing field. The transfer of Monument Park from the old stadium to the new stadium began on November 10, 2008. The first monuments were put in place on February 23, 2009. Yankees pitcher Mariano Rivera requested that the Yankees reposition the team's bullpen, as well as add a door to connect the Yankees' bullpen to Monument Park, in order to allow access to it by Yankee relievers. The organization complied with his request. [34][44]

Field dimensions and playing surface



The view from the Grandstand Level (400 Level)

The field dimensions for the outfield fences have the same distance markers as the original facility prior to closing yet the dimensions are not identical. Due to the design of the right-field stands and the inclusion of an embedded manual scoreboard, the right-field wall is an average of 5 feet (1.5 m) closer to home plate. Overall, the fences measure 318 feet (97 m) to left field, 399 feet (122 m) to left-center field, 408 feet (124 m) to center field, 385 feet (117 m) to right-center field, and 314 feet (96 m) to right field. At the old Yankee Stadium, the right field wall curved from the right-field corner to straightaway center, while at the new ballpark the fence takes a sharp, almost entirely straight angle. This results in a difference at certain points between the right

field markers of as much as 9 feet (2.7 m). The dimensions in left field are substantially the same despite the presence of an embedded auxiliary scoreboard there as well. [46]

The outfield fences measure 8 feet 5 inches (2.57 m) high from the left-field foul pole until the Yankees' bullpen, when the fences begin to gradually descend in height until the right field foul pole, where they are only 8 feet (2.4 m) tall. This also marks a decrease from the previous Yankee Stadium, where the outfield walls stood at a height of approximately 10 feet (3.0 m). The distance from home plate to the backstop is 52 feet 4 inches (15.95 m), a reduction of 20 feet (6.1 m) from the previous facility. The field is made up of Kentucky

<u>bluegrass</u>, the same surface as the previous stadium, which is grown on a 1,300 acres (530 ha) farm in <u>Bridgeton</u>, <u>New Jersey</u>. The grass is equipped with a <u>drainage</u> system (featuring over 14,000 feet (4,300 m) of pipe) that makes the field playable an hour after taking 2 inches (51 mm) of rain. [36]

Comparison with the 1923 Stadium

Characteristic	Old Stadium [as of 2008] New Stadium				
Opening Day	April 18, 1923	April 16, 2009			
Capacity	56,886	50,287			
Seat width	18 inches (46 cm)–22 inches (56 cm)	19 inches (48 cm)–24 inches (61 cm)			
Seat Length	29.5 inches (75 cm)	33 inches (84 cm)–39 inches (99 cm)			
Concourse width (average)	17 feet (5.2 m)	32 feet (9.8 m)			
Cup holders	Select Field Level Seating	For every seat in General Seating			
Luxury box Luxury suites	19	56			
Club Seats		4,300			
Team stores	6,800 square feet (630 m ²)	11,560 square feet (1,074 m ²)			
Restroom fixture ratio	1 per 89 fans	1 per 60 fans			
Public elevators (passenger lifts)	3 (<u>Otis</u> Traction)	16 (KONE Traction)			
Video scoreboard	25 feet (7.6 m) by 33 feet (18 m) by 101 (31 m) (Standard-definition LED) (High-definition LED)				
Distance from Home Plate to:					
Backstop	72 feet 4 inches (22 m)	52 feet 4 inches (16 m)			
Left Field	318 feet (97 m)				
Left Center	399 feet (120 m)				
Center Field	408 feet (124 m)				
Right Center	385 feet (120 m)				
Right Field	314 feet (96 m)				
	Source: New York Yankees ^[37]				

Amenities and facilities

Yankee Stadium features a wide array of amenities. It contains 63% more space, 500,000 square feet (46,000 m²) more in total, than the previous stadium, with wider concourses and open sight lines on concourses. [34] Along with 227 miles (365 km) of wired Ethernet cable, the building has sufficient fiber-optic cable wiring that Cisco Vice President and Treasurer David Holland calls the building "future proof". [34] Over 1,100 high-definition video monitors are placed within the stadium and approximately \$10 million worth of baseball merchandise is housed within the ballpark. [34]

The center field scoreboard, manufactured by <u>Mitsubishi</u> Diamond Vision, measures 59 x 101 feet (31 m) and offers 5,925 square feet (550.5 m²) of viewing area. It was the third-largest high definition scoreboard in the world when it opened (behind the 8,736-square-foot (811.6 m²) board at newly renovated <u>Kauffman Stadium</u> and the new 8,066-square-foot (749.4 m²) board at the renovated <u>Tokyo Racecourse</u>). Since then, it has also been surpassed by the <u>world's largest</u> scoreboard at <u>AT&T Stadium</u> and the new scoreboard at the <u>Philadelphia Phillies' Citizens Bank Park</u>. [48][49] Displaying 5,925 ft (1,806 m)² of video, the scoreboard can display four 1080p high definition images simultaneously. [36]



A signature by Babe Ruth is one of many autographs in the "ball wall", the centerpiece of the Yankee Museum.

The Yankees clubhouse features 30,000 square feet (2,880 m²) of space, over 2.5 times the space of the clubhouse from the previous facility. The dressing area alone features 3,344 sq ft (310.7 m²) of space, with each locker equipped with a <u>safety deposit box</u> and touch-screen computer. The Yankees clubhouse features a <u>weight room</u>, training room, video room, and lounge area, while both teams' clubhouses have their own indoor <u>batting cages</u>. The Yankees' therapy room features a <u>hydrotherapy pool</u> with an underwater treadmill. The Yankees are believed to be the first team to chemically treat their uniforms, as well as the showering surfaces with an anti-bacterial agent that reduces the risk of infection.

The New York Yankees Museum, located on the lower level at Gate 6, displays a wide range of Yankees' memorabilia. [51] A "Ball Wall" features hundreds of balls autographed by past and present Yankees, and there are plans to eventually add autographs for every living player who has played for the Yankees. [51] The centerpiece of the museum is a tribute to Don Larsen's perfect game in the 1956 World Series, with a commemorative home plate in the floor and statues of Larsen pitching to Yogi Berra. [51] Along with a facsimile of a current locker from the Yankees' clubhouse, fans can view the locker of the late Thurman Munson, which sat unoccupied in the previous stadium's Yankee clubhouse in honor of Munson. [51]

The ballpark offers a wide choice of restaurants. There are 25 fixed concessions stands, along with 112 movable ones. [39] A Hard Rock Cafe is located within the ballpark, but it is open to anyone at the 161st St. and River Ave. entrance year round. [39] The Hard Rock Cafe at Yankee Stadium officially opened on March 30, 2009, and an opening ceremony took place on April 2, 2009. [52] A steakhouse called NYY Steak is located beyond right field. [39] Celebrity chefs will occasionally make appearances at the ballpark's restaurants and help prepare food for fans in premium seating over the course of the season. [39] Above Monument Park in center field is the Mohegan Sun sports bar, whose tinted black glass acts as the ballpark's batter's eye. After the 2016 season, the Yankees began doing updates to Yankee Stadium including the Masterpass Batter's Eye Deck and Frank's Red Hot Terrace and Toyota Terrace. The Masterpass Batter's Eye Deck above the Mohegan Sun sports bar is an

outdoor gathering space in center field with clear full views of the playing field available to all ticketed guests. The Frank's Red Hot Terrace and Toyota Terrace overlook the visitors' and Yankees' bullpens respectively. The new AT&T Sports Lounge is behind section 134 on the main level and features a full bar, tables, stools and large screen TVs. The new Budweiser Party Decks located at sections 311 and 328 in the upper deck feature shaded standalone bar areas serving beer, cocktails and food. There is a new SunRun Kids Clubhouse located on the 300 level in right field and outfitted with Yankees-themed playground equipment. [53]

Public opinion

Opening and public perception



The stadium, as seen from the upper deck in 2010

Although Yankee Stadium has been praised for its amenities, it also has been widely criticized for high ticket prices. [54][55] Seats within the first eight rows in the lower bowl, called the "Legends Suite", are among the highest-priced tickets in professional sports. Tickets cost \$510 on average; the most expensive tickets cost \$2,600 each. [54] Legends Suite Seats have been regularly empty, with many ticket holders in this section having given up their tickets, and others remaining unsold, despite most other seats in the ballpark selling out. This has created an embarrassing image on television of the seats behind home plate being almost completely vacant. [54] Consequently, a surplus of tickets for Legends Seats have emerged in the secondary market, and with supply exceeding demand, resale prices have dropped. Empty seats in the Legends Suite

could even be seen during the 2009 playoffs, including World Series games. Even though all playoff games were sellouts, Legends Suite ticket holders were in the lounges and the restaurant underneath instead of their seats. [56][57] Overall, the average ticket price is \$63, the highest in baseball. [58]

Legends Suite seats are also separate from the other lower bowl seating and are vigorously patrolled by stadium security, with the divider being described as a "concrete moat." Fans who do not have tickets within this premium section in the front rows are not allowed in the section. This includes standing behind the dugouts during batting practice and to seek autographs. The least expensive seats, the bleachers, initially left many fans disappointed, as the indoor club seating area in center field obstructed the views from bleacher seats on both sides in sections 201 and 239. These severely obstructed sections would ultimately be removed during the 2016-2017 off-season in favor of outdoor bars and patio areas complete with standing terraces accessible to all ticket holders, in addition to replacing the seating on top of the center field club with standing terraces, drastically reducing the number of obstructed views from center field in the process. [59]

The Yankee Stadium staff was also criticized for an incident during a May 4, 2009 game, which was interrupted by a rain delay. Fans were told by some staff members that the game was unlikely to resume and consequently, many fans exited the stadium, only for the game to eventually resume play. The fans that left the ballpark were not permitted to re-enter, per the stadium's re-entry policy, and many subsequently got into arguments with stadium personnel. In response to the backlash the Yankees received for the incident, the staff members were required to sign a gag order preventing them from speaking to media, but they did indicate that communication for rain delays would be improved. [60]

Late in the stadium's first season, cracks were seen on the concrete ramps of the Stadium. The Yankees are trying to determine whether there was something wrong with the concrete, or the ramps' installation or design. The company involved in inspecting the concrete was indicted on charges that its employees either faked or failed to perform some required tests and falsified the results of others. [61]

The stadium has also been criticized for its lack of fan noise. During a *Sunday Night Baseball* telecast in 2012, commentator and former Red Sox manager Terry Francona spoke about the different atmospheres in the old and new stadiums saying that "As a visiting team, especially for the Red Sox, by the time the (national) anthem was over, you couldn't wait to get back in the dugout. Now (there is) a little different (kind) of fan sitting around down there by the dugout." Games at the new stadium do not feature the same deafening crowd moments and often sound eerily silent. $\frac{[62]}{}$ The lack of fan noise was noticeable in the 2012 playoffs as well, with thousands of unsold seats for Game 5 of the ALDS and Games 1 and 2 of the ALCS. "This is a very easy place to play now", said Quintin Berry of the Detroit Tigers, the Yankees' ALCS opponents. "Coming from Oakland, the fans there were so rowdy. It was easier to come here." [63] In his autobiography "The Closer", the Yankees' longtime relief pitcher Mariano Rivera wrote these comments about the new stadium's atmosphere: "It doesn't hold noise, or home-team fervor, anywhere near the way the old place did. The old Stadium was our 10th man—a loud and frenzied cauldron of pinstriped passion, with a lot of lifers in the stands. Maybe I'm wrong, but it's hard to see that the new place can ever quite duplicate that." [64] Derek Jeter echoed this sentiment in a September 2014 article in *New York* magazine, in which he said he missed the original Yankee Stadium: "It was a different feel. The new stadium, it's second to none—all the amenities. For the players, it really doesn't get any better. The old stadium, if you were at the stadium, in the stands, the only place you could see the game was in your seat. Now there's so many suites and places people can go. So a lot of times it looks like it's empty, but it's really not. The old stadium, it was more intimidating. The fans were right on top of you." [65]

Propensity for home runs

In its first season, Yankee Stadium quickly acquired a reputation as a "bandbox" and a "launching pad" because of the high number of home runs hit at the new ballpark. [66][67][68][69][70][71] Through its first 23 games, 87 home runs were hit at the venue, easily besting Enron Field's (now called Minute Maid Park) previous record set in 2000. [72] Early in the season, Yankee Stadium was on pace to break Coors Field's 1999 single-season record of 303 home runs allowed, and the hometown Daily News (using the back-page headline "HOMERS ODYSSEY") started publishing a daily graphic comparing each stadium's home run totals through a similar number of games.

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In 2009, the stadium was criticized for its propensity for allowing home runs, with 237 hit in its opening season

<u>ESPN</u> commentator <u>Peter Gammons</u> denounced the new facility as "one of the biggest jokes in baseball" during an appearance on *Mike and Mike*

<u>in the Morning</u>, and concluded that "[it] was not a very well-planned ballpark". Likewise, Gammons' ESPN colleague <u>Buster Olney</u> described the stadium as "a veritable wind tunnel" and likened it to his childhood <u>Wiffle-ball</u> park. Newsday columnist Wallace Matthews joined in the criticism, labeling the stadium "ridiculous" and accused "the franchise that took ownership of the home run" of cheapening it. He suggested that <u>Babe Ruth</u> could have potentially hit 120 or more homers if he played in the new Stadium. For his column,

Matthews interviewed former Yankee <u>Reggie Jackson</u>, who termed the park "too small" to contain current player <u>Alex Rodriguez</u>. Jackson estimated that the park might enable the third baseman to hit 75 home runs in a season. [67]

A variety of theories have been posited to account for the dramatic increase in home runs at the new Yankee Stadium over the original stadium, foremost among these the sharper angles of the outfield walls [46] and the speculated presence of a wind tunnel. During construction of the new ballpark, engineers commissioned a wind study, the results of which indicated there would be no noticeable difference between the two stadiums. The franchise planned a second study, but Major League rules prohibit a team from making any changes to the playing field until the off-season.

An independent study by the weather service provider <u>AccuWeather</u> in June 2009 concluded that the shape and height of the right field wall, rather than the wind, is responsible for the proliferation of home runs at the stadium. [75] AccuWeather's analysis found that roughly 20% of the home runs hit at the new ballpark would not have been home runs at the old ballpark due to the gentle curve of its right field corner, and its 10-foot (3.0 m) wall height. [75] Nothing was observed in wind speeds and patterns that would account for the increase. [75]

The number of home runs hit at the new stadium slowed significantly as the season progressed, [76] but a new single-season record for most home runs hit at a Yankee home ballpark was nonetheless set in the Yankees' 73rd home game of 2009 when <u>Vladimir Guerrero</u> of the <u>Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim</u> hit the 216th home run of the season at the venue, surpassing the previous record of 215 set at the original Yankee Stadium in 2005. [77] However, the Yankees offense, as in previous years, had employed many home run hitters in 2009. The Yankees hit 108 home runs while playing on the road, the second most in baseball behind the Philadelphia Phillies. [78]

In 2010, the early rate of home runs were markedly less through May 15, 2010, with 35 home runs hit in 14 games for 2.5 per game (a projection of 205—in 2009, the stadium finished at 2.93 per game for a total of 237). Even though the stadium's home run rate decreased slightly for the 2010 season to 2.73 per game, it was still the highest figure in the majors. However, the prolific home run rate of April and May 2009 that drew criticism has not sustained itself over any season thus far, and while through the first two months of the 2011 season the Yankees hit far more homers than any other team in the majors, Yankee Stadium was not the top home run park.

Stadium firsts

Before the official Opening Day against the Cleveland Indians on April 16, 2009, the Yankees hosted a two-game exhibition series at the stadium in early April against the Chicago Cubs. [81] Grady Sizemore of the Indians was the first player to hit a grand slam off of Yankee pitcher Dámaso Marte. The Indians and 2008 Cy Young Award winner Cliff Lee spoiled the opening of the new stadium by winning 10–2. Before the Yankees went to bat for the first time, the bat that Babe Ruth used to hit his first home run at the old Yankee Stadium in 1923 was placed momentarily on home plate. [82] Jorge Posada hit the first Yankee home run in the new ballpark hitting his off Lee in the same game. Russell Branyan, while playing for the Seattle Mariners, was the first player to hit a home run off of the Mohegan Sun Restaurant in center field.



Four <u>F-16C Fighting Falcons</u> from the <u>174th Fighter Wing</u> fly over the "New" Yankee Stadium on Opening Day

Like its predecessor, the new Yankee Stadium hosted the World Series in its very first season; in the 2009 World Series, the Yankees defeated the Philadelphia Phillies 4 games to 2. It also became the latest stadium to host a World Series-clinching victory by its home team in the venue's first season (after the St. Louis Cardinals won the World Series at <u>Busch Stadium</u> in 2006), when, on November 4, 2009, the Yankees won their 27th World Series championship against the Phillies. The Yankees are the only team to inaugurate two stadiums with World Series wins and also appeared in the 1976 World Series following the refurbishment of the original Yankee Stadium, losing to the <u>Big Red Machine</u> in four straight. On October 6, 2011 <u>Detroit Tigers</u> in game five of the ALDS were the first team to eliminate the Yankees at the new Yankee Stadium in the postseason.

Statistic	Exhibition	Regular season	Postseason	
First game	April 3, 2009 Yankees 7, Cubs 4	April 16, 2009 Indians 10, Yankees 2	October 7, 2009 Yankees 7, Twins 2	
Ceremonial First Pitch	Reggie Jackson	Yogi Berra	Eric T. Olson	
First pitch	Chien-Ming Wang	CC Sabathia	CC Sabathia	
First batter Aaron Miles (Cubs)		Grady Sizemore (Indians)	Denard Span (Twins)	
First hit Aaron Miles (Cubs)		Johnny Damon	Denard Span (Twins)	
First Yankees hit Derek Jeter		Johnny Damon	Derek Jeter	
First home run Robinson Canó		Jorge Posada	Derek Jeter	
First win	First win Chien-Ming Wang		CC Sabathia	
First save	First save Jonathan Albaladejo		Mariano Rivera	

Many historic milestones and records have been achieved at Yankee Stadium. In 2009, <u>Derek Jeter</u> became the Yankees all-time hits leader with his 2,722nd hit, surpassing <u>Lou Gehrig</u>'s 72-year record. The following season, <u>Alex Rodriguez</u> hit his 600th home run at the Stadium, becoming the youngest player to accomplish the feat. In 2011, three significant milestones were achieved at the stadium. In July, Jeter became the first Yankee to join the 3,000 hit club and collect all 3,000 hits with the franchise. The following month, the Yankees became the first team in history to hit three grand slams in a single game. As the regular season drew to a close, Mariano Rivera became the <u>all-time leader</u> in regular season <u>saves</u>, when he earned his 602nd save.

On April 20, 2016, the Oakland Athletics' <u>Kendall Graveman</u> became the first starting pitcher to bat at Yankee Stadium. [88]

Accessibility and transportation

The stadium is reachable via the 161st Street – Yankee Stadium station complex, the same that served the old Yankee Stadium, by the 4, B, and D trains of the New York City Subway. It is also served by the Yankees – East 153rd Street station of the Metro-North Railroad, opened on May 23, 2009; [89] this station routinely features Hudson Line train service, but on game days, Harlem Line and New Haven Line trains from upstate New York and Connecticut—as well as shuttle trains from Grand Central Terminal—also stop there. The stadium is also served by the Bx1, Bx2, Bx6, Bx6 SBS, and Bx13 New York City Bus routes. For selected games, SeaStreak provides high-speed ferry service to Highlands, New Jersey. [90]

Yankee Stadium is accessible by car via the Major Deegan Expressway (I-87), with connections to the Cross Bronx Expressway (I-95), Bruckner Expressway (I-278), and other highways and roads. Aside from existing parking lots and garages serving the stadium, construction for additional parking garages is planned. The New York State Legislature agreed to \$70 million in subsidies for a \$320 million parking garage project. On October 9, 2007, the New York City Industrial Development Agency approved \$225 million in tax-exempt bonds to finance construction of three new parking garages that will have 3,600 new parking spaces, and renovation of the existing 5,569 parking spaces nearby. Plans initially called for a fourth new garage, but this was eliminated before the final approval. The garages will be built (and renovated) by the Community Initiatives Development Corporation of Hudson, New York, a nonprofit entity that will use the parking revenue to repay the bonds and pay a \$3 million yearly land lease to the City of New York. Parking is expected to cost \$25 per game.

Non-baseball uses



Yankee Stadium hosting a New York City FC soccer match in 2015.

Soccer



The stadium is serviced via subway by the 161st Street station on the IRT Jerome Avenue Line (shown) as well as the IND Concourse Line (underground, not shown).



Commuter railroad service is provided by the <u>East 153rd</u> <u>Street Metro-North Railroad station.</u>

As part of the 2012 World Football Challenge, Chelsea played with Paris Saint-Germain on July 22, 2012 in the first

soccer (football) match at Yankee Stadium, the match ended in a 1–1 tie, before a crowd of 38,202. The Stadium hosted another soccer match between A.C. Milan and Real Madrid on August 8, 2012. Real Madrid won 5-1, before a crowd of 49,474. Chelsea also played Manchester City there on May 25, 2013, which ended in a 5-3 win for City. On June 11, 2013, Spain defeated the Republic of Ireland 2-0 in a friendly match at the stadium.

On April 21, 2014, it was announced that New York City FC, a Major League Soccer expansion team owned jointly by the New York Yankees and Manchester City, would play in Yankee Stadium from 2015 until their new stadium site is determined and the stadium is built. NYCFC played their first game at Yankee Stadium on March 15, 2015. Because of the unique dimensions of the Yankee Stadium field, the playing surface of the soccer pitch is 110 yards (100 m) long by 70 yards (64 m) wide—the smallest field in all of Major League Soccer, and the smallest allowed by FIFA's international guidelines. [94]

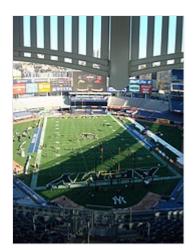
International soccer matches

Date	Winning Team	Result Losing Team		Tournament	Attendance
July 22, 2012	Paris Saint- Germain F.C. (Tie)	1–1 <u>Chelsea F.C.</u> (Tie)		World Football Challenge	38,202
August 8, 2012	Real Madrid C.F.	5–1	A.C. Milan	Club Friendly	49,474
May 25, 2013	Manchester City F.C.	5–3	← Chelsea F.C.	Club Friendly	39,462
June 11, 2013	<u> </u>	2–0	Republic of Ireland	International Friendly	39,368
July 30, 2014	Liverpool F.C.	2-2 3-1 (pens.) ^[95]	Manchester City F.C.	International Champions Cup	49,653

College football

The Notre Dame Fighting Irish played a college football game at Yankee Stadium against The Army Black Knights on November 20, 2010, with the Irish defeating the Black Knights 27–3. This marked the two teams' first meeting in the Bronx since 1969. Army played Rutgers in 2011 (Rutgers defeated Army 27–12), and played against Connecticut in 2014. Also in 2014, Lehigh and Lafayette played the 150th edition of their college football rivalry game at Yankee Stadium on November 22, 2014. Both teams played to a sold out stadium; Lafayette winning, 27-7. On November 12, 2016, Fordham University beat Holy Cross 54–14 in the 53rd meeting of the Ram–Crusader Cup.

Since 2010, Yankee Stadium has hosted the <u>Pinstripe Bowl</u>, an annual college football <u>bowl game</u>. The inaugural bowl pitted Syracuse (3rd place Big East) against Kansas State (7th place Big 12) on December 30, 2010. Syracuse defeated Kansas State 36–34 in a shootout, before a crowd of 38,274. [98]



Yankee Stadium in football configuration for a game between Army and Rutgers

The stadium was intended to host a game between Rutgers and <u>Maryland</u> on November 4, 2017, but this event was cancelled in October 2017 due to potential conflicts with the Yankees' postseason. [99]

Hockey

The first National Hockey League event took place on January 26, 2014, between the New York Rangers and the New Jersey Devils as part of the 2014 NHL Stadium Series. The Rangers also faced off against the New York Islanders on January 29, 2014, under the deep cold outdoor weather. The Rangers won both matches 7-3 and 2-1 respectively. Both games drew a little bit more than 50,000 spectators, almost the full capacity of the stadium. The Devils and Islanders never played an outdoor game before this series. [100]

Concerts

Date	Artist(s)	Opening act(s)	Tour	Tickets sold	Revenue	Additional notes
September 13, 2010	Jay-Z Eminem	B.o.B J. Cole	The Home & Home Tour	_	_	Special guests with Eminem: D12, B.o.B, 50 Cent, Lloyd Banks and Dr. Dre. Special guests with Jay-Z: Kanye West, Nicki Minaj, Swizz Beatz, Eminem, Chris Martin of Coldplay, Drake, Beyoncé and Bridget Kelly.
September 14, 2010						Special guests with Eminem: D12, B.o.B, 50 Cent, G-Unit and Dr. Dre. Special guests with Jay- Z: Kanye West, Nicki Minaj, Swizz Beatz, Eminem, Mary J. Blige, Drake, Beyoncé.
July 15, 2011	Paul	DJ Chris	On the Pun Tour			
July 16, 2011	McCartney	Holmes	On the Run Tour	_		Special guest: Billy Joel.
September 14, 2011	Metallica Slayer Megadeth Anthrax	_	Big Four Festival	41,762 / 41,762	\$5,371,167	Concert by the "Big Four" of thrash metal.
July 6, 2012	Roger		The Model Live	62,188 /	Φ7 07F 000	
July 7, 2012	Waters	_	The Wall Live	62,188	\$7,375,030	
September 6, 2012 September 8, 2012	Madonna	Avicii	The MDNA Tour	79,775 / 79,775	\$12,599,540	The first show sold out in 20 minutes. ^[101] During the second performance, Madonna performed
July 19, 2013	Justin	DJ	Legends of the	89,023 /		"Holiday." ^[102] Surprise guest: Alicia Keys.
July 20, 2013	Timberlake Jay-Z	Cassidy	Summer Stadium Tour	89,023	\$12,041,096	Surprise guest: Timbaland. ^[103]
July 11, 2014	Romeo Santos	_	Formula, Vol. 2	Sold Out both dates (total)	_	Surprise guest: Tego Calderón, Bernie Williams, Luis Vargas, Antony Santos, and Fefita La Grande.

July 12, 2014						Surprise guest: Bernie Williams, Prince Royce, Marc Anthony and Aventura reunion.
July 8, 2016	Garth Brooks		The Garth Brooks World			On November 10, a special showcasing the tour's shows from the
July 9, 2016	Trisha Yearwood	_	Tour with Trisha Yearwood	_	_	ballpark aired in <u>4K</u> exclusively through <u>AT&T</u> and <u>DirecTV</u> on <u>Audience</u> .[104]

Boxing

The promotional tour for the Manny Pacquiao–Miguel Cotto fight began with an event at Yankee Stadium on September 10, 2009.

On June 5, 2010, <u>Yuri Foreman</u> fought Cotto in the first boxing match in The Bronx since 1976. The fight was referred to as the "<u>Stadium Slugfest</u>". Cotto defeated Foreman with a TKO in the ninth round. Cotto captured the WBA super welterweight title and his fourth world title, before a crowd of 20,272. [105]

Other events

The first non-baseball event at the current version of Yankee Stadium took place on the evening of Saturday, April 25, 2009, when Senior Pastor <u>Joel Osteen</u> of <u>Lakewood Church</u> held what was dubbed as a "Historic Night of Hope" Christian prayer service. [106]

A <u>New York University</u> graduation ceremony took place on May 13, 2009 with the address being delivered by <u>U.S. Secretary of State</u> and former New York Senator <u>Hillary Clinton</u>. The 2010 NYU ceremony featured alumnus <u>Alec Baldwin</u> as a speaker. <u>[107]</u> President Bill Clinton spoke at the 2011 ceremony. <u>[108]</u>

Ticket policy

Effective 2016, printed <u>electronic tickets</u> cannot be used at New York Yankees and New York City FC matches at Yankee Stadium. Only traditional hard-stock tickets, and those issued via a mobile ticketing system, are accepted. The team justified the decision by stating that it was meant to combat fraud associated with printed digital tickets. However, it was also believed that the team was trying to specifically hinder the <u>ticket resale</u> service <u>StubHub</u>, which competed against an official resale service run by <u>TicketMaster</u> known as the Yankees Ticket Exchange. The YTE is subject to a price flooring policy, meaning that tickets may only be discounted up to a certain amount. Although StubHub is the official ticket resale partner of Major League Baseball, the Yankees, as well as the Los Angeles Angels and Chicago Cubs, had opted out of this agreement. [109]

Owing to the Yankees' ownership of the team, New York City FC announced on March 11, 2016 that its matches would also be subject to this policy. At the team's March 13, 2016 home opener, although the team stated that they would be phasing in mobile ticketing by introducing additional verification steps for printed tickets before the policy takes full effect in April, reports indicated that the stadium was turning away fans with printed tickets, leading to long queue lines, as well as few attendees inside the stadium itself. [110][111] In an interview with

<u>WFAN</u> radio, Yankees COO Lonn Trost explained that the measures were to help combat ticket resale, arguing that the team did not want fans to purchase "premium" seats at bargain prices, because they would be filled by "someone who has never sat in a premium location [before]". [112]

On the April 3, 2016 episode of the <u>HBO</u> news-comedy series <u>Last Week Tonight</u>, host <u>John Oliver</u> responded to Trost's remarks, arguing that he was "saying that rich people couldn't bear to sit next to people who aren't as rich." As a further satire of Trost's arguments against discounted resale, Oliver then announced a contest in which viewers were invited to send photos of themselves dressed as if they had "never sat in a premium location before", with winners offered the ability to purchase a pair of Legends Seats from one of the first three home games of the season for 25 cents. The stunt was successful, leading to the presence of several costumed attendees in Legends Seats during the opening games. Team president <u>Randy Levine</u> responded positively to the stunt, thanking Oliver for having bought tickets to begin with, and remarked that everyone was welcome at Yankee Stadium. [113][114][115]

On June 27, 2016, the Yankees announced that it had reached a deal with StubHub for it to become its new official ticket resale partner beginning on July 7, 2016, and allow season ticket holders to sell electronic tickets, rather than mail physical tickets to the buyer. The service will still be subject to a price flooring policy, but the team stated that the new arrangement would provide a "superior, more secure, [and] better experience". [116][117]

See also

List of most expensive buildings in the world

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External links

- Official website (http://www.mlb.com/nyy/ballpark)
- Virtual tour of new Yankee Stadium (http://newyork.yankees.mlb.com/media/video.jsp?mid=20080 9093443211&c_id=nyy)
- Newsday.com New Yankee Stadium (http://www.newsday.com/sports/baseball/yankees/ny-ystad-s g,0,1532970.storygallery?coll=ny-yankees-utility)
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- Ballparks.com overview of proposed stadium (http://www.ballparks.com/baseball/american/nyybpk.htm)
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- Metro-North Railroad station at Yankee Stadium (http://mta.info/mnr/html/yankeestadium.htm)
- Yankee Stadium Seating Chart (http://seatingchartview.com/yankee-stadium/)
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	Events and tenants	[show]
Preceded by Yankee Stadium I	Home of the New York Yankees 2009–present	Succeeded by Current
Preceded by none	Home of the Pinstripe Bowl 2010–present	Succeeded by Current
Preceded by first stadium	Home of New York City FC 2015—present	Succeeded by New York City FC Stadium

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