

The Statue of Liberty

The Statue of Liberty (full name Liberty Enlightening the World; English: Liberty Enlightening the World; French: La Liberté éclairant le monde) is a large-scale neoclassical bronze sculpture, located on the island Liberty in New York Harbor, New York City, THE USA. . Designed by French architect Frédéric Auguste Bartholdi, its metal frame was built by Gustave Eiffel and inaugurated on October 28, 1886. It was a gift from the French people to America.

The Statue of Liberty is recognized as a National Monument and inscribed on the National Register of Historic Places as the Statue of Liberty, Ellis Island and Liberty Island, first administered by the U.S. Lighthouse Service until 1901 and later by the U.S. War Department; Since 1933 it has been managed by the National Park Service.

History

History since its inauguration

The statue quickly became a landmark of New York City. Many immigrants entering the United States passing through New York City see the statue as a sign welcoming them.

After the United States entered World War I in 1917, images of the statue were used extensively in posters promoting enlistment and advocating for the Bond of Freedom, urging U.S. citizens to financially support the war. This was appreciated by the public because the war was supposed to ensure freedom and served as a reminder that war-torn France had once given the United States the statue.

In 1924, President Calvin Coolidge used his authority under the Antiquities Act to declare the statue a national monument.

Early years under the National Park Service (1933–1982)

In 1933, President Franklin Roosevelt ordered the statue transferred to the National Park Service (NPS). In 1937, the Parks Department received authority to administer what remained on Bedloe Island.

During World War II, the statue remained open to visitors but was not lit at night because of wartime nighttime lights off (enemy pilots could easily find targets). The statue was briefly lit on December 31, 1943, and on D-Day, June 6, 1944, when the statue's lights flash "dot-dot-dot-dot-brick", Morse code signifies the letter V meaning victory.

In 1976, a new powerful lighting system was installed ahead of the 200th anniversary of the United States. On July 4, 1976, the statue was the convergence point of Operation Sailing, a yacht race featuring tall sailboats from around the world entering New York harbor and running around Liberty Island. The race ended with a spectacular fireworks display near the statue.

Restoration to present (since 1982)

In 1986, the statue was meticulously examined by a team of US and French engineers as part of a plan to celebrate the statue's 100th birthday. In 1982, it was announced that the statue needed significant restoration. Meticulous research revealed that the right arm was incorrectly attached to the main structure of the statue.

In May 1982, President Ronald Reagan announced the establishment of the Statue of Liberty - Ellis Island Centennial Committee led by Chrysler Corporation chairman Lee Iacocca to raise the necessary funds to complete the project restoration work.

July 3-6, 1986 was designated "Freedom Weekend", marking the 100th anniversary of the statue and its inauguration. President Reagan presided over the re-inauguration ceremony with the presence of French President François Mitterrand.

Travel and features of the statue

Location and visit

The statue is located in Upper New York Bay on Liberty Island, south of Ellis Island. Both islands were ceded by the state of New York to the federal government in 1800. Under an 1834 agreement between New York and New Jersey that established a boundary near the middle of the bay, the original islands remained territory of New York despite their location on the New Jersey side of the front line. The artificial landfill at Ellis Island is a territory of New Jersey.

Entrance to the Statue of Liberty National Monument is free, but all visitors must pay a ferry crossing fee because private boats cannot dock on the island. In 2007, "Statue Cruises" was transferred the right to operate traffic and sell tickets for sightseeing facilities on the island, replacing "Circle Line" which is a ferry service operating since 1953.

Those who want to use the stairs inside the statue to reach the crown must purchase a special ticket. This ticket may have to be purchased 1 year in advance. In total, only about 240 people are allowed to ascend the crown each day: 10 people per group, 3 groups per hour. Those going there are only allowed to bring medication and cameras - with lockers provided to store the rest - and must undergo a second security check.

In 1984, the Statue of Liberty was recognized by UNESCO as a World Heritage Site. In its "Declaration of Significance", UNESCO describes the statue as a "spiritual masterpiece of humanity" and "a symbol of immense majesty - inspiring contemplation, debate and struggle." - for ideals like freedom, peace, human rights, abolition, etc. democracy and opportunity."

Models, movies about the statue

Hundreds of models of the Statue of Liberty are displayed around the world. A smaller model, about one-fifth of the original statue's height, was donated to the city by the American community in Paris. It now stands on the Île aux Cygnes, facing west towards its older sister (the original statue in New York). A model of the 9.1-metre-tall (30 ft) statue on the roof of the Liberty Warehouse at 64th Street in Manhattan stood there for years; is now housed in the Brooklyn Museum. In a gesture of patriotism as part of the "Strengthen the Arms of Liberty" campaign in 1949–1952, the Boy Scouts of America donated about hundreds of bronze models of the Statue of Liberty, about 100 inches (2.5 meters) tall to states and municipalities throughout the United States. Although not a real model, the statue known as the Goddess of Democracy was temporarily erected during the 1989 Tiananmen Square protests that were similarly inspired by French democratic traditions, which were careful not to directly imitate the Statue of Liberty. In entertainment buildings in New York City, the replica of the statue is part of the landscape used to decorate the exterior at the New York-New York Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Many regional foundations and agencies have also used models or iconography of the statue. Between 1986 and 2000, New York State issued license plates featuring the statue. The National Women's Basketball Association's New York Liberty Team uses both the name and image of the statue on its emblem, with its flame stylized as a basketball. The New York Rangers of the United States National Hockey League featured the head on their jerseys beginning in 1997.