



CONY ISLAND

Get ready for some fun in the sun because Coney Island, aka “America’s Playground” is ready for you! Once a neglected park after WWII, it was revitalized with the opening of the MCU Park and several rides in the 2010’s and in 2001 became both an amusement park and historical attraction. Today, millions flock here to sightsee popular attractions like the Mermaid Parade, the famous boardwalk, and Nathan’s hot dogs! Go on! Explore Coney Island and it’s treasures to your heart’s content!

1. Greek immigrant Denos Vourderis wanted to make his proposal to his future wife unforgettable. He promised to buy the 150 ft Ferris wheel as soon as he could if she said yes. She did. So from 1948-1983 he worked his way up from a hot dog vendor, until he eventually purchased the Wonder Wheel. Today it’s still a prime spot for proposals.
2. Nathan Handwerker first opened Nathan’s Famous, with his wife, Ida, as a hot dog stand in 1916, and his original secret recipe is still used today. When he first opened, his hot dogs cost only 5 cents where his competitor and former employer, Charles Feltman (*who some say invented the hot dog*), priced his for 10 cents.
3. The Cyclone was finished on June 26, 1927 and only cost 25 cents to ride! Today it stands as the 12th oldest coaster in the U.S.
4. The state motto “Excelsior” on the New York State flag in Latin means “ever upward.”
5. Fun fact: Takeru Kobayashi, the Hot Dog Eating Champion of Coney Island, until 2009, ate 64.5 hot dogs and buns in 10 minutes. Do you think you could do that?
6. The Mermaid Parade ran its first run in 1983 and today is the largest art parade in the U.S. and is held annually at the beginning of the summer. They have been so popular that the hosts have contacted other places copying their parade to stop.
7. The 80-foot wide boardwalk was nicknamed “Coney Island’s Fifth Avenue,” and opened on May 15, 1923.
8. This seagull knows where the best hot dogs can be found!
9. Did you know that the island stands only 7 feet above sea level?
10. The Lenape Native Americans living in this region, originally named it Narrioch, meaning “land without shadows” or “always in light,” describing how its south facing beaches always remain in sunlight.