

# Planning Your Visit

Sandy Hook is open all year long; 5AM - 10PM (Apr 1 - Oct 31) and 5AM - 8 PM (Nov 1 - Mar 31).

The **Sandy Hook Visitor Center** is located in the Lighthouse Keepers' Quarters, Fort Hancock. Open daily 9AM - 5PM.

Fort Hancock is a great place to explore. Visit the Mortar Battery, Battery Potter, and History House, a restored home on Officers Row. Most sites are open during the summer on weekends.

The Sandy Hook Lighthouse is open daily, 1PM-4:30PM, year round. The **Keepers Quarters** has exhibits on NJ Lighthouses. The **Keepers Barn** features a

Lighthouse history video.

Sandy Hook is a prime spot for **birding**. Try Plum Island, the Horseshoe Cove salt marsh, Spermaceti Cove boardwalk, North Pond and the fields at Fort Hancock.



**Hiking trails** begin at Beach Area E and Area M near Nine-Gun Battery. Some areas

may be closed due to spring and summer shorebird nesting areas.

**Surf fishing** is permitted at all beaches except when lifeguards are on duty. An annual pass for nighttime fishing can be purchased at the Entrance Station or Visitor Center.

A **multi-use pathway (MUP)** shared by bicyclists, skaters and pedestrians, extends 7 miles from the park entrance to Fort Hancock.

**Picnics:** Charcoal grilling is permitted only at Guardian Park. The North Beach Observation Deck has tables and a view of New York Harbor.

## Summer on the Hook

Lifeguards are on duty 10AM - 6PM at five ocean beaches from Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day. Swim only at guarded beaches.

Rip currents are powerful currents of water flowing away from the shore. Before you go to the beach, learn what you need to do "Break the Grip of the Rip."

Summer weekends can be busy. When parking areas are full, the park closes until spaces become available.

There is a parking fee charged for beach areas B, C, D, E, G, I,

J, and K, from 7AM to 5PM during the lifeguard season. Daily and season parking passes are available at the Fee Plaza.

The Interagency Senior and Access Passes give a 50% discount on parking. The Military Pass offers free beach parking. The National Park Pass is not accepted for beach parking.

For more information

Visit our website: [www.nps.gov/gate](http://www.nps.gov/gate)

Visit our facebook page: [www.facebook.com/GatewayNPS](http://www.facebook.com/GatewayNPS)

Sandy Hook Visitor Center: (732) 872-5970

To report an emergency: (732) 872-5900

