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City Room



Statue of Liberty to Reopen by July 4

By [PATRICK MCGEEHAN](#)



Ángel Franco/The New York Times

The Statue of Liberty, pictured here in November, will reopen on July 4.

Updated, 4:52 p.m. | The Statue of Liberty, which has been closed to visitors since Hurricane Sandy struck and open for only one day since the fall of 2011, will reopen by the Fourth of July holiday, federal officials said Tuesday.

Interior Secretary Ken Salazar and Senator Charles E. Schumer announced the plan three weeks after Mr. Salazar toured Liberty Island in New York Harbor. The secretary had planned to announce a reopening date on that trip, but after seeing the unrepaired damage, he held off.

The statue was not harmed by the storm, but [several structures on the island were ruined](#), including the dock for ferries carrying visitors from Lower Manhattan and Liberty State Park in Jersey City.

The interior of the statue had been [closed for a year](#) starting in 2011 and had only been reopened for one day when the storm hit. Since the storm, all of Liberty and Ellis Islands have been off limits to visitors.

Another obstacle to the statue's reopening has been a long-running disagreement between the National Park Service and the New York Police Department over how to handle security for the statue. Before the storm, visitors passed through airport-style screening lanes before boarding ferries.

The Park Service would prefer to move the screening operation to Ellis Island, where only those tourists who want to visit the statue would be screened. But the city police want the passengers screened for weapons and explosives before they board ferries in Battery Park.

The issue has not been resolved, according to Paul J. Browne, chief spokesman for the Police Department. Mr. Browne said on Tuesday that "discussions are ongoing," but he reiterated the department's prior position: "We have concerns that if you don't have it on the Manhattan side, you'd have an element of risk onboard the ferry itself."

Mr. Salazar said park service officials had had “very positive and productive conversations” with the Police Department and that “this will all be resolved in a good way.” He said a solution would be announced next week.

A version of this article appeared in print on 03/20/2013, on page A22 of the New York edition with the headline: Statue of Liberty Is to Reopen, Fittingly, by the Fourth of July.

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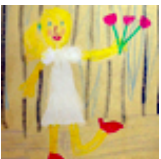
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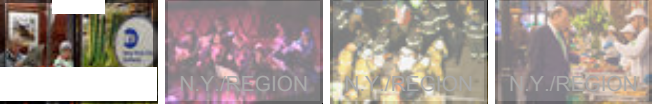
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