



We Bring the World to New Jersey

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NJSEA Announces 2015 Pontoon Boat Cruise and Canoe Tour Season

Popular Guided Tours of Hackensack River Run from June Through September

LYNDHURST, N.J. – The New Jersey Sports and Exposition Authority's (NJSEA) highly anticipated 2015 guided pontoon boat and canoe tours of the Hackensack River are set to launch in June, giving visitors a unique opportunity to experience the amazing natural beauty and wildlife of the Meadowlands up-close while learning about the remarkable history of the river and the region.

For those who have glimpsed the Meadowlands only from the surrounding highways or the window of a commuter train, the NJSEA's leisurely, two-hour boat tours and three-hour canoe trips reveal a whole new environment including acres of preserved wetlands and a thriving ecosystem, all framed by a spectacular view of the Manhattan skyline.

Expert NJSEA staff narrates the tours. While talking about the Hackensack River estuary's storied history they point out wildlife along the way. The Hackensack River is a great place from which to see many of the more than 280 bird species that have been documented in the Meadowlands, including 34 on New Jersey's threatened, endangered and species of special concern lists.

Visitors can look to the shoreline for egrets, herons and sandpipers and turn their gazes skyward to view peregrine falcons perched under bridges, ospreys searching for a meal and majestic bald eagles soaring through the sky. Pontoon boat cruises launch from River Barge Park in Carlstadt and pass under historic lift bridges and drawbridges. The trips also traverse the river's marshes, where muskrats, diamondback terrapins and fiddler crabs may be seen. No two cruises are alike, as each takes a slightly different path along the river, at different tides.

Canoe tours launch from various locations and focus on the river's marshes, taking participants on a journey through a diverse array of vegetation and wildlife. Paddlers learn the basics of salt marsh ecology and enjoy the magnificent scenery while rowing past wetlands and down creeks.

Pontoon boat and canoe trips are for ages 10 and up. Canoes hold up to three people, and at least one person should have canoeing experience. Requests for group pontoon boat and canoe trips are welcome. Due to the high popularity of these tours, early reservations are recommended. Canoe tours are \$15 per person and the suggested donation for pontoon boat rides is also \$15 per person. For more information, call 201-460-4677 or email cathy.vonk@njmeadowlands.gov.

To download a registration form, visit www.njmeadowlands.gov. Registration sheets are also available at the NJSEA offices and the Meadowlands Environment Center, both located in DeKorte Park in Lyndhurst.

Below is a complete schedule of NJSEA pontoon boat tours and canoe trips. The NJSEA includes the former New Jersey Meadowlands Commission.

NJSEA 2015 Pontoon Boat Tours (All tours launch from River Barge Park, Carlstadt)

June

5:30 p.m. June 3, 9, 11, 17, 19, 23 and 25

8:30 a.m. June 13

July

5:30 p.m. July 1, 7, 9, 15, 17, 21, 23 and 29

10 a.m. July 8 and 22

8:30 a.m. July 25

August

5:30 p.m. Aug. 4, 6, 12, 14, 18, 20 and 26

10 a.m. Aug. 5 and 19

8:30 a.m. Aug. 22

September

5 p.m. Sept. 2, 3, 8, 11, 16, 22 and 24

8:30 a.m. Sept. 19

NJSEA 2015 Canoe Tours and Launch Points

8:30 a.m. June 20 (Mill Creek Point Park, Secaucus)

8:30 a.m. July 18 (River Barge Park, Carlstadt)

8:30 a.m. Aug. 15 (River Barge Park, Carlstadt)

8:30 a.m. Sept. 12 (Laurel Hill Park, Secaucus)

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