

THE OFFICIAL SITE

# FAKE ATTRACTION

ST. GEORGE  
STATEN ISLAND  
NEW YORK CITY

Approximately 20 million people take 33,000 trips on the ferry each year. On an average weekday, the **ferry** makes 104 trips shuttling 70,000 people back and forth across the harbour. Traveling at an operational speed of 16 knots, each 5.2-mile trip takes 25 minutes.

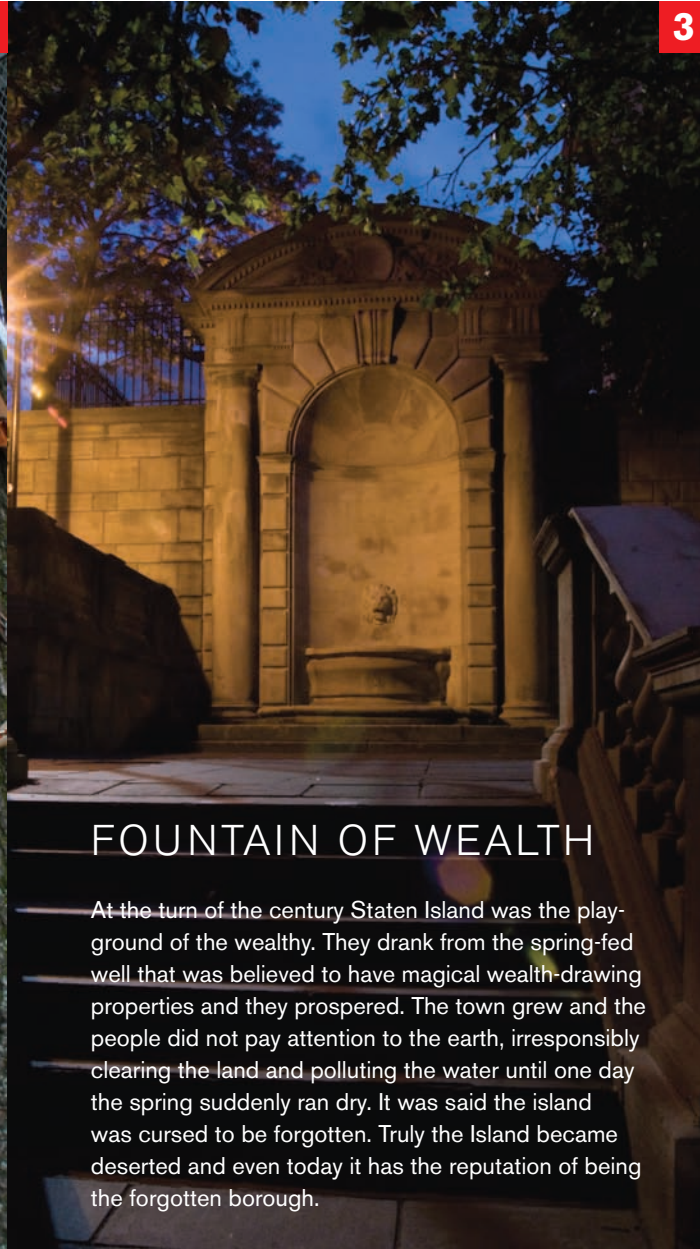
Enjoy the **FREE** ferry ride. There's a departure on every half hour around the clock. Whitehall Terminal is reachable by subway: take the R, W, 4 or 5 Train.



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## TREE OF WAISTS

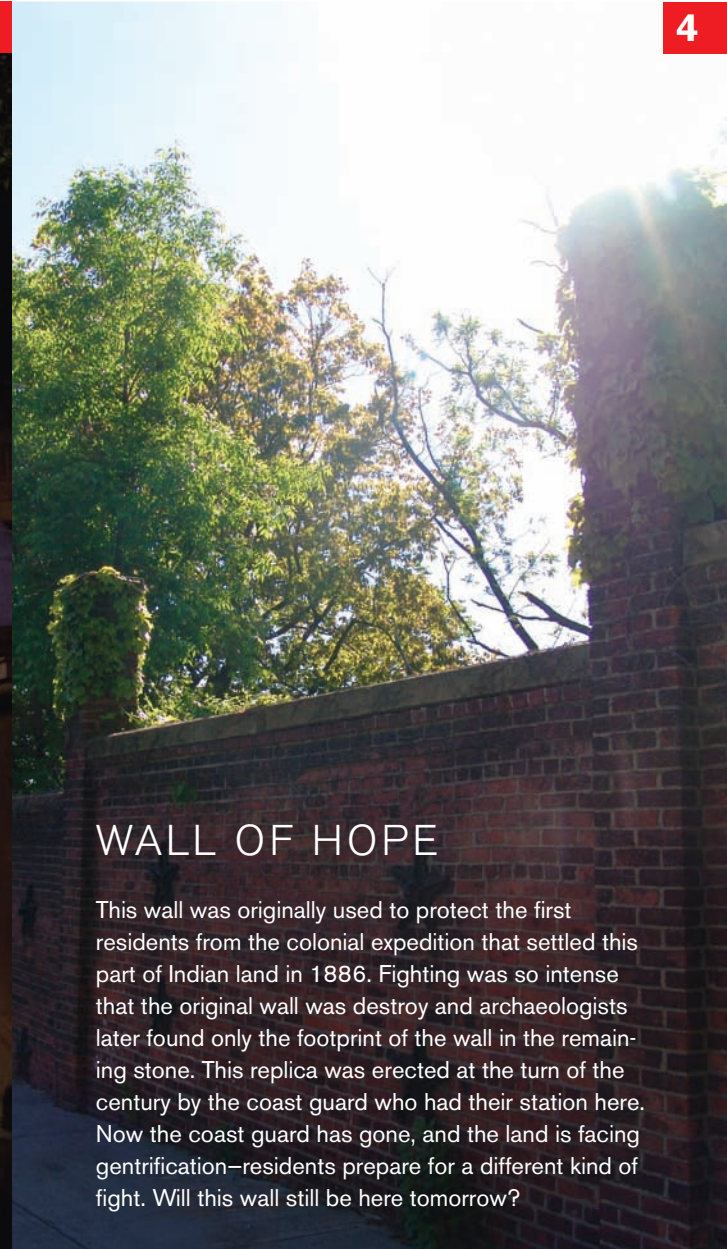
Magical? Superstitious? Believe in it. It works. People have been taking it off. Their belts, that is. Various belts now adorn the trunk of this native hybrid oak tree. It is believed that a person can shed a few pounds by tying a belt around this tree. Still not convinced? Try it yourself.



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## FOUNTAIN OF WEALTH

At the turn of the century Staten Island was the playground of the wealthy. They drank from the spring-fed well that was believed to have magical wealth-drawing properties and they prospered. The town grew and the people did not pay attention to the earth, irresponsibly clearing the land and polluting the water until one day the spring suddenly ran dry. It was said the island was cursed to be forgotten. Truly the Island became deserted and even today it has the reputation of being the forgotten borough.



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## WALL OF HOPE

This wall was originally used to protect the first residents from the colonial expedition that settled this part of Indian land in 1886. Fighting was so intense that the original wall was destroyed and archaeologists later found only the footprint of the wall in the remaining stone. This replica was erected at the turn of the century by the coast guard who had their station here. Now the coast guard has gone, and the land is facing gentrification—residents prepare for a different kind of fight. Will this wall still be here tomorrow?

**FACT:** The Indian name for the island was Monacnong, or Enchanted Woods. In 1609, Henry Hudson renamed it Staaten Eyelandt after the Dutch parliament that commissioned his voyage. In 1683, King Charles of England rechristened the island Richmond County after James, Duke of Richmond. It became the Borough of Richmond when it joined New York City in 1898. Despite the "official" name changes the residents of the island called their home Staten Island in everyday conversation for centuries, but it was not until 1975 that the city fathers made "Borough of Staten Island" the official name.