

## **FRIDAY AFTERNOON SKATE**

On this leisurely skate, we will leave the concrete canyons of lower Manhattan's Financial District behind and sail across New York Harbor for an opportunity to view the area from the water, the shores of Governor's Island, and possibly the Manhattan Bridge.

On the trip from the plaza behind the hotel to the ferry, we will pass Trinity Church, the NY Stock Exchange, Federal Hall, the Financial District Charging Bull, The Museum of the American Indian, 17 State Street Plaza, and the shrine of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton. The 7-minute ferry ride from Governor's Island Ferry Terminal (10 South Street, New York, NY) across Upper NY Bay to Governor's Island departs promptly at 2pm and costs \$2.00 **(If you miss this ferry, take the next one at 3p.m).**

Governor's Island is an island oasis with an excellent perimeter path offering exceptional views of the NY Harbor, Liberty and Ellis Island, and lower Manhattan. There are two must-see attractions. The first is Castle Williams, a part of both national and city landmark districts that has served as a fort, a prison, a youth community center and, most recently, a museum. The second is the "The Hills" which opened last year. Using debris from the demolition of island buildings, the city has given us another example of 21st century hybrid design by constructing four hills that are part man-made and part natural – Grassy Hill, Discovery Hill, Slide Hill and Outlook Hill. Slide Hill has the longest slide in the city at 57 feet and Outlook Hill rises 70 feet above sea level offering panoramic views of New York Harbor, the Statue of Liberty, the Verrazano Bridge, and the towers of Manhattan's financial district. This unique urban park has quickly become one of New York City's must-see summer attractions. There are several food trucks and a café serving Starbucks products.

I had planned to take a second free ferry to Brooklyn's Pier 6, but it looks like ferry service to this destination is not operating during the week. Therefore, we will take the free ferry back to Manhattan (at 3:30, 4:00 or 4:30) where we can skate up to and half way across the Manhattan Bridge for more impressive views of Manhattan's Financial District.

**1:15pm** - Group up at Gwathmey Plaza behind the hotel (Washington Street and Carlisle Street, New York, NY)

**1:30pm** – Skate off

**2:00pm** – Ferry departs (10 South Street, New York, NY). **(If you miss this ferry, take the next one at 3p.m and call me at 914-262-7950 after your ferry arrives at the island).**

**5:00pm** – Return to hotel (or sooner if the group votes for a shorter skate).

**The skate will cover approximately 10 miles (on land) and footwear is required for the ferry rides.**