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Contact: Tegan Firth

415-816-7634

## **STATUE CRUISES TAKES VISITORS FROM AROUND THE WORLD TO AMERICA'S GREATEST SYMBOLS OF FREEDOM AND HOPE**

Battery Park, NY & Liberty State Park, NJ – Statue Cruises, the new operator of ferry service to the Statue of Liberty National Monument and Ellis Island Immigration Museum began operations on January 1, 2008. Tickets can be purchased online at [www.statuecruises.com](http://www.statuecruises.com) or over the phone at 877-LADY TIX (877-523-9849). They can also be purchased in person at Castle Clinton in Battery Park, NY or at the Central Railroad of New Jersey Terminal in Liberty State Park, NJ.

The Statue of Liberty National Monument is one of the most popular attractions in the United States and a destination for visitors from around the world. It has welcomed millions since it was dedicated on October 28, 1886.

The Ellis Island Immigration Museum opened to the public in 1990. Between the years of 1892 and 1954, Ellis Island welcomed more immigrants to the United States than any other immigration facility. It is estimated that over 40% of Americans can trace their ancestry to someone who came through Ellis Island.

Statue Cruises offers several daily departures from Battery Park and Liberty State Park. Two types of tickets are offered. The Reserve Ticket allows visitors to select the day and time they would like to visit, reducing the amount of time they will wait in line at security. The Flex Ticket allows visitors to depart for their visit at any time in the three day period they select. Both ticket types can be purchased in advance.

Monument Passes, which are provided free of charge, offer a limited number of visitors the opportunity to enter the pedestal of the Statue and climb to the observation deck of the pedestal at the base of the Statue. The pedestal contains the original torch from the Statue, as well as a museum that

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spans the history and construction of the Statue. Monument Passes are distributed in advance with Reserve Tickets, based on availability. Flex Ticket holders can request a Monument Pass on the day of their visit either at the ticket booth or from rangers on Liberty Island.

Statue Cruises is committed to protecting natural resources and educating the public on how they can join this commitment as well. Through our Respect Our Planet ([www.respectourplanet.com](http://www.respectourplanet.com)) management system, information is shared about what the company is doing today, what they plan to do in the future and what visitors can do at home to protect the environment. Many food items served on board are organic, and when possible, locally and sustainably grown. Careful attention is paid to using recycled materials whenever possible, from printed materials, to signage, to building supplies.

Statue Cruises was awarded the contract to provide ferry service to the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island in October 2007 after a competitive bidding process. Alcatraz Cruises, a sister company of Statue Cruises, is the National Park Service concessioner of ferry service to Alcatraz Island. Both are affiliated with Hornblower Cruises & Events, a dining cruise and charter yacht company operating in six California cities.

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