

NYC SIGHTSEEING BOAT FAQ

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Are sightseeing boats allowed to operate?

Yes, sightseeing boats are allowed to operate subject to the requirements set forth in the [New York State Department of Health Interim Guidance for Commercial Fishing Services and For-Hire Vessels](#).

What are the social distancing requirements for crew and passengers?

- Where possible, crew and passengers must maintain a distance of at least 6 feet at all times, unless the group consists exclusively of members of the same household. If an activity requires a shorter distance, face coverings should be worn in accordance with the applicable NYS guidance.
- While waiting in line to board or disembark the boat, all patrons should wear face coverings and maintain a distance of at least 6 feet from other individuals.

May sightseeing boats provide food and beverage service?

Yes, but boats licensed to serve food and drink must operate subject to the same State-imposed requirements as land-based restaurants:

- **Outdoor dining:** Docked boats may offer outdoor dining to customers who arrive on a walk-up basis. Any dining on these boats must operate subject to the [New York State Department of Health Interim Guidance for Outdoor and Take/Out Food Service](#).
- **Indoor Dining:** All boats, docked and undocked, may conduct indoor dining with seating for customers subject to the [NYS DOH Interim Guidance for NYC Indoor Food Services](#).
- **Events:** All boats, docked and undocked, may hold events so long as they are held in accordance with the additional protocols provided for in the [NYS DOH Interim Guidance for NYC Indoor Food Services](#).

What are the hours of operation for sightseeing boats that provide indoor food and beverage service?

Establishments may operate daily from 5:00 a.m. to 12:00 a.m. At 12:00 a.m. all food and beverage service is required to cease.

However, patrons may remain at the premises (indoors or outdoors) after 12:00 a.m. under the following circumstances:

- Establishments may hold events that conclude at or before 1:00 a.m.
- Establishments licensed by the State Liquor Authority may continue to offer activities permissible under current State DOH guidance (e.g., bowling, live entertainment, etc.) and consistent with their license until their locally-mandated closing time (4:00 a.m. in New York City).

Are there any capacity limits for dining on sightseeing boats*?

- **Outdoor Dining:** For outdoor dining on sightseeing boats, operators must limit dining area capacity to the number of tables that can be safely separated by at least 6 feet or by physical barriers. No more than 10 patrons are allowed per table.
- **Indoor Dining:** Operators must limit capacity to 75% of the permitted occupancy of the indoor space.

Are there any capacity limits for events on sightseeing boats?

- Indoor events must be limited to **the lesser of 75% of the maximum occupancy for a particular area or 150 people**, exclusive of employees and event staff.
- Outdoor events are limited to **the lesser of 75% of the maximum occupancy for a particular area, or 500 people**, exclusive of employees and event staff. Both indoor and outdoor events must follow the guidelines outlined under the section for “In-Person and Catered Events” found [here](#).

Can patrons eat and drink while standing?

No. Patrons must be seated to eat or drink.

What are the social distancing requirements for food and beverage service?

- Tables must be separated by a minimum of 6 feet in all directions. Wherever distancing is not feasible, tables must be separated by physical barriers at least 5 feet in height and must not block emergency and/or fire exits.
- Patrons in the same party may sit next to each other at tables, provided the party is comprised of 10 or fewer people.
- Communal tables with multiple seated parties are only permitted if 6 feet of distance can be maintained between parties.

May boats host live entertainment or a DJ?

- Any boats providing live entertainment or a DJ should abide by all applicable laws and regulations, including the [SLA guidance](#) and the [NYS Guidance for Arts and Entertainment](#).

What are some helpful resources?

- [Scenic and Sightseeing Transportation, Water \(NAICS: 487210\)](#)
- [NYS DOH Guidance on Outdoor and Take/Out Food Service](#)
- [NYS DOH Interim Guidance for NYC Indoor Food Services](#)
- [NYS DOH Interim Guidance for Performing Arts & Entertainment](#)
- [NYS DOH Guidance for Commercial Fishing Services and For-Hire Vessels](#)
- [SLA Guidance on Outdoor Dining](#)
- [SLA Guidance for Indoor Dining on Licensed On-Premises Establishments](#)
- [SLA Guidance on COVID-Related Closing Times](#)

*If food and beverage service is NOT provided, operators must limit capacity to no more than the maximum number of people who can safely maintain an appropriate social distance of six feet at all times, inclusive of both crew and passengers, unless all are members of the same household.