



Sunday, June 25, 2023

Floyd Bennett Field AIAA Field Trip Ryan Visitor Center and Historic Aircraft Restoration Project

Meet at: William Fitts Ryan Visitor Center
Floyd Bennett Field
Gateway National Recreation Area
Brooklyn, New York 11234

Time: 10:00 am

Cost: Free of Charge

**RESERVATIONS REQUIRED
ATTENDANCE LIMITED
RSVP BY June 23, 2023
to: Greg Homatas at
greghomatas@gmail.com
or (718) 812-2727**

In 1931, Floyd Bennett Field opened as New York City's first municipal airport. The Ryan Center has been restored to reflect that period and features many exhibits as well as the control tower. We will visit the Ryan Center, and we will carpool over to the Historic Aircraft Restoration Facility (HARP) located in Hanger B on the east side of Floyd Bennett Field. This facility is dedicated to preserving the aviation history of Floyd Bennett Field. Since 1995, volunteers have worked tirelessly to restore vintage aircraft to near museum quality condition. HARP was constructed by the US Navy during World War II. It originally served as the base for VRF-4, one of the squadrons of the Naval Air Ferry Command which was headquartered at Naval Air Station, New York. Aircraft on display include a Consolidated PB-5 Catalina patrol bomber, a Douglas C-47 Skytrain transport, a Grumman G-21 Goose utility amphibian and a Grumman HU-16 Albatross flying boat. One of the restored aircraft which reflects the golden age of aviation which is a full-scale replica of Wiley Post's Lockheed Vega, the Winnie Mae.

Our walking tour of the Historic Aircraft Restoration Facility will be guided by a National Park Service representative from the Gateway National Recreation Area. Participants are advised to dress comfortably, bring a bottle of water to keep well hydrated, wear comfortable walking shoes and bring a sunhat and sunscreen. Don't forget to bring your cameras. The length of the tour is expected to be about two hours. Lunch on your own afterwards or head home.

For more information, visit the Website:—<http://www.jbrpc.org/fb>
And also <https://www.nps.gov/gate/planyourvisit/hours.htm>



Driving Directions: Belt Parkway to Exit 11S onto Flatbush Avenue south. About 1.1 miles south of Belt Pkwy, at first traffic light, turn left into the park prior to the toll plaza. Do not cross over the Marine Parkway Bridge. If you see a toll plaza ahead, make a U-turn. Make a left on Floyd Bennet Drive and a left on to the main runway. There is a Control Tower on the Ryan Center. Park at the Ryan Center. Please see map on next page.

Mass Transit: Take the #2 or #5 train to Flatbush/Nostrand Avenues, Brooklyn College. Transfer to the Rockaway Park Bound Q 35 Bus. Ask the bus driver to let you off at Aviator Sports/Ryan Visitors Center across from a marina. Cross Flatbush Ave. The Ryan Visitors Center is in front of you.

