

History of Ellis Island & Experiences

History

- Opened in 1892 as a Federal Immigration Station
- Closed in 1954
- Estimated 12 million immigrants passed through Ellis Island
- 40% of all US citizens have at least one ancestor who entered through Ellis Island

Today

- Opened to the public in 1976
- Immigration Museum
- National Park Service jurisdiction
- The American Family Immigration History Center opens in 2001

Famous People

- Irving Berlin
- Angelo Siciliano (Charles Atlas)
- Lily Chaucoin (Claudette Colbert)
- Sigmund Freud
- Charlie Chaplin

The Process

- Arrival- on board inspection for 1st and 2nd class
- Medical Examinations
- Interrogation
- Landing Card
- Change money
- Get tickets for passage to destination

Records Available

- 51+million records
- Passenger lists
- Pictures of ships
- Oral histories