

By David Goldberg
April 3, 2017

Coney Island officially opens for the season this weekend



Yesterday, New Yorkers in all five boroughs let out a collective exhalation of "Finally!" to the sudden and intoxicating arrival of spring weather. And with a life-affirming climate finally restored to the city, it looks like some of our favorite spots are back in business.

[See what's on in Coney Island's neighborhood](#)

admission to the History Project and walking tours of Coney Island will also be offered.

The free day of activities runs from 11am-6pm on Sunday April 9. You can learn more about Opening Day here.

Family Calendar

Event Calendar

LUNA PARK OPENING DAY IN CONEY ISLAND

April 8th, 2017

Venue: Luna Park in Coney Island

Address: 1000 Surf Avenue

City: Brooklyn

Time: 12:00 PM - 08:00 PM

Price: Free to enter; Luna Card \$1-100

Age: All ages

Brooklyn's favorite amusement park is re-opening for the summer season on April 8! Go for a family outing to Coney Island's Luna Park for a fun-filled day that will excite kids and kids at heart. This kid's paradise features scream-your-lungs-out rides, all you can eat theme park favorites, attractions, greats vibes and more! Plus, if you

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APRIL 5, 2017

Luna Park opens for the season at Coney Island



CONNEY ISLAND, Brooklyn — Luna Park's 2017 season began Sunday.

roller coaster, which is celebrating its 90th anniversary this year.

By Alex Early
April 4, 2017

Celebrate Luna Park and Deno's Wonder Wheels' openings with free rides!



The opening of Luna Park & Deno's Wonder Wheel Park every season means the true beginning of spring and other great Coney Island activities (and hope for summer)! There's plenty to celebrate during this 2017 season, including a handful of free rides for those motivated enough to get them.

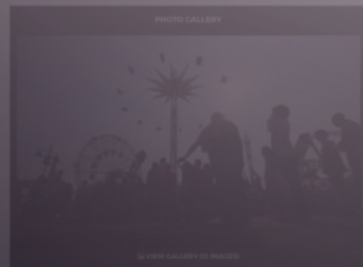
Luna Park opens for the season on Sat April 8 but holds the President John F. Kennedy

experience during the Opening Day Ceremony, and be sure to partake in other great family-friendly entertainment at the Park that morning.

You'll also want to get to Deno's Wonder Wheel as early as possible, because in celebration of the ride's 97th year, the first 97 folks in line will get their ride for free. How to: Deno's Wonder Wheel is at 375 Pacific Street.

APRIL 5, 2017

Luna Park opens for the season at Coney Island



CONNEY ISLAND, Brooklyn — Luna Park's 2017 season began Sunday.

roller coaster, which is celebrating its 90th anniversary this year.

Don't Miss Coney Island's Free Opening Day Festivities This Weekend

Stephen Campbell
April 04, 2017



If you don't sleep in early enough, you can still snag the free egg cream samples (you probably shouldn't mix those with a roller coaster ride anyway).

While you're in the neighborhood check out this collection of artifacts we mentioned, and snap the shot at Coney Island's oldest surviving artifact: the missing Toll House sign from 1923 which shows the toll for a horse and rider to "the Island" at a whopping 3 cents.

Those were the days.

April 8th is just around the corner, and with it goes *The ribbon cutting*

Brooklynites gear up to celebrate the opening of Coney Island

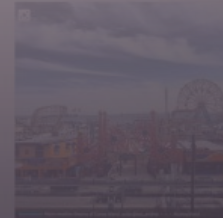


PHOTO BY MICHAEL GOODMAN FOR SPOILED

2 years ago

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By Eva Kiz
April 04, 2017

Why you need to go to Coney Island on opening day

New York's seasonal seaside carnival has some seriously cool traditions to welcome in the warm weather season.



PHOTO BY MICHAEL GOODMAN FOR SPOILED

It may still be a bit brisk out there, but the sounds — when the rides at Luna Park and Deno's Wonder

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PHOTO BY MICHAEL GOODMAN FOR SPOILED

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26

PIECES OF COVERAGE:

37.9M

ONLINE READERSHIP:

175K

ESTIMATED COVERAGE VIEWS:

24K

SOCIAL SHARES:

61

AVERAGE DOMAIN AUTHORITY:

APRIL 9, 2017

Coney Island's Luna Park opens for the summer season



By Allison Fox

Luna Park was up and running this weekend, welcoming kids and adults of all ages to ride the Coney Island Cyclone, the Tickler and more for the first time all season.

Dozens of people lined up Sunday hoping to be one of the first 100 people to ride the Cyclone for free. The historic wooden roller coaster turns 90 this year.

"It's so nostalgic," said Maritza McCarthy, 53, who grew up in Starrett City but lives in Plainsboro, New Jersey. "We had to be here. And it's a beautiful day."

McCarthy lined up about 9 a.m. Sunday and said she used to ride the coaster as a kid.

Coney Island resident Rebecca Deatherage, 22, woke up at 5 a.m. Sunday. It was her first time to ride the coaster.

"I'm nervous, excited," she said. "I love roller coasters. It's just something important."

And the Cyclone is faster than ever after some routine track work, speeding riders along the 2,640 feet of swirling track at more than 60 mph. The coaster opened

in 1927 and was named a city landmark in 1988 and placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1991.

Its birthday is June 26, and the party will be the day before.

"It's no wonder we call Coney Island the people's playground," said Mitchell Silver, commissioner of the city's Department of Parks and Recreation. "When you come here, you can be a kid again."

Bensonhurst resident Erik Knapp, 51, calls himself "Mr. Cyclone," lining up every year to ride it first. Knapp camped out since 9 a.m. Saturday and sat in the front row on Sunday, his 13th consecutive year attending opening weekend.

"Coney Island is here on the map to stay," he said, adding that the ride is: "faster, it's smoother — faster and better than ever. I love it."

Luna Park will be open on weekends through Memorial Day, and then seven days a week after that.

(EST.) MONTHLY VISITS: **1.11M**

(EST.) COVERAGE VIEWS: **4.23K**

DOMAIN AUTHORITY: **73**

f
66



APRIL 7, 2017

Coney Island's Luna Park set for opening weekend, celebrating Cyclone's 90th birthday



By Alison Fox

Happy birthday, Coney Island Cyclone.

The legendary wooden roller coaster will turn 90 this summer, ready to give New Yorkers a thrilling whirl when Luna Park opens for the season on Saturday.

And along with the rest of the rides, games and food, the historic hot dog joint Feltman's will reopen to add to the island's colorful mix.

After some routine track work, the Cyclone, which hurls riders on its tracks at more than 60 mph, is just a bit faster than ever. The coaster opened in 1927 and was named a city landmark in 1988 and placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1991.

Its birthday is June 26, and the party will be the day before.

"We think of her as a woman. She's like a grandma," Angie Morris, Luna Park's brand manager, said. "For tourists if you're visiting New York, you think of it as iconic, something you have to do. For people who are Brooklyn residents, it's nostalgic."

The ride is 2,640 feet of swirling track with 12 drops, including an 85-foot and 60-foot plunge, according to the park.

And even more than the thrill, it's the history that makes the Cyclone such a famous piece of Coney Island. Celebrities have ridden it and movies have featured it

(EST.) MONTHLY VISITS: **1.11M**

(EST.) COVERAGE VIEWS: **4.23K**

DOMAIN AUTHORITY: **73**



1K



APR 7 2017

(IMAGE 2 OF 2)

(Diana Ross and Michael Jackson danced under it in "The Wiz"). Even legendary aviator Charles Lindbergh, the first person to fly solo nonstop over the Atlantic Ocean, reportedly said a ride on the coaster was greater than flying in a plane.

Cyclone fans explain that when it opened, the ride offered a completely new thrill. "A lot of people look at the Cyclone and think, 'Oh, isn't that quaint.' When this opens in 1927 and there is no air travel for the masses of people, there is no concept of speed as there is going down that track on the Cyclone — it is an absolutely new feeling of exhilaration and fear," said Seth Kamil, founder of Big Onion Walking Tours. "You have to place the Cyclone in a context of something never done before and something new for the millions of people who went to Coney Island on a weekend."

That scare factor was as prevalent then as it is now, Kamil said.

"There's something incredibly scary about that first steep climb when you feel the shakiness of the wooden apparatus," he said. "You don't get that on a modern roller coaster."

Dick Zigun, founder of Coney Island USA, a not-for-profit arts organization that produces several programs, including the sideshow, the Coney Island Museum and the Mermaid Parade, said the Cyclone has always been a draw, even when the area wasn't in the best of shape.

"The Cyclone really is the perfection of the wooden roller coaster," said Zigun, who calls himself the unofficial mayor of Coney Island. Zigun said the area is "hallowed ground" for lovers of roller coasters — the site is actually where the first modern coaster, the Gravity Switchback Railway, made its debut in 1884.

The Cyclone was fully refurbished last year.

"And now Luna Park has poured millions into it," Zigun said. "In our lifetime it's never been in such good shape, it's been a thrill to see that."

Also returning to Coney Island this summer is Feltman's of Coney Island, started by Charles Feltman in 1867, a German immigrant largely credited with inventing the hot dog on a bun. What started as a pushcart selling apple pies in Coney Island turned into a hot dog cart and then eventually a restaurant, roller coaster, hotel, beer garden and more, said Michael Quinn, who revived the business a couple years ago.

The Coney Island location was shuttered in 1954, but now, celebrating 150 years, Feltman's will return to Luna Park in the spot where it first began.

"This was a labor of love. We always wanted to bring back Feltman's," Quinn said. "It was an amazing journey."

Morris said it's exciting to bring back the legendary hot dog (where Nathan Handwerker worked before starting Nathan's Famous and charging half the price).

"For Coney Island enthusiasts it's nostalgic," Morris said. "I think if they understand the history behind it, they'll understand why it's perfect in Coney Island. Coney Island is all about that old quirky vibe to it that you don't get anywhere else."

Luna Park first opened in 2010 on the former grounds of Astroland, and starting this Saturday will be open on weekends through Memorial Day, and then seven days a week after that. On Sunday, Brooklyn Borough President Eric Adams, baseball mascot Mr. Met and the Brooklyn Seltzer Boys welcome the public with egg creams — and the first 100 guests will get free rides on the Cyclone.

And local businesses are ready for the summer as well.

"We need the start of the season. Coney Island is a summer place," said Barbara Maniscalco, 51, the manager of the Steeplechase Beer Garden, which will open up their outdoor area — weather permitting -- toward the end of the month. "It's definitely good for business."

(EST.) MONTHLY VISITS:

1.11M

(EST.) COVERAGE VIEWS:

4.23K

DOMAIN AUTHORITY:

73



1K





By Eva Kis
April 04, 2017

Why you need to go to Coney Island on opening day

New York's seasonal seaside carnival has some seriously cool traditions to welcome in the warm weather season.



Coney Island from the air. Credit: Jim McDonnell, Deno's Wonder Wheel

It may still be a bit brisk out there, but the sounds of carnival rides and the whirring of cotton candy machines will once again fill the air in Coney Island this weekend.

The trip out to the southern end of Brooklyn is a summer rite of passage for any New Yorker. Nathan's Famous is already making hot dogs on the Boardwalk, and the rest of Coney Island will emerge from hibernation on Saturday, April 8,

when the rides at Luna Park and Den's Wonder Wheel Amusement Park open at noon.

But you don't want to miss the official Opening Day, held on Palm Sunday every year, when the park celebrates a new season of fun with cool events, freebies and a special ceremony. We've got five reasons why you absolutely have to be there on April 9.

(EST.) MONTHLY VISITS: **978K**

(EST.) COVERAGE VIEWS: **4.26K**

DOMAIN AUTHORITY: **69**



100



Blessing of the Rides

Contrary to its name, this blessing is actually about the people who would enjoy themselves at Coney Island in the season to come. The tradition dates back to 1985, started by Pastor Debbe Santiago of the Salt and Sea Mission. It's because of her that opening weekend takes place on Palm Sunday, with a ceremony that includes speakers and performances starting at 11 a.m.

Meet the Coney Island community

Coney Island isn't just a destination, it's also home to some of the city's most interesting characters, talented performers and delicious food. Experience them all when Luna Park opens at 10 a.m. on Sunday with free egg cream tastings by the Brooklyn Seltzer Boys, photo ops with Mr. and Mrs. Met (their minor league team, the Brooklyn Cyclones, play at Coney's MCU Park beginning in June), and entertainment by local musicians and dance troupes.

Free rides

Those brave, bundled souls daring to start the season before the warm weather has settled are rewarded with free rides. Luna Park's Cyclone, the iconic wooden rollercoaster celebrating 90 years on Coney Island this year, will offer free thrills to the first 100 people in line on opening day. Next door at Deno's Wonder Wheel, rides are free for the 97 early birds in line (for its 97 years on the Boardwalk).

A Coney classic returns

Opening day will also bring see the resurrection of a Coney Island staple. Feltman's is the original hot dog vendor on the Boardwalk that began as a cart in 1867 — they even claim to have invented the hot dog! It closed up shop in 1954, but Luna Park announced that Feltman's will return to its original location at Surf Avenue and West 10th Street. (Fun fact: Nathan Handwerker of Nathan's Famous got his start there before starting his own cart in 1916.) Opening day will be your first chance to taste it where it all began, so get there for some serious bragging rights.

Be the first to try the new eats

Besides all the hot dogs, funnel cakes and other classic Boardwalk fare you can eat, Luna Park is promising some new, healthier options at its vendors this year. A place known for all things fried, coated in sugar and served in portions big enough for two won't exactly be turning out kale salads — honestly, we're almost excited to see what they've got in store, and you can be the first to Instagram it. If anyone could engineer a heart-friendly deep-fried Oreo, it would be a carnival booth.

(EST.) MONTHLY VISITS:

978K

(EST.) COVERAGE VIEWS:

4.26K

DOMAIN AUTHORITY:

69



100



APRIL 8, 2017

Coney Island's Luna Park Kicks Off New Season With Egg-Cream Christening of Cyclone Coaster



Coney Island's famous Luna Park is officially opening for the season on Sunday. The kickoff event includes a "christening" of the Cyclone roller coaster with an egg cream.

Brooklyn Borough President Eric Adams, local officials and community leaders will also be there for a blessing of the rides, alongside a marching band and Mr. Met himself.

The event will be held in front of the beloved Cyclone, which celebrates its 90th birthday in 2017. The roller coaster has provided rides for almost 1 million riders from around the world since 1927, according to a Luna Park spokeswoman. Luna Park is New York City's largest amusement park.

(EST.) MONTHLY VISITS: **3.18M**

(EST.) COVERAGE VIEWS: **7.21K**

DOMAIN AUTHORITY: **84**





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APRIL 8, 2017

Luna Park opens for 2017 season



NEW YORK (FOX 5 NY) - Luna Park, New York City's largest amusement park officially opened for the 2017 season Saturday.

The amusement park features the refurbished Coney Island Cyclone roller coaster, which celebrates its 90th birthday this year. The Cyclone has been a favorite amongst visitors from around the world since 1927.

Luna Park will only be open on weekends until Memorial Day.

After Memorial Day, the park will be open seven days a week.

(EST.) MONTHLY VISITS: **1.62M**

(EST.) COVERAGE VIEWS: **5.02K**

DOMAIN AUTHORITY: **78**



SHEA
communications



APRIL 9, 2017

Luna Park opens for the season at Coney Island



CONEY ISLAND, Brooklyn —Luna Park's 2017 season began Sunday.

Brooklyn Borough President Eric Adams christened the Cyclone

roller coaster, which is celebrating its 90th anniversary this year, with an egg cream at the park.

(EST.) MONTHLY VISITS: **2.08M**

(EST.) COVERAGE VIEWS: **8.76K**

DOMAIN AUTHORITY: **70**


300


1





APRIL 5, 2017

Ready to Ride: Coney Island Amusements Gear Up for 2017 Season



By Roger Clark

It may not be quite beach weather yet, but there's still fun to be had at Coney Island.

Luna Park is opening for the season this weekend.

The newly refurbished Cyclone roller coaster is celebrating it's 90th anniversary this year.

Other classics rides like the Tickler and the Steeplechase are also available to thrill visitors.

Park management says getting ready to open the season takes a lot of work.

"All the rides have to be inspected, we do a lot of power washing. We do a lot to make sure our rides are safe, they're clean. our marketing team does a great job getting messages out ther. Our operations staff are fully trained to make sure every guest has the ultimate experience here at Luna Park," said Luna Park Brand Manager Angie Morris.

Starting Saturday, Luna Park will be open on weekends until Memorial Day, after which it will be open seven days a week.



(EST.) MONTHLY VISITS: **757K**

(EST.) COVERAGE VIEWS: **2.14K**

DOMAIN AUTHORITY: **80**



8



By Allie Early
April 4, 2017

Celebrate Luna Park and Deno's Wonder Wheels' openings with free rides!



The opening of Luna Park & Deno's Wonder Wheel Park every season means the true beginning of spring and other great Coney Island activities (and hope for summer)! There's plenty to celebrate during this 2017 season, including a handful of free rides for those motivated enough to get them.

Luna Park opens for the season on Sat April 8 but holds its Opening Day Ceremony on Sun April 9 from 10am–2pm (rides start at noon). It's the 90th birthday of the **Coney Island Cyclone**, which will get its customary egg cream christening at 11:30am Sun April 9, and the first hundred people on line for that ride will ride free. Use the hashtag #JoinThe100 for a chance to win a VIP

experience during the Opening Day Ceremony, and be sure to partake in other great family-friendly entertainment at the Park that morning.

You'll also want to get to **Deno's Wonder Wheel** as early as possible, because in celebration of the ride's 97th year, the first 97 folks in line will get their ride for free. New to Deno's this year is a new 7D Dark Ride virtual reality ride called Stop the Zombies.

Last but not least, you'll certainly want to stop in on Fridays for Friday Night Fireworks on the Boardwalk starting at the end of June.

Happy exploring!

(EST.) MONTHLY VISITS: **17.8M**

(EST.) COVERAGE VIEWS: **27.9K**

DOMAIN AUTHORITY: **89**



80



APRIL 9, 2017

Coney Island's Luna Park Celebrates Cyclone Coaster's 90th Year

APR 9 2017

Coney Island's Luna Park Celebrates Cyclone Coaster's 90th Year



NEW YORK (CBSNewYork) — Spring has sprung, and Coney Island's Luna Park is officially open for spring break.

The iconic park celebrated Sunday with the ritual of smashing an egg cream on the Cyclone roller coaster, now in its 90th year.

Given its rich history, riding on the Cyclone is a shared experience among generations.

"Eighty years ago, my grandmother and her friends were ditchin' school to come down and ride the Cyclone, and we're just following in her footsteps," one woman said.

David Zubin camped out since Saturday morning to be one of the first people to ride the

iconic Cyclone roller coaster — a ride he's had some history with.

"I've been riding the Cyclone roller coaster since [the] early 2000s, when it first got stuck two years ago, I was on it," Zubin told WCBS 880's Mike Smeltz.

David says despite getting stuck on the Cyclone, he's kept coming back. This ride on opening day was his 100th overall.

"Love every minute of it, the drop feels amazing — it felt like I went really fast on this one, I felt like they changed the tracks a little bit...since last year," Zubin said.

(EST.) MONTHLY VISITS: **3.18M**

(EST.) COVERAGE VIEWS: **6.77K**

DOMAIN AUTHORITY: **85**



210



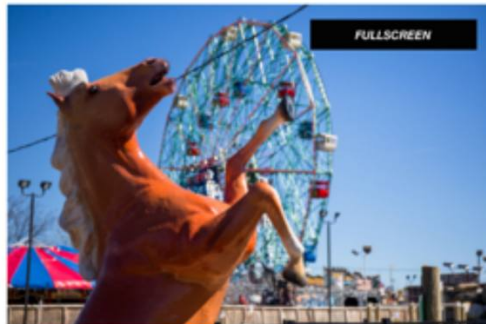
8



APRIL 9, 2017

Photos: Coney Island Amusement Parks Now Open For The Summer

By Scott Lunch



(photo by Scott Lynch/Gothamist)



Deno's Wonder Wheel, Luna Park, and the Cyclone are now open for business, with the latter turning 90 years old in June. It's officially opening weekend out at Coney Island, and even though the *official*-official opening day ceremony is today, along with the 32nd annual "Blessing of the Rides," Saturday saw plenty of action.

Thrill-seekers, giddy little children, and cotton candy enthusiasts of all ages flocked to the area on Saturday, in part thanks to that blue sky and sunshine. Over on the

boardwalk, Nathan's Famous hot dogs and beers at Ruby's were the sustenance of choice. And suckers... er, *players*, seemed extra eager to part with their hard-earned dollars to win stuffed toys at the many games of "skill" scattered throughout the parks and side alleys.

Luna Park, the Cyclone, and Deno's Wonder Wheel are open from noon to 8 p.m. Sunday, and all week during spring break, and then the hours change frequently until we hit high summer.

(EST.) MONTHLY VISITS:

4.32M

(EST.) COVERAGE VIEWS:

12.8K

DOMAIN AUTHORITY:

79



340



2





APRIL 7, 2017

Cyclone to mark 90 years on Luna Park's opening day



The iconic roller coaster will mark its 90th year in service. (4/7/17)

CONEY ISLAND - Luna Park in Coney Island will open this Sunday at 10 a.m. with the traditional "egg-cream christening" of the Cyclone. The iconic roller coaster will mark its 90th year in service.

The first 100 people in line for the Cyclone before on opening day will get to hop on for free. Each year, a bottle of egg cream is broken on the first coaster car to inaugurate the season.

(EST.) MONTHLY VISITS: **200K**

(EST.) COVERAGE VIEWS: **1.15K**

DOMAIN AUTHORITY: **59**


730


1



APRIL 9, 2017

Coney Island's Luna Park Officially Opens for the Season



By Lindsay Tuchman

NY1 VIDEO: The sun came out just in time for the traditional blessing of the rides Sunday morning in Coney Island. NY1's Lindsay Tuchman talked to some of the first visitors enjoying the iconic rides.

(EST.) MONTHLY VISITS: **757K**

(EST.) COVERAGE VIEWS: **2.14K**

DOMAIN AUTHORITY: **80**



79





By David Goldberg
April 3, 2017

Coney Island officially opens for the season this weekend



Yesterday, New Yorkers in all five boroughs let out a collective exhalation of “Finally!” to the sudden and intoxicating arrival of spring weather. And with a life-affirming climate finally restored to the city, it looks like some of our favorite spots are back in business.

To celebrate Coney Island’s traditional opening day on April 9, the Coney Island History Project is hosting a day of free activities, including a blessing of the rides at Deno’s Wonder Wheel, with free rides on the Cyclone roller coaster at Luna Park along with egg creams to taste. Free

admission to the History Project and walking tours of Coney Island will also be offered.

The free day of activities runs from 11am–6pm on Sunday April 9. You can learn more about Opening Day [here](#).

(EST.) MONTHLY VISITS: **17.8M**

(EST.) COVERAGE VIEWS: **27.9K**

DOMAIN AUTHORITY: **89**


16K


1



APRIL 7, 2017

Coney is back!: People's Playground opens for the season



Welcome to Coney!: Coney Island will rumble back to life on April 9, with the blessing of the rides at 11 am, free turns on the Wonder Wheel for those who show up early, and a glimpse into the past at the Coney Island History Project.

By Caroline Spivack

The Cyclone is now a 90s kid!

Brooklyn's beloved wooden roller coaster will celebrate 90 years in operation this weekend, and its birthday party on April 9 at 10 am will also kick off the Coney Island season. One of the iconic coaster's biggest fans is thrilled with the landmark anniversary

— but said he is looking forward to a bigger party down the road.

"A 90th anniversary is great! It's hard to believe that we own one of the oldest roller coasters in the world," said Erik Knapp, known as "Mr. Cyclone" because of his dedication to the ride. "I personally can't wait until we hit 100 — then I'm going to get

(EST.) MONTHLY VISITS: **172K**

(EST.) COVERAGE VIEWS: **986**

DOMAIN AUTHORITY: **59**

**170**

my tattoo of the Cyclone redone with 100 on it! But 90 years is not bad, not bad at all.”

The Cyclone celebration will start at 10 am, with a morning extravaganza of games and giveaways, including free samples of Brooklyn Seltzer Boys classic egg creams — although we suggest you wait until after taking a spin on the Cyclone! The first 100 people in line will get a free ride when the historic coaster sets off at noon. But you need to get up pretty early to beat Knapp to the front of that line — the Cyclone booster from Benshonhurst routinely takes the first spot.

Coney’s other iconic ride — Deno’s Wonder Wheel — will have its own party that morning. Join brothers Dennis and Steve Vourderis — who own the wondrous wheel — for the 32nd annual “Blessing of the Rides” at 11 am. With the ceremony complete, the Vourderis brothers will officially open Deno’s Wonder Wheel Amusement Park, and the first 97 revelers can score a free ride on the Wheel, in honor of its 97 years of spinning glory.

Once you have returned to the ground, head to the Coney Island History Project on W. 12th Street, just outside the entrance to Deno’s Wonder Wheel, for a look at historic artifacts, photos, and films

chronicling the colorful past of the People’s Playground. Among the treasures on display are an original Steeplechase horse from the legendary ride that gave Steeplechase Park its name, “Skully,” the freaky skull figure from Coney’s classic Spook-A-Rama ride, and an 1823 wooden toll house sign that proclaimed a whopping five cent fee for a horse and rider. The History Project will open its doors at 1 pm, and admission will not even cost you a nickel.

Then get a bite of history! Stroll to the corner of W. 10th Street and Surf Avenue, where the original Coney Island hot dog is making a comeback! After a 63-year absence, Feltman’s of Coney Island returns to the spot where Charles Feltman invented the hot dog in 1867 — and where a bun slicer named Nathan Handwerker worked before opening Nathan’s Famous down the block! The restaurant is officially scheduled to open on Memorial Day, but this Sunday the hot dog kiosk will offer a sneak taste so that patrons can sample the eight-inch frank bursting with flavor from a secret spice mix. A dog will run you \$4.25.

Coney Island’s Opening Day starts at the Cyclone (Surf Avenue at W. 10th Street in Coney Island, www.lunaparknyc.com). April 9 at 10 am. Free.

Brooklyn Paper

APR 7 2017

(IMAGE 2 OF 2)

(EST.) MONTHLY VISITS:

172K

(EST.) COVERAGE VIEWS:

986

DOMAIN AUTHORITY:

59



170



APRIL 11, 2017

Coney Island's amusement district kicks off the season

By Caroline Spivack



FIRST SPIN OF THE SEASON: Borough President Adams and Brooklyn's bravest pols took the first spin of the season before the ride was opened up to the public.

It's game-on at the People's Playground! Coney Island roared to life on April 9 with the opening of Luna Park and Deno's Wonder Wheel Amusement

Park. Revelers enjoyed new rides and old favorites, and noshed on classic Coney fair to christen the start of the season. The opening weekend visit was a rite of passage for young Brooklynites, said one Sunset Parker who came out with his family for the festivities.

"It's a family tradition to come out here with the kids," said Osorio Perez, who waited outside the gates of Luna Park with his two daughters an hour early to get first crack at the rides. "My dad brought me here, his dad brought him here, now I bring my girls. You can't be a Brooklyn kid and not love coming here — who needs Six Flags when you've got Coney Island?"

The Cyclone took off on its first run of the season after Borough President Adams smashed a customary egg cream over the coaster. And Wonder Wheel owners — brothers Dennis and Steve Vourderis — officiated the annual "Blessing of the Rides," before the first 97 revelers took a free spin on the wondrous wheel in honor of its 97 glorious years.

And the views were to die for on the balmy spring day, said one thrill seeker.

"It was a gorgeous sight up there," said Coney Islander Joseph Lipinski, who dangled in one of the ride's swinging cars with his wife. "You could see all of Coney Island up there and even Staten Island. Clear blue skies as far as the eye can see."

Adrenaline junkies zipped on the newly refurbished Cyclone — which turns 90 this year — fought for survival in a virtual reality zombie shooter, and took

(EST.) MONTHLY VISITS:

27K

(EST.) COVERAGE VIEWS:

623

DOMAIN AUTHORITY:

48



23





LONG-AWAITED RIDE: Loyal coaster fans finally got to feel the wind in their hair after an hours-long wait in line.

a literal spin on the high-flying tilt-a-whirl, the Endeavor, among other rides.

Those who prefer their feet firmly planted on the ground explored Sodom by the Sea's past at the Coney Island History Project, sampled egg creams, and sunk their teeth into the original Feltman's of Coney Island hot dogs — which opened a kiosk as a preview to its Memorial Day grand opening on Surf Avenue.

Coney Island's annual opening shindig is nothing short of magic, said one reveler.

"I come for the opening every year because it makes me feel like a kid again," said Bensonhurst's Rhoda Sotto. "There's something magical about being here when it all gets going."



TIMBER!: Families splashed their way through Luna Park's water log ride.

(EST.) MONTHLY VISITS:

27K

(EST.) COVERAGE VIEWS:

623

DOMAIN AUTHORITY:

48



23





APRIL 8, 2017

Coney Island officially opens for the season, celebrating the Cyclone's 90th anniversary

America's iconic wooden coaster will celebrate its 90th birthday on June 26



Flickr/Chris Martino

By Ameena Walker

Sure, it's still pretty cold despite being a few weeks into spring but that doesn't matter because Coney Island has officially opened for another fun-filled season. The iconic park has returned to life after sitting dormant for the winter and all of Luna Park's rides and games are ready for action. The official kick-off to celebrate the season debut will take place on

Sunday, April 9th at 11 a.m. with the traditional "Blessing of the Rides" at Deno's Wonder Wheel Park, reports *Bklyner*.

This marks a special time for the iconic amusement park, as the Cyclone roller coaster will celebrate its 90th anniversary. The wooden roller coaster first debuted on June 26, 1927 and became a New York City landmark on July 12,

(EST.) MONTHLY VISITS: **980K**

(EST.) COVERAGE VIEWS: **3.04K**

DOMAIN AUTHORITY: **78**

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710

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9



1988. Three years later, the Cyclone was declared a National Register designation on June 26, 1991.

The coaster's 90th birthday is something to celebrate, especially if you recall that the fate of the attraction once stood uncertain. In 1972, plans to redevelop the site and demolish the Cyclone, in order to expand the New York Aquarium, were announced to the public, leading to a "Save the Cyclone" campaign that eventually forced the city to change its mind. In



circa 1928. | Courtesy the Museum of the City of New York Digital Collection.



circa 1935. | Courtesy the Museum of the City of New York Digital Collection.

2009, the campaign resurfaced as news spilled out about former Mayor Bloomberg looking to get rid of the amusement park to make space for new developments.

So to kick the birthday celebration off, let's take a look at a few historic photos of the Cyclone in its younger days. The official 90th birthday celebration will take place on June 25 with more details to come soon.



circa 1955. | Courtesy the Museum of the City of New York Digital Collection.

Curbed NY

APR 8 2017

(IMAGE 2 OF 2)

(EST.) MONTHLY VISITS:

980K

(EST.) COVERAGE VIEWS:

3.04K

DOMAIN AUTHORITY:

78



710



6



6



9



APRIL 13, 2017

Bright spring weather
frames Luna Parks Opening
Day | Brooklyn Daily Eagle

APR 13 2017

(IMAGE 1 OF 3)

Bright spring weather frames Luna Park's Opening Day



Brooklyn Borough President Eric Adams tries out the lead car on the Cyclone during the opening day at Luna Park.
Eagle photos by Andy Katz

Officials Announce Significant Improvements to "America's Playground"

By Andy Katz

Special to the Brooklyn Daily Eagle

Gorgeous spring weather served as the backdrop for Luna Park's official grand opening on April 9. By the time FDNY Lt. Bob Poncel was ready to lead the department's honor guard in presenting the colors before a small

podium set by the entrance to Luna Park and Deno's Wonder Wheel Amusement Park, the Coney Island boardwalk was already filled with beachgoers; blankets and towels dotted the beach and a few intrepid swimmers made their way past the low-breaking waves.

After Firefighter Regina Wilson sang the "Star Spangled Banner," Assistant Pastor Mary of the Salt & Sea Mission performed the traditional opening-day Blessing of the Rides.

(EST.) MONTHLY VISITS: **62.6K**

(EST.) COVERAGE VIEWS: **307**

DOMAIN AUTHORITY: **65**



2





NYC Parks Commissioner Mitchell Silver gets help from NYC Councilman Mark Treyger cutting the ribbon before Luna Park

"This tradition started 32 years ago between Pastor Debbie Santiago and my father in order to get kids to go to church on Sunday," Dennis Vourderis, co-owner of Deno's Wonder Wheel, explained. "We would reward them with free rides if they went to church."

With help from NYC Councilmember Mark Treyger, NYC Parks Commissioner Mitchell Silver wielded oversized scissors to cut the ribbon in front of Luna Park. Crowds surged into the narrow walkways between the rides, some of which hadn't yet opened. A long line had already gathered before the entry gate to Deno's Wonder Wheel, the first 100 of whom would ride for free. Some, like the Sherman family of Coney Island, had already been waiting several hours for the inaugural ride.

"We were just passing by," mother Paulette Sherman explained. "When we saw it was opening day, we decided to join in."

Although it was left to the general public to fill Deno's Wonder Wheel for the first time in '17, the Cyclone's first ride was reserved for public officials. Luna Park owner Alberto Zamperla joined Community Board 13 District Manager Eddie Mark in the lead car before Brooklyn

Borough President Eric Adams pulled the lever, sending them along the 90-year-old track.

"Coney Island is America's playground," Zamperla told onlookers before taking that first ride.

"When you come here," Silver added, "you can feel like a kid again."

Silver went on to announce Monday night "Flies on the Beach," karaoke talent shows, Friday fireworks and barrel painting contests to come this season.

"[Coney Island] is also an economic powerhouse," said Economic Development Corp. President James Patchett. "Right now, Coney Island is the biggest it's been since the 1960s ... That's why we're investing \$100 million to fix up the streets, repair the sewers and make the roads better."

"Some people need a groundhog to tell when spring arrives," Treyger said. "But here in Southern Brooklyn, when you hear the roar of the Cyclone, spring has arrived!"

With the Cyclone properly christened for 2017, it was time to follow Major League Eating founder and Nathan's

Bright spring weather frames Luna Parks Opening Day | Brooklyn Daily Eagle

APR 13 2017

(IMAGE 2 OF 3)

(EST.) MONTHLY VISITS: **62.6K**

(EST.) COVERAGE VIEWS: **307**

DOMAIN AUTHORITY: **65**



2





Luna Park owner Alberto Zamperla and Community Board 13 Manager Eddie Mark give a thumbs up as Brooklyn Borough President Eric Adams pulls the lever

Famous front man George Shea back to the corner of Stillwell and Surf for the official first hotdog of the 2017 season.

But not before a man wielding a big round tray of hot dogs in buns covered with gossamer threads of American cheese intervened.

“Nathan Handwerker stole the secret hot dog recipe from Charles Feltman, including the secret spice blend,” Michael Quinn, Feltman’s owner, claimed while offering samples from his platter. Often credited with inventing the hotdog in Coney Island a few years after the Civil War, Feltman’s of Coney Island continued to exist as a premium hot dog brand even after Nathan’s Famous took over the street-level trade and became synonymous with Coney Island.



Crowds fill Luna Park after its formal opening for 2017

After successfully selling Feltman’s hot dogs in Manhattan, Quinn now plans to open a Feltman’s of Coney Island on 10th Street and Surf Avenue, just two blocks away from Nathan’s Famous. Opening day is Memorial Day 2017.

If the return of the hot dog’s inventor to what is essentially wiener ground zero troubled George Shea, he didn’t show it. He quickly recruited 7-year-old Coney Island twins Arva and Arvan White to take on the season’s first Nathan’s Famous. Buoyed by Shea’s trademark joie d’vivre, the twins made short work of their hot dogs.

And another season of surf, sand, happy screams, greasy food and hustling carnies was underway.

Bright spring weather frames Luna Parks Opening Day | Brooklyn Daily Eagle

APR 13 2017

(IMAGE 3 OF 3)

(EST.) MONTHLY VISITS:

62.6K

(EST.) COVERAGE VIEWS:

307

DOMAIN AUTHORITY:

65



2



Family Calendar

Event Details

LUNA PARK OPENING DAY IN CONEY ISLAND

April 8th, 2017

Venue: Luna Park in Coney Island

Address: 1000 Surf Avenue

City: Brooklyn

Time: 12:00 P.M. - 08:00 P.M.

Price: Free to enter; Luna Card \$1-100

Age: All ages

Brooklyn's favorite amusement park is re-opening for the summer season on April 8! Go for a family outing to Coney Islands' Luna Park for a fun-filled day that will excite kids and kids at heart. This kid's paradise features scream-your-lungs-out rides, all you can eat theme park favorites, attractions, greats vibes and more! Plus, if you want to take a break from all the fun rides, take a walk on the boardwalk and enjoy some sun. Play, exercise, laugh and make memories with the family that will last a lifetime. lunaparknyc.com

(EST.) MONTHLY VISITS: **48.6K**

(EST.) COVERAGE VIEWS: **2.29K**

DOMAIN AUTHORITY: **45**



APRIL 5, 2017

APR 14 2017

(IMAGE 1 OF 3)

Brooklynites gear up to celebrate the opening of Coney Island



BROOKLYN MEDIA GROUP/file photos
Coney Island celebrates its opening.

By Jaime DeJesus

She's my Coney Island baby!

After a rough winter that brought a fairly severe snowstorm in March, Brooklynites are ready to embrace their local paradise for the spring and summer.

"The Alliance for Coney Island is excited to announce the opening of the Coney Island Amusement District for 2017, a

sure sign that spring has officially arrived in New York City," added Executive Director of the Alliance for Coney Island Alexandra Silversmith. "This year promises to be a year you won't forget with new attractions and restaurants in Coney Island along with many favorites. We hope all New Yorkers will join us on the Boardwalk in 2017."

(EST.) MONTHLY VISITS: **78.9K**

(EST.) COVERAGE VIEWS: **14.5K**

DOMAIN AUTHORITY: **28**


40





Various attractions in Coney officially open on Saturday, April 8. For Brooklynites looking for great food, thrill rides and the new season, opening day can't come soon enough.

Weather permitting, Luna Park will also be open from Saturday, April 8 through Tuesday, April 18 from 12 p.m. Visit www.lunaparknyc.com.

Welcome festivities begin with Deno's Wonder Wheel Park which opens its season with the 32nd Annual Blessing of the Rides. On Sunday, April 9, starting at 11 a.m. on the boardwalk in front of Deno's, the first 97 people will be able to ride the famous Wonder Wheel for free, in commemoration of Deno's 97th year. In addition, 300 kids from Coney Island's Salt N Sea Mission will also ride for free. The rides will be blessed and open officially at 11:30 a.m.

Twenty-one of the park's rides will then open, including classics and a new one, Stop the Zombies, a new 7D Dark Ride which includes virtual reality. The "Say Boo" photo booth for souvenir photos to celebrate the fan favorite Spook-A-Rama, which is celebrating its 62nd year, will also be on hand. Fans can expect plenty more excitement in the coming weeks.

The day will also include the annual ribbon cutting ceremony hosted by park owners, Dennis and Steve Vourderis. The Fire Department Ceremonial Unit will present the colors and sing the National Anthem.

"We remember and honor the season-opening tradition started by Denos Vourderis and Debbie Santiago back in 1985," said Pastor Roger Beard. Go to www.wonderwheel.com for more.

"The Vourderis family works hard all winter to get the rides ready for spring," says the Director Rocco Brescia of the Mission, "These Coney Island kids get to enjoy them free. They've waited all winter for the rides to open."

Coaster fans are also in luck. The Cyclone Roller Coaster will celebrate its 90th birthday and the first 100 riders will get on for free.

In addition, the Coney Island History Project will host its annual Opening Day on Sunday, April 9, from 1-6 p.m. Free of charge, attendees will be able to view historic artifacts, photographs, maps and films of Coney's past.

Celebrating its 13th year, the venue will also allow individuals to take free souvenir photos with an original Steeplechase horse, a figure from Coney's classic Spookhouse and Spook-A-Rama dark rides, and more. Visit www.coneyislandhistoryproject.org for info.

Sports fanatics are also in luck. The Brooklyn Cyclones aren't the only game in town as the New York Cosmos of the North American Soccer League (NASL) have made MCU park their official home. Tickets are affordable, starting at \$15, the

The Brooklyn Home Reporter

APR 14 2017

(IMAGE 2 OF 3)

(EST.) MONTHLY VISITS: **78.9K**

(EST.) COVERAGE VIEWS: **14.5K**

DOMAIN AUTHORITY: **28**



40



atmosphere is exciting, and soccer fanatics can see the defending NASL champions live. Their next soccer match is Saturday, April 22 as the Cosmos take on Jacksonville Armada FC. Visit www.nycosmos.com for more info.

Nonetheless, baseball still rules in Brooklyn. The 2017 Brooklyn Cyclones, class-A affiliate of the New York Mets, will bring the fun on and off the field. Promotions are always

top notch. This season, the highlights include a tribute to a timeless flick, "The Sandlot" on Wednesday, August 2. The night will include appearance from Chauncey Leopardi who played the role of Squints Palledorous, and bobbleheads of the character will be distributed. The season starts on Monday, June 19. Tickets are currently on sale at www.brooklyncyclones.com.



The Brooklyn Home Reporter

APR 14 2017

(IMAGE 3 OF 3)

(EST.) MONTHLY VISITS:

78.9K

(EST.) COVERAGE VIEWS:

14.5K

DOMAIN AUTHORITY:

28



40



SHEA
communications

APRIL 6, 2017

Opening Day Ceremony



Opening Day is on its way and we're getting ready!

Come out and enjoy games, giveaways, **FREE RIDES** & a few **NEW** surprises, as we kick off the 90th Birthday of the Coney Island Cyclone!

Arrive early and #JoinThe100 to be one of the first to take a ride on the iconic Cyclone, **FREE!** Use the hashtag for a chance to win a VIP Experience during our Opening Day Ceremony!

Try a traditional Brooklyn Egg Cream, courtesy of Brooklyn Seltzer Boys.

Meet & Greet Mr. Met.

Check out the BBuddieez tent!

Enjoy Live Entertainment & more!

The fun starts at 10am, rides begin at Noon!

(EST.) MONTHLY VISITS: **10.6K**

(EST.) COVERAGE VIEWS: **1.01K**

DOMAIN AUTHORITY: **39**



APRIL 3, 2017

Coney Island opens for the season this weekend ++ the Cyclone turns 90



By Amanda Hatfield

Beach season is almost here; Coney Island officially opens this weekend, on Saturday, April 8. The beach doesn't open for swimming until Memorial Day, the boardwalk, rides and attractions will be open for business. On Sunday, April 9, the 32nd annual "Blessing of the Rides" will take place at Deno's Wonder Wheel Park, followed by free Wonder Wheel

rides to the first 97 people. (to celebrate the wheel's 97th year) More info on the park's Facebook page. While you're there, you can take a trip down memory lane at the Coney Island History Project's exhibition center. It's located by the Wonder Wheel entrance, and contains artifacts, photographs, maps, films, and ephemera from Coney Island's past.

(EST.) MONTHLY VISITS: **627K**

(EST.) COVERAGE VIEWS: **2.64K**

DOMAIN AUTHORITY: **70**

 **3.3K**

 **1**





Down the boardwalk from the Wonder Wheel, Luna Park, including the Cyclone, opens from April 8-April 18 for Spring Break, and then on weekends only until May 26. Visit Luna Park's website for a further breakdown of their operating hours. On April 9, if you get there early enough, the first 100 people ride the Cyclone for free as part of Luna Park's opening ceremony. The Cyclone marks its 90th year this June, and to celebrate there's a block party on June 25. More details on that still to come. Siren Festival is no more, but you can still see live music in Coney Island at the Ford Amphitheater at Coney Island Boardwalk,

which has now been open for almost a year. Their summer calendar is still to be announced, but Rancid's tour with The Bouncing Souls and Jake Burns passes through on August 6. Echo & The Bunnymen and Violent Femmes also play the Amphitheater, on July 12. For something totally different, The Temptations, The Four Tops, Mary Wilson (formerly of The Supremes) & Martha Reeves (of Martha Reeves and the Vandellas) play the Amphitheater on August 24, and tickets are on sale. We're still awaiting details on more of our favorite Coney Island summer events, like the Mermaid Parade which happens this year on Saturday, June 17, and the Friday night

BrooklynVegan

APR 3 2017

(IMAGE 2 OF 2)

(EST.) MONTHLY VISITS: 627K

(EST.) COVERAGE VIEWS: 2.64K

DOMAIN AUTHORITY: 70



3.3K



1



SHEA
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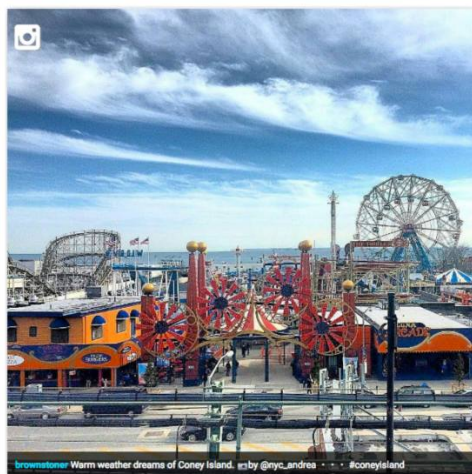
spoiled NYC

APR 4 2017

(IMAGE 1 OF 2)

Don't Miss Coney Island's Free Opening Day Festivities This Weekend

Stephen Campbell
April 04, 2017



If you don't ship out early enough, you can still snag the free egg cream samples (you probably shouldn't mix those with a roller coaster ride anyway).

While you're in the neighborhood check out that collection of artifacts we mentioned, and snap the chat at Coney Island's oldest surviving artifact: the riveting Toll House Sign from 1823 which shows the toll for a horse and rider to "the Island" at a whopping 5 cents.

Those were the days.

April 9th is fast approaching, and with it your invitation to Coney Island's Opening Day.

The festivities get underway at 11:00 AM on the Boardwalk, and first up it's the 32nd Annual Blessing of the Rides at Deno's Wonder Wheel Amusement Park.

As reported by TimeOutNY, at Luna Park, the first 100 on line on the Cyclone for free.



The ribbon cutting ceremony will be hosted by park owners Dennis and Steve Vourderis, and will be immediately followed with free rides on the Wonder

(EST.) MONTHLY VISITS: 165K

(EST.) COVERAGE VIEWS: 27.7K

DOMAIN AUTHORITY: 30

f
400

SHEA
communications

Additionally, the Coney Island History Project, located at West 12th Street at the entrance to Deno's Wonder Wheel, is open free of charge on weekends and holidays, from Memorial Day Weekend through Labor Day, from 1:00 PM to 7:00 PM.

So dust off the sundress or salmon shorts (you know who you are), and get ready to catch the train way down. It's happening.

recommended.



(EST.) MONTHLY VISITS: 165K

(EST.) COVERAGE VIEWS: 27.7K

DOMAIN AUTHORITY: 30

f
400

APRIL 7, 2017

Opening Day Of Luna Park (Coney Island)

April 8 @ 10:00 am - 8:00 pm

Saturday April 8th 10a-8p. The fun starts at 10am, rides begin at Noon! Come out and enjoy games, giveaways, FREE RIDES & a few NEW surprises, as we kick off the 90th Birthday of the Coney Island Cyclone! Arrive early and #JoinThe100 to be one of the first to take a ride on the iconic Cyclone, FREE! Use the hashtag for a chance to win a VIP Experience during our Opening Day Ceremony! Try a traditional Brooklyn Egg Cream, courtesy of Brooklyn Seltzer Boys. Meet & Greet Mr. Met. Check out the BBuddieez tent! Enjoy Live Entertainment & more!

DETAILS

Date:

April 8

Time:

10:00 am - 8:00 pm

Website:

<http://lunaparknyc.com/events/opening-day/>

VENUE

Luna Park at Coney Island

1000 Surf Avenue

Brooklyn, NY 11224 United

States + [Google Map](#)

Phone:

718-373-5862

Website:

lunaparknyc.com

(EST.) MONTHLY VISITS:

38.4K

(EST.) COVERAGE VIEWS:

2.43K

DOMAIN AUTHORITY:

43





APRIL 5, 2017

Weekend Fun: Luna Park Opens, Spring Break, Egg Hunts, Legos



Luna Park Opening Day — Coney Island
Spring begins with happy screams at this April Go List pick, when the gates to Luna Park

finally open. The first 100 people in line for the Cyclone ride free. Also at Coney Island, Deno's Wonder Wheel opens the same day.

Weekend Fun: Luna Park Opens, Spring Break, Egg Hunts, Legos

APR 5 2017

(EST.) MONTHLY VISITS: **495K**

(EST.) COVERAGE VIEWS: **2.92K**

DOMAIN AUTHORITY: **58**



9



SHEA communications

APRIL 6, 2017

Free Rides & More on Coney Island's Opening Day -- Sunday, April 9th!

Wanna ride a rollercoaster? Go to Coney Island on its opening day, who knows, you could ride free!



By PJ Gach

Coney Island is opening for the season--this must mean the spring is really here! This Sunday head on down to the beach in Brooklyn and have fun! On opening day, you'll have the opportunity to enjoy rides for free at Luna Park in Coney Island. After all, this year is the Cyclone's (rollercoaster) 90th birthday! Arrive early and **#JoinThe100** to be one of the first to take a ride on the iconic Cyclone, FREE! Use the hashtag for a chance to win a VIP Experience during the opening day ceremony!



There's entertainment, you could meet Mr.Met. Visit the first Nathan's Hot Dog Stand. Take stroll down the boardwalk and check out the site.

Did you know that Coney Island has an aquarium? Yup, there's lots of cool stuff to check out. The festivities start at 10 am, rides open at noon. Luna Park at Coney Island is located at 1000 Surf Avenue in Brooklyn.

(EST.) MONTHLY VISITS: **3.07K**

(EST.) COVERAGE VIEWS: **710**

DOMAIN AUTHORITY: **22**



10



1



1



APRIL 5, 2017

Luna Park 2017 Opening Day Ceremony

April 9 @ 10:00 am - 2:00 pm

More Details

+ GOOGLE CALENDAR

+ ICAL EXPORT

Details

Date:

April 9

Time:

10:00 am - 2:00 pm

Venue

Luna Park NYC

1000 Surf Avenue

Brooklyn, NY United States

[+ Google Map](#)

(EST.) MONTHLY VISITS: **3.92K**

(EST.) COVERAGE VIEWS: **1.29K**

DOMAIN AUTHORITY: **10**

