

2009 Calendar of Events

Thursday, January 1:
Closed for New Year's Day

Tuesday, March 31:
2009 Season Sneak Peak

Eastern State Penitentiary is free all day for a sneak peek at the 2009 exhibits and tours.

Sunday, April 12:
Closed for Easter Sunday

Saturday and Sunday, April 4 and 5:
The Restored Synagogue / Lost Chaplains Office Weekend

Eastern State Penitentiary's beautiful, freshly-restored synagogue opens to the public for the first time. Come meet the archaeologists, see the artifacts, and visit this beautiful, reborn holy space. The trip to the synagogue is followed by a tour to the long-abandoned Catholic Chaplain's Office, on the eve of its renovation and stabilization. The office, with its beautiful Catholic and Prison-theme murals, has never been open to the public. See it now, before restoration begins in this beautiful, spiritual space. One weekend only.

(Tentative): Sunday: Meet Martin Rubenstein, the last Eastern State Rabbi. 11 am and 1 pm only.

Note: Promotional language and exact programming to be further developed.

Friday, April 24 & Saturday, April 25:
Chamber Music Now

Cell Block – Stories of Eastern State Penitentiary

Chamber Music Now stages a concert production of original musical works inspired by Eastern State Penitentiary. Four composers have accepted the commission of new work, all addressing aspects of the penitentiary's complex history. All work will be performed by *Chamber Music Now's* ensemble, comprised of clarinet, violin, cello, percussion and voice.

Friday, May 8, 5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Reception for the 2009 Artists

Free

Eastern State Penitentiary hosts a changing series on artist installations as part of the historic site's exhibits on history and criminal justice. In 2009 there will be ___ installations on view during all public hours. Join us for a chance to meet the artists and see the new work! Light refreshments served.

Sunday, May 17, 2:30 p.m.

Alumni Reunion

Free with Admission

People are sometimes surprised to find that many of Eastern State's former officers and inmates are still quite young, and enjoy returning to the cellblocks to remember old times. This weekend only, our Alumni — both officers and inmates — answer questions and meet the public.

Sunday, June 14, 11:30 a.m.

Behind the Scenes Tour: Terror Behind the Walls Costumes and Makeup Shops

Historic Site Members: Free / Members' Guests: \$12.00

In 2008, Eastern State Penitentiary built new costume and makeup shops into former workshops along Cellblock 1. They include state of the art makeup stations and storage for the 140 costumes necessary to get this show up and running every night. Meet the makeup artists and costume designers in this rare Behind the Scenes glimpse at one of America's most successful haunted houses.

TBD:

Sunoco Welcome America Movie Night

Free

Join us for a free screening of a classic prison film on Eastern State's baseball diamond! Bring your own lawn chair or blanket, buy some popcorn, and settle in beneath the big wall for one of the all-time classics prison films.

Date/ Title TBD

Saturday, July 4

Independence Day

Standard Admission

The penitentiary is open from 10:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. Eastern State is located just three blocks from the Ben Franklin Parkway, site of the some of the best fireworks in the nation! So tour the prison, have dinner at one of the great local restaurants, and stay for the fireworks! Happy Independence Day!

Saturday, July 11, 5:30 p.m.

Bastille Day!

Reenactment and Street Party Free

One of Philadelphia's most popular summertime events! Local businesses team with Eastern State Penitentiary Historic Site for a playful reenactment of the Storming of the Bastille (influenced more by Monty Python than the French Revolution), followed by a French-themed street party. Come early and take a tour of Eastern State (standard admission), or stay late and take a 25-minute evening tour following the Reenactment (\$5 per person).

Saturday and Sunday, August 1 and 2

Willie Sutton/ Tunnel Escape Weekend

11:30- 4:30 Tunnel Escape Living History

Free with admission

Two actors—one portraying tunnel mastermind Clarence Klinedinst and one portraying bank robber “Slick Willie” Sutton—give their conflicting accounts of who designed the tunnel, how it was built, and why the escapees got caught. Meet each inmate in his cell, and see how their accounts vary. Based on actual conflicts in the accounts of Willie Sutton and Clarence Klinedinst.

Friday, September 11, 8:00 p.m. (Doors open at 7:00 p.m.)

Secret Cinema: Title TBD

\$8.00

The Secret Cinema returns to Eastern State with a great vintage prison film projected (not video) inside the cellblocks of Eastern State Penitentiary. Opens with quirky short film introductions. Title TBD.

September 18 – November 1:

“Terror Behind the Walls” Haunted House

Called “perfect for Halloween” by the New York Times and ranked No. 5 in the nation by A.O.L. Digital City, *Terror Behind the Walls* is the region's premier haunted attraction. Tickets go on sale Sept. 9, 2009. Check the Halloween website for coupons, previews, photos and ticketing.

Saturday, October 3, 2 p.m. – 3 p.m. (Judging 3 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.)

Members' Photo Contest

Free with Admission

Eastern State is one of the most photogenic locations in America. Each year photographers travel from as far away as California and Canada to photograph the penitentiary. Each Member may submit one color and one black and white Eastern State photograph for our 2009 Members' Only photo competition.

(Date Tentative)

College Day on the Parkway

Free for Students with I.D.

Special programs and free admission to Eastern State Penitentiary and other local museums for college and high school students. Free shuttle busses will run among participating attractions.

Saturday, November 14, 11:30 a.m.

Behind the Scenes: The Punishment Cells (Tentative)

Historic Site Members: Free / Members' Guests: \$12.00

See two spaces never yet open to the public: the Death Row exercise yards, complete with their own guard tower, and "Klondike," the unlit underground punishment cells beneath Cellblock 14. One weekend only.

Thursday, November 26:

Closed for Thanksgiving

Tuesday, November 30:

Last Day of the 2009 Standard Tours

Wednesday, December 1:

First Day of 2009 Winter Adventure Tours

Thursday, December 24:

Closed for Christmas Eve

Friday, December 25:

Closed for Christmas Day

Thursday, December 31:

Closed for New Year's Eve

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