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Everyone knows you can walk across the Brooklyn Bridge, but did you know you can also walk down the aisle there?

The city is loaded with beloved landmarks that also double as wedding venues. For brides and grooms who want their special day to be unforgettable, the average catering hall just won't do. And you may be surprised at some of the spots that are willing to accommodate couples - some for a price, of course, but some for free. So before you book a run-of-the-mill affair, check out these New York treasures.

Madison Square Garden

You, too, can be the main act at the "World's Most Famous Arena." Your names will even appear in lights on the massive marquee at the Seventh Ave. entrance. So far, the actual arena has only been rented out twice for weddings - and both were mass ceremonies conducted by the Unification Church's Rev. Sun Myung Moon. Since most people can't afford to take over the entire arena to get married (the Garden wouldn't give a price quote), MSG offers several catering areas for receptions. There's the wood-paneled Club Restaurant, which can host up to three events at one time. The sports-themed Play by Play boasts a running track and orbiting basketballs. Then there's the 8,000-square-foot Theater Lobby. Its circular stage makes it the perfect spot for wedding ceremonies.

Cost: Varies (the Garden says costs depend on the party)

Reservations: (212) 465-6106

When to call: Several months in advance

Queens County Farm Museum

If you'd rather hear cow bells than the wedding variety, the Farm Museum is for you. Livestock roam this Queens site amid historic farm buildings, a greenhouse, planting fields, an orchard and an herb garden.

Brides and grooms who marry here can offer their reception guests hayrides and animal feedings as activities. Crown Heights couple Heather Rubin and Ben Davidson, who were married there July 22, opted for the hayrides. "You don't feel like you're in New York, because there are just acres and acres of land and animals," Rubin said. The couple had their ceremony in the orchard, and cocktail hour was held in the open air pavilion overlooking the city's "only great vineyard." Finally, the reception was held in a barn with wide wood plank floors and a tin ceiling. "It's got a 1930s ambiance and it overlooks the planting fields," says Farm Museum executive director Amy Fischetti. "It's quite lovely."

Cost: Barn complex, $1,000 for a 4-hour event; the pavilion, $500 for a 4-hour event; the orchard, $1,500 site rental

Reservations: (718) 347-3276, ext. 13

When to call: At least six months in advance

EMPIRE STATE BUILDING

Ever since King Kong said goodbye to his love Ann Darrow on top of this iconic building, it's been a beacon of romance. And Hollywood continued to use the skyscraper in several love stories: Tom Hanks and Meg Ryan met on the Observatory in "Sleepless in Seattle," and Cary Grant waited in vain for Deborah Kerr there in "An Affair to Remember." Every Valentine's Day, 14 couples are chosen to be wed just a few stories down on the 80th floor of the building. Since hopefuls from around the world apply, those interested must write in and explain why they should be chosen. The couples must love the building, according to Lydia A. Ruth, a

spokeswoman for the skyscraper. "Maybe they had their first date here, they were proposed to here," she says. "We have an officiant who can do any type of wedding ceremony. It's the most romantic spot in the world on the most romantic day." Brooklyn resident Lisa Hinshaw was lucky enough to be chosen to marry Tam Nguyen at the building in last year's event. "It was bright and amazing," she said of the ceremony.

Cost: Free

Reservations: Fax letters to (212) 967-6167

When to write: Requests must be submitted by Nov. 30

BELMONT PARK

Meghan and Elias Langguth had their reception at Belmont Park because they wanted an outdoor celebration. Guests arrived just in time to place bets for the last race. "We had a race named after us," says Meghan. "We went out to the actual track and we had our picture taken in the winner's circle with the horse that won, the jockey, the owner and the trainer after that race." An air-conditioned tent on the park's grounds can seat up to 400 people with a dance floor, and the setting overlooks the path horses take from their barns to the track.

Belmont Park welcomes ceremonies as well. "Some people like to get married in the paddock, which is the circle where the horses gather before the race," says Debbie Solimine, director of special events. The tent has also been used for services, with the party taking place in a banquet room in the clubhouse.

Cost: $5,000 for tent rental

Reservations: (516) 488-6000, ext. 4062

When to call: six months in advance

CENTRAL PARK ZOO

April the sea lion is quite used to human visitors, but she was fascinated when she spotted one in a wedding gown. "She would go up to the glass and just stare at [the bride] the whole time while they were getting married, and followed her," says Central Park Zoo spokeswoman Kate McIntyre. So it's no surprise that the zoo's marine mammals are usually the centerpiece of sorts for parties. Cocktails generally take place around the sea lion pool, and dinner is served under a tent between the snow monkeys and sea lions.

When Cecily and Mark Hall - a former senior zoo keeper at Central Park - were married there, Mark immediately changed into wading boots following the ceremony. All of the guests were asked to turn and face the sea lion pool while he participated in a feeding. "We set up the bar right in front of the polar bears so people could stop and look at the bears," says Cecily. "We also had open access to most of the exhibits throughout the evening so guests could see them." Animal lovers also have the Bronx Zoo as an option. "As your pastor's giving you your spiel, there are gorillas playing behind you," says Carlos Rosado, an associate events manager at the Bronx Zoo.

Cost: $24,000 to rent entire zoo; for Bronz Zoo, $6,500-$12,000 for two rooms, one for cocktail reception and another for a sit-down dinner

Reservations: (212) 439-6509; (718) 220-5076 for Bronx Zoo

When to call: A year ahead for Central Park, 6 months ahead for Bronx Zoo

CONEY ISLAND

Just a few weeks ago, Dave Kerpen and Caroline Fisher were married on the field of the Brooklyn Cyclones' KeySpan Park. If you think that's strange, then you haven't attended a wedding at what's known as the "Freak Show" - the Circus Sideshow, which also plays host to nuptials. "It's a good venue for wackos," says Dick Zigun, founder of the Circus Sideshow. But somewhat more traditional weddings have been held at the

Coney Island Museum, which houses memorabilia like antique bumper cars and funhouse mirrors. Jane Cowan and Tim Ries were married there last fall. They gave guests the choice of tickets to the sideshow or on rides, including the Cyclone. Cowan, an architectural historian, first led guests on a historical tour of Coney Island.

Cost: KeySpan Park, starts at $7,500 for facility; museum, $500-$1,500

Reservations: KeySpan, (718) 449-8497; museum, (718) 372-5159

When to call: Keyspan, three to six months in advance; museum, one month

YANKEE STADIUM

Radio baseball reporter Ed Lucas hit a grand slam on March 10 when he scored home plate at Yankee Stadium to marry Allison Pfeifle.

It was the first time the ceremony has taken place on the field itself.

"It was a wonderful feeling," says Lucas. "We're both baseball fans. It's the cathedral of baseball, and you get married in a cathedral. [Yankees owner George] Steinbrenner and everyone went overboard to make it a successful event."

Steinbrenner picked up the tab for the occasion because of Lucas' longtime relationship with the team. It would cost "an exorbitant amount of money" for anyone else to tie the knot there, according to stadium reps. But there are plenty of other options where hard-core Yankee fans can get hitched.

At Monument Park, located on Field Level Section 36 (between the bullpens and adjacent to the Loading Dock), you can treat guests to a barbecue or multicourse meal in the outdoor space where Yankees greats are honored by monuments and plaques. The Yankee Club features a replica version of the Stadium's trademark frieze and is loaded with plasma televisions.

The Stadium Club, a bilevel event space, and the Great Moments Room, an intimate banquet facility, are both padded with pictures and memorabilia.

There are also lots of add-ons to spice up your party. You can book an appearance by former big leaguers and post messages on the Fan Marquee and/or Centerfield Scoreboard.

The ballpark can even customize collectibles like baseballs or shirts for party favors.

Cost: the field - including Monument Park, $10,000 an hour for a minimum of three hours; Monument Park, $8,500 for four hours; Stadium Club, $15,000 for four hours; Yankee Club, $10,000 for four hours; Great Moments Room, $5,000 for four hours

Reservations: (718) 579-4416

When to call: a couple of months in advance

CITATION (AGLC STYLE)

GINA SALAMONE, 'ONE OF A KIND WEDDINGS. Tie the knot at some of N.Y.'s most famous landmarks', *New York Daily News* (online), 30 Jul 2006 26 ‹https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=AWNB&docref=news/11339ECE41FE6FE0›

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