

CENTRAL PK. STAR TURNS Celebs on your phone

EXCLUSIVE

By JEREMY OLSHAN

Jerry Seinfeld and Whoopi Goldberg are now giving free tours of Central Park.

The comics, along with more than 30 other New York-based celebrities, share bits of history, trivia, and personal remembrances about the park's many landmarks on a new audio tour visitors can access with their cell-phones.

Starting today, signs posted throughout the park will provide a phone number and a code visitors can dial to hear the likes of

Alec Baldwin, Kevin Bacon and Isabella Rossellini ramble on about the Ramble, the Great Lawn, and the Reservoir.

"I am honored to welcome you to Strawberry Fields," Yoko Ono says, explaining the origins of the meditative monument to John Lennon's life and work.

Like Yoko, the celebrity guides often have a personal connection to their particular park landmark.

"This is where I learned to skate," Whoopi says of Wollman Rink. "Yeah — me. On skates!"

The guide is geared both to tourists and to New Yorkers wishing to learn more about the park without looking like tourists,

Central Park Conservancy president Doug Blonsky said. "People have a whole different respect for things when they know the history of it."

The messages, which average 2 to 3 minutes long, also highlight the work of the conservancy, and a message afterwards suggests people support the group's efforts.

"People love the park, but some people can take it for granted," Blonsky said.

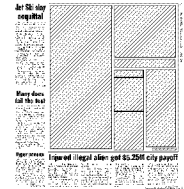
Regis Philbin, who provides a history of Grand Army Plaza, said the guide covers details even he was clueless about.

"Most New Yorkers don't know much about it — I didn't know much about it either," Philbin told the Post.

Magician Penn Jillette, of Penn & Teller, explains how Frederick Law Olmsted and Calvert Vaux turned a murky swamp into the park's famed Lake, and how the Conservancy used fibers made from coconuts to restore the shoreline to its original condition.

At the Naumburg Bandshell, Paul Shaffer describes how originally "the very straitlaced commissioners would not have approved" anything other than classical music. "It took until the 1920s for park-goers to enjoy what today we know of as popular music."

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Dial & Discover



Call 646-8620997 and enter the extension below followed by #.
Ext./Location

- 01/Alice in Wonderland** — Whoopi Goldberg
- 02/Arsenal** — Commissioner Adrian Benepe
- 03/Balto** John Stossel
- 04/Belvedere Castle** — Lee Goldberg
- 05/Bethesda Fountain** — George C. Wolfe
- 06/Bow Bridge** — Julia Louis-Dreyfus
- 07/Carousel** — Kelly Ripa
- 08/Cherry Hill**
- 09/Chess & Crackers** — Mandy Patinkin
- 10/Children's Glade** — Kelly Ripa
- 11/Conservatory Garden** — Candice Bergen
- 12/Conservatory Water** — Glenn Close
- 13/The Dairy** — Danny Meyer
- 14/Delacorte Theater** — Anne Hathaway
- 15/Grand Army Plaza** — Regis Philbin
- 16/Great Lawn** — Alec Baldwin
- 17/Harlem Meer** — S. Epatha Merkerson
- 18/Heckscher Ballfields** — Scott Clark
- 19/Ladies' Pavilion** — Tea Leoni
- 20/The Lake** — Penn Jillette
- 21/Loeb Boathouse** — Meredith Viera
- 22/The Mall** — Jerry Seinfeld
- 23/Minton Tile Ceiling** — Sigourney Weaver
- 24/Naumburg Bandshell** — Paul Shaffer
- 25/North Meadow** — Jimmy Fallon
- 26/Obelisk** — Philippe de Montebello
- 27/The Pond** Sarah Jessica Parker
- 28/The Pool**
- 29/The Ramble** Isabella Rossellini
- 30/The Ravine** David Copperfield
- 31/Reservoir** Kevin Bacon
- 32/Arthur Ross Pinetum** — Martha Stewart
- 33/Rumsey Playfield** — Neil Patrick Harris
- 34/Shakespeare Garden** — Marcia Gay Harden
- 35/Sheep Meadow** — Matthew Broderick
- 36/Strawberry Fields** — Yoko Ono
- 37/Tennis Courts** — John McEnroe
- 38/Tree Care** — Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg
- 39/Turtle Pond** — Jason Alexander
- 40/Wollman Rink** — Whoopi Goldberg