



# Ellis Island

From 1892 to the early 1920s, around 75% of all immigrants entered the USA through the immigration processing center at **Ellis Island**, located in New York Harbor.

The processing of immigrants on Ellis Island was an ordeal that might take five hours or more. First, they had to pass a physical examination by a doctor. Anyone with a serious health problem or a contagious disease, such as tuberculosis, was promptly sent home.

Those who passed the medical exam then reported to a government inspector. The inspector questioned immigrants to determine whether they met the legal requirements for entering the USA. The requirements included proving they had never been convicted of a felony, demonstrating that they were able to work, and showing that they had some money (at least \$25 after 1909).