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WEEKEND MISER

A Double Dose of Water Delights

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The Miser has gone off on vacation; he didn't say where, but we imagine that he is perhaps surfing the waves somewhere sandy. Maybe we just have water on the mind — it sure seems to call in the summertime. Or, as E. E. Cummings [put it, more poetically](#): “For whatever we lose (like a you or a me)/it's always ourselves we find in the sea.”

But for those of us stuck in the sweltering city this weekend, we do have our own places to get in the water, of course, starting with the city's many [free outdoor pools](#). One of the neatest, where you can be both on the water and in the water, is the floating pool in a converted barge at [Barretto Point Park](#) in the Bronx. There's also plenty more to do there, whether it's fishing from the pier, canoeing, kayaking or sunbathing with a view of the East River waterfront. (*Daily, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., and 4 to 7 p.m., Tiffany Street and Viele Avenue, Hunts Point; 718-430-4601.*)

Just being near the water while staying dry has an appeal, too, and nature lovers can stroll along the Hudson on a walking tour on Sunday morning that starts at the Christopher Street Fountain and wanders for almost two miles in [Hudson River Park](#). A pair of guides will share their knowledge about plants, birds and butterflies. The event, “Hudson River Park Wild!,” takes place every Sunday through the end of September. (And no dogs on this walk, please; barking scares away the smaller critters we're out there to see.) (*Sundays through Sept. 29, meeting at 9 a.m. at the Christopher Street Fountain, Christopher Street and West Street, north of Pier 40, West Village, [hudsonriverpark.org](#); free.*)

Prefer something tougher than walking? How about a Zumba class at the West Harlem Piers? There you can join this combo dance-and-exercise craze and sweat it out on the shore of the Hudson. The class is one of many in the [Shape Up NYC](#) program, run by the Parks Department, offering a slew of classes in all five boroughs that teach aerobics, African dance, yoga and more — even self-defense. (*Saturdays through Sept. 28, at 9 a.m., West Harlem Piers Park, West 125th Street and Marginal Street, 212-408-0219, [riversideparknyc.org](#); free.*)

ACROSS THE POND

We Long Island City residents are well aware that [Gantry Plaza State Park](#) is a great summer hangout outside of Manhattan. It juts into the East River, and there are a decent breeze and a gorgeous view of Midtown from this ever-developing neighborhood in Queens. On Saturday night, [Hip to Hip Theater Company](#) will offer a free production of Shakespeare's “Love's Labor's Lost” on the park's northern lawn at 7:30 p.m. And on Tuesday, the continuing free summer series [Live at the Gantries](#) will feature the Dahdoo Middle Eastern Ensemble on the plaza at 7 p.m.

(*Gantry Plaza State Park, 49th Avenue and Center Boulevard; [nysparks.com/parks/149](#).*)