

## Two-Day Itinerary For New York City

**Flights:** All major airlines offer flights to the New York City area. The city is served by three major airports: John F. Kennedy International Airport (JFK) and LaGuardia Airport (LGA) in Queens, New York and Newark Liberty International Airport (EWR) in Newark, New Jersey.

**Airport Transportation:** Taxis are available at all airports. Be sure to go to an official taxi stand by following signs for Ground Transportation in the terminal and wait in line. The taxi dispatcher will point you to the next available NYC yellow cab. There will be many people offering you rides to the city as soon as you exit the terminal, but these people are not official taxi drivers. While many will take you where you want to go, some may be scam artists, so it's better to ignore them and go to the official taxi stand. Uber and Lyft also pick up at the airports, and there are designated pickup spots that the apps will direct you to. Shared ride SuperShuttle vans are also available at all airports and will have an official desk near baggage claim.

- Taxis from Newark to the city can be expensive. A more affordable and still convenient option is to take a New Jersey Transit train. The Newark AirTrain stops at all Newark terminals and will take you to the New Jersey Transit train stop, where you can purchase tickets at ticket machines. The train to New York Penn Station in the heart of Manhattan costs \$13.00 per adult each way and takes just over half an hour. From there you can easily get a taxi to your hotel at one of the taxi stands or take the subway.
- A taxi or SuperShuttle is the fastest way to get to Manhattan from LaGuardia. There is a public bus that runs to Harlem in the northern end of Manhattan, from which you can then take a taxi or the subway to your destination, but this can be confusing for someone who has never been to the city. Unless you're on a very tight budget, I recommend taking a taxi.
- Taxis are abundant at JFK and are the easiest way to get to the city. The A line of the subway also runs to the airport. To take it, ride the JFK AirTrain from your terminal to the subway stop, which will be clearly announced and marked. From there, you can take the A train to many spots in Manhattan, including Times Square and Penn Station. The ride can take about an hour, but it's convenient, easy, and safe if you're looking to save on cab fare.

**Lodging:** There are hundreds of hotels in New York City. Most hotels in Manhattan will be convenient to public transportation and make for a great starting point for visiting the city's sights. AirBnB is also a great option for finding a place for a couple of nights. Just note that space comes at a premium in New York City, so don't be surprised if your hotel room or apartment is smaller than what you're used to seeing elsewhere.

**Getting Around:** There is no reason to rent a car in New York City. In fact, having one will be more of a hassle than it's worth.

- The subway is the easiest and most convenient way to get around. The current fare is \$2.75 per ride. A MetroCard can be purchased from a machine at any subway station. The machines accept cash, credit cards, or debit cards and you can put any amount of money

you want on the card. Try to determine how many times you think you'll be taking the subway, multiply that by \$2.75, add \$1 to cover the new card fee, and put that much on the card. A MetroCard with a dollar amount added to it can be used by more than one person. If you run out, you can always add more money to your card.

- Taxis are available almost everywhere, but can be difficult to find during the peak of rush hour. To hail one, just step out with your hand raised. If someone else is already trying to hail a cab, wait your turn and do not cut in front of them. There is an easy system for being able to tell if a taxi is available: if the number on top of the taxi is lit up, that means the taxi is available; if the number is dark, it is in use or otherwise not available. All taxis are equipped with credit card machines. Try not to use bills over \$20 if paying in cash.
- A map of the subway system can be found on the MTA website at <http://web.mta.info/maps/submap.html>, or take a picture of the map with your phone to be able to refer to it at any point.
- Contrary to popular belief, New Yorkers are very friendly and willing to help. If you get lost or confused, don't be afraid to stop a friendly looking person and ask for directions.

## References and useful links:

- Guidebooks: For traditional sights, "Top 10 New York City" by Eyewitness Travel will cover the basics. For a less traditional approach, consider the "Not For Tourists Guide to New York City."
- For information on current events and attractions, check out Time Out New York (<http://www.timeout.com/newyork>).

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### Day 1

**Morning:** Seeing some of New York's most popular sights

- Start your day off by taking in the lights of Times Square. Continue north up Sixth Avenue to see Radio City Music Hall and the world-famous Rockefeller Center. From there you can easily take a stroll up Fifth Avenue and window shop at some of the most famous stores in the world, including Tiffany's. Don't forget to stop in St. Patrick's Cathedral and take in the stunning architecture. End your walk up Fifth Avenue at the bottom corner of Central Park, where you can see the famous carriage horses across from the landmark Plaza Hotel.

**Afternoon:** Lunch and art

- Leaving Central Park, head six blocks south to the Museum of Modern Art, located at 11 W. 53<sup>rd</sup> Street. MoMA offers 3 different restaurants for lunch — two casual cafes and an upscale restaurant, The Modern. After enjoying lunch at your leisure, spend a couple hours exploring the exhibits and taking in some of the finest modern art in the world.

**Evening:** Meatpacking District and the High Line

- In the early evening, explore the cobblestone streets of the Meatpacking District, one of New York's trendiest neighborhoods. Browse the high-end boutiques and make your way to Chelsea Market, located on 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue between 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> Streets. Chelsea Market is home to a number of shops, where you can buy goods made by local New York artisans. It also houses a collection of some of New York's most popular eateries in a casual marketplace setting, so there's definitely something for everyone. You can either choose to eat at Chelsea Market or get your food to go and take it with you to the High Line.
- Located right above Chelsea Market is the High Line, one of New York's newest and most unique parks. Built on an abandoned elevated train track, the park incorporates a stunning variety of native wildlife and showcases a rotating collection of modern art installations. With the Hudson River just a block or two to the west, it makes for perfect sunset viewing. Take your time exploring the park, including views of the Empire State Building and the small amphitheater where you can sit above the New York City traffic and watch as it whizzes by below.

**Late Night:** Empire State Building

- After enjoying sunset at the High Line, head to New York's most famous landmark. The views from the top of the Empire State Building are never more amazing than at night, when the lights come on and the city truly comes alive. Open until 2:00 a.m., it's the perfect place to end your first day in the city.

## Day 2

**Morning:** Breakfast and a boat ride

- Start your day off with breakfast at Russ and Daughters, located in Manhattan's Lower East Side neighborhood. There's no better place to get an authentic New York City bagel and lox. Having been in business for over 100 years, this place is a New York institution. The original deli counter is located at 179 E. Houston Street and opens at 8:00 a.m. When you arrive, take a number and wait to be called. There may be a short wait, but it's well worth it.
- After breakfast, head to the southern end of the island of Manhattan for great views of New York Harbor. Most tourists wait in long lines to catch a ferry to the Statue of Liberty, even though what most people care most about is getting a great photo of the statue. The Staten Island Ferry is a great alternative, because it leaves every half hour, is free, and offers great views. The ferry terminal is located at the lower tip of Manhattan near Battery Park. For the best statue views, go immediately to the right side of the boat when boarding in Manhattan, or the left side of the boat when boarding in Staten Island. The trip takes about half an hour. Note that you have to get off the boat when it docks and get on the next boat back, rather than just staying on the same boat. For a great photo op, wait an extra half hour for the next boat and visit the outdoor terrace at the St. George Terminal in Staten Island, where you get stunning views of lower Manhattan.

**Afternoon:** Walk the Brooklyn Bridge and enjoy some authentic New York pizza

- The entire upper level of the Brooklyn Bridge is reserved for pedestrians and bike riders. In addition to providing great views of the city, a walk over the bridge allows you to see the architecture of the famous structure up close.
- No visit to New York would be complete without a slice of authentic New York-style pizza. Located in Brooklyn under the Brooklyn Bridge is Grimaldi's, one of the most famous pizza places in the city (1 Front Street). If the line for Grimaldi's is too long, which it sometimes can be, consider a visit to Juliana's instead, which is located on the same block in the original Grimaldi's location and is run by Grimaldi's original owners. You can't go wrong with either choice.
- Before heading back to Manhattan, be sure to walk to the riverfront under the Brooklyn Bridge and take in the views. You can return to Manhattan by walking back over the bridge or taking the subway.

**Late Afternoon/Early Evening:** Chinatown and Little Italy

- Stroll through the streets of famous Chinatown and Little Italy, taking in the authentic sights of two of New York's most traditional neighborhoods. Treat yourself to some ice cream at the Chinatown Ice Cream Factory, located at 65 Bayard Street. Unknown to most tourists, it's some of the best ice cream available in the city and offers both unique and traditional flavors.

**Night:** Dinner and drinks at The Library Hotel

- Located just a block from the famous main branch of the New York Public Library at 299 Madison Avenue, The Library Hotel is a quaint location off the normal tourist circuit. The restaurant on the main floor, Madison & Vine, offers American and international fare, as well as an extensive wine list, in a casual but elegant setting.
- After dinner, be sure to take the elevator to the 14<sup>th</sup> floor to visit Bookmarks, a cozy bar and lounge with indoor fireplaces and outdoor terrace seating. Treat yourselves to one of their handcrafted, high-end cocktails and unwind after a long day of sightseeing. One of the best-kept secrets in midtown Manhattan, the terrace offers a rare opportunity to take in great views of the city without fighting the crowds.