



Places to visit for a weekend...

New York, New York

English Now!

Why You Should Go

New York City is America's largest city and one of the world's most vibrant megacities. With a metropolitan area population of approximately 20 million, New York is a **city of extremes of wealth and poverty**. Most Americans would say that New York is also a **city of intense images, smells, sounds, ideas, feelings, and emotions**. You really should experience it during your time in the United States!

Most Americans have an opinion about New York City. A very famous song by Frank Sinatra says, "if you can make it there (in NYC) you can make it anywhere." Some people love New York, and many – young people especially – move there early in their lives/careers to work in business, the arts, education, technology, NGOs, the sciences, or other sectors. New York leads the country (and sometimes the world) in many of these fields. However, many Americans feel that New Yorkers are impolite and unfriendly. It is very common for Americans to say that they love to visit New York but would never want to live there.

New York attracts the world's attention as well. New York and its Ellis Island immigration gateway have been the first destination for many of America's immigrants – German, Irish, Italian, etc., and now Chinese, Indian, etc. etc. The world was also watching after terrorists destroyed the World Trade Center Twin Towers on September 11, 2001. One other way to think about New York is as a fantastic expression of **resilience**, a quality that American society and Americans have when we are at our best. New York and New Yorkers (and Americans) have a tough side. They may get knocked down, but they get back up.

Planning a Visit to New York

Most students travel to New York for a weekend. There is no way to see everything in New York over a weekend, so we suggest a focus on Manhattan Downtown and Midtown. You can easily walk to see a lot in these areas, in one day. We also mention some of New York's most famous museums, many of which are "uptown" near Central Park. As you plan your trip, schedule time to visit us in Office Hours, or ask us any time for ideas about what to do. We also suggest and assume that you will be finding more information online. Here are some initial suggestions about places to visit:

Manhattan Downtown

- **Take a walking tour of Lower Manhattan.** Visit Trinity Church; Bank of New York; New York Stock Exchange; Federal Hall National Memorial; "Canyon of Heroes"; and Bowling Green Park.
- **Visit Ellis Island, which celebrates the story of immigration in the U.S.** From Bowling Green Park at the southern tip of Manhattan, take a ferry boat to visit the Ellis Island Museum, a

great museum that celebrates the story of immigration in the U.S. If you have relatives who have settled in the U.S., you can search online for their immigration records! You may also visit the Statue of Liberty island on the same ferry boat ride. Note: most people do not think it is worth the time to climb to the top of the Statue of Liberty. You are at the top for only a few seconds (other people are climbing behind you, and you must keep moving), and it usually requires a long wait.

- **Visit the 9/11 Memorial.** The U.S. and the world are still recovering – slowly – from 9/11.
- **Walk the Brooklyn Bridge.** If you have time, walk halfway across the Brooklyn Bridge and take (beautiful!) photos of Manhattan against the sky at sunset!
- **For a meal downtown,** you can eat outside on the water at South Street Seaport. There are also outdoor concerts at South Street Seaport (look online for information). Also, there is a good food court with a nice sitting area at the World Financial Center, north of Bowling Green Park.

Manhattan Midtown

- **See Times Square at night!** Then go for a run on the south side of Central Park in the morning! One saying is that “New York is the city that never sleeps.” You’ll see more people out late at night, than early in the morning, but we recommend both.
- **Take a walking tour of Midtown.** Destinations are Macy’s, the Empire State Building, Yankees Clubhouse, Lord & Taylor, Tiffany Building, New York Public Library, Grand Central Station, Chrysler Building, Bryant Park, Rockefeller Center, GE Building, Radio City Music Hall, and St. Patrick’s Cathedral.
- **Finish a walking tour at the Apple Store or the Plaza Hotel at 59th and Fifth Avenue.** You can’t miss the cube doorway above ground, and it’s quite a sight below ground. You can also enjoy tea or other drinks at the Plaza Hotel, and you will be at the Southeast corner of Central Park – a great place to walk into the park.
- **You must plan in advance to see a Broadway show.** One way to possibly arrange to see a show at the last minute is to buy cheap tickets, at a discount, the day of the show, at a “TKTS” office in Times Square (154 Broadway) (or at South Street Seaport downtown).
- **Our favorite views of the city in Midtown** are from the Top of the Rock at Rockefeller Center.
- **For breakfast,** we recommend Ess-a-Bagel, a very typically New York bagel store. They have great bagels. They are at 831 3rd Avenue at 51st Street. One fun way to start a day in New York is to go running in Central Park, finish at Ess-a-Bagel, and eat calories that you just spent running!
- **Our favorite place for dinner is Ellen’s Stardust Diner.** Broadway show actors and singers serve dinner and sing. It may require waiting in line but is a great show and way to experience Broadway. 1650 Broadway, at 51st.

Museums

New York’s most famous museums are the the Metropolitan Museum of Art (the Met), the Museum of Modern Art (MoMA), the Whitney, the Guggenheim, and the American Museum of Natural History. These five museums include four internationally-renowned art institutions and arguably the best science museum in the world. Each is worth a special description, but we will offer a few highlights here:

- **The Met.** Even without one of its many mind-blowing special exhibits, The Met's permanent collection is worth a half-day visit alone, boasting everything from Greek sculpture to modern Pop art; the Cloisters, which is also under the Met's jurisdiction, features some of the most spectacular medieval and religious art in the country.
- **MoMA.** MoMA's permanent collection of modern and contemporary art is unparalleled, and the special shows that migrate through its galleries are nothing short of breathtaking. Past exhibitions have focused on Salvador Dali, Andy Warhol, Vincent Van Gogh and Rene Magritte, and ne'er forget recent Drudge Siren blog events like The Clock, Sleeping Tilda and the Rain Room.

- **The Whitney Museum of American Art.** The Whitney may not be quite as famous as the Met and MoMA, but it has a wonderful collection focused on American artists.
- **The Guggenheim.** The Guggenheim's Frank Lloyd Wright building itself is perhaps more famous and beautiful than some of the artwork inside, but its collection of modern and contemporary art is also worth visiting.
- **The American Museum of Natural History.** And the last-but-not-least of these most celebrated New York institutions is the American Museum of Natural History, where the movie "Night at the Museum" was filmed. Don't worry: gigantic dinosaurs and the Ghost of Teddy Roosevelt do not haunt the halls at night. You don't have to like science to appreciate these adorable penguins, but this museum touches every aspect of biology, ecology and geology imaginable, and you can even take a trip into space at the Hayden Planetarium next door.

Museum Logistics (and note tickets are not free as is the case with most museums in D.C.):

The Museum of Modern Art is located at 11 West 53rd Street in Midtown West (212-708-9400, moma.org) \$25 admission. The Metropolitan Museum of Art is located at 1000 5th Ave at Central Park (212) 535-7710, metmuseum.org) \$25 recommended admission. The Whitney Museum of American Art is located at 945 Madison Ave on the Upper East Side (212-570-3600, whitney.org) \$20 admission. The Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum is located at 1071 5th Ave on the Upper East Side (212-423-3500, guggenheim.org) \$22 admission. And the American Museum of Natural History is located at 79th Street and Central Park West on the Upper West Side (212-769-5100, amnh.org) \$22 suggested admission.

Traveling to and Around New York City

We recommend that you travel to New York City by bus. Our school is very conveniently located across the street from a bus that travels directly to New York City. The Vamoose Bus leaves and drops off passengers under the parking garage, diagonally across the street from the school, at the corner of Montgomery Avenue and Waverly Street. Vamoose Bus tickets are inexpensive – most are \$30 to \$40, per person, each way. Buses are relatively comfortable and have wi-fi service. Deluxe buses are more expensive and even more comfortable. Visit the Vamoose Bus website at <http://vamoosebus.com> to make reservations and purchase tickets. Buses travel to New York in approximately 4.5 hours, more if you leave D.C. or arrive in New York at rush hour. Buses arrive in New York near Penn Station. You may also want to consider taking a train (Amtrak). If you drive, plan on \$50 to as much as \$100 per day if you move your car frequently, for parking.

Staying in New York City

New York has literally hundreds of hotels. Hotels are expensive. One moderately priced hotel that we recommend is the New York Budget Inn, 200 East 34th Street at Third Avenue. The New York Budget Inn is very nice for younger travelers, a "hostel-like" environment but clean, quiet, and well-managed, and it also offers comfortable (but small), moderately-priced, rooms for families.

One Final Note: Connecting in New York with a Former English Now! Instructor

It may be possible for us to connect you to a former English Now! instructor, Ellyn Leverone, if you are traveling to New York. Ellyn is very busy – she teaches there and recently sang in a choir at Carnegie Hall – but she is sometimes available to meet and guide students (any arrangements you make with her are between you and her). Ask us for an introduction.

For More Information. Please let Paul or Kirstie know if you are traveling to New York City. We would love to hear about your plans, and we would love to hear how your trip goes, after you return, so that we can share what you learn with other students.