

NEW YORK CITY (A tour through Manhattan with Jeffery)

Hi, my name is Jeffery and I'm an American. I want to invite you to take a tour with me, an excursion, through New York City (NYC).

See all the famous sites. Use all the different ways of getting around like, the subway, taxis, tour buses, maybe we'll even use a horse drawn carriage. That's the thing that's so fun about New York (NY), the whole world's here. We'll be meeting people from everywhere, and we'll be using all the different means of transportation available in the city to get around.

NY is a very friendly city, very welcoming; everyone should make one trip to NYC.

With 8.5 million people, New York City located on the east coast of New York State, is the largest city in the United States of America. The city is an international center for business, finance, fashion, entertainment, media, and culture. In addition, one also finds the headquarters for the United Nations and many of the world's most famous skyscrapers.

Altogether, almost 19 million people live in the New York metropolitan area. New York City has five districts or boroughs: Staten Island, Brooklyn, Queens, Manhattan, and the Bronx. The borough of Manhattan is the real New York City, which is home to 1.8 million people. And just imagine this, every day another 10 million join them to work, shop, and as tourists.

The population density in Manhattan amounts to 34,000 people per square kilometer; this is only possible because Manhattan sits atop bedrock of granite which allows for the building of such tall skyscrapers.

There is no other city in the world where so many different ethnic groups and races live together. (Making NYC the great "melting pot") A large portion of the population consists of Jews, more Jews live here than in Jerusalem. There are more Irish in NY than in Dublin, more Germans than in Nurnberg, more Poles than in Danzig, and more Italians than in Rome.

So we're waiting for my friend Sherry, she's coming into Penn Station on Amtrak, so we're going to pick her up and she's going to give us a guided tour of NY. She loves NY, she's been telling me for years now "you gotta come to NY it's the greatest place in the world, it's so fun, it's so exciting" and so she's going to show us around.

Sherry

Here we are in Washington Square Park in the heart of NYC, and we are right in the same neighborhood where NY University is, as it's called NYU, and this what New Yorkers do on the weekend and it looks a lot like NY's version of a beach. You've got students and young people everywhere laying out in the grass, you've got the kids playing in the fountain and you have a lot of musicians just playing with their guitars and singing. A very popular spot, also a very popular spot for filming movies here. You will often see in a film that has been done here in NYC you will often see the famous arch of NYC, which is actually certainly reminiscent of Paris as well.

Fantastic day in NYC, nice and warm, couldn't be better for a nice day to hang out and enjoy the sunshine.

828 Broadway, corner of East 12th St. is where you find “The Strand” Bookstore. “The Strand” is the largest second hand book store in the world, 3 million books, almost all of them second hand.

The Stand is one of NY’s oldest bookstores. They sell new, used, and rare books and have a fantastic inventory of books, having more than 18 miles or 28 kilometers of books inside these walls and up many many floors. Although this books store has been here for many years the real question is: How long will it survive as the movement towards electronic books takes more and more momentum?

We’re now at Rockefeller Center in the heart of mid town Manhattan and this is a well known area for the news media. NBC news , for example, has it’s Today Show broadcast from this area. Each year at Christmas time there is a huge big Christmas tree that’s lit here behind me and this area also has a very well known skating rink that is enjoyed during the winter time.

We’ve arrived at the Magnolia Bakery. This is the most delicious cupcakes in all of Manhattan and possibly in the entire world. And, this year is Magnolia’s 15th year anniversary, so it is a very exciting time to be here. I have an example here of a coconut cupcake and a pink vanilla cupcake, and I have to go now because I have to go eat these.

Jeffery

Is that simply the best cupcake in the whole wide world?

Sherry & Jeffery

Exquisite!

What I especially love about NY is that the whole world is here, you meet people from so many different countries. Paul comes from Siberia, he is a student and lives in NY 3.5 years now and speaks very good English. He introduces himself for us in Russian.

Jeffery & Paul

What’s all that mean in English?

Paul

I just pretty much said that I’m from Siberia, my name is Paul, I moved to NYC 3.5 years ago. I’ve completed one degree and going for the next one. I like it more here rather then there.

Jeffery

You might want to say what kind of grades you got.

Paul

Well, 4.0

Jeffery

That’s impressive! You Siberian guys are smart.

Paul

We had this year 1500 graduates, we had 7 people that made it to 4.0 and I was the only non-american kid who made it with 4.0

Jeffery

That's awesome

Getting oriented in Manhattan is relatively easy. The city is built using a simple grid structure, except for down town in the southern most part of Manhattan.

Jeffery/Streets & Ave

All the streets run east and west and all the Avenues north and south, so it's easy to find your way around the city, assuming of course, you're north of Canal street. Once you get south of Canal Street you in downtown, and that's where the cows pretty much decided where the streets go.

Subway

A trip with the Subway is the easiest and fastest way to move around in New York. The New Yorker subway is the second oldest in the world following London's and is without a doubt the quickest means of transportation. The New Yorker subway has 470 stations and a total length of 407 km. The 6000 subway trains ride on 27 lines
Outside of Manhattan, like here in Brooklyn, the trains run on elevated platforms above ground. Riding the subway in NY can seriously overload both your nerves and your circulation system, especially in the height of the summer during rush hour. In most of the stations it is as hot as an oven; in contrast the temperature inside the trains is cooled to 18 degrees.

Wall Street

South Manhattan is where you find the financial quarter, with the largest Stock Market in the world. All along the 600m long Wall Street one finds numerous banks as well as the "New York Stock Exchange". The most well-known share index is the "Dow Jones", which is a composite of the 30 largest US corporations.

So this is it, the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE). The pinnacle, the epicenter, of American capitalism. The movers and the shakers all do it here. Here is where all the stock prices are decided. On any given day anything can happen. The free market. This is how American capitalism decides what's going on, who gets money and who doesn't. Which company has a bright future and which company maybe is dying an old slow death. The significance of the NYSE can not be understated. I mean the entire American, and really the global economy, is decided inside the four walls of that building.

It's interesting today, there is and IPO an initial public offering. What that is, is when a company, which was started as a private company, grows up to a size where it's big enough and has revenues enough to be offered for the first time on the stock marketing. For any company this is a huge day, this is the pinnacle of success really, and so for an

IPO your talking about years, millions of dollars to reach this point. A very important day for them.

The bronze bull near Wall Street is a symbol of optimism for the stock markets and is also a much loved photo motif.

Jeffery/Ground Zero

Here we are at the infamous ground zero, site of the 9-11 terrorist attacks on the United States. It's a very important place, of course, in America and a lot of Americans now make a trip to NY just to come to this place, because they feel it was an attack on our nation and on every American. The World Trade Center in NY really had an amazing impact on the American physic. And, it's still having, of course, a strong impact now because it's being rebuilt. It's going to be newer, and bigger, and better then it ever was before. When it's finished, I think it'll represent a new day for America....that you can not defeat us, we'll never stop. Americans believe absolutely in our system, in our democracy, and in our capitalism and that's what these buildings represent. That's what the World Trade Center represents is the American system, the American capitalistic democratic system of government and finance, as a means of spreading democracy and freedom, all over the world.

In NY harbor stands the famous "Statue of Liberty" on Liberty Island. She was commissioned in 1886 and was a present from France to the people of the United States. The 46 meter high figure, constructed of copper and steel, represents the Roman goddess "Libertas". The statue serves as the symbol of freedom and has been a UNESCO world heritage site since 1984.

Jeffery/Brooklyn Bridge

So, I'm standing here on the Brooklyn Bridge, another very popular tourist attraction here in NYC, connecting Manhattan with Brooklyn. Some interesting facts about the Brooklyn Bridge, which was completed in 1883, is that it was 80% stone and 20% steel. When they built the Manhattan Bridge, which was done in 1909, they were already able to do it with 80% steel and only 20% stone. So it was interesting how you can see that steel had become the building material of the day. And a lot of that had to do with the World's Fair in Paris when they built the Eifel Tower. After the construction of the Eifel Tower they proved once and for all how steel was a better, stronger, cheaper building material than the rock, which also started a lot of the skyscraper building in Manhattan because of the ability to use steel they were able to build taller smaller buildings and that's what started the rush to build all of the now famous skyscrapers in Manhattan.

NY Film Academy

This young lady from India belongs to a group of students from the New Yorker Film Academy. The film academy is the preferred film school of the Hollywood film producers and their families. The students come from all over the world and find themselves behind the camera from day one, because here the principle is "Learn by Doing". All of the necessary materials like cameras and editing equipment are made available for the students to use.

Jeffery/NY Film Academy

Good luck with your studies, have fun.

Indian girl

Thank you so much, bye bye

Jeffery/Little Italy

One of the things that is so fascinating about NYC is that it's a real melting pot. Every culture from the whole world is here and it's kind of a representation of all the different immigrants that come to America via NY. Many who stayed and settled here making their life and businesses.

Right now were in Little Italy which is just across the road from China town. One of the things that is interesting is that China Town is currently expanding where as Little Italy is shrinking, China Town is moving in. It's sort of represents what's going on in the global economy. China expanding, and older countries like Italy, contracting a little bit. So, what happens in NY is quite indicative of what's going on in the rest of the world.

Flat Iron Building

This striking building on the corner of 5th Avenue and 24th Street is the Flat Iron Building. It is called this because it resembles an old fashion iron. Build in 1902, with 20 floors and 91m high, it was New York's first skyscraper.

From the observation deck of the Rockefeller center one has a good view of the 300 plus skyscrapers and street canyons of Manhattan. Looking south, you have the Empire State Building in the foreground (It was the tallest building in the world for many years).

Looking to the north, the size of Central Park is easy to see. This giant park is the largest artificially created grounds in the world. 350 Hectors, that's bigger than the principality of Monaco.

Times Square

One special experience for every New York visitor is Manhattan at night, the area around Times Square and Broadway pulsates with life. The 40 some odd stages on Broadway offer musicals for every taste.

New York has approximately 40,000 police, and you can imagine that the cops have plenty to do. In 2009 the police of this 8 million strong city reported 461 murders. That is about 1/5th the number from 1990, at that time there were 2245 people murdered in New York.

The city is safer than it has been in decades.

Some examples of what is illegal in New York are: spitting on the sidewalk, drinking alcohol in public, feeding the pigeons, wearing offensive cloths, public urination, riding a bike without a bell, climbing a tree in the park, and – skipping school.

Jeffery/Media influence

Times Square, 7 O'clock in the morning, the "morning shows" from the New Yorker radio and television stations like ABC, CBS, FOX, NBC, and CNN are reporting live

from New York. Depending on what you believe and what you want to hear, you can choose your station to match your political orientation. The thing that's interesting about NY is America starts it's day here and it ends it's day here. I don't have percentages, but I can tell you it's absolutely huge in terms of how many televisions sets in the morning go on and are tuned to some kind of a broadcast coming from NYC, whether it's the Today Show, Good Morning America, Regis and Kelley, and that's just to name a few and then in the evening you know we close out our day with the NY comedian like David Letterman or Conan O'Brien. Everything is coming out of NY. Its fascinating just how ingrained this city is in American culture. Everybody looks to NY as the model. It's teaching the rest of the country how to act, how to look, how to think, where to invest.

Jeffery/Highline

So we are here on the Highline this morning. This is an elevated park that they have constructed here in the middle of the city on what was once the old railroad lines that delivered and picked up all the materials and products from the garment district that used to thrive here back in the day.

Jeffery

Hi Mary, I'm Jeffery

Mary

How do you do?

Jeffery

I'm very well

Mary

Nice to meet you

Jeffery

What was the impetuous to turn this old railway line into a park?

Mary

Well, actually it was going to be demolished, and two gentlemen: Robert Hamman and Joshua Davids campaigned and decided that it was part of NY's history. And the planting was done from people who are from Holland.

Jeffery

Oh, all the way from Holland, brought all of the plants?

Mary

He did the design of the plants, the plants are from all over the world.

Jeffery

He did the design o.k. The Highline is very important?

Mary

Yeh, its beautiful right.

Jeffery

It's beautiful and it's a nice place for...I see the joggers really like it.

Mary

Yes, they do.

Jeffery

And so it's a good place to kind of escape the hustle and the bustle of the city.

So I think this is kind of neat here because what we're looking at is a section that has not yet been restored. They are still actually working, the folks who organize the Highline, are still working on, let's say the legalities, behind securing this last section of the rail line. But, it's a really neat example because here you can see what it used to look like, it was just an old industrial relic. And, now we have taken the tour so you've had a good look at what it looks like now that they have completely renovated it. So what an improvement, what a great idea!

The Yellow cabs are as much a part of NY as Broadway or the Statue of Liberty. Of the 13,000 NY taxis 4000 of them are Hybrids, and the rest of the other are clean diesel vehicles.

Jeffery/Taxis

Now in NY hailing a cab can really be an art-form. You have got to get your hand out there and wave them down...or they'll just drive on by you. So you just gotta keep on trying till you get lucky.

So, now we got one so let's take a ride, let's go!

Jeffery

How long have you been driving a cab?

Driver

5 years.

Jeffery

5 year, right on. Where are you from?

Driver

Pakistan.

Since 2008 all taxis have been equipped with a monitor, built into the back of the front seat, to inform and entertain the taxis passenger. Incidentally, as of September 2009 the cost of a permit (known as a medallion) to operate a cab in New York has risen to \$760,000.

Austrian Consulate General

130 countries from around the world have their foreign offices in New York Today we are visiting the Austrian General Consulate in the Upper East side, at 31 East 69th Street between Park and Madison Avenue. The Consul General Dr. Peter Brezovszky, together with his team, gives us a tour of the meeting rooms and offices of the Consulate. The General Consul sees it as his responsibilities to provide the best possible advice and support for all Austrian citizens.

Dr Peter Brezovszky

NY is considered to be the World's capital. What ever happens in politics, economics, science, culture, and the arts happens here in NY. The Austrian Consulate General is the institution which coordinates all of the bi-lateral activities between Austria and nine states of the USA including of course NY. The dimension of NYC is enormous if you consider that eight and a half million people live in this city, in this wonderful city I must

say, and as you all know this is exactly the number of inhabitants of Austria. The Austrian Consulate General sees it as a major task to help all the Austrians who come to NY to find their way in the fields I mentioned before, in politics, in economics and we're also very happy to have many many students here in NY at Columbia University and also at other very important Ivy League Universities such as Harvard, Yale, and Princeton. I can invite all of you to visit NY very soon, because I tell you, you will have a unique experience.

Not only for Austria, you know, is NY important, as you can imagine, in this wonderful huge city some 130 countries from all around the world have their Consulate Generals as their chief mission for bi-lateral relations, and some 130 countries also have United Nations mission representing their countries position at the United Nations Headquarters'. This is interesting for Vienna, because as you know Vienna itself is also one of only four international UN Headquarters' worldwide beside NY, Geneva, and Nairobi.

Jeffery/Central Park

Hi, we are in Central Park now, taking a little break from the heat, really hot today, you know that's one of the things kind of neat about NYC, in the summer it can get up to 40 degrees Celsius and in the winter it snows like crazy...a little for everyone.

I wanted to give you a couple facts about the park. The park was established in 1853. Originally, it was set up just as a landscape park, but it quickly became an oasis for the entire city and the people. A place to break away, relax go for a stroll, maybe do some roller blading or take a bike ride. You see a lot of joggers in the park. All of NY is here, this is where they come to relax.

There is a lot of baseball they play in the park as well. You know, baseball is America's favorite game. Baseball in America is like soccer in Germany, Austria. After baseball I suppose maybe American football, then basketball, and hockey. Americans love their athletics, that's for sure, but only baseball is called Americas' game.

New York, Financial capital, cultural center, world trade center.

Well, now we are at the end of our excursion through the "Big Apple" as New York is so affectionately called. Come here once, as there is so much to discover in this fascinating world city on the east coast of the United States.