



**EXPLORE!**  
Walk New York!

7 days

USA - Trip code WNY

## Walk New York!

Our first ever urban exploration - in one of the most exciting cities on the planet! There is no better way to experience a city than on foot, helped along by ferry and metro. At the end of this trip you'll feel that you have gotten under the skin of the Big Apple - there's time to visit the world class museums, seek out ethnic restaurants and explore the cityscape. Grab a bagel, visit Times Square, stroll down the Highline (an elevated railway line converted into a public park), and dine in Hell's Kitchen.

## Trip highlights

- ★ **Top of the Rock** - take a high speed elevator to observe the dramatic city skyline from above
- ★ **Harlem** - wander the backstreets and markets and experience a gospel mass
- ★ **Brooklyn Brewery** - enjoy a guided tour and learn the history of this iconic brand
- ★ **Little Italy, Chinatown and Central Park** - explore these areas on foot
- ★ **Highline** - walk through this elevated park for a different perspective of the city and views over the Hudson River
- ★ **Manhattan Ferry** - cruise around Manhattan Island, past the Statue of Liberty

### ACCOMMODATION GRADE:

#### Simple

These are often small, family run establishments or campsites which provide a no-frills experience with adequate amenities and service standards. Sleeping arrangements are simple, sometimes with en suite facilities.

**WALKING GRADE:****Easy**

Suitable for most people in good health, these easy walks are predominantly on good paths, at low altitude and on undemanding terrain. Previous walking or trekking experience is not necessary.

**GROUP SIZE:****10 - 16**

Maximum group size ranges from between 6 to 20 people, depending on the type of trip, the transport and accommodation used and activities included. We rarely have groups that are smaller than five or six people and the average is 12 people plus an Explore leader.

# Itinerary

Itineraries on some departure dates may differ, please select the itinerary that you wish to explore.

## DAY 1 - Join trip in New York

Join trip in New York and check-in at the hotel. Your Explore Leader will brief you on your stay, then take those who wish out for dinner.



**Accommodation: Broadway Hotel & Hostel** (or similar)



Simple Hotel



Single room available



Meals Provided: None

## DAY 2 - Walk to Riverside Park, go to gospel mass, wander Harlem's backstreets

We start our exploration of the city with Harlem, an area that was originally a Native American settlement, later established as a Dutch village in 1658. It was annexed to the City of New York in 1873 and in the early 1900's, African Americans began settling in the area. Harlem is now recognized as the capital of African-American culture and remains one of New York's most diverse neighbourhoods. With its many churches, this area is the heart of Gospel music and soul stirring sermons. We begin our walking tour today by walking along 116th Street, to a church where we will attend a Gospel mass with the local community. The significance of music in this African-American religious experience is rooted in their history as slaves in America. The singing is uplifting, and the rhythm of the beat will bring you to your feet! NB - as this is religious worship please be mindful and respectful at all times during this visit. Afterwards, we head back on the street, lined with music stores and Puerto Rican bodegas mixed with fancy boutiques. Walk through the Malcolm Shabazz market, an authentic West African bazaar, where you can find traditional African crafts, textiles, jewelry, leather bags and aromatic oils, or get your hair braided by expert hands. Walk past the famous restaurant Amy Ruth's and head north on Lennox / Malcom X Boulevard. We can enjoy brunch in Harlem with African American soul food which is a regular Sunday tradition.

This afternoon we will experience the sights and sounds of the upper west side home to the internationally known Apollo Theater.

The legendary venue has launched the careers of icons such as Ella Fitzgerald, Stevie Wonder and James Brown. Further up we see the elegant brownstone row houses which rival those of Brooklyn Heights. From here we return to our hotel by metro, or you are free to walk back if you prefer passing such sights as the Cathedral of Saint John the Divine and Riverside Park. Tonight, go for a night out in one of the famous Jazz Clubs of Harlem!

Today we walk around 8 kms over 3 hours.



**Accommodation: Broadway Hotel & Hostel** (or similar)



Simple Hotel



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast

## DAY 3 - Visit Battery Park and 9/11 Memorial; walk Madison and 5th Avenue, Top of the Rock and Chinatown

We spend the day exploring Manhattan. We hop on the metro to the tip of Manhattan Island, Battery Park. From here we head towards the Financial District and the 9/11 Memorial and marvel at the sight of the stunning and emotive One World Trade Centre. We pass by City Hall and the Brooklyn Bridge on our way towards Chinatown and Little Italy, two thriving residential communities famed for their concentration of restaurants and bustling markets. This afternoon we take the metro to Grand Central station for a gaze at the ceiling mural above the main concourse. We walk along Madison and Fifth Avenue and continue towards the Beaux-Arts style New York public library, the second largest in the United States and visited by over a million people every year. We will pass St Patrick's Cathedral, the largest Gothic cathedral in the United States on our way to the Rockefeller Center. Here we take an elevator to the Top of the Rock observation Deck for stunning views: Central Park and Washington Bridge on one side, the Empire State Building and the Hudson River on the other. To note that the entrance time to the Rockefeller Centre depends on what tickets are available so order of the day could be moved about to accommodate this timing.

In the evening, we walk to the bustling Time Square with its giant TV screens and oversize billboards, and walk around the Theatre District, synonymous with Broadway theatres and world acclaimed musicals, comedies and dramas. If you wish, you can also return to the Top of the Rock for a view of the city by night!

Today we walk around 8 kms over 3 hours.



**Accommodation: Broadway Hotel & Hostel** (or similar)



Simple Hotel



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast

## DAY 4 - Explore Central Park and Museum Mile

Today we explore Central Park and the Museum Mile. The 843 acre park is an urban oasis of trees, gardens, arches, sculptures, statues and vistas. Watch the runners doing laps around the reservoir, an ecological sanctuary that houses more than 20 species,

including herons, egrets, loons, coots and wood ducks. Walk past the Delacorte Theatre, where from June through August, you can catch an evening Shakespeare in the Park production for free (offered on a first-come, first-served basis). See the imposing Belvedere Castle on your way to the Strawberry Field, named after The Beatles song 'Strawberry Fields Forever' and site of the John Lennon Memorial. Head over to the Bethesda Fountain for beautiful views of the Central Park Lake and the Bow Bridge. Walk the Mall, the only straight line in the park, designed as a grand promenade lined with statues of famous writers and take a ride on one of the 57 hand carved horses of the historic Carousel.

In the afternoon, enjoy free time in the Museum Mile area. The cultural institutions found along Museum Mile offer some of the City's finest collections of history, art, design and culture from around the globe. You can visit the museum of your choice (not included) - for example the Metropolitan Museum of Art, El museo del Barrio, the Guggenheim or the Smithsonian.

Today we walk around 7 kms over 3 hours.



**Accommodation: Broadway Hotel & Hostel** (or similar)



Simple Hotel



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast

## DAY 5 - Subway and walk Brooklyn and DUMBO; brewery visit

Another full day walking tour today, this time in Brooklyn, NYC's most populous borough. We walk across the Brooklyn Bridge to the area of DUMBO, a former manufacturing district converted into a thriving neighbourhood with art studios, technology companies, luxury residences, bakeries, independent bookstores and designer boutiques. We then head to Brooklyn Bridge Park for amazing views of Lower Manhattan's skyline and the New York Harbour, continuing on towards Brooklyn Heights via the Promenade. This area will reward you with the perfect photo of the row houses Brooklyn is famous for. Walk up Montague Street, a main street of shops and cafés. Walk to the Brooklyn Borough Hall, a protected landmark of the city, and then head over to Cobble Hill. A long time home to a thriving Italian community, Court St is a nice place to stroll the sidewalks for a day of leisurely shopping or grabbing a slice of pizza. We arrive to Prospect Park, a large greenery haven designed by the same architects who designed Central Park. After some free time exploring the park or relaxing we hop on the metro and head to Williamsburg, one of New York City's most culturally vibrant enclaves, to the Brooklyn Brewery for a guided tour. Free evening to dine and explore this neighbourhood, with its array of creative restaurants and bars, fashion emporiums, music venues and art galleries.

Today we walk around 9kms over 4 hours



**Accommodation: Broadway Hotel & Hostel** (or similar)



Simple Hotel



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast

## DAY 6 - On foot to Greenwich Village, High Line and Manhattan Ferry

We head over to Pier 83 and board a ship for a river cruise around Manhattan Island. We sail past the Statue of Liberty, Randall's Island, the High Bridge, Columbia University, Gracie Mansion, the Brooklyn Bridge, and more! Sit back, relax, and enjoy the views!

In the afternoon we will start our walking tour of the Lower West Side. We head towards the High Line, an elevated freight rail line transformed into a public park. We will explore the areas of Manhattan it passes through. We begin our walk on the High Line with the recently opened section, the Rail Yards, offering expansive views over the Hudson River. We get off the Line, in the heart of the Meatpacking district, where we'll head to the Chelsea Market and take in one of the greatest indoor food halls of the world. Sample as you wish, then head back on the Line and take a seat at the overhanging seating area and relax while watching the traffic below. In the heart of Chelsea's Gallery District, this section of the High Line celebrates many art forms with live performances, temporary artworks, or art installations on a billboard. Below the High Line's first entrance, the cobblestone streets give way to the lush greenery of the line above. Only the horns from the traffic below will remind you that you are in the heart of Manhattan on this stretch on the High Line, called Gansevoort Woodland. The mature trees will make you feel like you are miles away! We then walk through Greenwich Village, NYC's Bohemian quarter, to Union Square, a popular meeting spot for New Yorkers. In the evening, have dinner in Hells' Kitchen, an area thriving with gastronomy, cocktail bars, culture and fun! After dinner why not visit a comedy club? Your tour leader will be able to give you advice.

Today we walk around 8 kms over 3 hours.



**Accommodation: Broadway Hotel & Hostel** (or similar)



Simple Hotel



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast

## DAY 7 - Trip ends in New York

Today the trip ends in New York.



Meals Provided: Breakfast

# Walking and Trekking information



### Walking grade

Easy

### Trek details

Urban Walks on 5 days of between 2 to 5 hours.

### Max walking altitude (m)

10



## What's included?



### Included meals

Breakfast: 6



### Transport

Ferry  
Public Bus



### Trip staff

Explore Tour Leader



### Accommodation

6 nights simple hotel

## Trip information

## Country information

### USA

#### Climate

There are great variations in the altitude and terrain of the areas visited and this is reflected in the temperatures. Desert areas can be extremely hot in the summer months (49°), though temperatures can drop dramatically at night. The mountains are cooler and wetter especially in the north of the Rockies. At the beginning and end of the season there may still be some snow around in the high passes and it can be cold, whereas in mid-summer the day time temperatures can soar.

#### Time difference to GMT

-9

#### Plugs

2 Pin Flat

#### Religion

Christian

#### Language

English

## Budgeting and packing

### Optional activities

The following excursions and/or activities are usually available and may be arranged locally. Estimated costs are provided below for guidance only, are on a per person basis unless shown otherwise, and may depend on the number of participants. Prices quoted are correct as of the date these tour notes were originally issued but may change at any time due to currency fluctuations. Please note: These activities are booked and paid for direct with the supplier and do not form part of your Explore holiday contract.

The Metropolitan Museum of Art : 25 \$ recommended (Daily)  
El Museo del Barrio : 9 \$ (Closed on Mondays and Sundays)  
Solomon R Guggenheim Museum : 25 \$ (Closed on Thursdays)  
Cooper-Hewitt, Smithsonian Design Museum: 18 \$ (Daily)  
The Museum of the city of New York: 18\$ (Daily)

### Clothing

May to June and September to October - mild but be prepared for occasional rain. July and August can be hot and November to March chilly.

### Footwear

Comfortable walking shoes and trainers or sandals for relaxing and general wear.

### Luggage

20kg

### Luggage: On tour

One main bag plus a small daypack.

### Tipping

#### Explore leader

At your discretion you might consider tipping your Explore Leader in appreciation of the efficiency and service you receive.

#### Local crew

In North America tipping 15%-20% is a recognised part of life across the service industry, including restaurants, activity suppliers, taxis and guides. Local staff will look to you for personal recognition of particular services provided.

Unlike other Explore trips, during our trips in North America our Explore leaders will not operate a tips kitty. However, they will be more than happy to provide guidance throughout the trip on who to tip when and to suggest appropriate amounts.

## Country Information

### USA

#### Food and drink

The costs for meals may vary depending upon location, type of restaurant and number of courses eaten and so the prices given are an average guide. Local restaurants located off the beaten track may be less expensive, whereas an upmarket restaurant located in the centre of a major city may charge more.

**Lunch price**

£15

**Dinner price**

£21

**Beer price**

£Varies for different towns, average £4.00

**Water price**

£1.1

#### Foreign Exchange

**Local currency**

USDollars.

**Recommended Currency For Exchange**

Bring your money in US\$ cash.

**Where To Exchange**

Banks or 'Forex' offices in main towns/cities. Your tour leader will advise you on arrival.

**ATM Availability**

Widely available.

**Credit Card Acceptance**

Widely accepted just about everywhere.

## Transport, Accommodation & Meals

### Transport Information

Ferry, Public Bus

### Accommodation notes

**Booking a Single Room**

All of our group tours are planned and operated on a twin-share basis, meaning that the standard cost is based either on individual travellers sharing accommodation with another group member of the same sex, or people who book together sharing accommodation. Please refer to the tour notes where the single room option availability is detailed on a night by night basis for this tour, and the price for the available nights is detailed on the dates & prices tab by departure date. For Self-Guided trips the Single Room supplement offers the option of a single room each and is charged per person. The Single Room supplement also applies to the third person in a party of three that will be accommodated in a single room.

Our hotel is well located a short 10 minute walk from Central Park and only a few subway stops to all the great landmarks you would expect to visit on a trip to NYC. As New York is one of the most expensive cities in the world we have chosen to stay in a simple hotel offering you excellent value. Rooms are bijoux with en-suite facilities and there are communal areas in which to relax. There is no restaurant at the hotel but there is an abundance of good eateries in the immediate surrounding area.



## Essential Information

### FCO Advice

We strongly recommend that you check your government's travel advisory for up-to-date information and advice about your destination: safety and security, entry requirements, health, local laws and customs. For UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office advice [click here](#).

For more information from Explore about travel advice, [click here](#)

#### Under 18 immigration guidance

Please note that some countries require proof of parental consent when travelling overseas with under 18s. Please check requirements with the relevant embassy or consular office well in advance of travel if this applies to your party.

### Price Guarantee

Once your booking has been confirmed we guarantee the price will not increase, whatever the circumstances. Before booking please ensure you have read our important tour pricing information. [Booking Conditions](#)

### Visa and Passport Information

USA: (Including those in transit) Citizens of the UK, New Zealand, Australia, and passport holders from several EU countries can enter the United States under the Visa Waiver Program (VWP). You must apply online for an ESTA (Electronic System for Travel Authorisation), here <https://esta.cbp.dhs.gov> no later than 72 hours prior to travel. Travellers who have not registered before their trip may be refused boarding.

You must have an electronic passport with a digital chip containing biometric information about the passport owner. UK passports which are biometric feature a small gold symbol (camera) at the bottom of the front cover.

If you have visited Libya, Iran, Iraq, Somalia, Sudan, Syria or Yemen since 01 March 2011 or are dual nationals of these countries, you cannot travel with an ESTA. If you are a citizen of a country not included in the VWP you cannot apply for an ESTA. In both cases, you will instead need to apply for a visa from the nearest US Embassy or Consulate. If you are unable to provide a valid visa before boarding flights to the US, or entering via another method, you may not be permitted to travel.

Please note for your ESTA application you will be required to supply Point of Contact information. Explore's USA contact information will be listed on your final documentation which you will receive approximately 3-4 weeks before departure. If you are leaving for the USA before this, please call the Explore team to get this information. (This is not necessary if only transitting through the USA)

I-94 - This is only required for completion if entering the USA by land through an official border crossing. For anyone entering by air or sea, you will be advised about this form during your journey if applicable. The i94 is a history of entries and exits to the US. You can get this for free online here: <https://i94.cbp.dhs.gov/i94/#/home>. Each i94 accessed is only valid for border crossing for 7 days after printed.

Entry requirements for the USA can change regularly, therefore, please ensure you have the most up to date information before you travel by checking the US embassy website. Visa applications - <http://london.usembassy.gov/niv/apply.html>

Canada: An electronic travel authorisation (ETA) is required by British citizens transiting via Canada. For more information see the official Canadian government website: <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/visit/eta.asp>  
Other nationalities should consult their local embassy or consular office.

If you do require assistance in obtaining a visa then you may consider applying through Explore's recommended visa service in the UK, Travcours. See [www.travcours.com](http://www.travcours.com) to download the relevant visa application for your trip, if applicable (UK citizens only), along with details of how to apply for your visa through Travcours. The Team at Travcours will be happy to answer specific questions relating to visa applications, please call them directly on 0208 5431846.

It is your responsibility to ensure that you are in possession of a full passport, with the correct validity for your chosen destination.

### Booking conditions

Before booking your Explore trip, please ensure that you read both our Essential Information and Booking Conditions.

### Transfers

[Find out more about Trip Transfer Terms and Conditions before you book.](#)

#### Booking a land only package with Explore

Customers who have chosen to book on the 'Land Only' arrangements of our tour, please ensure that you have checked your tour

specific 'Joining Instructions' prior to booking your own travel arrangements. Your joining instructions can be found below in the dates and prices information.

You may also be eligible for the Free Explore Transfer.

### **Joining Tour Abroad**

Customers booked on the 'Land Only' arrangements will now receive a Free Transfer, provided you arrive and depart on the tour only itinerary start and end dates. The transfers will be from the Explore designated airport or train station to the joining point of your tour, and then back from the ending point to the designated airport or train station. The exception to this rule is customers who are booked on a tour where the joining and ending point is at the designated airport or train station.

Free transfers are not available for Self-Guided, Polar, Tailormade or Tours for Churches customers.

If you are not eligible for the Free Transfer then you will need to make your own way through to the joining and ending point. On a majority of our tours Explore will be able to provide a private transfer at an additional cost. Please ask for a quote at the time of booking.

For more information regarding the Explore Free Transfer [click here](#)

## **Insurance**

It is a condition of booking with Explore that you have adequate valid travel insurance. It is your responsibility to arrange appropriate travel insurance and ensure you have read and understood the full terms and conditions of your travel insurance policy to ensure that you are covered for all activities you intend to undertake whilst on the tour, including all optional activities. Your Insurance Policy must fully cover you for medical expenses and emergency repatriation to your home country. Please ensure your policy includes medical emergency helicopter evacuation in the event of illness or injury and covers the entire duration of your holiday. If you are trekking at altitude please ensure that there is no upper altitude limit which may limit or exclude cover for your trip. The cost of many of our Polar Voyages will exceed the capped amount covered by standard insurance premiums and you will be required to pay an additional premium to cover the full value of your trip. Please ensure that you are covered for the full amount of your holiday cost, as insufficient cover could invalidate a claim under the policy. Medical and repatriation insurance cover is not mandatory for UK residents who are travelling on trips within the United Kingdom.

Read more information about what travel insurance is required.

## **Flight information**

Explore offers a wide range of flexible flying options to make joining and leaving our trips easy. [Read more about them here.](#)

### **Flight Information**

You are able to book this tour on a 'land only' basis or as a 'flight inclusive' package. Your flight inclusive package will be fully protected by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) ATOL protection scheme.

### **Booking a flight inclusive package with Explore**

We have a good selection of flights not only from London but from many regional airports around the UK allowing us to compare fares between scheduled carriers as well as low cost and charter airlines. Our dedicated flights team will match the best flight options to your arrival and departure airport.

On our website we display a UK flight inclusive package guide price which is generally based on a London departure. To avoid paying supplements or to secure your preferred flight option, we recommend booking as early as possible, especially for peak travel dates.

## **Maximum altitude (m)**

10

## **USA**

### **Vaccinations**

Nothing compulsory, we recommend protection against typhoid, tetanus, diphtheria, polio and hepatitis A. Please check the latest requirements with your travel clinic or doctor prior to departure. The above is not an exhaustive list. Further information regarding vaccinations and travel health advice can be found by following the NHS and NaTHNaC links at [Explore Travel Health](#) and from your local healthcare provider. Visa and vaccination requirements are subject to change and should be confirmed by you before travelling.