

7 places to visit in New York

When you hear the name New York, what comes to mind? Yellow cabs lined busy streets, bright lights in Madison Square, a famous mob movie maybe? For me, I think metropolitan, high-fashion, upbeat, trendy, diverse but yet still showcases a little art and history. In New York, when things need to happen they happen quickly because there is always something to do and people to see. With so much happening around one of the most buzzworthy cities in the world, naming just 7 places to visit, is a little challenging, however, I am about to give it a go. I hope you like them as much as I did!

1. The Empire state building

Of course, one cannot go to New York and not visit the building which has featured in the movies, *Sleepless in Seattle*, *An affair to remember*, *Elf* and more recently, *Spiderman*. Towering at a whopping 1,454 feet, with 103 stories, it was once the tallest building in the world. Today, it is still a magnificent sight with 6,514 windows so dazzling birds confusingly fly into them. As it towers over Manhattan, the 86th and 102nd floors have been made observatories where tourists have flocked to take in the view of the city from close to the sky.

2. The statue of Liberty

Another formidable figure which stands over the Liberty Island is the famous gift given from the French to the Americans in the year 1886 called the Statue of Liberty. Being a symbol of freedom as its name suggests, it is one of the world's tallest statues standing at 152 feet tall. To fully take in the statue, a tour to the island is available. Once there, you have the opportunity to explore the statues base, enter the pedestal and if you're willing to pay a little for a VIP experience, go all the way up to the statue's crown. The tour also allows you to go visit the immigration museum where countless immigrants were processed into the American borders.

3. The Rockefeller Centre

John D Rockefeller was an American industrialist who thought generationally. Making his riches as an oil tycoon, today their family is worth \$11 billion making them one of the world's richest families. It would come as no surprise to know that the Rockefeller Centre is home to the state of the art metropolitan experience, in what could only be described as New Yorkan. With specialized shops, motifs and sculptures, the Rockefeller Centre houses an impressive array of famous artworks. You would also be able to learn about how Rockefeller's vision became a reality. Encapsulated in the middle of the centre, is a unique garden which provides an escape from the hustle and bustle New York gives. Amongst other fascinating things to do in the centre, one worth a quick mention is the NBC studio tour, which blends the education of what broadcasting is about with a behind the scene glimpse. Lastly, but certainly not least, to visit, is the radio city music hall where you could either choose to attend a performance or go on a backstage tour.

4. Coney Island

Every summer, families crowd the beach at Coney Island to enjoy the sun, fun and amusement the island has to offer. As it is good clean fun for the entire family, everyone is sure to have a blast! The amusement park offers children colourfully attractive rides such as the wonder wheel, the cyclone roller coaster to name a few. If that doesn't tickle your fancy or if it's not your cup of tea, there are street performers, the circus sideshow and the mermaid parade in June. Just make sure that when you do plan a trip, it falls within their summer months to enjoy all the island offers.

5. Chinatown

I know what you're thinking...Chinatown in New York is a bit of an oxymoron isn't it, but with how diverse New York is, it's expected. The Chinatown in New York, is authentically Chinese with Chinese immigrants lining the streets offering their mouth-watering cuisines. The sidewalks are even packed with people selling authentic Chinese souvenirs alongside their famous bubble tea.

6. The Bronx Zoo

The Bronx Zoo, allows its visitors to get up close and personal with the many animals they have in their natural habitats. From African animals to Asian, underwater reptiles and mammals to insects and birds. The Bronx zoo has an animal for you to experience. There is a nature trek both young and old can enjoy, where you get to navigate through bridges and negotiate your way through obstacles. For the adventurous at heart, they offer treeline adventures where you climb to the top and zip-line over a river back down to the ground.

7. 9/11 Memorial and museum

If ever you get the chance to see New York, I would suggest you pass by the 9/11 memorial and museum. A memorial built to honour and pay respects to those who lost their lives in the September 11th terrorist attacks. They aim to help you gain a deeper understanding about what led up to the events which took place on that fateful day by sharing different, unique stories. Understandably, the entry is allowed for only teens and adults, but it's sure to almost guarantee you walk away with a deeper understanding of 9/11 and a respect for life we sometimes take for granted.

So there you have it! All you have to do is save up and book a flight for an experience of a lifetime.