

DESCRIPTION OF EXCURSIONS



New York Central- Experience Program

Full-Day Excursions

Top of the Rock & Times Square

- Top of the Rock: Located in Rockefeller Center, the observation deck is 70 stories high (260 meters) and offers the best panoramic views of New York City. There are three levels (one indoor, two outdoor) from which students can get the best views and photos of the city. The headquarters of the NBC television network are located in the building. Students will have free time in Rockefeller Plaza.
 - Optional Excursion:
 - St. Patrick's Cathedral, Grand Central Terminal, and the New York Public Library: Students will have a tour of three New York City landmarks. St. Patrick's Cathedral is the first gothic cathedral in America and is one of the most visible symbols of Roman Catholicism in the U.S. Grand Central Terminal is a beautiful historic railroad terminal that has more railroad platforms than any other station in the world. Finally, adjacent to Bryant Park, the Stephen A. Schwarzman Building (the main branch of the New York Public Library) is well-known for its beautiful architecture. Students will be able to see the library's paintings and book collections, as well as a reading room and current exhibits.
- Times Square: Times Square used to be the home of *The New York Times* newspaper, and today, it is one of the most visited tourist attractions in the world. Students will have free time to explore Times Square.

Brooklyn Bridge, Chinatown, Little Italy, & SoHo

- Brooklyn Bridge: This famous bridge connects Manhattan and Brooklyn across the East River.
- Chinatown: A neighborhood in Lower Manhattan that is home to the largest group of Chinese people in the Western Hemisphere.
- Little Italy: A neighborhood (next to Chinatown) that was once known for its large population of Italian Americans.
- SoHo: SoHo refers to the area South of Houston Street, is known for its cast iron buildings, art galleries, and shops (trendy boutiques as well as international chain stores).

Statue of Liberty, Ellis Island, & Downtown NYC

- Ellis Island: Students will take a ferry to see Ellis Island, where they will visit the Ellis Island Immigration Museum. Over 12 million immigrants passed through Ellis Island, which was the United States' busiest immigration inspection checkpoint, from 1892 to 1954.
- Statue of Liberty: Students will take a ferry to the Statue of Liberty, which is a symbol of freedom and the United States. The statue was a gift from France to the United States to commemorate the United States' one hundred years of independence.
- Downtown NYC Tour: After visiting Ellis Island and the Statue of Liberty, students will take a ferry to Battery Park in NYC, where they will start a guided walking tour of Downtown New York, visiting:
 - Battery Park: A public park named for the artillery batteries that were positioned there to protect NYC in its early years.
 - 9/11 Memorial: The 9/11 Memorial commemorates the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001 that killed nearly 3,000 people.



- Wall Street: Where two of the world's biggest stock exchanges are located. Wall Street essentially represents the American financial sector.
- Federal Hall: Located on the site of New York's first City Hall and later served as the first U.S. Capitol Building.
- World Trade Center Oculus: Completed in 2016, the Oculus is home to many shops and restaurants and serves as the centerpiece of the World Trade Center Transportation Hub.
- Optional Excursions:
 - Freedom Tower: **Fee.** This is the main building of the rebuilt World Trade Center complex. It is the tallest building in the Western Hemisphere and the sixth tallest in the world. The views from the One World Observatory are amazing.
 - National Museum of the American Indian: As part of the Smithsonian Institution, this museum is free of charge. This museum contains contemporary and historical exhibits of art and artifacts by and about Native Americans.

Greenwich Village, Chelsea District, Herald Square, & Netflix Film in Bryant Park

- Greenwich Village: Greenwich Village is a neighborhood in lower Manhattan. It was the East Coast birthplace of the Beat and the '60s counterculture movements and is known for its American bohemian culture. Students will be guided on a walking tour of "the Village" and have a chance to see New York University (NYU) and Washington Square Park as well.
 - Optional Excursion to SoHo: SoHo, which refers to the area South of Houston Street, is known for its cast iron buildings, art galleries, and shops (trendy boutiques as well as international chain stores).
 - Optional Excursion to Union Square: Union Square Park is known for hosting community events such as farmers' markets, parades, and rallies. Union Square is also a popular shopping area, with stores such as Aritzia, Lululemon, and Nordstrom Rack.
- Chelsea District: Chelsea is a historic district of the city. On a guided walking tour, students will visit:
 - Chelsea Market: an all-in-one food hall, shopping mall, office building, and television production facility.
 - The Highline: a park built on a part of the New York Central Railroad that is no longer in use. It's elevated, so students will be able to take in the greenery while seeing views of New York City.
 - Penn Station: the main intercity railroad station in New York City.
 - Madison Square Garden: an arena where concerts as well as sporting events are held. It is the fourth busiest musical arena in the world because of its high number of ticket sales.
 - Herald Square: a shopping area that is home to the largest Macy's department store.
 - Optional Excursion to the Flatiron Building: The Flatiron Building is a NYC landmark. It is a famous triangular skyscraper.
- Netflix Film in Bryant Park: Bryant Park is a nice public park next to the main branch of the New York Public Library. Students will watch a Netflix film under the stars.

Lincoln Center, Columbus Circle, Museum of Modern Art (MoMA) and Fifth Ave.

- Lincoln Center: Hosts many world-renowned performing arts organizations, such as the New York City Ballet, the Metropolitan Opera, and the New York Philharmonic.
- Columbus Circle: A traffic circle named after Christopher Columbus. The Time Warner Center, the world headquarters of the Time Warner Corporation, is next to Columbus Circle. The Time Warner Center also is home to the Shops at Columbus Circle, which has stores such as Armani Exchange, Diesel, J. Crew, H&M, Michael Kors, Lucky Brand, and Hugo Boss.



- Museum of Modern Art (MoMA): One of the largest museums of modern art in the world, and it is often identified as the most influential museum of modern art as well.
- Fifth Avenue: Fifth Ave. is considered one of the most expensive streets in the world, and it is home to many popular shops.

Central Park & the Metropolitan Museum of Art

- Central Park: Central Park is the most-visited urban park in the United States.
 - Strawberry Fields: A memorial to John Lennon, who wrote the Beatles' song "Strawberry Fields Forever." At the memorial is a black and white mosaic with the word "Imagine," which is the title of one of John Lennon's most famous songs.
- Metropolitan Museum of Art: The biggest art museum in the U.S., containing exhibits ranging from ancient Egyptian art to European art to ancient weapons and armor to American quilts and folk art.

Half-Day Excursions*

Coney Island

Located in Brooklyn, Coney Island is well-known for its beaches and amusement parks.

- Optional Excursions:
 - Coney Island Amusement Park: **Fee.** Coney Island includes 50+ separate rides and attractions because it's not centrally managed like Disneyland or Six Flags. The amusement area includes thrill rides, bumper cars, an arcade, etc.
 - New York Aquarium: **Fee.** Located on the Coney Island boardwalk, this is the oldest continually operating aquarium in the United States. It has 266 species of aquatic life.

Baseball Game

- Students will attend a minor league baseball game.

*We will try to combine the half day Coney Island and baseball excursions into one full day excursion whenever possible.

Overnight Excursion

Groups have the option of choosing a 2-day, 1-night overnight trip to Niagara Falls.

Niagara Falls

Niagara Falls is an incredible waterfall system located on the border between New York and Ontario, Canada. We stay on the American side of the Falls.

- Day 1: We will go to a view point to see all three waterfalls and eat dinner at the Hard Rock Café.
- Day 2: The students will go on a Maid of a Mist boat tour in the morning. On the way back to campus, they will spend the evening at Woodbury Common, a large complex of 220 outlet stores, including Burberry, Dior, Coach, Converse, Disney, Dolce & Gabbana, J. Crew, Jimmy Choo, Kate Spade, Lacoste, and Michael Kors.



Three-Week Program Excursions

The excursions below will be included in an optional third week at this center.

Full Day Excursions

Brooklyn

- DUMBO: DUMBO is a trendy neighborhood with cobblestone streets and converted Brooklyn warehouse buildings. It is near the waterfront and offers fantastic views of the Manhattan skyline.
- Williamsburg: Williamsburg is a popular neighborhood in Brooklyn known for its hipster culture and art community.

Six Flags

- Six Flags: Six Flags is a very popular amusement park. Students will spend a full day here.

Half Day Excursions

Bronx Zoo

- Bronx Zoo: The Bronx Zoo is the largest metropolitan zoo in the United States and one of the largest in the world.

Midtown East and Empire State Building

- Midtown East: Midtown East is a vibrant neighborhood with many shops and easy access to St. Patrick's Cathedral, Rockefeller Center, United Nations Headquarters, etc. if students want to return to or explore some sights instead of shop.
- Empire State Building: Students will view NYC by night from the observation deck on the Empire State Building. This 102-story skyscraper is an American cultural icon and is one of the Seven Wonders of the Modern World.

Upper East Side and the Guggenheim Museum

- Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum: This famous cylindrical building was designed by Frank Lloyd Wright. The museum contains collections of impressionist, post-impressionist, early modern and contemporary art.
- Upper East Side: Students will have some free time to explore one of the wealthiest neighborhoods of New York City. Many famous people live(d) here and many movies, television shows, and books were set here.

American Natural History Museum

- American Natural History Museum: This is the largest natural history museum in the world and is world-famous. It is located on the Upper West Side of Manhattan across from Central Park.