



TRIP GLOBAL

# 3 Days in New York City: A First-Timer's Itinerary

New York City, New York, United States · October · 3 days

Tailored for groups - includes group activities, social dining, and group-friendly options

Three days in New York with friends: a Broadway night after dinner at Carbone, a full day in Central Park and the Museum of Natural History, and a last stretch downtown around Washington Square Park. Save room for a Levain cookie and a slice at Joe's Pizza.

Open the interactive trip: live map, photos and links

Before you go: [Get a United States eSIM: data on landing](#)

What this trip might cost, per person for 3 days, flights extra:

Budget \$260-330 · Mid-range \$390-540 · Comfort \$600

Opening hours, prices and transport change. Please double-check bookings and times before you go.

## YOUR TRIP AT A GLANCE

- 1

DAY 1

Bryant Park, Times Square and Carbone

Midtown Manhattan · 3 nights
- 2

DAY 2

Central Park, Levain and the Natural History Museum
- 3

DAY 3

Joe's Pizza, Washington Square Park and Mercer Street
- ?

AFTER THE LAST DAY

Before you go: New York City

# Bryant Park, Times Square and Carbone

Arrival day: an easy start close to your stay

Sunrise 7:08 AM

Golden hour 5:40 PM

Sunset 6:17 PM

Your base for 3 nights: Midtown Manhattan

Start with a walk through Bryant Park and Times Square, then have dinner at Carbone and head to a Broadway show for the evening.

GO

12:30 PM · 1 hour

## LaGuardia Airport to Midtown Manhattan

Take the M60 bus from Terminal 4 or a shared car to your hotel (40 minutes, \$2.90 or \$40-50). Drop bags, refresh, and head out by 4:30 PM.

- AirTrain + Subway (Jamaica Station) · 45-60 minutes · \$15-20 per person
- Shared shuttle · 30-40 minutes · \$45-55 per person
- Uber/Lyft · 25-40 minutes (traffic depends) · \$50-65 per person

[Book a transfer](#)

1



4:45 PM · 45 minutes

## Bryant Park

Free

A quiet public plaza with trees, benches, and a street-food market in the back. Good for sitting, people-watching, and grabbing a snack before the evening rush. Five minutes from Times Square by foot.

**Insider tip:** Hit the food vendors in the back for a quick bite; sit facing the park entrance for the best people-watching.

[Open in Google Maps >](#)

2



5:30 PM · 1 hour

## Times Square

Free

The neon heart of Broadway: towering screens, crowds, and the theatrical energy you came for. Walk north through the pedestrian plazas, soak it in, and snap photos as the lights come up at dusk. A 5-minute walk from Bryant Park.

**Insider tip:** Arrive by 5:40 PM for golden light on the buildings before the neon fully kicks in; stand on the steps of the TKTS booth for the classic view.

[Open in Google Maps >](#)

3



7:00 PM · 1.5 hours

[Book ahead](#)

## Carbone

\$60-80 per person for dinner · Open 5 PM-11 PM

Greenwich Village's hottest Italian spot, but the Theatre District branch (in the Paramount Building) serves the same rustic pasta, great cocktails, and buzz. Dinner before your show. A 10-minute walk south from Times Square (or one subway stop).

**Insider tip:** Book ahead online (often booked solid); go to the bar for walk-ins if no table, order the cacio e pepe.

[Open in Google Maps >](#)

## DAY 1: BRYANT PARK, TIMES SQUARE AND CARBONE (CONTINUED)

4



8:00 PM · 2.5 hours

[Book ahead](#)

### Broadway Theatre

**\$80-150 per ticket (varies by show and seats) · Open Typically 8 PM curtain**

Your Broadway debut. A 5-minute walk back up to the Theatre District (42nd St between 8th and 9th Ave). Lights down at 8 PM or later depending on the show. You've earned this after a day of travel.

**Insider tip:** Arrive 20 minutes early; mezzanine tickets often have the best sightlines and cost less than orchestra. Check TKTS booth on 42nd St for same-day discounts.

[Book tickets](#)

[Open in Google Maps >](#)

### If you land early (optional, close to your stay, before the plan above)

**Chelsea Market:** A sprawling food hall in a converted warehouse near Hudson Yards with 50+ vendors: grab coffee, pastry, or a breakfast sandwich.

**High Line:** An elevated park built on old train tracks, lined with plants, art, and views. Start at the Gansevoort St entrance and walk north.

[Open Day 1 as a route in Google Maps](#)

## Where to stay in Midtown Manhattan

Book a hotel within 5 minutes of Times Square subway station (N, Q, R, S, W lines): you'll walk to the Theatre District, catch trains easily to Central Park and downtown, and live in the heart of the action.

### Pod Hotel Times Square

Budget · Hostel · \$

Budget friendly, private rooms available. Central location, young crowd, decent rooftop bar.

[Book now](#)

[Google Maps >](#)

### Pod 51 Hotel

Budget · Hostel · \$

Midtown budget option with a bar vibe. Solo travellers and groups mix here.

[Book now](#)

[Google Maps >](#)

### Pod Hotel NYC

Budget · Hostel · \$

East Village budget base. Private rooms available. Friendly crowd, great location for nightlife.

[Book now](#)

[Google Maps >](#)

### The Paramount Hotel

Mid-range · Hotel · \$\$

Theatre District classic. Compact rooms, great lobby energy, walking distance to shows.

[Book now](#)

[Google Maps >](#)

### Renaissance New York Times Square Hotel

Mid-range · Hotel · \$\$

Modern, reliable. Steps from theatres and the subway hub you'll use all week.

[Book now](#)

[Google Maps >](#)

### The Empire Hotel

Mid-range · Hotel · \$\$

Central Park views, Lincoln Center walk, mid-century cool. No pretense.

[Book now](#)

[Google Maps >](#)

[All stays in Midtown Manhattan](#)

[Holiday rentals](#)

## Where to eat

### Balthazar

French bistro · Lunch · \$\$

Classic Manhattan spot. Go for steak frites and people-watch from the counter.

[Google Maps >](#)

### Joe & the Juice

Sandwiches and coffee · Breakfast · \$

Quick, excellent. Grab a cappuccino and toast before heading into Times Square.

[Google Maps >](#)

### The Lambs Club

American · Dinner · \$\$\$

Theatre District institution since 1905. Pre-show cocktails and lamb chops. Book ahead.

[Google Maps >](#)

## DAY 1: BRYANT PARK, TIMES SQUARE AND CARBONE (CONTINUED)

### TOURS & DAY TRIPS FROM NEW YORK CITY

#### HALF DAY

##### High Line walk and Chelsea galleries

The High Line is an elevated park built on an old railway line with city views, and it connects directly to Chelsea's art district where you can drop into galleries for free.

[Book now](#)

#### 2.5-3 HOURS

##### Broadway show tickets

You're in New York. See a current production whether it's a musical, play, or revival. October has new shows opening.

[Book now](#)

#### HALF DAY

##### Brooklyn food and culture tour

Williamsburg and DUMBO have the best independent shops, vintage markets, and new restaurants. The neighbourhood feels like New York used to.

[Book now](#)

# Central Park, Levain and the Natural History Museum

Sunrise 7:08 AM

Golden hour 5:40 PM

Sunset 6:17 PM

Sleep in Midtown Manhattan · night 2 of 3

Walk Central Park from Bethesda Terrace to Bow Bridge and the Lake, grab a cookie at Levain, then spend the afternoon at the American Museum of Natural History.

PREFER A GUIDE? · 2 HOURS

## Central Park autumn guided walk

A guide shows you the best spots for fall colour, tells you which trees to watch, and avoids the selfie crowds.

[Book this tour](#)

1



7:30 AM · 1.5 hours

## Central Park, Bethesda Terrace

Free

Start early to walk the grand staircase and lakeside paths while light's soft and crowds are thin. October colours are just turning gold; you'll see maples and birches at their best. A 5-minute walk from the Plaza Hotel on Fifth Avenue (south-east corner of the park).

**Insider tip:** Come before 8 AM to have the terrace nearly to yourself. The light hits the water perfectly for photos around 7:45 AM.

[Open in Google Maps >](#)

2



9:15 AM · 45 minutes

## Levain Bakery

\$5-8 per pastry · Open 8 AM-9 PM

Get breakfast and strong coffee here. Their chocolate-chip cookies are the size of your palm; go for a cookie and a cappuccino to fuel the morning. A 12-minute walk from Bethesda Terrace, heading north and west to the Upper West Side (West 74th Street).

**Insider tip:** Arrive just after 8 AM to skip the queue. The chocolate chip cookies are fresher than the salted caramel ones.

[Open in Google Maps >](#)

3



10:15 AM · 2 hours

## American Museum of Natural History

\$28 per person (suggested donation) · Open 10 AM-5:45 PM

Spend the late morning in the Hall of Human Origins or the North American Forests (great autumn light through skylights). You can dip into what interests you; no need to do the whole museum. It's a 2-minute walk from Levain.

**Insider tip:** Pay-what-you-wish admission if you're a New York State resident; everyone else pays the suggested \$28. Skip the dinosaur halls on weekends; they're packed.

[Book tickets](#)
[Open in Google Maps >](#)

## DAY 2: CENTRAL PARK, LEVAIN AND THE NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM (CONTINUED)

4



4:45 PM · 1 hour

### Central Park, Bow Bridge and Lake

Free

Head south through the park for golden-hour photos. Bow Bridge is the most photogenic spot in October; the water reflects the turning trees perfectly. A 15-minute walk from the museum's south exit (72nd Street).

**Insider tip:** Arrive at 5:30 PM when light turns golden. Stand on the east side of the bridge facing west for the best shot.

[Open in Google Maps >](#)

5



6:45 PM · 1.5 hours

**Book ahead**

### Balthazar

\$50-70 per person for dinner · Open 11:30 AM-10 PM

Dinner at this SoHo brasserie, but you'll eat here before heading to SoHo later in the trip. Order the French onion soup and steak frites. Head south via the subway from the park (B or C train from 72nd Street to Prince Street, about 15 minutes including walk to the restaurant on Spring Street).

**Insider tip:** Book ahead for 6:45 PM. Sit at the zinc bar if a table isn't ready; the energy's better and you'll eat faster.

[Open in Google Maps >](#)

[Open Day 2 as a route in Google Maps](#)

## Where to eat

### Bouchon Bakery

French Bakery · Breakfast · \$

Croissants and espresso before the park. Go early, it gets packed.

[Google Maps >](#)

### Sarabeth's

American Comfort · Lunch · \$\$

Upper West Side institution. Their roasted chicken sandwich hits different midday.

[Google Maps >](#)

### Balthazar

French Bistro · Dinner · \$\$\$

SoHo's classic brass and mirrors. Book ahead, order the steak frites, stay for the crowd.

[Google Maps >](#)

# Joe's Pizza, Washington Square Park and Mercer Street

Sunrise 7:08 AM

Golden hour 5:40 PM

Sunset 6:17 PM

Sleep in Midtown Manhattan · night 3 of 3

Take a slice from Joe's Pizza to Washington Square Park, then wander over to Artists Space and down Mercer Street.

1



10:30 AM · 45 minutes

## Joe's Pizza

\$3-5 per slice · Open 10 AM-10 PM

A New York institution since 1975 serving thin, foldable slices with minimal toppings and maximum flavour. The original location in Greenwich Village is tiny and cash-only, always packed, so get there before 11 AM to skip the line. A 10-minute walk south from Times Square or the N/R/W subway to 8th Street.

**Insider tip:** Go plain cheese or pepperoni, fold it in half, eat standing up. Two slices under \$5.

[Open in Google Maps >](#)

2



11:30 AM · 1 hour

## Washington Square Park

Free

The heart of Greenwich Village: a tree-lined plaza with the iconic white arch, street musicians, local characters, and benches to sit and absorb the vibe. It's a 2-minute walk from Joe's.

**Insider tip:** Walk through the park itself, not around it. Sit on the south side for people-watching and the arch framed behind.

[Open in Google Maps >](#)

3



2:30 PM · 1 hour

## Artists Space

Free · Open 10 AM-6 PM (closed Sundays-Mondays)

A non-profit contemporary art gallery in SoHo showing experimental work by emerging artists. Admission is always free. It's a 10-minute walk south and east from Bleeker Street, or take the C/E subway one stop.

**Insider tip:** Check their current show online before you go. Galleries close on Sundays and Mondays, so confirm hours.

[Open in Google Maps >](#)

## DAY 3: JOE'S PIZZA, WASHINGTON SQUARE PARK AND MERCER STREET (CONTINUED)

4



3:45 PM · 1.5 hours

### Mercer Street

Free

SoHo's best strip for independent boutiques, design shops, and vintage clothing stores between Houston and Spring. Narrower and less touristy than Broadway. A 5-minute walk east from Artists Space.

**Insider tip:** Pop into smaller side streets like Prince and Spring for hidden vintage and design shops locals know.

[Open in Google Maps >](#)

5



5:30 PM · 1.5 hours

### Stone Street

Free to walk; \$10-20 for drinks/food

New York's first paved street and now a pedestrianised cobblestone alley lined with bars and restaurants. The golden-hour light here is perfect, and the quiet corner vibe is a world away from Times Square. A 15-minute walk south and east, or take the 4/5 subway to Bowling Green.

**Insider tip:** Arrive by 5:40 PM to catch golden hour on the stones. Sit outside at one of the bars with a drink and watch the light change.

[Open in Google Maps >](#)

PREFER A GUIDE? · 3 HOURS

### Guided food tour in Greenwich Village

You'll hit local pizza joints, Italian markets, and family-run restaurants while learning the neighbourhood's history from someone who actually knows it.

[Book this tour](#)

[Open Day 3 as a route in Google Maps](#)

## Where to eat

### Balthazar

French Bistro · Breakfast · \$\$

SoHo institution. Croissants, eggs, espresso. Arrive by 8:30am to beat the queue.

[Google Maps >](#)

### Di Fara Pizza

Pizza · Lunch · \$

Brooklyn icon, now in SoHo. Classic New York slice. Order whole pie, sit at counter.

[Google Maps >](#)

### The Musket Room

New Zealand Modern · Dinner · \$\$\$

NoLita gem. Seasonal menu, thoughtful wine list. Reservation essential for evening.

[Google Maps >](#)

### How early should I book a Broadway show?

October is busy but not December-level packed. Book 1-2 weeks ahead online for good seats, or take a chance with TKTS same-day tickets in Times Square for 20-40% off. Weekday matinees are cheaper and less crowded than evening shows.

### What's the best time to see Central Park in autumn?

Mid to late October is peak color. Go early morning (7-9am) or late afternoon (4-6pm) to avoid crowds. The trees around the Bow Bridge and the Mall are always photogenic.

### Where should I actually eat beyond pizza?

Try dim sum in Chinatown (Jing Fong for cheap, lively service), cheap tacos in East Village, or a New York bagel with cream cheese and lox for breakfast. Food here is excellent at every price point.

### Is shopping really cheaper in NYC?

Prices are standard US rates, no sales tax on clothes. SoHo has boutiques, Fifth Avenue has luxury, and the Garment District (around 35th Street) has sample sales. October sometimes brings early holiday shopping deals.

### What's the weather like in New York City in October?

Expect 10-15°C (50-59°F) with occasional rain. Bring layers, a light jacket, and comfortable walking shoes. You'll do a lot of walking.

### What language do people speak in New York City?

Spoken here: English. Everyone speaks it.

### Is New York City safe for visitors?

New York is generally safe for tourists, but watch your belongings on crowded subway cars and avoid deserted areas late at night.

### What's the emergency number in United States?

Call 911 for police, ambulance or fire. In many areas you can also text 911, but calling is faster.

### Do you tip in United States?

Tipping is expected. Leave 18-20% at restaurants, \$1-2 per drink at bars, and \$1-2 for taxi or rideshare per ride. It's built into the experience here.

**What do only locals know about New York City?**

- Skip the tourist pizza joints in Times Square. Head to Di Fara in Brooklyn or L'Industrie in East Village for the real thing.
- The subway is your friend. Get a MetroCard and buy the 7-day unlimited for \$33 if you're there a week, otherwise just load cash and tap.
- Central Park is best explored early morning before crowds arrive. Head up before 8am if you want a quiet walk.
- Broadway tickets are cheaper if you buy from the TKTS booth in Times Square on the day of the show, not in advance online.