



ACADEMY TRAVEL

TAILORED
SMALL GROUP
JOURNEYS

OPERA IN NEW YORK

THE STARS SHINE AT THE MET

OVERVIEW

April 2025 sees an unrivalled star-studded line up of performers at New York's Metropolitan Opera, with a host of major singers, conductors, and directors set to shine.

From the glamour of the grand opera to the buzz of a Broadway musical, our 10-day program is designed to delight lovers of music, with seven top-flight performances included. For all five operas at the Met, we've secured Orchestra Prime seats, offering a great view of the stage without impacting acoustics. Tour leader Sandy Burnett will draw on his experience as broadcaster, conductor, and hands-on practical musician to provide background talks on each of the performances.

The program is complemented by walking tours covering the history, culture and architecture of the city, guided visits to a range of New York's top galleries and museums, and a selection of the city's best restaurants. For the duration of the tour we enjoy accommodation in the boutique WestHouse Hotel, located in the heart of midtown Manhattan, steps from Carnegie Hall. There is also plenty of free time to relax and for individual sightseeing, enjoying the beauty of Manhattan in Spring.



TOUR LEADER

Sandy Burnett is one of the UK's most versatile music commentators, enjoying a career that combines broadcasting, performing, and lecturing. He has led cultural tours to Europe and the USA since 2008.

TOUR DATES

April 21-30, 2025 | 10 Days

TOUR PRICE

\$14,460 per person, twin share
\$3,240 single supplement

TOUR DEPOSIT

A **\$1,000** non-refundable deposit is required per person to confirm your booking on tour. Once the final performance program is announced, an instalment of \$2,000 will be required to cover ticket costs.

GROUP SIZE

Maximum number of **16** in group

ITINERARY

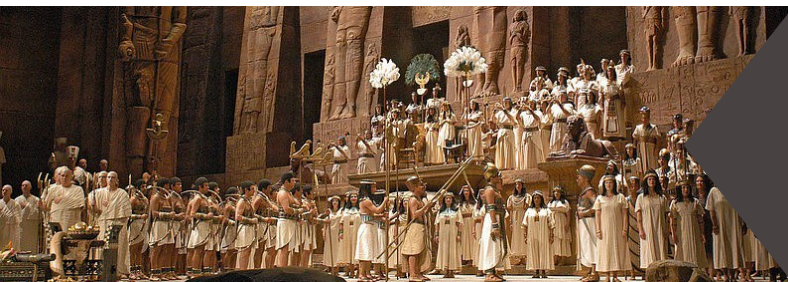
New York (9 nights)

INCLUSIONS

9 nights' accommodation in a centrally located 5-star hotel. All breakfasts, 2 lunches and 2 dinners. A light supper will also be served in the hotel each evening. Best available tickets to **7** performances. Services of an expert tour leader and an experienced tour manager throughout. All ground transport, entrance fees and tipping.

PERFORMANCE PROGRAM

Experience five performances at New York's renowned Metropolitan Opera, complemented by a concert at the world-famous Carnegie Hall and a show on Broadway



AIDA

Music Director Yannick Nézet-Séguin takes the podium for Michael Mayer's spectacular new staging of Verdi's Grand Opera, featuring an all-star cast

DIE ZAUBERFLÖTE

Simon McBurney's uproarious production of Mozart's beloved fable, with an ingenious theatrical concoction of projections, puppetry, and special effects



THE BARBER OF SEVILLE

Rossini's effervescent comedy retakes the stage in this Bartlett Sher madcap production. Giacomo Sagripanti conducts

SALOME

Yannick Nézet-Séguin conducts Strauss's white-hot one-act tragedy, which receives its first new production at the company in 20 years



LE NOZZE DI FIGARO

Conductor Joana Mallwitz makes her Met debut leading an extraordinary cast in Mozart's comic masterpiece

CARNEGIE HALL

A concert at the legendary Carnegie Hall. The venue has superb acoustics and a long tradition of outstanding performances



BROADWAY

A smash-hit stage play or musical on New York's iconic Broadway, selected from the best of the 2024/2025 season





DETAILED ITINERARY

Start & Finish

The tour starts at 6.00pm Monday 21 April, at the WestHouse Hotel, New York.

The tour ends after breakfast on Wednesday 30 April, at the WestHouse Hotel, New York.

Included meals are indicated with B, L, D & LS for Light Supper.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

New York's Metropolitan Opera

As the stars come out to shine, experience a run of five remarkable performances at New York's renowned Metropolitan Opera, complemented by at concert at the legendary Carnegie Hall and a Broadway Show.

Pre-Performance Talks

Tour leader Sandy Burnett will draw on his extensive career in theatre as he delves into the the history, music and storyline of each Met Opera, enriching the evening's operatic experience.

Private Viewing of MoMA

A private out-of-hours viewing of the comprehensive Museum of Modern Art with a museum lecturer, including lunch in MoMA's excellent Michelin two-star restaurant The Modern.

A Night's Meal at the Opera

Dinner in The Grand Tier dining room of the Metropolitan Opera House, one of the most breathtaking restaurant settings in the city with sweeping views of Lincoln Center and original Chagall masterpieces.

Beyond the tourist's view

On walking tours alongside local guides, delve into New York City's fascinating history, art and architecture, a microcosm of modern America's rise to global prominence.

Monday 21 April

Arrival

Flights from Australia arrive in New York in the late afternoon. In the early evening, meet your tour leader and fellow tour participants over welcome drinks in our hotel, followed by a light welcome dinner in a local restaurant. If you have arrived early we suggest you take the AIA harbour cruise today. Academy Travel can arrange bookings. (D)

Tuesday 22 April

Midtown | *Le Nozze di Figaro*

We begin the day with a lecture in our hotel on tonight's performance, followed by a guided tour of the historical and architectural landmarks of New York's Midtown district, starting at the incredible Art Deco masterpiece, the Rockefeller Center, then continuing on to other masterpieces such as Lever House, the Seagram Building, St Patrick's Cathedral, the General Electric Building and grand stores of 5th Avenue. After a light supper which is served in our hotel each evening, we head to the Lincoln Center to kick off our performance program at the Met with Mozart's comic masterpiece, *Le Nozze di Figaro*. Conductor Joana Mallwitz will make her Met debut leading acclaimed bass-baritone Michael Sumuel as the clever valet *Figaro*, opposite soprano Olga Kulchynska as his betrothed, the wily maid *Susanna*. Overnight New York (B, LS)

Performance I

Venue: Metropolitan Opera House, Lincoln Center
Program: Mozart's *Le Nozze di Figaro*

Wednesday 23 April

Frick Collection & Central Park | *Die Zauberflöte*

Following a morning lecture covering tonight's performance, we visit the former Fifth Avenue home of 'robber baron' Henry Clay Frick. Set on an entire block, this elegant home has been a museum since shortly after Frick's death in 1913. Reopening in late 2024 following an extensive renovation, the space has been expanded to include a new second-floor gallery to house its superb collection of Renaissance to 18th-century European art, exquisite furniture and decorative arts. From here we make our way into Central Park, one of the greatest achievements



Metropolitan Opera House



The Morgan Library

in urban landscape architecture, and take in many of the unique but often missed features designed by Frederick Law Olmsted and Calvert Vaux. Tonight, Simon McBurney's uproarious production of Mozart's beloved fable *Die Zauberflöte* returns to the Met stage following its celebrated 2023 premiere – complete with its ingenious theatrical concoction of projections, puppetry and special effects. Tenor Ben Bliss and soprano Golda Schultz are the noble lovers *Tamino* and *Pamina*. Evan Rogister conducts. Overnight New York (B, LS)

Performance II

Venue: Metropolitan Opera House, Lincoln Center
Program: Mozart's *Die Zauberflöte*

Thursday 24 April

Downtown | Carnegie Hall

Today we embark on a walking tour in New York's Downtown area where the Dutch colony of New Amsterdam was founded in the 17th century. We walk down some of New York's oldest streets, working our way up into the Financial District as we visit sites such as the elegant Beaux-Arts style Customs House, Trinity Church, New York City Hall and the Woolworth Building. After enjoying a typical Wall Street power lunch together, we then visit the moving 9/11 Memorial and the Santiago Calatrava-designed St Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church and the Oculus. This evening we make our way to the legendary Carnegie Hall for a concert in the historic Stern Auditorium, renowned for its superb acoustics. Overnight New York (B, L, LS)

Performance III

Venue: Stern Auditorium, Carnegie Hall
Program: To be advised

Friday 25 April

The Morgan Library | *Il Barbiere di Siviglia*

After relaxed start to the morning with a lecture in our hotel on tonight's performance, we take a guided tour of one of New York City's often-overlooked gems – the Morgan Library. Once the private residence and library of the financier, J.P. Morgan, it contains an exquisite collection of extremely rare manuscripts and books. There is time for lunch in the glass-enclosed central court before returning to our hotel with the afternoon at leisure. In the evening, we head to the Lincoln Center for Bartlett Sher's madcap production of Rossini's effervescent comedy, *The Barber of Seville*. Star mezzo-soprano Isabel Leonard headlines a winning ensemble as the feisty heroine *Rosina*, alongside high-flying tenor Lawrence Brownlee as her secret beloved *Count Almaviva*. Baritone Davide Luciano stars as the infamous barber of Seville, with Giacomo Sagripanti conducting. Overnight New York (B, LS)

Performance IV

Venue: Metropolitan Opera House, Lincoln Center
Program: Rossini's *Il Barbiere di Siviglia*



Angel Blue



Yannick
Nézet-Séguin

Saturday 26 April

At Leisure | Broadway

Today is free to explore New York at leisure. Your tour leader and manager will be happy to help with suggestions and handy tips. You may like to spend the day at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, where you can select from the 50 departments presenting outstanding art from pre-history to the 20th century and from all corners of the globe. The American Wing houses one of the finest and most comprehensive collections of American art in existence and you can enjoy lunch in one of the many museum restaurants across the campus. Public tours are regularly scheduled throughout the day, which are free to join. We meet again this evening and make our way to Broadway for play or musical selected from the best of the 2024/2025 season. Overnight New York (B, LS)

Performance V

Venue: A Broadway theatre

Program: To be announced

Performers: To be announced

Sunday 27 April

Gospel | Aida

For early risers, we enjoy the opportunity to participate in a Gospel church service in Harlem, as joyous music carries the powerful message of praise, sacrifice and hope, before taking in some of the other northern Manhattan sights. There will be a lecture in our hotel, before we return to the Met in the afternoon where Music Director Yannick Nézet-Séguin takes the podium for Michael Mayer's spectacular new staging of Verdi's *Aida*, bringing audiences inside the towering pyramids and gilded tombs of ancient Egypt. Soprano Angel Blue makes her long-awaited Met role debut as the Ethiopian princess torn between love and country, one of opera's defining roles. Overnight New York (B, LS)

Performance VI

Venue: Metropolitan Opera House, Lincoln Center

Program: Verdi's *Aida*

Monday 28 April

MoMA Private Viewing

A highlight of our tour is this morning's private tour of MoMA, New York's famous Museum of Modern Art. Set in the heart of Midtown Manhattan, New York's famous Museum of Modern Art re-opened in 2019 after a significant expansion of its space. Before the doors open to the public, a museum lecturer guides us through the museum's greatest works, with the likes of Picasso, Gauguin and van Gogh set to delight. We follow our tour with lunch at The Modern, the Michelin two-star restaurant that overlooks MoMA's sculpture courtyard. After lunch, the remainder of the day is free to enjoy the museum or visit some of the other interesting sites nearby. Overnight New York (B, L, LS)

HOTEL

New York, WestHouse Hotel

(9 nights)

Our five-star hotel is very conveniently located in Midtown Manhattan, on 55th Street. Reminiscent of a luxurious New York Townhouse, the hotel features spacious Art-Deco-inspired rooms and is located within walking distance of many of New York's most popular attractions.

www.westhousehotelnewyork.com

WEATHER

The weather in the New York in April is cool to mild. It is Springtime, and the weather can be changeable but rarely extreme. Expect daytime temperatures to range between 12 and 17 degrees. Evenings may become cooler, requiring a warmer jacket and scarf. There is a possibility of some rainfall on a few days, so a travel umbrella is recommended.

VISA REQUIREMENTS

In order to enter the United States all travellers are now required to complete an online form, the US government's Electronic System for Travel Authorisation (or ESTA). Full details are available at

<https://esta.cbp.dhs.gov>

FITNESS REQUIREMENTS

Grade One

This tour is appropriate for travellers in good health with good mobility. You should be able to comfortably participate in up to three to four hours of physical activity per day, including walking at an easy pace, sometimes with only short breaks, and standing for one to two hours in galleries and museums at a time.



Tuesday 29 April

Chelsea | *Salome*

We begin the day with a lecture on our final performance, followed by a stroll along the High Line – a beautiful urban park situated on a former elevated rail line that takes us through the chic Chelsea and Meatpacking districts. After free time in Chelsea Markets, we visit the Whitney Museum of American Art, founded in 1930 by American socialite Gertrude Vanderbilt Whitney and moved to its new home in 2015, a Renzo Piano designed edifice. This huge, airy space perched on the Hudson River holds one of the world's foremost collections of modern and contemporary American art. The evening sees us return to the Lincoln Center for our final performance and a true New York experience – dinner at the famous Grand Tier Restaurant. Following dinner, Music Director Yannick Nézet-Séguin will conduct his first Met performance of Strauss's white-hot one-act tragedy, *Salome*, which receives its first new production at the company in 20 years. Claus Guth, one of Europe's leading opera directors, gives the biblical story a psychologically perceptive Victorian-era setting rich in symbolism and subtle shades of darkness and light. Headlining this new staging is soprano Elza van den Heever as the abused and unhinged antiheroine, who demands the head of *Jochanaan*, sung by celebrated baritone Peter Mattei. Overnight New York (B, D)

Performance VII

Venue: Metropolitan Opera House, Lincoln Center

Program: Strauss's *Salome*

Wednesday 30 April

Departure

Before we farewell New York, our final morning is free for those interested in squeezing in some extra shopping or additional sights. (B)



ENQUIRIES & BOOKINGS

For further information or to secure a place, please contact **Jamal Fairbrother** on 9235 0023 (Sydney) or 1800 639 699 (outside Sydney) or email:

jamal@academytravel.com.au

 academytravel.com.au