



ACADEMY TRAVEL

TAILORED
SMALL GROUP
JOURNEYS

THANKSGIVING IN NEW YORK

MUSIC, THEATRE, ART & FOOD

OVERVIEW

Enjoy the best of the Big Apple on our popular 12-day residential style tour to New York. We have carefully designed a range of experiences to please all the senses, including the very best in opera, concerts, musicals and drama, some of the world's top art and history museums, and a selection of the city's best restaurants.

The tour takes place over the Thanksgiving period, a festive time for Americans and one where the streets of New York are also a little less busy than usual. We've included seasonal events that are only on offer at this special time of year, such as the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade and a legendary Rockettes' performance.

Tour leader Dr Matthew Laing has a particular expertise in the United States and will provide background on the history, culture and architecture of the city, as well as tailored walking tours throughout, spanning famous sights and hidden gems alike. In addition, expert art historians will conduct several gallery visits.

There is also plenty of free time to relax and for individual sightseeing, enjoying the beauty of Manhattan in the Fall.



TOUR LEADER

Dr Matthew Laing has a comprehensive knowledge of the history and society of the United States and has travelled the length and breadth of the country for research, personal interest and as a tour leader. Matthew holds a PhD in Politics and History from the Australian National University.

TOUR DATES

November 24 - December 5, 2024

TOUR PRICE

\$14,780 per person, twin share
\$4,270 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.

GROUP SIZE

Maximum number of **16** in group

ITINERARY

New York (11 nights)

INCLUSIONS

11 nights' accommodation in a centrally located 4-star hotel. All breakfasts, 3 lunches and 2 dinners. Services of an expert tour leader and an experienced tour manager throughout. All ground transport, best available tickets to **8** performances, all entrance fees and tipping.



DETAILED ITINERARY

Start & Finish

The tour starts in the early evening on Saturday 24 November at the Warwick hotel bar, New York.

The tour ends in the morning on Thursday 5 December, at the Warwick hotel, New York.

Included meals are indicated with B, L, D.

Sunday 24 November

Arrival

Flights from Australia arrive in New York in the late afternoon. In the early evening, we gather for drinks in the hotel bar. (If you have arrived early we suggest you take the AIA harbour cruise today. Academy Travel can arrange bookings.)

Monday 25 November

Downtown | Carnegie Hall

We begin our exploration of New York's unique history and architecture in the Downtown area, where the Dutch colony of New Amsterdam was founded in the 17th century, as well as Wall Street and the heart of the financial district so central to New York's rise. Sights include the 9/11 Memorial, the Woolworth Building, and New York City Hall. We then enjoy a welcome lunch at the historic Fraunces Tavern, once a hub of revolutionary activity where Washington famously bid farewell to his troops. The afternoon is free, before we kick off our performances in style this evening with a concert at the legendary Carnegie Hall. The venue has superb acoustics and a long tradition of outstanding performances. (B, L)

Performance I

Venue: Carnegie Hall

Program: To be announced

Performers: To be announced

Tuesday 26 November

The Met | Met Opera

Today we spend the morning at The Cloisters, the Metropolitan Museum of Art's medieval department, located on the northern tip of Manhattan. We then travel to the Museum's main campus, 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. You may like to explore The American Wing, which 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 you are free to join. The evening sees us head to the Lincoln Center for a true New York experience – dinner

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

Beyond the tourist's view

Delve into New York City's fascinating history, art and architecture, a microcosm of modern America's rise to global prominence, alongside an America specialist.

Outstanding performances

Enjoy a carefully curated program of eight performances, from a smash-hit stage play on Broadway to an extraordinary concert at the legendary Carnegie Hall.

Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade

Join thousands of spectators (and millions more at home) watching the famous annual parade down Manhattan's streets, where you never know who will float by!

The world's finest collections of art and architecture

Delight in superlative art, including a before-hours tour of MoMA, and introductions to smaller galleries and house museums, including The Neue Galerie and Whitney Museum of American Art.

Stand-out meals in historic venues

Enjoy an American Thanksgiving and a host of other dining experiences unique to New York, as we lunch at the historic Fraunces Tavern and sit alongside original works by Marc Chagall at the Lincoln Center.

at the famous Grand Tier Restaurant and then a performance of the Metropolitan Opera, one of the cultural landmarks of the city. (B, D)

Performance II

Venue: Metropolitan Opera House, Lincoln Center
Program: To be announced
Performers: To be announced

Wednesday 27 November Midtown | Broadway

This morning we explore some of the Art-Deco architecture of New York's Midtown district, including the United Nations, the Chrysler Building, the Rockefeller Center, and Grand Central Terminal. We'll also go to the Top of the Rock and get the best view of New York from the top of the Rockefeller Center. In the evening we make our way to Broadway for a musical performance, selected from the 2024 season. (B)

Performance III

Venue: A Broadway theatre
Program: To be announced
Performers: To be announced

Thursday 28 November Thanksgiving in New York

We celebrate Thanksgiving today, beginning with the Macy's Parade, New York's favourite event and the world's biggest parade, with spectacular floats and displays to bring a smile to all age groups. We then feast on a traditional American Thanksgiving banquet at a leading local restaurant. For those who wish to walk off lunch, we will take an optional stroll through Central Park in the afternoon. (B, L)

Friday 29 November Museum Mile | Jazz

Today we visit two stunning museums on the Upper East Side. The Neue Galerie, specialising in German and Austrian art, has become a must-see after the famous acquisition of Gustav Klimt's *Woman in Gold*. Not far away is the Guggenheim Museum, Frank Lloyd Wright's last architectural masterpiece. We will inspect the building and tour the collection. With the Black Friday sales in full swing, the afternoon is free for you to shop till your heart's content, if you so desire. This evening we enjoy a performance at Jazz at Lincoln Center in their magnificent auditorium overlooking Central Park. (B)

Performance IV

Venue: Jazz at Lincoln Center
Program: To be advised
Performers: To be advised

Saturday 30 November Brooklyn | New York Philharmonic

This morning we'll take the subway to Brooklyn and go on a guided tour of the highlights of the Brooklyn Museum, one of the most diverse and interesting art collections in the city, and with a growing reputation for its innovative and unusual special exhibitions. We'll then make our way to downtown Brooklyn, and get a chance to see the famous brownstones and commanding views of Manhattan. For those feeling energetic, in the afternoon we'll walk across the Brooklyn Bridge, one of the great icons of the city. This evening we return to the Lincoln Center for a concert by the New York Philharmonic Orchestra. (B)

Performance V

Venue: David Geffen Hall, Lincoln Center
Program: To be announced
Performers: To be announced

Sunday 1 December Gospel | Broadway

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. In the afternoon we return to Broadway for a matinee performance of a stage play, selected from the 2024 season. (B)

Performance VI

Venue: A Broadway theatre
Program: To be announced
Performers: To be announced

Monday 2 December Chelsea & the Whitney Museum

This morning we'll stroll the High Line, a beautiful urban park situated on a former elevated rail line through the chic Chelsea and Meatpacking districts. After free time for shopping and lunch in the 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. Evening at leisure. (B)

Tuesday 3 December Great Libraries | Met Opera

This morning we will take a tour of the magnificent New York Public Library, as well as Bryant Park, Herald's Square and the Empire State Building area. We then have a guided tour of the Morgan Library, containing an exquisite collection of extremely rare

HOTEL

The Warwick New York

Accommodation is in spacious premier city view rooms at the Warwick Hotel on 54th Street in midtown Manhattan. The location is within walking distance of Carnegie Hall, the theatres of Times Square and the Museum of Modern Art. It is also close to the Lincoln Center, Central Park and the Rockefeller Center.

www.warwickhotels.com

VISA REQUIREMENTS

To enter the U.S., all travellers must complete an online form, the Electronic System for Travel Authorisation (ESTA). Print a copy of your ESTA and carry it with you on your flight.

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

WEATHER

New York weather in late November is cool, but not unpleasant. Expect daytime temperatures from 5-12°C, with colder evenings that may require a warm jacket and a scarf. November is one of the drier months, but we recommend a weather-proof jacket and umbrella.

FITNESS REQUIREMENTS

Grade One

This tour is one of our least physically demanding. To participate on this tour, you should be able to:

- keep up with the group at all times
- walk for 2-3 km at a moderate to slow pace with only short breaks
- stand and slow walk for a reasonable amount of time in galleries and museums
- negotiate stairs and elevators
- get on and off a coach with steep stairs unassisted
- move your luggage a short distance



manuscripts and books, where we will enjoy lunch.

In the evening, we return to the Lincoln Center to take in our second performance at the Metropolitan Opera. (B, L)

Performance VII

Venue: Metropolitan Opera House, Lincoln Center

Program: To be announced

Performers: To be announced

Wednesday 4 December

Museum of Modern Art | The Rockettes

A highlight of our tour is this morning's private tour of MoMA, New York's famous Museum of Modern Art. Before the doors open to the public, a museum lecturer guides us through the museum's greatest works. In the afternoon, we'll attend a performance of the Rockettes' Christmas Spectacular, showcasing dance and choreography at Radio City Music Hall since 1932. Tonight, we return to MoMA for our farewell dinner at The Modern. This Michelin two-star restaurant overlooks MoMA's sculpture courtyard and is certain to be one of the culinary highlights of the tour. After dinner, we continue the Christmas cheer by witnessing the spectacular lights of the Christmas Tree at Rockefeller Center and the Saks Fifth Avenue façade. (B, D)

Performance VIII

Venue: Radio City Music Hall

Program: Christmas Spectacular

Performers: The Rockettes

Thursday 5 December

Departure

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

MOVING AROUND NEW YORK

To get to performances in the evenings we will use a private coach, taxis or walk. Some of our daytime travel from site to site will also be in taxis. Taxis are much faster than coaches and give us total flexibility in the program.



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