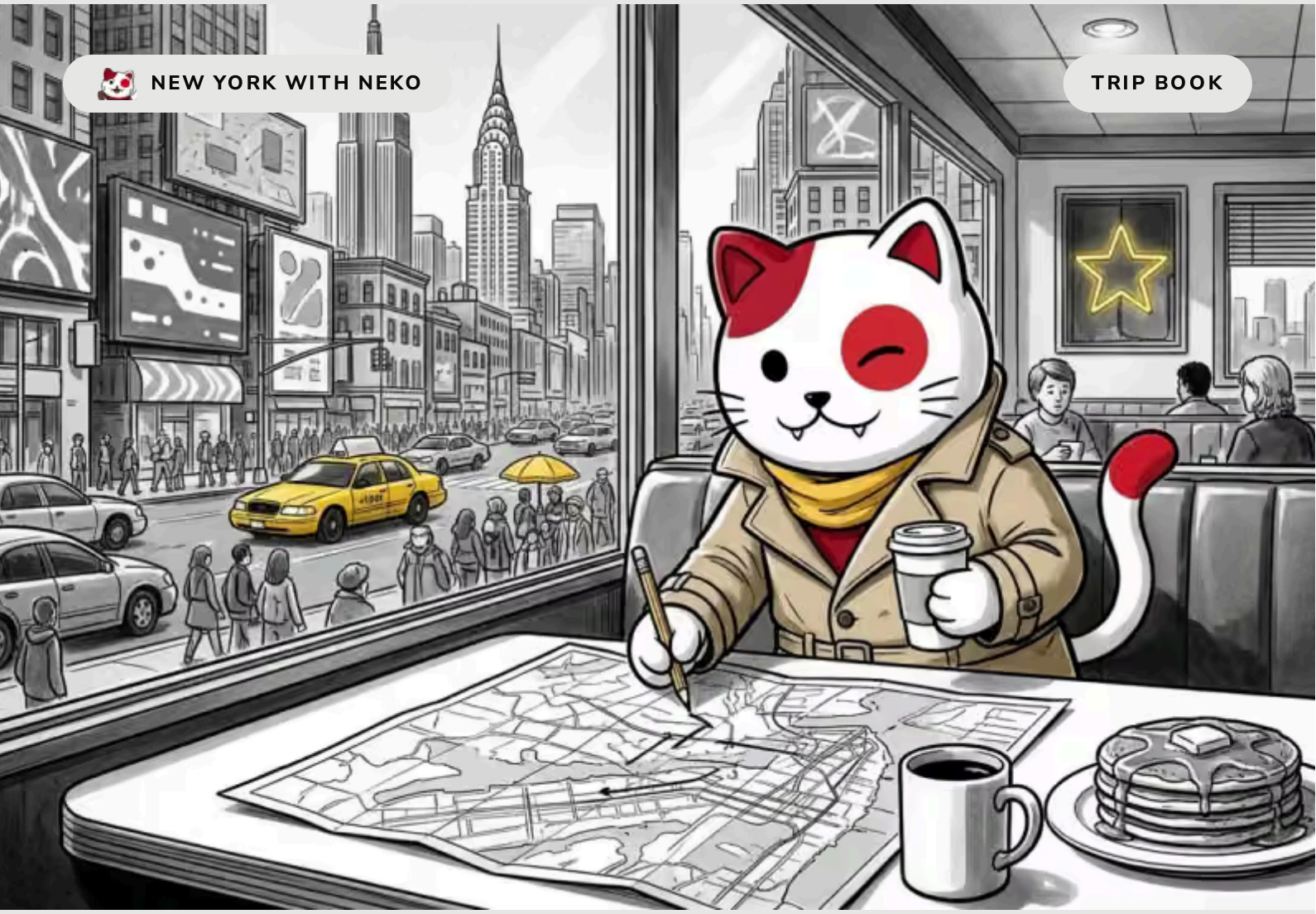


Emma and Sam in New York

6 days, from Monday, December 14 to Saturday, December 19, 2026

Subway and walking, normal pace

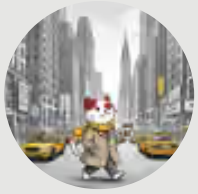
Midtown — **Lower Manhattan** — **Upper West Side**

6 days, one per page	**3** neighborhoods of New York	**15** visits, with times and prices	**3** bookings to make ahead

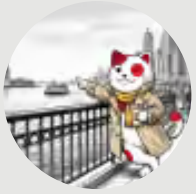
Made with Neko for **2 travelers**

Sunday, November 29, 2026

Your trip at a glance



Midtown
Day 2



Lower Manhattan
Day 3



Upper West Side
Day 4



Lower Manhattan
Day 5

DAY	DATE	HIGHLIGHTS
D1	Mon, Dec 14	**Arrival in New York**
D2	Tue, Dec 15	**Grand Central Terminal and Edge**
D3	Wed, Dec 16	**9/11 Memorial pools and Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island ferry**
D4	Thu, Dec 17	**American Museum of Natural History and The Met**
D5	Fri, Dec 18	**Manhattan sightseeing cruise and 9/11 Museum**
D6	Sat, Dec 19	**Departure day**

Planned around you

- **Subway and walking:** subway times between neighborhoods, walks inside them; no car needed
- **Normal pace:** a full day with time to breathe
- **Closing days:** the Met (Wednesdays), the Whitney (Tuesdays) and holiday closures placed on open days

Useful numbers

- **911** police, fire and ambulance, free from any phone
- **Your consulate** note its number before you leave, from your foreign ministry's site
- **Your plan, up to date** nycwithneko.com, in your account

Good to know

- December to February: short, cold days (highs around 40°F, 4°C, in January). Pack warm layers; each day lists an indoor option for bad weather.



Illustration

Day 1

Arrival in New York

Monday, December 14 · Midtown

1 h 30 on the move · 45 min planned

15:00
Afternoon

Land at JFK or Newark, ride into the city, check in

From JFK: the AirTrain to Sutphin Blvd–Jamaica ($8.75), then the E train ($3) to Midtown, about an hour. From Newark: the AirTrain to the rail station ($8.75 without a train ticket), then an NJ Transit or Amtrak train to Penn Station.

Hotels in Midtown Manhattan › · 1 h 30

17:30
Afternoon

Times Square after dark

A gentle first evening near your hotel.

45 min

My notes

BOOK FOR THIS DAY

Nothing to book: everything is on the spot.

PAID VISITS

Free day: streets, parks and views.

TONIGHT

Back to your hotel.


Illustration

Day 2

Grand Central Terminal and Edge

Tuesday, December 15 · Midtown

30 min on the move · 10 h 30 planned

09:00 Morning

Grand Central Terminal

The 1913 terminal on 42nd Street, open daily 5:15 a.m. to 2 a.m.

30 min · Free

09:30 Morning

Walk, about 15 minutes

15 min

09:45 Morning

Edge (Hudson Yards)

Outdoor sky deck on the West Side; hours on the official site.

Book › · 1 h 15

From $44 timed entry; from $36 booked 14+ days ahead

11:00 Morning

Walk, about 15 minutes

15 min

11:15 Morning

MoMA (Museum of Modern Art)

11 West 53 Street; Fridays until 8:30 p.m.

Book › · 2 h 30

$30 adults, $22 seniors 65+, $17 students, free 16 and under

13:45 Midday

Lunch

1 h

14:45 Afternoon

Free afternoon near your hotel: a café, a shop or a rest

2 h 15

18:30 Evening

A Broadway show

Book › · 3 h

Rain plan

Empire State Building or SUMMIT One Vanderbilt, indoors nearby.

My notes

BOOK FOR THIS DAY

A Broadway show: Book the big musicals ahead; the TKTS booth in Times Square sells same-day seats at up to 50% off, plus $8 per ticket.

PAID VISITS

Edge: From $44 timed entry; from $36 booked 14+ days ahead · MoMA: $30 adults, $22 seniors 65+, $17 students, free 16 and under

TONIGHT

Back to your hotel.



Illustration

Day 3

9/11 Memorial pools and Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island ferry

Wednesday, December 16 · Lower Manhattan

1 h 10 on the move · 9 h 15 planned

09:00 Morning

Subway to Lower Manhattan

2 or 3 express between Times Square and Fulton Street. About 25 minutes door to door, the walk to and from the station included.

25 min

09:25 Morning

9/11 Memorial pools

The two pools stand in the footprints of the Twin Towers.

45 min · Free

10:10 Morning

Walk, about 10 minutes

10 min

10:20 Morning

Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island ferry

Ferries from Battery Park (Castle Clinton); airport-style security before boarding.

Book › · 5 h

Ferry from $26, fees included; no park entrance fee

15:20 Afternoon

Lunch

1 h

16:20 Afternoon

Walk, about 10 minutes

10 min

16:30 Afternoon

Walk across the Brooklyn Bridge

The promenade is open at all times; completed in 1883.

Book › · 1 h · Free

17:30 Afternoon

Subway to Midtown

2 or 3 express between Times Square and Fulton Street. About 25 minutes door to door, the walk to and from the station included.

25 min

17:55 Afternoon

Bank of America Winter Village at Bryant Park

Holiday shops daily from October 28, 2026 to January 3, 2027; the ice rink stays open until February 28, 2027.

1 h 30 · **Free admission to the rink**

Rain plan

9/11 Museum or One World Observatory, indoors nearby.

My notes

BOOK FOR THIS DAY

Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island ferry: Statue City Cruises is the only ferry allowed to dock. Crown tickets sell out about 90 days ahead.

PAID VISITS

Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island ferry: Ferry from $26, fees included; no park entrance fee · Bank of America Winter Village at Bryant Park: Free admission to the rink

TONIGHT

Back to your hotel.



Illustration

Day 4

American Museum of Natural History and The Met

Thursday, December 17 · Upper West Side, Upper East Side

1 h 15 on the move · 10 h planned

09:35 Morning

Subway to Upper West Side

C between 42 Street–Port Authority and 81 Street–Museum of Natural History, or the 1 between Times Square and 79 Street. About 25 minutes door to door, the walk to and from the station included.

25 min

10:00 Morning

American Museum of Natural History

Open daily, closed Thanksgiving and Christmas Day.

Book › · 3 h

$37 adults, $30 seniors, $22 students (visitors from outside New York State)

13:00 Midday

Lunch

1 h

14:00 Afternoon

Walk to Upper East Side

20 min

14:20 Afternoon

The Met (Metropolitan Museum of Art)

1000 Fifth Avenue; Fridays and Saturdays until 9 p.m. Closed Wednesdays, Thanksgiving, December 25 and January 1.

Book › · 3 h

$30 adults, $22 seniors 65+, $17 students, free 12 and under

18:30 Evening

Subway to Midtown

Shuttle (S) between Times Square and Grand Central, and the 4 or 5 express between Grand Central and 86 Street (one change). About 30 minutes door to door, the walk to and from the station included.

30 min

19:00 Evening

A game or concert at Madison Square Garden

Knicks and Rangers games and concerts; dates on msg.com.

Book › · 3 h

My notes

BOOK FOR THIS DAY

Nothing to book: everything is on the spot.

PAID VISITS

American Museum of Natural History: $37 adults, $30 seniors, $22 students (visitors from outside New York State) · The Met: $30 adults, $22 seniors 65+, $17 students, free 12 and under

TONIGHT

Back to your hotel.



Illustration

Day 5

Manhattan sightseeing cruise and 9/11 Museum

Friday, December 18 · Lower Manhattan

1 h 10 on the move · 9 h 50 planned

09:00 Morning

Subway to Lower Manhattan

2 or 3 express between Times Square and Fulton Street. About 25 minutes door to door, the walk to and from the station included.

25 min

09:25 Morning

Manhattan sightseeing cruise

Several operators; Circle Line sails around Manhattan.

Book › · 1 h 30

10:55 Morning

Walk, about 10 minutes

10 min

11:05 Morning

9/11 Museum

Wednesday to Monday plus select Tuesdays; last entry 5:30 p.m.

Book › · 2 h

13:05 Midday

Lunch

1 h

14:05 Afternoon

Walk, about 10 minutes

10 min

14:15 Afternoon

One World Observatory

117 West Street; hours change with the season.

Book › · 1 h 15

15:30 Afternoon

Subway back to the hotel

2 or 3 express between Times Square and Fulton Street. About 25 minutes door to door, the walk to and from the station included.

25 min

15:55 Afternoon

Back to the hotel: rest before the evening

2 h 35

19:30 Evening

Dinner

1 h 30

Rain plan

Whitney Museum of American Art or Chelsea Market, indoors nearby.

My notes

BOOK FOR THIS DAY

9/11 Museum: Buy tickets in advance.

PAID VISITS

Free day: streets, parks and views.

TONIGHT

Back to your hotel.



Illustration

Day 6

Departure day

Saturday, December 19 · Midtown

30 min on the move · 1 h 30 planned

09:00 Morning

A last breakfast and a walk near the hotel

1 h 30

10:30 Morning

Check out and head to the airport with time to spare

30 min

My notes

BOOK FOR THIS DAY

Nothing to book: everything is on the spot.

PAID VISITS

Free day: streets, parks and views.

LAST DAY

Flight home: leave time for the airport.

Where you sleep, what to budget

Our checked hotels near your base. Prices change daily: the links open each hotel on Booking.com.

Luxury

The Knickerbocker ›

6 Times Square · Times Square. A 1906 hotel on the corner of 42nd Street and Broadway, with a 24-hour front desk and a Times Square–42nd Street subway entrance right outside its café.

Families

Arlo Midtown ›

351 W 38th Street · Midtown West. Family-friendly, with Two Full rooms of about 200 sq ft for up to 4 guests, a 24-hour gym and luggage storage before check-in.

Small budget

Pod Times Square ›

400 W 42nd Street · Midtown West. A 665-room pod hotel one block from the Port Authority Bus Terminal, with bunk pods for two and private bathrooms in every pod.

What to budget

- Paid visits in this plan: about $141 per adult (4 visits, official prices).
- Sales tax 8.875% is added at the till; hotel rooms also pay the city occupancy tax (5.875%) plus nightly fees, and many add a daily facility fee.
- Restaurants and bars: a tip is expected on top of the bill, unless a service charge is already on it.
- Subway and local bus: $3 a ride, never more than $35 in 7 days with the same card or phone.

Checklist, step by step

Documents

- [ ] ESTA or visa sorted, depending on your passport (ESTA only on esta.cbp.dhs.gov) — 2 months before
- [ ] Passport valid for the whole trip (an e-passport with a chip for the ESTA) — 2 months before
- [ ] Travel insurance with medical cover (US care is expensive) — 1 month before
- [ ] US travelers on domestic flights: REAL ID-compliant license or other TSA-accepted ID — 1 month before

Bookings

- [ ] Flights booked (set a price alert to watch fares) — 2 to 4 months before
- [ ] Hotel booked, nightly fees (urban or facility fee) checked — 2 months before
- [ ] Statue of Liberty ferry booked (Crown tickets sell out about 90 days ahead) — 3 months before
- [ ] Tickets for paid visits (the Met closed Wednesdays, the Whitney closed Tuesdays) — 2 weeks before

Money and phone

- [ ] Contactless card or phone for the subway ($3 a ride, $35 cap in 7 days) — Before you fly
- [ ] US eSIM or roaming plan — Before you fly
- [ ] Plug adapter for types A and B (120 V) — Before you fly

Health and safety

- [ ] Warm layers from November to March (Central Park highs 40 to 54°F) — Packing
- [ ] Comfortable walking shoes: you will walk a lot — Packing
- [ ] No tickets for the free Staten Island Ferry: ignore street sellers — On the spot

In your bag

- [ ] **Warm layers**
  highs around 40°F (4°C) in January
- [ ] **A small umbrella**
  rain or snow melt all year
- [ ] **A contactless card or phone**
  tap at the subway gates and on buses
- [ ] **Comfortable walking shoes**
  most days mix subway rides and long walks
- [ ] **Plug adapter A/B**
  US sockets, 120 V
- [ ] **Copies of your ESTA or visa and insurance**
  on paper and on your phone

New York in practice

Safety

- Emergency: 911 for police, fire and ambulance.
- Keep your phone and wallet in a front pocket in Times Square and on crowded trains.
- At night, stick to busy, well-lit streets.

Getting around

- Subway and local bus: $3 a ride, one free transfer within 2 hours.
- Never more than $35 in 7 days with the same contactless card or phone.
- From JFK or Newark, the AirTrain costs $8.75.

Money

- Prices are shown before tax; 8.875% sales tax is added at the till.
- Contactless cards work almost everywhere, subway gates and buses included.
- Hotel rooms pay extra taxes and often a daily facility fee.

Weather

- Average highs from 40°F (4°C) in January to 85°F (29°C) in July (NOAA normals, Central Park).
- Each day of your plan lists an indoor option for bad weather.
- Power: 120 volts, plug types A and B.