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▲ View of Manhattan from a boat.

A flight of a little over seven hours will see you in the heart of the buzzing, neon metropolis that is New York City. So where do you start? That really depends on how much time you have available to check out the sights of the city. And there are a lot of them!

On a sunny day, the green oasis that is Central Park is perfect for a leisurely stroll. Most people are unaware just how big Central Park is - it covers a massive 800 acres and is home to several formal gardens, a reservoir and even a zoo. You can spend a pleasant few hours wandering through the park, stopping occasionally to watch the street performers, before hitting the sidewalks to check out more of what New York has to offer.

If you have never visited New York before, taking a boat trip on the Hudson River to see the city's most

famous landmark, the Statue of Liberty is a must. Whilst Lady Liberty herself is impressive, you will also get some of the best views of Manhattan from the boat, so don't forget your camera!

For art aficionados, New York offers a wealth of choice. It is easy to spend a few hours at any of the galleries, such as the impressive Museum of Modern Art (MoMA) where you can marvel at modern masterpieces by the likes of Picasso, Warhol and Pollock, before taking time out at the museum café to decide where to head next!

A less well-known attraction is the High Line, an old railway line which has been converted into an elevated walkway lined with plants and trees. It is only a short hop from Times Square and is worth an hour or two of your time. What was once an elevated railway line (it was raised to stop the many accidents that had

What's Hot World?



occurred when it was at street level) through the former industrial heartland of Manhattan is now a unique, green space for everyone to enjoy. This is an example of urban regeneration at its finest.

If you fancy a break from sight-seeing, New York offers some of the best shopping on the planet. If time is tight, head for the big department stores such as Macy's and Bloomingdale's where you can get everything under one roof. Otherwise, pick a district and wander the streets checking out whatever catches your eye!

And no trip to New York would be complete without taking in a Broadway Show (or maybe even two

if you have time?). The productions are fantastic and the atmosphere on Broadway is electric -the excitement and anticipation before the show starts is tangible. Most people follow the show with a drink or two in one of the many nearby bars. And do not forget to head to Times Square after dark to check out those famous bright lights.

If you want to see the city from a different perspective, then head to Top of the Rock at the Rockefeller Centre. The views from 70 stories up are spectacular, affording photo opportunities in every direction... there are great views of some of New York's most recognisable landmarks – Central Park, Brooklyn Bridge, the Chrysler Building and the Empire State Building. And, unlike many other attractions, it never seems to get too crowded.

And what about eating and drinking in New York City? Well, places to eat and drink are certainly not in short supply in Manhattan, which is where most visitors to the city stay due to its proximity to many of the main attractions. There are cafes and restaurants to suit all budgets - from street vendors selling corn dogs, to the big restaurant chains through to high-end (and equally high-budget) eateries. The best way to find somewhere to eat? Ask a local for a recommendation – they usually have plenty of suggestions and you will end up somewhere that is not in your guidebook (nor anyone else's!). Food is generally of a high standard and the service is phenomenal almost everywhere.

Similarly, bars range from the pretty basic to elegant and sophisticated.

For a great evening of entertainment, head to a piano bar – the singers and musicians are of an incredibly

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high standard (they are all wannabe Broadway stars after all!) and they are lively and great fun. But if you want somewhere extra special to end your day, head to Bar SixtyFive on the 65th floor of the Rockefeller Centre.

Sipping champagne whilst watching the twinkling lights of New York City sprawled out below is an experience not to be missed!

New York offers everything you could want from a city, whether you are visiting for a long weekend or a fortnight. Fantastic entertainment, great food, stylish hotels, fabulous shopping and, most of all, it is one of the friendliest cities you will ever visit!



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