

UNITED STATES · CITY BREAKS · CULTURE · FOOD · ARCHITECTURE · NIGHTLIFE · HISTORY



New York City

New York is the UK's favourite transatlantic city break: Manhattan's skyline, Broadway, world-class museums, Central Park and food from every corner of the planet. Spring and autumn are the most comfortable seasons, December brings shop windows and the tree at Rockefeller Plaza, and January to early March has the cheapest hotels if you can face the cold.

 Read the UK government's travel advice for United States and entry requirements before you go.

 COUNTRY United States	 BEST TIME May–Jun, Sep–Oct	 FLIGHT FROM LONDON 8h direct ~£420–£850 return	 DAILY BUDGET £100–£460 £££ Expensive
 WARMEST MONTH July (29°C)	 SEA TEMPERATURE —	 TIME ZONE New York -5h vs UK now	 CURRENCY US dollar £1 ≈ US\$1.34

Most first trips last four to six nights in Manhattan, where Midtown puts the Empire State Building, Times Square, Broadway theatres and Fifth Avenue within walking distance. The subway runs around the clock and reaches Brooklyn's food scene, Yankee Stadium in the Bronx and the boardwalk at Coney Island. Repeat visitors often stay in Brooklyn or Queens for lower prices and a more local feel. Late April to June and September to early November bring the best walking weather; July and August are hot and sticky, and midwinter can stay below freezing for days, though crowds and hotel rates fall with the temperature.

Highlights

- 1

NATURE

Central Park

Some 840 acres of lakes, lawns and woodland laid out by Olmsted and Vaux from the late 1850s. Walk from the Mall to Bethesda Terrace and Bow Bridge, or hire a bike for the six-mile loop road.
- 2

HISTORY

Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island

Statue City Cruises runs the only ferries that land on both islands, leaving from Battery Park. Book pedestal or crown access weeks ahead, and allow time for Ellis Island's immigration museum, where millions of arrivals were processed.
- 3

CULTURE

The Metropolitan Museum of Art

One of the world's great museums, from the Egyptian Temple of Dendur to Vermeer, Rembrandt and Tiffany glass. Pick two or three galleries rather than trying to see it all, and finish on the seasonal roof garden.
- 4

ARCHITECTURE

Brooklyn Bridge and DUMBO

The 1883 suspension bridge carries a raised walkway with skyline views all the way across the East River. Walk over from Manhattan early in the morning, then explore DUMBO's cobbled streets and Brooklyn Bridge Park on the far side.

5

CITY

The High Line

A disused elevated freight railway turned into a planted walkway, running about 1.5 miles along Manhattan's West Side from the Meatpacking District to Hudson Yards. Combine it with Chelsea Market and the Whitney Museum at its southern end.

Where to stay

WHERE TO STAY

Midtown Manhattan

First-timers wanting to walk to Times Square, Broadway shows and the big landmarks; noisy and pricey, but with subway lines on every corner.

WHERE TO STAY

Lower Manhattan

Quieter in the evenings, with lower weekend hotel rates and the 9/11 Memorial, Wall Street and Statue of Liberty ferries close by.

WHERE TO STAY

Williamsburg, Brooklyn

Repeat visitors and food lovers: independent shops, bars and restaurants, with the L train reaching Manhattan in about ten minutes.

WHERE TO STAY

Long Island City, Queens

Good-value hotels with Manhattan skyline views, a stop or two from Midtown by subway; quieter after dark but kind to budgets.

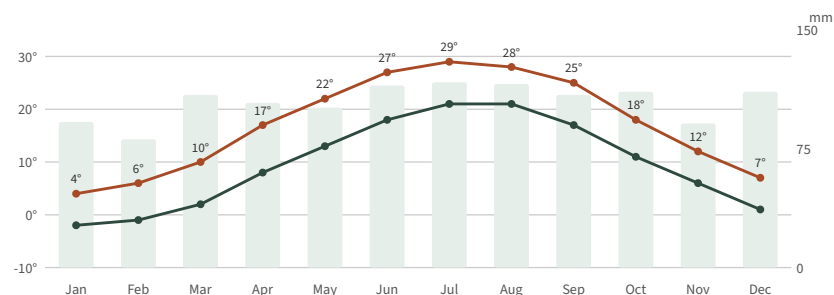
When to go to New York City

Best time: **May–Jun, Sep–Oct.**



Average climate in New York (Central Park)

High °C Low °C Rain (mm)



How much does New York City cost?

SHOESTRING

£100

per person / day
≈ US\$134

MID-RANGE

£240

per person / day
≈ US\$321

COMFORTABLE

£460

per person / day
≈ US\$615

Per person per day excluding flights. Return flights from London typically cost £420 off-peak and £850 in school holidays.

Visas & entry for New York City

Shown for a British passport.

Apply online before you go (travel authorisation)

To enter or transit through the US, you must have either an Electronic System for Travel Authorisation (ESTA) or a visa.

The US State Department has more information on visas.

From the UK government's FCDO entry requirements for British passport holders — read the full page for passport validity, permits and exceptions.

Health & vaccinations

See a travel health nurse, GP or travel clinic **6–8 weeks before you go**. Make sure routine UK vaccinations (such as MMR and diphtheria-tetanus-polio) are up to date.

RECOMMENDED FOR MOST TRAVELLERS

Tetanus

SOMETIMES ADVISED — DEPENDS ON YOUR TRIP, ACTIVITIES AND HEALTH

Rabies

YELLOW FEVER CERTIFICATE

No yellow fever certificate is required to enter.

MALARIA

No malaria risk

Source: TravelHealthPro (National Travel Health Network and Centre), checked 21 October 2026. This is a summary, not medical advice.

Public holidays in United States

The next 12 months. Banks, offices and some sights may close, and transport and hotels get busy around these dates.

Wed 11 Nov 2026	Veterans Day
Thu 26 Nov 2026	Thanksgiving Day
Fri 25 Dec 2026	Christmas Day
Fri 1 Jan 2027	New Year's Day
Mon 18 Jan 2027	Martin Luther King Jr. Day
Mon 15 Feb 2027	Washington's Birthday
Mon 31 May 2027	Memorial Day
Fri 18 Jun 2027	Juneteenth National Independence Day (observed)
Sat 19 Jun 2027	Juneteenth National Independence Day
Sun 4 Jul 2027	Independence Day
Mon 5 Jul 2027	Independence Day (observed)

Mon 6 Sep 2027	Labour Day
Mon 11 Oct 2027	Columbus Day

National holidays only. Dates based on lunar calendars can move by a day or two depending on official announcements.

Know before you go

Tap a contactless bank card or phone at subway turnstiles and on buses using OMNY. Fares cap automatically: after 12 paid rides within seven days on the same card, further rides are free.

Hotel rates are usually quoted before roughly 15% tax plus a nightly occupancy charge, and some still add a 'destination' or 'facility' fee, so compare final totals rather than headline prices before booking.

Plugs, money, phrases, emergency numbers and more: see our [United States guide](#).

Visa, health and safety rules change. Before you book or travel, check the FCDO travel advice (gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice) and TravelHealthPro (travelhealthpro.org.uk). Costs are estimates. © 2026 Pick My Trip.