

LET'S GO



 SCHOOL TOURS OF
AMERICA



New York City

This booklet is designed to be a helpful guide as you visit the beautiful city of New York. It will provide you with an overview of many of the sites you will see on your tour. It is also loaded with interesting facts and fun trivia questions!

New York City is one of the world's most amazing and exciting places to visit and is home to some of the most important cultural and patriotic sites in America. It represents America's hustle and bustle lifestyle, rich national heritage, and commitment to freedom and equality. It is also one of the most fun cities in the country, with more interesting events, plays, musical performances, and places to visit than almost any other city in the world.



The Five Boroughs

New York City is divided into five boroughs, which are large sections of the city, each with its own history and identity. The five boroughs of NYC are Manhattan, the Bronx, Brooklyn, Queens, and Staten Island.



Manhattan is the most well-known and frequently visited borough in the city. Manhattan is the city's business center and an excellent place for shopping. Most of the skyscrapers that dominate the NYC skyline are in Manhattan, including the Empire State Building; Manhattan was also the former home of the World Trade Center prior to the September 11 attacks on America. Other important Manhattan landmarks include Times Square, Wall Street, and the Lincoln Center. Manhattan is also home to the celebrated neighborhoods of Little Italy, Chinatown, Harlem, and Greenwich Village.

The Bronx is directly to the north of Manhattan and is home to the Yankees and the New York Botanical Gardens. It is less tourist-friendly than Manhattan but has its own rich cultural heritage.

Brooklyn, located South of Manhattan, is the most populated of the five boroughs. It is the home of Coney Island, one of the country's first amusement parks, the New York Aquarium, and Prospect Park.

Queens, located east of Manhattan, is the largest and most diverse of the five boroughs and, in fact, the most ethnically diverse county in the United States! Queens is also home to the New York Mets.

Staten Island, an island southwest of Manhattan, is the least populated and most suburban of the five boroughs. Called by some "the forgotten borough," it was undeveloped for most of its history until 1964, when the Verrazano Narrows Bridge gave the borough direct access to Brooklyn.



New York - Guess Who?

1. This basketball player was named "MVP" six times by the NBA while playing for the Milwaukee Bucks and the LA Lakers.
2. This pop star hit it big with songs like "Genie in a Bottle."
3. He was a Prohibition-era gangster who was finally sent to prison for tax evasion.
4. He's a famous comedian with a TV series "about nothing."
5. This scientist used the phrase "The Pale Blue Dot" to describe Earth and its size in comparison to space.
6. She is a true New York success story. She was the first female solo artist to win a Grammy for Best Rap Album for "Invasion of Privacy."
7. This musician has won 15 Grammy Awards and produced four Billboard Hot 100 number-one hits.
8. This famous tennis player became the top-ranked singles player in the world on March 3, 1980.
9. This New Yorker was the head coach of the Green Bay Packers in the 1960s and is considered to be among the greatest coaches of all time.
10. This American president from New York is the only man to serve more than two terms.

Getting Around New York City

Traveling in New York City is different from traveling almost anywhere else in the country. New York is home to 3,700 buses, 12,000 taxis, and over 714 miles of subway, making travel throughout New York a breeze for residents. And, of course, New York is a walking city, based largely upon a grid-based system of uptown/downtown streets and cross-town streets, making it very difficult to get lost. We'll discuss the way most New Yorkers get around so that you can get a feel for traveling in the city.

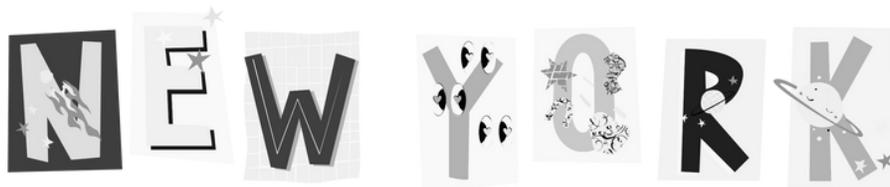
Walking in NYC



Most New Yorkers travel quite a bit on foot—and with over 6,400 miles of streets to walk, make sure you wear comfortable shoes if you plan on exploring the city on foot. New Yorkers are quite accustomed to walking through the city. Because of the hectic traffic, a walk is often the fastest and most efficient (not to mention the cheapest!) way to get from point A to point B. A short walk for the average New Yorker may be longer than ten city blocks! However, walking is absolutely the best way to experience New York City. From eye level, you can soak in all of New York's rich culture.

On the streets, you will find street performers and musicians, businessmen and women talking on their cell phones on their way to and from work, bicyclists and people on rollerblades rolling past, friends taking a nice stroll, or shoppers peeking into the windows of New York's many boutiques and restaurants. Walking through Manhattan is a particularly awesome experience as your neck cranes upwards to see the skyscrapers stretched out above your head. While Macy's and Saks Fifth Avenue present one side of the New York shopping experience, the local and neighborhood stores that you pass while walking are completely unique and should be explored as well!

One thing to be careful of when traveling through New York on foot is that New Yorkers walk very quickly to make up for the distance that they have to cover to arrive at their destinations. New Yorkers walk with a purpose and expect other pedestrians to get out of their way as they move. Stay towards the inside of the sidewalk if you are traveling slowly so that others moving faster can pass by you. Also, be especially careful when crossing streets: always wait for crosswalks before crossing because taxis and other vehicles travel quite quickly through the city.



The Subway



The New York subway is an extremely convenient way of covering large distances as you travel through the city. As a matter of fact, 3.5 million people ride the subway to work almost every day! Trains run 24 hours per day, covering 468 different train stations. There are 24 different bus routes throughout the city, each with either a letter (A, B, C, etc.) or a number (1, 2, 3, etc.). Because of the sheer number of different subway routes, taking the train is often intimidating for first-time riders.

Fortunately, with School Tours of America, we will guide you through the subway and prevent you from getting lost. Currently, the subway costs \$2.00 per ride, no matter how long you choose to ride or how many times you transfer—but once you leave the subway station, you have to pay to get back in.

The subway station can easily be seen from the street, identifiable by a staircase leading straight into the ground. Each subway will be marked to say which train lines stop at the station. There will be a large green ball outside of the station to indicate that there is a booth inside the station where you can buy tokens, or there will be a large red ball outside of the station to indicate that there is no booth inside. If there is no booth to purchase tokens at, then you will need to have tokens before riding the subway from that station.

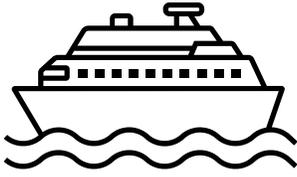
The New York Taxi



New York City is home to more than 12,000 taxicabs, most of which are packed into the island of Manhattan. To signal a taxi, stand on the curb and hold out your arm as the taxi approaches you. If the taxi is on duty, then the middle section of the light on top will be lit up. If the taxi is currently driving a passenger, then this light will not be on, and there will be an additional light if the taxi is off duty.

When hailing a taxi, it is smart to be on the side of the road that you plan on eventually heading to, as this will save your taxi driver the trouble of turning around. Every taxi that is legally permitted to pick up passengers without a pre-arranged meeting is yellow, and each taxi should have the driver's official information, including name and the taxi's number. There will also be a medallion affixed to the back seat, showing that the taxi is legally licensed to the state of New York. If you use a non-licensed or non-yellow cab, then you may very well be overcharged.

Taking the Ferry



When traveling to Liberty Island (home of the Statue of Liberty) and Ellis Island, you will have the opportunity to take a ferry across New York's harbor. The ferry experience is fantastic because it allows you to get into the city from a distance. You will also get to see the Statue of Liberty approach as you get closer to the island. Taking a ferry is a unique New York experience!

How Far?

Start at the Empire State Building and calculate the distance between these famous NYC locations. How long would it take you to travel from #1 to #5 using at least three different modes of transportation?

1. The Empire State Building - Manhattan
2. Yankee Stadium - the Bronx
3. Coney Island - Brooklyn
4. Aqueduct Racetrack - Queens
5. Staten Island Zoo - Staten Island



New York City: Home of the Arts

New York City is one of the cultural centers of the United States. As such, New York City hosts a wide array of centers for the advancement of the arts, including hundreds of museums, theaters, and opera houses, as well as world-famous Broadway. While an entire book could be written about the different opportunities to study the arts in New York, we will focus on some of New York's most legendary stops: Broadway, Lincoln Center, Radio City Music Hall, and the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

Broadway



Broadway, home to New York's most famous theaters and musical performances, is a must-stop for anyone visiting New York City for the first time. It is often very difficult to get tickets to Broadway performances, as many shows sell out quickly. Fortunately, the School Tours of America New York tour experience includes a stop on Broadway—including attending a performance!

Over 40 Broadway theaters operate in a 10-block area, all surrounding the center of the Big Apple: Times Square. Multiple performances run at any given time, including long-running hits like *Mama Mia!*, *the Lion King*, *the Producers*, *Wicked*, and *Chicago*.

Radio City Music Hall



Radio City Music Hall is the largest indoor theater in the world. Built during the Great Depression, Radio City Music Hall stands as a testament to John Rockefeller's vision for New York City. Radio City's marquee covers a full city block, and some of the world's most famous artists and performers have entertained in the hall. Located in the heart of Rockefeller Center, a tour through Radio City Music Hall is not to be missed!

Lincoln Center



The Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts is home to New York's high arts, including the Metropolitan Opera, the New York City Ballet, and the New York Philharmonic Orchestra. The Lincoln Center is also home to the Juilliard School, one of the top music conservatories in the world!

The Metropolitan Museum of Art



The Metropolitan Museum of Art, or “The Met” as it is known to the locals, holds the largest collection of artistic pieces in the Western Hemisphere. The Met holds more than 2 million pieces of art. If you get a chance, check out the Egyptian art section, which includes a completely reconstructed Egyptian temple complete with mummies! It is almost impossible to visit the entire museum in just one visit, so make sure that you carefully plan your visit to get the most out of one of the world’s most amazing art museums.

Which Museum?

At which NYC museums can you find the following exhibits?

1. The painting of *George Washington Crossing the Delaware*
2. Vincent Van Gogh, *A Starry Night*
3. A 94-foot-long, 21,000-pound model of a blue whale suspended from the ceiling
4. Edward Hopper, *Early Sunday Morning*
5. Judy Chicago, *The Dinner Party*
6. Louise Bourgeois, *Maman*

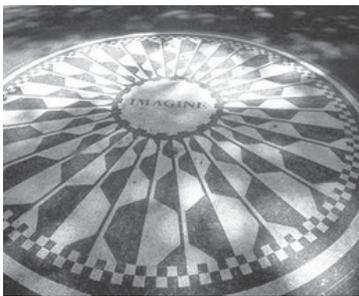


Relax like a New Yorker: Taking a Trip To Central Park

Central Park, located in the center of Manhattan, covers 843 acres of scenic land. The sharp contrast between the beautiful greenery of the Park and the concrete city that surrounds it truly explains why Central Park is considered New York's backyard. New Yorkers come to Central Park as a way to escape from the hectic, hustle and bustle lifestyle of the city and spend a few hours of leisure time walking the dog, throwing a Frisbee, or taking a nice stroll through New York's most beautiful and natural area. No trip to Central Park would be complete, of course, without a stroll through Strawberry Fields and the central gathering spot of Central Park, Bethesda Terrace.



Strawberry Fields



After John Lennon was shot in 1980, New York City renamed an important stretch of Central Park after one of the Beatles' most famous songs: Strawberry Fields Forever. Strawberry Fields is a particularly beautiful section of Central Park, a must-visit spot for any Beatles fan wishing to pay homage to the greatness of John Lennon. Almost every day, flowers are left on the Imagine mosaic at the center of Strawberry Fields.

Bethesda Terrace



Central Park is more than a place for New Yorkers to get away from life in the city; it is also a place for gathering with friends. If Central Park is the heart of Manhattan, then the heart of Central Park is Bethesda Terrace. Bethesda Terrace is the central gathering place in Central Park, and is the perfect place for people watching. The most famous piece of architecture in the entire park is the Bethesda Fountain. As you cross through Bethesda Terrace, you will see many street performers and musicians performing for the crowds.

Things to spot in Central Park

- *Street musicians or performers playing and performing for money
- *Professional dog walkers controlling upwards of 10 dogs at once
 - *New Yorkers standing on the green tossing a Frisbee
 - *Vendors selling ice cream and hot dogs
 - *The entrance to Central Park's Zoo
- *A couple taking a rowboat out on Central Park's lake
- *Beautiful carvings on Bethesda Terrace itself, such as the rising sun, an owl, and a witch.
- *People playing chess or checkers on special tables in the park.



Patriotic Sites in New York City

As one of America's first cities and its first great city, New York is one of the most historic and patriotic places in America. George Washington fought the British in New York and was also inaugurated as the first president of the U.S. in New York. This is why no visit to New York would be complete without a stop at several of the most important and visible signs of American patriotism: the Statue of Liberty, Ellis Island, Wall Street, and "Ground Zero," the 16-acre site where the Twin Towers used to stand.

The Statue of Liberty



The Statue of Liberty is our nation's oldest and most historic beacon of freedom. Given to America by the French in 1885, the Statue of Liberty stands 22 stories tall. It lies across the harbor, so visiting the national monument is a perfect opportunity for a ferry ride to Liberty Island, the statue's home. When you start across the harbor, the Statue appears small—but the closer you get to it, the more its grandeur becomes apparent. Looking up at Lady Liberty's torch and crown is an awe-inspiring experience.

Ellis Island



Ellis Island was America's first port of entry. More than 22 million immigrants came to the United States through Ellis Island by 1924, and it is suspected that 40% of the current U.S. population have ancestors who came to America through Ellis Island. Ellis Island is the home of a museum and the American Immigrant Wall of Honor, which lists the names of more than 600,000 immigrants who were registered to have entered through the port.

Ellis Island Passenger Search

Use the link below to search the passenger records for Ellis Island. <https://heritage.statueofliberty.org/passenger>

Wall Street



Wall Street, the home of the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE), is the financial center of the United States. 5.5 trillion dollars are traded on the NYSE every year. Wall Street got its name from the original Dutch settlement of New York when Wall Street was New York's city limit— a wall was constructed on one side of Wall Street in order to mark the edge of the city. The Federal Reserve Bank, where Federal monetary policy is set, is also located on Wall Street. While most of the banks have moved out of the area, Wall Street is still a symbol of the strength of American capitalism.

The National September 11 Memorial & Museum



The National September 11 Memorial & Museum is a hallowed site that should be visited by every American in the post-September 11th world. This site remembers and honors the 2,983 people killed in the attacks of September 11, 2001, and February 26, 1993, as well as those who risked their lives to save others and all who demonstrated extraordinary compassion in the aftermath.

The museum is located at the World Trade Center site, the former location of the Twin Towers, and is a testament to the triumph of human dignity. It also affirms the unwavering commitment to the value of human life. Your visit here is one of the most important aspects of your trip to New York and is an opportunity to reflect on what it means to be an American in today's society.



Famous Churches and Cathedrals in New York

New York is home to many of the nation's greatest churches and cathedrals. In the School Tours of America New York program, you will visit several of the most important and historic churches in New York, including St. Patrick's Cathedral, St. Paul's Chapel, Trinity Church, and the Cathedral of St. John the Divine.

St. Patrick's Cathedral



St. Patrick's Cathedral, completed in 1879, is the largest decorated Gothic-style Catholic cathedral in the U.S. The Cathedral has gorgeous stained glass pieces, especially the beautiful rose window that adorns the face of the church. The church's gothic spires rise 330 feet above the level of the streets. Every year, more than 3 million people come to visit the Cathedral. Church services are still held every week in the Cathedral.

St. Paul's Chapel



Located directly across from Ground Zero, St. Paul's Chapel is one of America's oldest churches. Completed in 1766, St. Paul's is Manhattan's oldest public building, which is still in use and is the only remaining colonial church. George Washington himself attended service in St. Paul's on the day of his inauguration as the first President of the United States. After the September 11th attacks, St. Paul's became a central station in the relief effort.

Trinity Church



Trinity Church, built in 1846, was one of Manhattan's first and most important Catholic churches. Its single neo-Gothic spire dominated the Manhattan skyline in the 19th century. Of course, skyscrapers have been built around the church, but Trinity Church remains one of New York's most important seminal places of worship. Its historic graveyard includes the grave of Alexander Hamilton.

The Cathedral of St. John the Divine



Construction of the Cathedral of St. John the Divine began in 1982—and the Cathedral is still not completed! The Cathedral is enormous: it is the largest cathedral in the world, and the Statue of Liberty could fit underneath the central dome. It is even larger than Notre Dame in Paris!

Make sure you keep your eyes open because there is so much to see in this Cathedral that no tour guide could describe every detail—from the beautiful stonework and stained glass windows to the gorgeous silk tapestries and the national AIDs memorial. The Cathedral of St. John the Divine is truly an amazing place.

New York City Trivia

1. True or False? Honking your horn is illegal in NYC.
2. Whose eyeballs are kept in a safety deposit box in NYC after being stolen during his autopsy?
3. How many languages are spoken in NYC?
4. Which of the five boroughs is home to three of the world's top-visited tourist attractions?
5. How many acres does Central Park cover?
6. Who gifted the US the Statue of Liberty in 1886?
7. How many miles of subway tracks are there in NYC?
8. What was the original name of NYC?
9. Which iconic NYC building has its own zip code?
10. Which NYC bridge is older than London's Tower Bridge?



New York City “Must See” Locations

New York, as one of the most important cities in the U.S., is home to some truly amazing buildings. These landmark tourist attractions are also some of the busiest places in New York and the United States. These buildings and sights are truly memorable and will prove to you that New York City is truly larger than life. The Empire State Building, Trump Tower, the United Nations Building, and Times Square are some of the amazing “must-see” locations that you will visit with School Tours of America.

Empire State Building



Standing at 102 stories, the Empire State Building is the tallest skyscraper in New York. From the public observatory on the top of the building, you can see all of New York stretched out below you—and if you look off in the distance, you can see as far as 80 miles away, including land in five states! In 1955, the American Society for Engineers declared it the Eighth Wonder of the Modern World. The Empire State Building is currently the home of almost all of New York’s commercial broadcast stations.

Rockefeller Center



Rockefeller Center, home to Radio City Music Hall, is a complex of 19 commercial buildings between 48th and 51st streets in Manhattan. One of the skyscrapers in Rockefeller Center is home to NBC Studios. Be on the lookout for famous statues, such as Atlas holding up the world or Prometheus bringing fire to mankind. In the winter, the plaza of Rockefeller Center becomes a giant ice-skating rink, visited by 250,000 New Yorkers every year!

United Nations



The United Nations building does international business, and you can see the flags of every single member state (191 different flags in all) flapping in the wind above 1st Avenue. Also, the U.N. is not technically part of America: it is a special international area that has its own fire department and postal service, where you can only mail things with special U.N. stamps. Try sending yourself a postcard!

Times Square



Times Square at night is truly a sight to behold: home to the famous New Year's Eve ball drop, Times Square is one of the most enduring images of New York's status as "the city that never sleeps." Times Square is brightly lit all throughout the night by jumbotron and gigantic neon advertisements. Times Square got its name because it was the original home of the New York Times (which has now moved elsewhere), and now it is also home to MTV Studios and ABC Studios.

Interesting Facts About Times Square

1. Times Square was formerly known as Longacre Square until 1904, when it took on its current name after the New York Times moved its headquarters there.
2. Despite its name, Times Square is not geometrically a square at all. It's actually closer in shape to two triangles, with Broadway running diagonally and intersecting the horizontal and vertical street grid of Manhattan.
3. Times Square is one of the most visited places around the world, with approximately 340,000 pedestrian visitors each day, amounting to over 124 million a year.
4. The NASDAQ sign at Times Square is the largest LED sign in the world, with a height of 37 feet and it cost over \$37 million to be built.
5. It costs between \$1.1 million and \$4 million a year if you want to buy an LED sign at Times Square.
6. Times Square is so brightly lit, making it one of the few places on Earth that can be seen from outer space.
7. The first Times Square New Year's Eve ball drop was held on December 31, 1907, to welcome 1908. Ever since, the ball drop has been held annually, with the only exception if the years of 1942 and 1943 in observance of wartime blackouts.
8. On August 15, 1945, the largest crowd in the history of Times Square — an estimated 2 million people— gathered to celebrate the US victory in World War II.

Taking a Trip Through Manhattan's Historic Neighborhoods

Manhattan is home to many important and historic neighborhoods that are completely unique to New York. These Manhattan neighborhoods are great tourist stops: some are home to America's hip culture, some are great tourist stops, and some are home to a wide array of art galleries. As you tour these areas, make sure you check out the unique architecture and style associated with the neighborhood. We'll discuss Greenwich Village, Chinatown, Little Italy, and SoHo in more detail.

Greenwich Village

Greenwich Village was the birthplace of cool. Since the 1950s, Greenwich Village has been home to many of the nation's most famous bohemians and beats, including John Kerouac, Allen Ginsberg, and Lawrence Ferlinghetti. The heart of the village, Washington Square Park, is a 9 ½ acre park that accommodates street performers, skateboarders, and chess players. While in the area, check out the hip boutiques and impressive array of used CDs and bookstores. Greenwich Village is also home to some of America's most famous coffeehouses, such as Caffè Reggion and Café Figaro. New York University is located in Greenwich Village, just outside of Washington Square Park.

Chinatown

Chinatown, one of the most famous and interesting tourist stops in New York, also contains the largest Asian community in North America. Walking down Canal Street (the main street in Chinatown), one is practically transported halfway across the world. You will hear Mandarin spoken and see signs written in different Chinese languages and dialects all throughout the area. Chinatown also has some of the best Chinese cuisine in the entire U.S.! Shopping in Chinatown is great—you can get some amazing souvenirs for an extremely low price in all-purpose stores throughout the area.

SoHo

SoHo, which is short for "South of Houston", is the artistic center of Manhattan, home to almost 250 art galleries and four museums. SoHo has the city's largest collection of cast-iron fronted buildings. These buildings were originally manufacturing warehouses but were converted into living spaces called "lofts," which have high ceilings and are generally inhabited by the city's artists and sculptors.

Little Italy

While most Italians have moved out of Little Italy to other boroughs, Little Italy in Manhattan was the original home of Italian immigrants to the United States. Mulberry Street, the chief road in modern Little Italy, still possesses all of the area's charm—boasting an amazing selection of Italian restaurants and bakeries. Other Little Italy landmarks include St. Patrick's Church and the Police Building.

Guide to Shopping in New York City

New York City is one of the most amazing places to shop in the world! While you are touring with School Tours of America, there will be several great stops along the way to check out some of the local boutiques and shops, as well as opportunities to go to some of the most high-class shopping areas in the entire U.S. We'll highlight some of the best stops on your trip.

Saks Fifth Avenue



Located across the street from Rockefeller Center, Saks Fifth Avenue is the city's original high-class department store. Occupying a full city block and rising ten stories above the street level, Sak's is home to famous designers such as Chanel, Louis Vuitton, and Tiffany's. Of course, as a department store, lower-priced stores are also available. Also, check out the FAO Schwarz store on Fifth, which offers an amazing selection of toys, as well as an old-time ice cream parlor and candy shop.

Macy's Department Store



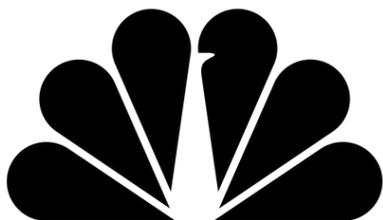
This isn't your local department store, Macy's. The Macy's in New York City is one of the chain's flagship stores, with ten floors of shopping. The "cellar" of the department store has a Sharper Image store and several places to eat, and the other floors have boutiques for Louis Vuitton, Coach, and DKNY, among other designers.

The NBA Store



The NBA store, located on Fifth Avenue, has an amazing selection of basketball memorabilia, from jerseys to basketballs to posters to apparel. The NBA store is a must-stop shop for any basketball fan. Among the highlights are a basketball court on the main floor and a life-sized Shaq bobblehead.

The NBC Experience



The NBC Experience, located in Rockefeller Plaza, is a truly gorgeous place to shop for NBC paraphernalia and merchandise. Designed mostly out of laminated glass, the store's striking layout and design make it a completely unique shopping experience. Even if you aren't interested in the merchandise, definitely walk through this amazing store!

Chinatown



Chinatown is a great place to shop, especially if you're looking for a fake Rolex or a fake pair of designer sunglasses. The general stores throughout Chinatown have an unbelievable hodge-podge collection of different things to buy. Browsing in Chinatown is a great (and low-budget!) way to get a great New York souvenir.

New York Boutiques



As you tour with STA, you will see literally hundreds of independently owned shops and boutiques. From the used CD stores in Greenwich Village to the art galleries in SoHo to the independent shops up and down Fifth Avenue, New York has something for everyone. Keep your eyes peeled as you tour the city for places that interest you!

Thank you for traveling with School Tours of America!

