

## Activity Description



### New York – Mini Stay

#### **Downtown NYC Tour**

When you get off the ferry, you are in Battery Park.

##### **Stop #1: Battery Park**

- Battery Park is a public park named for the artillery batteries that were positioned there to protect New York City in its early years.

Head straight to the Castle Clinton National Monument (circular fort).

##### **Stop #2: Castle Clinton National Monument**

- Castle Clinton, also known as Fort Clinton, is a fort made of sandstone. Before we had Ellis Island, Castle Clinton was the first immigration station in the U.S.
- Between 1855 and 1890, more than 8 million people passed through Castle Clinton when they arrived in the United States.
- In the past, it's been used for military protection, an entertainment center, an immigration station, and an aquarium, but today, it's a national monument. Feel free to go inside and see the small museum. We're only going to spend five minutes here,

Pro tip: The golden sphere you see near the Castle Clinton National Monument was rescued from the World Trade Center plaza.

Walk straight through the park towards the corner of Battery Place & State St. Exit the park on Bowling Green. Stop at the National Archives at NYC--1 Bowling Green--on your right.

##### **Stop #3: The National Museum of the American Indian**

- The National Museum of the American Indian is part of the Smithsonian Institution.
- This museum contains contemporary and historical exhibits of art and artifacts by and about Native Americans.
- The museum is housed in the historic Alexander Hamilton U.S. Customs House. The Alexander Hamilton U.S. Custom House is on the same site as Fort Amsterdam, which is the original center of the New Amsterdam settlement (the name of New York when it was settled by the Dutch in the 17th century).
- If you want to come back here later during free time, it is free of charge and open until 5pm.

Backtrack a bit on Bowling Green and turn on Broadway. At the top of the Bowling Green Triangle, you will see the Charging Bull and the Fearless Girl.



#### **Stop #4: Charging Bull and Fearless Girl statues**

- We're in Bowling Green Park, which is the oldest public park in New York City. It was built in 1733, and the fence you see around the park is its original fence from the 18th century. During colonial times, anti-British protests were held here. And before it became a park, this space was used as a cattle market.
- The Charging Bull is one of the most iconic images of New York City and symbolizes the aggressive financial optimism and prosperity of Wall Street.
- The bull sculpture is made of bronze and weighs 7,100 pounds, or 3,200 kilograms.
- Opposite the Charging Bull is the Fearless Girl statue, which was installed the day before International Women's Day this year (in March). It is supposed to encourage gender diversity within the workplace.
- We'll stop here for a few minutes to take pictures.

Give the students a few minutes to take pictures. Continue up Broadway. Stop at Trinity Church at the intersection of Broadway and Wall Street.

#### **Stop #5: Trinity Church**

- Trinity Church is an Episcopal church that has been an integral part of New York City since 1697, when King William III of England granted Trinity Church a charter.
- The church building you see here is the third that was built on this site; the first was destroyed in a fire in 1776, and the second was damaged in a big snowstorm in 1839. This church building opened in 1846 and was built in the 19th century Gothic Revival style. It is a National Historic Landmark.
- The 12 change-ringing bells on the steeple are the only set in the United States. They rotate 360 degrees and the sound they produce is unique.
- If you want to go inside, you can see some of the oldest stained glass in the United States. Outside, you may be able to find Alexander Hamilton's grave. He is buried in the churchyard.
- We'll stop here for a few minutes in case you want to peek inside. If you do, please remember to be quiet and respectful.

Turn onto Wall Street.

#### **Stop #6: Wall Street**

- This is where two of the world's biggest stock exchanges are located. Wall Street essentially represents the American financial sector.
- Wall St. was named for a wall that used to exist here. That wall was built in the 17th century to protect New Amsterdam, the Dutch settlement that later became New York City. Point out the plaque at #1 Wall Street (BNY Mellon Building--formerly the Bank of New York) that says "Site of Wall of New Amsterdam."
- You'll be able to see the New York Stock Exchange on the right.



#### **Stop #7: Federal Hall National Memorial**

- The Federal Hall National Memorial is located on the site of New York's first City Hall. It later served as the first U.S. Capitol Building and it is where the inauguration of George Washington as the first U.S. president took place.
- Although it was demolished in 1812, the current building was rebuilt in 1842 as the U.S. Customs House and now it serves as a memorial.
- We'll stop here for a few minutes so you can take pictures on the steps of the Federal Hall National Memorial.

Pro tip: 40 Wall Street is a Trump building.

Continue down Wall Street and turn left on William Street. Turn left on Pine Street. Go up a few blocks, and turn right on Broadway.

#### **Stop #8: Zuccotti Park**

- This used to be called Liberty Plaza Park, but it was very damaged in the 9/11 attacks. After renovations, it was renamed Zuccotti Park.
- This park was the site of the famous Occupy Wall Street protest camp in 2011.

Continue on Broadway until you get to St. Paul's.

#### **Stop #9: St. Paul's Chapel**

- St. Paul's Chapel is part of the Trinity Parish. It just celebrated its 250th anniversary in October 2016.
- George Washington prayed here after his inauguration as President of the United States in 1789.
- It is the oldest surviving church building and the oldest public building in continuous use in Manhattan; it was built in 1766 and it withstood big events like the Great Fire of 1766 that destroyed Trinity Church and even the 9/11 attacks, despite how close it is to the World Trade Center. Therefore, its nickname is "The Little Chapel That Stood."
- After 9/11, St. Paul's Chapel was a place of refuge for rescue workers.

Just past St. Paul's, turn left on Vesey Street. Once you hit Greenwich (right before the WTC PATH station), turn left and loop around onto Fulton. The 9/11 Memorial North Pool will be on your left.



#### **Stop #10: 9/11 Memorial**

- The 9/11 Memorial commemorates the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001 that killed nearly 3,000 people.
- The memorial opened on the 10th anniversary of 9/11.
- The pools and waterfalls you will see, called “Reflecting Absence,” represent the footprints of the Twin Towers (the North and the South Towers). The pools are symbols for the loss that the U.S. has experienced.
- The pools are surrounded by oak trees. The first ring of trees around each pool is 212 feet from one side to the other. This represents the exact dimension of the Twin Towers. The trees represent where the columns of the towers were.
- There’s also a tree over there between the North and South pools called the “Survivor Tree.” The “Survivor Tree” was uncovered from the remains of the World Trade Center. It was burned and only had one branch left. It’s a symbol of perseverance and an important component of the 9/11 Memorial.
- You will have some time here at the 9/11 Memorial to take in the memorial and process it. Please be quiet and respectful. We’ll meet back here at \_\_\_\_\_.

You will easily be able to see the World Trade Center Oculus (the white winged building).

#### **Stop #11: World Trade Center Oculus**

Optional excursion during free time: Freedom Tower (**tickets should be purchased through the Campus Manager in advance**), National Museum of the American Indian (free), South Street Seaport (free)

- We’re going to have some free time at the World Trade Center Oculus. The Oculus opened in August 2016. It is the centerpiece of the World Trade Center Transportation Hub. It was designed to resemble a bird being released from a child’s hands.
- The Westfield World Trade Center Mall inside the Oculus is home to shops like Apple, Banana Republic, Dior, Kate Spade, Lacoste, Sephora, Swatch, and UGG.
- If you’re hungry, you can also find Eataly, coffee shops like Starbucks and Dunkin Donuts, bakeries, and restaurants.
- If you don’t want to shop here, you can go back to the National Museum of the American Indian, which is free, or visit South Street Seaport. I can give you directions to both places if you want. If you have tickets to the Freedom Tower, please follow your group leader and me to the Freedom Tower.
- Please meet back here at \_\_\_\_\_.



Directions to National Museum of the American Indian (about a 15-minute walk):

Walk South on Church Street. When you get to Zuccotti Park (Church St. and Liberty St.), turn left. Turn right on Broadway. Take Broadway down past the Charging Bull and you will run into the National Museum of the American Indian.

Directions to South Street Seaport (about a 12-minute walk):

From Church Street, walk East on Fulton Street. You'll hit the district at Water Street.

Information about South Street Seaport:

- South Street Seaport is a historic district and has some of the oldest architecture in downtown Manhattan.
  - A pier was established around here in 1625, eventually it was expanded to South Street, and it became a popular area among traders.
  - In 1835, a fire destroyed parts of South Street Seaport, but it was rebuilt and reached its heyday in 1850.
1. Today, in addition to having a great view of the Brooklyn Bridge, South Street Seaport has museums, boutiques, shops such as Abercrombie & Fitch, GUESS, and Superdry, and many restaurants and food stalls.