BN JOURNAL



48 HOURS IN NEW YORK

ISSUE 010

The icons, done properly.



Central Park, a great museum, Fifth Avenue and Manhattan from above. Start uptown, move south and let sunset set the pace of your evening.

09:00 / A GREEN BEGINNING

Central Park

Start near East 72nd Street and stroll towards Conservatory Water. Keep this first walk short; leave time to reach The Met on Fifth Avenue for opening.



10:00 / THE MAIN EVENT

The Met

Allow two to two-and-a-half hours. Choose two departments that interest you, rather than racing through every gallery. This visit is The Met Fifth Avenue, not The Cloisters.



12:30 / THE LUNCH BREAK

Lunch, unhurried

Eat near the museum before heading south. Choose a neighbourhood cafe with an available table; this pause belongs in the itinerary as much as the art does.



14:00 / THE AVENUE

Fifth Avenue

Ride to Fifth Avenue at 59th Street, then stroll south past the shop windows and St. Patrick’s Cathedral. Continue towards Bryant Park; the Empire State Building lies farther south.



SUNSET / THE SKYLINE

Empire State Building

Book timed entry around 60-90 minutes before local sunset. Allow time for security, exhibits and lifts. The 86th-floor open-air deck is our classic New York choice.



AFTER THE VIEW / DINNER

Minetta Tavern

Head downtown for a booked Village dinner at 113 MacDougal Street. Set the table time after your observatory visit; in summer this may mean a late dinner.



OPTIONAL NIGHT / VILLAGE VANGUARD - Choose a published late set only if sunset and dinner leave enough time. Otherwise make jazz your alternative evening, not another deadline.



Modern art. Downtown energy.



MoMA first, SoHo for lunch, Brooklyn for the wide view. This is a full day: use the subway for the long gaps and keep the browsing selective.

09:00 / AN EASY START

Coffee, then Midtown

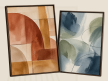
Have breakfast near your hotel, then travel to Midtown. Aim to reach West 53rd Street before your booked museum entry; keep a little margin for the journey.



10:30 / A DIFFERENT LENS

MoMA

Give modern and contemporary art about two hours at 11 West 53rd Street. Pick a few galleries and stay with what catches you. Check which works are currently on view.



13:30 / LUNCH & STREET LIFE

SoHo + Nolita

Take the subway downtown. Lunch first, then a short loop around Prince, Greene and Elizabeth Streets. Cast-iron facades, one good shop and a little room to wander.



15:30 / THE CROSSING

Brooklyn Bridge

Travel to the Manhattan pedestrian entrance, then cross towards Brooklyn. Allow roughly an hour with photo stops. Keep the afternoon flexible if the bridge is crowded.



16:30 / THE WIDE SHOT

DUMBO waterfront

Continue to Brooklyn Bridge Park. Find a place by the river, photograph the skyline and stay for an early dinner nearby. The waterfront deserves more than a quick photo.



19:00 / THE WATER RETURN

Back by ferry

Take an East River ferry towards Wall St/Pier 11; check live departures and service changes. After arrival, walk the Financial District or head straight back to your hotel.



OPTIONAL FINALE / OVERSTORY - Around 21:00, a booked cocktail at 70 Pine Street adds one last Manhattan view. Dress for the evening and check the current minimum spend.

Make it your city.

TWO NIGHTS / A GOOD BASE / ROOM TO IMPROVISE

01 / WHERE TO STAY



Nine Orchard

A Lower East Side base for the downtown half of your trip, with Corner Bar downstairs. Allow a subway or taxi journey to start both mornings uptown.

The Bowery Hotel

A NoHo alternative with Gemma downstairs. Good for downtown evenings; plan the journey to Central Park and MoMA before setting out.



02 / BOOK THE ANCHORS

Book the three big moments.

Book The Met, MoMA and Empire State timed entry first. Choose the observatory slot for local sunset, then reserve dinner around it. Jazz is optional. Overstory reservations currently carry a $75 food-and-drink minimum per person; guests must be 21+.

03 / MOVE WITH THE NEIGHBOURHOODS

Walk the blocks. Ride the gaps.

Use OMNY contactless payment on the subway; check weekend service changes. Ride between uptown, Midtown and downtown rather than walking every gap. NYC Ferry uses separate tickets. In heavy rain, shorten the park and bridge walks; allow more museum time.

04 / KEEP THE WEEKEND FLEXIBLE

Two full days and two nights. Times are editorial suggestions. The Met is closed Wednesdays: swap days if needed. Sunset shifts by season; move dinner and drop jazz when it falls late. Confirm tickets, opening hours, ferry service and venue policies before travelling.

THE EDIT / Uptown icons. Downtown character. Brooklyn perspective.

Official museum, observatory, venue, NYC Ferry, MTA and park websites linked throughout; tap named entries. Details checked 22 October 2026. Selections and routes are BN editorial choices. AI illustrations are not documentary photographs.