



Tour:

NYC Gamer & Tech

Destination:

Manhattan, New York

Itinerary:

5-days / 4-nights

NYC GAMER & TECH					
Day	Morning	Afternoon		Evening	
1	Travel to New York & transfer to Hotel		Hotel Check-In + Welcome, Safety & Orientation Meeting	Welcome Dinner	Evening Times Square Walk + Group Photo
2	Intro to Game Design	Unreal Creations - Unreal Engine	Liberty Science Center & Life Cycles of the Stars Planetarium Presentation	Local Dinner	Empire State Building
3	Advanced 3D Modeling with Autodesk Maya	Coding Virtual Rovers	Design Thinking with Tinkercad	Local Dinner	Broadway Show
4	Columbia University - Campus Tour	Statue of Liberty & Ellis Island Immigration Museum with Audio Guides		VR World	Farewell Dinner
5	Depart NYC for Home				



As with all sample itineraries, please be aware that this is an “example” of a schedule and that the activities and hotels shown may be variable dependent upon dates, weather, special requests, and other factors. Itineraries will be confirmed prior to travel.



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HISTORY HITCH
 History, Language & Culture Tours

New York City... Immerse yourself in New York City for five minutes and you'll see why it's like no other place on earth. Its why countless people have pinned their dreams here, thrown caution to the wind and shown up on its doorstep. And its why visitors keep streaming in from all corners of the globe, discovering fabulous opportunities and innovation along the way. New York is a city filled with science, history, arts and culture around every corner. The buildings are soaring, crowds are boisterous and diverse, there's zillions of restaurants and shops that cater to every conceivable taste, museums and performance venues offer everything from masterworks to avant-garde creations. The city is bubbling over with energy and the result is a beautiful, electric and very fun New York City!



Did you know?

- ✓ The term “Big Apple” originally referred to horse racing! The city got its most famous nickname from a local newspaper’s horse racing column in the 1920s. Prior to the city’s adoption of the nickname, the phrase “Big Apple” was used to describe a big money prize at horse races held around the city.
- ✓ New Yorkers speak approximately 800 languages. Over 37 percent of New Yorkers were born in another country, so it’s unsurprising that the city’s residents speak a wide range of languages—but by any account, 800 is impressive. 4 in 10 households speak a language other than English.
- ✓ Most of us associate cowboys with the Wild West—not the West Side of Manhattan. But from 1850 to 1941, New York’s 10th Avenue had its own special team of cowboys. Responsible for wrangling people rather than cows, the West Side Cowboys would ride on horseback ahead of the freight trains that ran down the middle of the street, warning people to get out of the way.
- ✓ NYC’s population is the highest of any American city and a little over 8 million people live in the City. It means 1 in every 38 people in the United States call the city home. With over 27,000 people per square mile, it’s not just the densest major city, it also accounts for more than 40 percent of New York State’s entire population.
- ✓ The Bronx takes its name from its first European settler. Jonas Bronck, who moved to America from Sweden in 1639, was the first European to settle in the Bronx. His farm, covering about 500 acres, was referred to as “Bronck’s Land,” and the river was called “Bronck’s River.” Over the years, people started calling the whole area the “Bronx”.
- ✓ France gifted the Statue of Liberty to the United States in 1886 for its centennial celebration. The



statue was shipped as 350 pieces in 214 crates and took 4 months to assemble at its current home on Ellis Island.

- ✓ New York City's Federal Reserve Bank has the largest gold storage in the world. The vault is 80 feet below street level and contains \$90 billion in gold.
- ✓ The first pizzeria in the United States opened in NYC in 1895. Since the 1960s, the price of a slice of pizza has been roughly the same price as a subway ride, generating the idea of "Pizza Principle" among economists.
- ✓ Times Square is named after the New York Times. It was originally called Longacre Square until the Times moved there in 1904.
- ✓ New York City became the first capital of the United States in 1789.

Day 1 – Welcome to New York City!

Meals en route on own; dinner included

Travel to NYC, transfer to your hotel, get unpacked, and get ready for a week of brilliance! Once settled in, we'll have our **Welcome, Safety & Orientation** Meeting. If you arrive early and have free time, we're happy to help you with entertainment options. Explore the city and have fun. This evening, we'll head out for Times Square and dinner.

Your hotel will be allocated upon booking. Dependent upon hotel options, breakfasts will generally be taken at your hotel, lunches are on your own so we can stop at a variety of places and enjoy different types of food, and dinners are at various restaurants in the NYC area. Hotel selections will feature two queen/double beds.



This evening, after dinner in Manhattan, we'll trek through **Times Square** to soak up the culture. We'll meet for a photo op and enjoy the night!

Times Square Exploration – Times Square is a major commercial intersection, tourist destination, entertainment center and neighborhood in the Midtown Manhattan section of NYC at the junction of Broadway and 7th Avenue. Brightly lit by numerous billboards and advertisements, it stretches from West 42nd to West 47th Streets, and is sometimes referred to as "the Crossroads of the World", "the Center of the Universe" and "the Heart of the World." It is one of the world's busiest pedestrian areas, the hub of the Broadway Theater District, and a major center of the world's entertainment industry. Times Square is one of the world's most visited tourist attractions, drawing an estimated 50 million visitors annually. Approximately 330,000 people pass through Times Square daily, many of them tourists, while over 460,000 pedestrians walk through Times Square on its busiest days.



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Day 2 – Start your scientific adventure!

Breakfast & dinner included; lunch on own

After breakfast at our hotel, we'll head to the Metro station, transferring to lower Manhattan and onto the New Jersey PATH system to take us to the Liberty Science Center.



The Liberty Science Center – At LSC, your students will be inspired to learn about the power, promise, and the pure fun of science and technology. LSC's hands-on extended laboratory programming offers high-quality, interdisciplinary project-based learning that combines critical thinking, collaboration, and problem-solving skills using real world examples to help support students in making the connection to learning. Students will strengthen the tools and skills necessary for scientific study into math, science and engineering connections as during STEM facilitated classroom discussions and experiments.

Your Day 2 programs will include two Master Classes as below, plus entry into the Planetarium:

Intro to Game Design - Design custom characters with animations and behaviors by completing a crash course in Stencyl. This intuitive toolset is limited only by your creativity. This platform sets a foundation of computational thinking—an essential skill in today's tech-driven world.



Unreal Creations! Designing a Game with Unreal Engine - Level up your skills in this game design and programming primer course using industry-level tools. Take the first step into professional-level game design as you learn how to set up your first project in Unreal Engine and learn the basics of coding in C++. Some programming experience is recommended for this class.

Jennifer Chalsty Planetarium and Giant Dome Theater – This planetarium is the largest in the Western Hemisphere. The 89-foot dome, coupled with the all-dome video and astronomical object database, provides an immersive environment in which to explore the Earth and Space Systems Performance Expectations. View astronomical objects and celestial phenomena from the surface of Earth, and then travel into space to truly understand these difficult concepts by flying up to, around, and through the objects.

Life Cycles of the Stars Master Class - Explore observations of the sun, planets, and stars to discover the objects in our amazing sky. Develop a conceptual model of the formation of the universe and the life cycle of a star. Construction of this model will use evidence from stellar light spectra, the motion of distant galaxies, the composition of matter in the universe, nuclear fusion, and the production of elements in stars.

In the late afternoon, we'll head back to Manhattan for a local dinner and then we're off to discover the incredible engineering found at the Empire State Building!





The Empire State Building - New York's famous Empire State Building, soars more than a quarter of a mile into the atmosphere above the heart of Manhattan. Located on the 86th floor, 1,050 feet (320 meters) above the city's bustling streets, the Observatory offers an immersive experience with panoramic views from within a glass enclosed pavilion and from the surrounding open-air promenade. The Observation Deck wraps around the building's spire, providing 360-degree views of New York and beyond. From up here you'll get one-of-a-kind views of Central Park, The Hudson River and East River, The Brooklyn Bridge, Times

Square, The Statue of Liberty, and much more. Their official Observatory Experience app teaches you about your view from every direction.

Day 3 – Continued specialty courses....

Breakfast & dinner included; lunch on own

After breakfast today, we're off to New Jersey for our second day of specialty programming. We'll travel to the Liberty Space Center by Metro/PATH and get ready to conquer the world!

The Master Classes included today are:

Advanced 3D Modeling with Autodesk Maya - In this program exploring advanced 3D modeling, students will learn the techniques and methods used professionally to create 3D models and meshes. Students will leave with access to a digital model that they have created (requires access to a Google Drive account or similar file-storage service).

Coding Virtual Rovers - Using a user-friendly, web-based computer science coding program, create a code to navigate a virtual rover through a maze. Your challenge is to try to make your code as efficient as it is effective.

Design Thinking with Tinkercad - Engage in the online digital creation of 3D models and learn how to create pieces designed for a community with needs. Use Monoprice Mini Select printers to print a prototype of your model that's yours to keep.

In the late afternoon, we'll say our goodbyes to our new friends in New Jersey and head back to Manhattan for an early dinner and then a night out at the theatre!

Broadway Show – There's nothing quite like seeing a show on Broadway! Watch magic come alive with incredible performers, sets and scenes. Imagination turns into reality when you sit back and take it all in. Seating is based on a specific budgeted amount and generally includes student group seating on a balcony level.



Day 4 – Hello New York! A celebration of history & diversity

Breakfast & dinner included; lunch on own

After breakfast at our hotel, today we'll have some time to get to know Manhattan. We'll meet our Ambassador in the morning and travel to Columbia University for a campus tour!



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Columbia University Campus Tour - Columbia University is a **private Ivy League research university** in New York City. Established in 1754 on the grounds of Trinity Church in Manhattan, Columbia is the oldest institution of higher education in New York and the fifth-oldest institution of higher learning in the United States. It is one of nine colonial colleges founded prior to the Declaration of Independence, seven of which belong to the Ivy League. It has been ranked by numerous major education publications as among the top ten universities in the world.



Columbia scientists and scholars have played an important role in the development of notable scientific fields and breakthroughs including brain-computer interface, the laser and maser, nuclear magnetic resonance, the first nuclear pile, the first nuclear fission reaction in the Americas, Thomas Hunt Morgan's drosophila experiment – considered the origin of modern genetics, the first evidence for plate tectonics and continental drift, and much of the initial research and planning of the Manhattan Project during World War II. The Columbia University Physics Department has been affiliated with 33 Nobel Prize winners as alumni, faculty or research staff, the third most of any American institution behind MIT and Harvard. In addition, 22 Nobel Prize winners in Physiology or Medicine have been affiliated with Columbia, the third most of any American institution.

In 2019, Columbia's undergraduate acceptance rate was 5.1%, making it one of the most selective colleges in the United States, and the second most selective in the Ivy League after Harvard. Columbia is ranked as the 3rd best university in the United States by U.S. News & World Report behind Princeton and Harvard. The university's endowment stood at \$10.9 billion in 2019, among the largest of any academic institution.

As of 2018, Columbia's alumni and affiliates include: five Founding Fathers of the United States—among them an author of the United States Constitution and a co-author of the Declaration of Independence; three U.S. presidents; 29 foreign heads of state; ten Justices of the United States Supreme Court, two of whom currently serve; 96 Nobel laureates; 101 National Academy members; 53 living billionaires; eleven Olympic medalists; 33 Academy Award winners; and 125 Pulitzer Prize recipients.

After a general tour of Columbia University, we're off to explore Liberty Island!



Statue of Liberty & Liberty Island exploration, plus the Ellis Island Immigration Museum – Departing from Battery Park, get a chance to see the Statue of Liberty National Monument and the Ellis Island National Immigration Museum in this fascinating journey. Enjoy an audio tour and get an in-depth look at America's enduring symbol of freedom: **The Statue of Liberty**. Continue to Ellis Island for access to the **Ellis Island Immigration Museum** and free time to explore. Indoor and outdoor seating is available; concessions and souvenirs are available on board. Be sure to wear comfortable clothing and shoes!



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This evening we'll have one last amazing activity to wrap up our trip and then our farewell dinner!

Virtual Reality World - Merging culture with cutting-edge tech, VR World creates an experience that's rooted in bringing people together, pioneering a new way to engage with art, film and gaming in mixed reality. VR World was founded in 2017 by a team of dreamers, innovators, and creators in the heart of New York City. Experiences are carefully chosen to engage youth across several disciplines including math, anatomy, physics, natural history, art and design, offering a unique environment to explore.



Day 6 – Goodbye NYC!

Breakfast included; all other meals on own

After our incredible week, we'll start to say 'goodbye' to New York as we prepare to travel home. If you have a later flight and we can assist you with booking extra activities, please call upon us!

Goodbye NYC... Until we meet again!



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Minimum Booking Numbers:

20 students

What's Included:

Roundtrip flights or motorcoach transfers to New York City
4-nights' accommodation in Manhattan
Airport transfers on arrival and departure
5-Day NYC Metro Card for daily transportation
2-Day NJ PATH Card for transport to Liberty Science Center
Breakfasts & dinners daily starting with dinner on Day 1 and ending with breakfast on Day 5
Intro to Game Design Master Class
Unreal Creations / Unreal Engine Master Class
Advanced 3D Modeling with Autodesk Maya Master Class
Coding Virtual Rovers Master Class
Design Thinking with Tinkercad Master Class
Life Cycles of the Stars Master Class at the Chalsty Planetarium
Evening Times Square Exploration
Group Photograph in Times Square
Empire State Building excursion
Broadway Show
VR World experience
Columbia University Self-Guided Campus Tour
Statue of Liberty exploration with Audio Guide
Ellis Island Immigration Museum with Audio Guide
Personal Tour Ambassador
Fund-a-Forest: A tree is planted in the name of each guest
Dollar\$ For Scholars: \$2 donation in the name of each guest
24-hour emergency cover

What's Not Included:

Lunches, snacks & extra beverages – Budget \$20 - \$25 per day
Fully comprehensive insurance (**mandatory**)
Transfers to/from home airport
Cost of visas, full or collective passports
Cost of inoculations or medication required for travel
Sightseeing / Entertainment Options not shown in Itinerary
Hotel incidental deposits & bills – meals, mini-bar items, purchases billed to room, etc.
Any gratuities – Ambassador, local guides, etc.

As always, our staff are always available to you to answer any questions you may have regarding programming. If we may serve you in any way, please do not hesitate to contact us.

