

USA - New York City and Saratoga Springs

31 MAY TO 11 JUNE 2025



Come to New York for the craic and then perhaps witness just the 6th Triple Crown winner in the last 75 years up at Saratoga Springs.

INCLUDES 5 NIGHTS IN NEW YORK CITY AND 4 NIGHTS IN UPSTATE NEW YORK

INTRODUCTION

This is a tour within a tour as you will be joining an existing group which has already been to the Preakness Stakes in Pimlico and then travelled to Washington, DC and Canada – but if you are interested in the full tour please email (contact details below). **This module (mini-tour)** includes return flights from Auckland (ask about flights from Australia or regional New Zealand) and other inclusions as listed. So, the city that never sleeps will be our home for the first 5 nights before we head up to Saratoga Springs which for the 2nd year running host the historic Belmont Stakes, the third leg of the 'hallowed' Triple Crown – where USA horse racing legends have been made.

ITINERARY

SATURDAY 31 MAY

FLIGHT AUCKLAND TO NEW YORK CITY

Qantas Flight QF3

Depart Auckland: 4.05pm

Arrive JFK: 4.20pm same day

On arrival at you will be met and transferred directly into our tour hotel.

The main group will be arriving from Boston around 5pm and although this evening will be free to explore at our leisure, we will hopefully be watching the brilliant musician Robert Whaley playing somewhere local.

SATURDAY 31 MAY - THURSDAY 5 JUNE

MANHATTAN NEW YORK CITY

The Shelburne Sonesta Hotel

303 Lexington Ave

Murray Hill,

Manhattan, New York 10016

In Saturday 31 May Out Thursday 5 June 5 nights Manhattan

- Non-smoking room includes free Wi-Fi
- Full breakfast included

SUNDAY 1 JUNE

MANHATTAN

It's Sunday in Manhattan and we have a leisurely start to the day before a New York signature "bottomless mimosa" brunch cruise from 11am until 2.30pm. We depart from Pier 61 and cruise both the Hudson and East rivers with spectacular views of the Manhattan skyline, the Brooklyn Bridge, the Empire State building and up close and personal with the Statue of Liberty - all the while with superb cuisine and drinks.

After disembarking the rest of the day is free although there's a cracking jazz bar near our hotel.

MONDAY 2 JUNE

MANHATTAN

We have our own guided spectacular tour of New York which will depart the hotel at 9.30am and return by 4.30pm with a short stop for lunch (included). Our tour will include a city-wide tour including a Ground Zero and 9/11 Memorial tour, the Financial district, Little Italy, Soho, Central Park and a general overview of Manhattan. We will have our own coach but get off at a number of stops around the city.

TUESDAY 3 JUNE

MANHATTAN

The next 2 days on tour are completely free to enable us all to tick off our very own bucket lists of New York city and surrounds. In saying that we will certainly have some non-mandatory options for everyone which will include walking down to Grand Central Terminal for a drink and lunch at its famous Oyster Bar and Restaurant.

But there are an enormous number of things to see and do in and around New York City and starting with sport - the regular baseball season is in full swing and there's an excellent chance either the Yankees or the Mets will be at home and if that's the case we will certainly be looking at getting out to Yankees Stadium or Citi Field to be part of the action. In the NBA the city is represented by the Brooklyn Nets and New York Knicks and if they're in the Finals - we might catch a game at Madison Square Garden.

Shopping is always top of mind for many, and Manhattan is superbly served by 5th Avenue and Soho with all the named brands and the flagship Macy's department store is at nearby Herald Square. Antique hunters will have a terrific time as well at West 23rd with the Antique Warehouse.

The music scene in New York is legendary and we will have the option of visiting various live music venues in and around New York city. The Lincoln Center is home to the Metropolitan Opera, New York City Ballet and the New York Philharmonic; Café Wha? is where Bob Dylan played his first gig and Jimi Hendrix and Springsteen have also played here; the Chelsea Hotel's reputation runs deep – Janis Joplin, Leonard Cohen, Iggy Pop, Madonna and Patti Smith all called this place home and Madison Square Garden is both a sports and entertainment venue renowned for Billy Joel's concerts among many others.

We will also give a list of Broadway and off-Broadway shows as our departure gets closer and we'll also advise what concerts are on while we're in town.

WEDNESDAY 4 JUNE

MANHATTAN, NEW YORK

The day itself is again free to continue to see the sites of Manhattan and New York city although **this evening we will have seats to see a musical on Broadway** (the actual production will be verified later in the year).

THURSDAY 5 JUNE

NEW YORK CITY TO ALBANY, UPSTATE NY

A lovely relaxing drive north towards Albany and Saratoga but we stop for lunch and a look around in the beautiful town of Hudson, renowned for being a living history of American architecture. Both the Hudson River (which is the river to the west of Manhattan and runs 500km to the north) and the town are named after the famous English explorer Henry Hudson. We will have an included group lunch at the fantastic Kitty's Market and Restaurant and savour some good old-fashioned American hospitality. We'll still get to Albany by 4pm for check in but this evening we have a pre-Belmont function from 7pm for a couple of hours. This will include finger food, a drink or three and Joao Da Mata from Glistian Events has arranged the entertainment by way of tipsters for the Belmont Carnival.

THURSDAY 5 – MONDAY 9 JUNE

ALBANY, NEW YORK

Hampton Inn & Suites Albany Downtown
25 Chapel St
Albany 12210, New York

- In Thursday 5 June Out Sunday 8 June 3 nights in Albany
- Non-smoking room includes free Wi-Fi
- Full breakfast included

FRIDAY 6

BED O' ROSES RACEDAY AT SARATOGA

We're off to the famed Belmont Race carnival (at upstate Saratoga) and today the featured races include the "Bed o' Roses Invitational", the Tremont (over 5 furlongs for the 2 yos) and the True North Stakes (all on dirt) and the New York Stakes and the Belmont Gold Cup Invitational over 2800mtrs (both on turf). We'll have return transfers from our hotel to Saratoga racetrack and General Admission tickets with dining tables for the group.

SATURDAY 7 JUNE

BELMONT STAKES DAY AT SARATOGA

It's Belmont Stakes Day and the 3rd leg of the elusive Triple Crown and with 5 x Group 1 races and 1 x Group 2 race it's a day for the thoroughbred connoisseur. With the 1st race at 11.35am and the Belmont Stakes itself not until 6.35pm it'll be another massive day **but if we witness just the 6th horse in the last 75 years to win the Triple Crown it'll be a day to remember for sure.** Again, we'll have return transfers from our hotel to the track but this time we'll include a magnificent full hospitality package with premium seating and we'll expect to be back at the hotel around 8.30pm.

SUNDAY 8 JUNE

ALBANY

The day itself is free (Sunday markets or another day at the races?) to get over the excesses of the past few weeks, but we will have an included Gala dinner, incorporating our now infamous annual awards ceremony this evening at the hotel.

MONDAY 9 JUNE

ALBANY TO JFK AIRPORT VIA MAMARONECK

We get a coach from our Albany hotel at 11am on Monday and drive towards New York's JFK airport. We will stop for sightseeing and a late lunch/tea/early dinner at Mamaroneck (a swanky coastal village/town) about 30 miles north of JFK airport and have around 3 hours here. We will then head to JFK and arrive around 6pm for evening flights and connect with our flights home.

Qantas Flight QF4

Departs JFK: 7.20pm Arrives Auckland: 5am (Wednesday 11 June)

INCLUSIONS

Escorted by NZ celebrity tour hosts George and Maryanne Simon and John and Linda Wheeler
Services of an Epic Journeys tour guide throughout
Flights as detailed in Economy class (ask for upgrade prices)
9 nights hotel accommodation with breakfast daily
Quality coaches throughout with WiFi access and toilet where possible
All transfers and tours as detailed in the itinerary
All accommodation taxes and service fees throughout the tour
Racecourse admission and hospitality packages as detailed in the itinerary
Other meals as detailed in the itinerary
All entrance fees throughout the tour (during day tours)

COST: NZ\$9,960 per person**
Single Supplement: NZ\$2,856**

TOUR COST/DEPOSITS/PAYMENTS

**The quoted tour prices are based on Currency Exchange rates as of 28 August 2024 and are subject to alteration (up or down) in the event of marked currency fluctuations.

A deposit of 50% is required to confirm your place on the tour.

The balance is due on or before 28 February 2025.



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