



# MEJDI TOURS

## MEJDI Tours Scheduled Departure

- Tour:** Diversity Series: Shades of the Apple - Exploring Diversity in NYC
- Dates:** September 23-26, 2021; May 12-15, 2022
- Included:** 3 nights' accommodation at the following hotels or similar (double occupancy): Hotel 50 Bowery NYC, Chinatown  
1 expert local guide for 4 days  
Public transportation/walking tours on days 1-3  
Private coach transfers to/from Queens on day 3  
Private coach transportation on day 4  
NYC MetroCard  
Group departure airport transfer  
Meals listed in the itinerary: 3 breakfasts, 2 lunches, 2 dinners  
Entrances, sites, and honorariums for speakers<sup>1</sup>  
US-based customer service representatives
- Not included:** Airfare  
Arrival airport transfers  
Travel insurance-**HIGHLY RECOMMENDED**  
Single Supplement-\$420  
Meals not mentioned in the itinerary  
Gratuities  
Anything not explicitly mentioned in the included section
- Pricing<sup>2</sup>:** 10+ Paying Participants - \$1,795 Per Person  
*without accommodation (day touring only)* - \$1,450 Per Person
- Optional Pre-trip Extension<sup>3</sup>:** 5+ Paying Participants - \$250 Per Person  
*without accommodation (day touring only)* - \$90 Per Person

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<sup>1</sup> Subject to confirmation based on availability

<sup>2</sup> Subject to change based on confirmation. This quote is valid for 2 weeks.

<sup>3</sup> Subject to change based on confirmation. This quote is valid for 2 weeks.

## **Overview:**

Since its early days as a main port of entry for immigrants coming to the United States from Europe in search of opportunity, New York City has welcomed communities of widely varying ethnicity, culture, and religion. It remains among the most diverse cities in the world, though gentrification and high cost of living are taking a toll. Many New Yorkers are working to ensure that this beacon of creativity, commerce, and culture, a living museum of diversity, remains accessible to residents of all backgrounds. Trace the history of immigration in New York City from Ellis Island, through “Old New York” in Lower Manhattan, into some of the world’s most diverse neighborhoods today and study the effects of wide-spread diversity on this booming metropolis. Examine inequalities in gender, age, race, religion, ethnicity, sexuality, and socioeconomic status that exist in diverse communities, especially in large cities, and how those disparities play out between neighborhoods. Explore the city that rebuilds and transforms itself again and again, through adversity, cultural shifts, and urban challenges, and continues to emerge as a vibrant microcosm of age, race, sexual orientation, religion, and culture.

## **Itinerary:**

### **Day 1: Arrival - Lower Manhattan**

Arrive into New York City. Transfer to your hotel in Lower Manhattan (on own). Then, meet your guide and set the stage for an exploration into the rich diversity of NYC with a **walking tour of Lower Manhattan**, the cradle of New York City and home to some of the city’s oldest and most historic sites. Visit the **Tenement Museum**, whose two historical tenement buildings were home to an estimated 15,000 people, from over 20 nations, between 1863 and 2011. See **The Daily Forward Building** (outside only), where Jewish socialists championed for workers’ rights in the early 1900s and the Jarmulowsky Bank Building (outside only), with whom many early immigrants entrusted their savings. This evening, stroll the narrow streets of **Little Italy**, lined with tenement buildings that were once home to Italian-American immigrants who settled the area in the late 1800s, and **Chinatown**, a vibrant neighborhood full of markets, shops, and restaurants, predominantly populated by Asian-American immigrants, and join the group for a **welcome dinner** at a local restaurant.  
*Overnight: Hotel 50 Bowery NYC, Chinatown (D)*

### **Day 2: The West Village**

This morning at your hotel, **meet with a representative from John Jay College of Criminal Justice for a discussion on systemic racism in law enforcement** and how their commitment to educating traditionally underrepresented groups and increasing diversity in the workforce helps bridge these social disparities. Then, hop on the subway and head to the **West Village**. Stroll along the quaint cobblestone streets, lined with designer boutiques and trendy restaurants and take in the open and arty vibe of the Village. See notable sights that shaped the neighborhood, including the Stonewall Inn bar, the site of the 1969 riots that launched the gay rights movement. **Meet with a representative at The Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Community Center** and learn how The Center empowers New York’s LGBTQ community to lead healthy and successful lives, celebrates diversity, and advocates for justice and opportunity. **See original art from local artists in the LGBTQ**

**community** and hear how The Center promotes art as a catalyst for progressive social change. Enjoy time on your own in The Village for lunch, then **meet with a representative from I Am Your Protector, a community of people who speak out and stand up for one another across dimensions of religion, ethnicity, gender, and sexual orientation** with a goal of transcending perceived lines of division between different communities. Hop back on the subway and transfer to the **9/11 Memorial & Museum**. At the site, discuss the aftershocks of this horrific tragedy on New York City, and the rise of Islamophobia in NYC, post 9/11. Learn about the Islamic Community Center and mosque, known as “Ground Zero Mosque,” and the controversy surrounding its proposed construction blocks from the former site of the World Trade Center. Enter and explore the museum on your own (optional) and return to your hotel via public transportation at your leisure. Enjoy dinner on your own this evening.

*Overnight: Hotel 50 Bowery NYC, Chinatown (B)*

### **Day 3: Queens**

Transfer to **Queens**, and start the day at the **Queens Museum**, a lesser-known engaging and educational art museum located on the World’s Fair Grounds at Flushing Meadows-Corona Park area of Queens. Tour the museum and get an overview of the city via a scaled-down 3D model of all five boroughs. Discuss what each has to offer and the differences that make each borough unique. Continue via public transit to **Jackson Heights** and **meet up with a local Jackson Heights historian for a walking discussion on racial stereotypes and immigrant portrayal in pop culture and film**. Pass by the restaurant used as the set for “McDowell’s Restaurant” in the movie Coming to America and unpack issues of assimilation and integration from the 2015 PBS documentary, In Jackson Heights (recommended pre-trip viewing). Then, **take a guided walking culinary & culture tour of New York’s (and arguably the world’s) most diverse neighborhood**. Stop at bakeries, cafes, and restaurants from several of the neighborhood’s predominant ethnicities and sample authentic dishes from around the world. **Chat with local immigrants and restaurant owners and hear first-hand stories about the sought after “American Dream”** and what that looks like for an immigrant living in NYC today. **Meet with an English as a Second Language (ESL) expert and educator** and learn how education and language learning plays a role in immigrant integration in a neighborhood that is home to ~167 different languages. Return to Lower Manhattan and join the group for a **farewell dinner** near your hotel this evening.

*Overnight: Hotel 50 Bowery NYC, Chinatown (B, L, D)*

### **Day 4: Brooklyn**

Transfer to **Brooklyn** this morning and set off on a **walking tour Bedford-Stuyvesant** (known as Bed-Stuy), a center of African-American culture since the early 20th century and home to black cultural icons from Jackie Robinson to Jay-Z. **Walk the Bed-Stuy murals, colorful street art celebrating the black community and depicting famous Bed-Stuy residents, with a local African American author and journalist and talk about the history and importance of black communities in NYC** and the growing shift toward racial consciousness due to the Black Lives Matter movement. Transfer to south Brooklyn, home to one of the largest Orthodox Jewish communities outside of Israel. En route,

examine the effects of cyclical gentrification, racism, and ageism as many Brooklyn neighborhoods shift toward becoming more youthful and “trendy.” **Meet with a leader from the Hasidic Jewish community and a female Arabic Christian priest for a discussion about religious diversity in Brooklyn** and enjoy a **farewell lunch** at a popular Middle Eastern restaurant that helped to feed Brooklyn’s immigrant populations during the Covid-19 crisis. Then, transfer to the airport for your flight home. *(B, L)*

**Optional Pre-Trip Extension: Ellis Island & The Statue of Liberty**

Fly into New York City a day early, arriving in the morning. Transfer to your hotel (on own) and check in. Then, meet your guide in the lobby of your hotel and take the subway to Battery Park and set off on a ferry to see the Statue of Liberty, a gift of friendship from France to the United States, now recognized as a universal symbol of freedom and democracy. Continue on to Ellis Island, the busiest immigrant inspection station in the United States, welcoming upwards of 12 million immigrants to New York City from 1892 to 1924. Walk the halls of the former processing station, now the National Immigration Museum, and hear the struggles and success stories of the immigrants who landed here. Search an exhaustive collection of arrival records and uncover the history of your ancestry and your family’s journey to the United States. Trace the history of immigration in New York City from Ellis Island to the modern day, and study the effects of wide-spread diversity on this booming metropolis. Disembark the ferry and return to your hotel via public transit. Enjoy dinner on your own this evening near your hotel in Lower Manhattan.

Overnight: *Hotel 50 Bowery NYC, Chinatown*

**Included:**

- 1 nights’ accommodation at the following hotel or similar (double occupancy): Hotel 50 Bowery NYC, Chinatown
- 1 expert local guide for ½ day
- Public transportation/walking tour
- NYC MetroCard
- Ferry pass
- Entrances fees
- US-based customer service representatives

**Not included:**

- Airfare
- Arrival airport transfers
- Travel insurance-**HIGHLY RECOMMENDED**
- Single Supplement-\$135
- Meals
- Gratuities
- Anything not explicitly mentioned in the included section