

NYC Itinerary: 3 Days (Balanced Pace) — Neighborhood Edition

3 days • Balanced pace • TravelMakesMeHappy.com

How to use this PDF: The best first-timer itinerary with Central Park, Chelsea, the High Line, Brooklyn Bridge, and dinner each night.

Day 1 — Midtown Icons + Central Park (Balanced)

Time	Neighborhood / Stop	Notes (fast + useful)
9:00	Grand Central Terminal	Start central.
9:40	NY Public Library	Fast interior stop.
10:30	Times Square	15–20 minutes max.
11:15	Rockefeller Center	Plaza photos.
12:00	Lunch (Midtown)	Quick bite.
1:30	Central Park highlights	Bethesda + Bow Bridge.
3:30	Rest / reset	Short break.
5:30	Dinner (Midtown / UWS)	Plenty of options.
7:00	Optional night stroll	Park or 5th Ave.
8:00	Wrap	Done for the day.

Day 2 — Chelsea + High Line + Hudson Yards (Balanced)

Time	Neighborhood / Stop	Notes (fast + useful)
9:30	Chelsea Market	Breakfast/lunch browsing.
11:00	High Line	Chelsea → Hudson Yards.
12:30	Hudson Yards / Edge exterior	Views without ticket.
1:30	Lunch (West Side)	Nearby options.
3:00	Optional rest / shopping	Recharge.
5:30	Dinner (West Side)	Great sunset timing.
7:00	Optional river walk	Easy evening add-on.
8:00	Wrap	Head back.

Day 3 — Downtown + Brooklyn (Balanced)

Time	Neighborhood / Stop	Notes (fast + useful)
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9:00	Staten Island Ferry	Statue of Liberty views.
10:45	9/11 Memorial	Quiet reflection.
12:00	Lunch (SoHo/Seaport)	Choose nearby.
1:30	Brooklyn Bridge walk	Manhattan → Brooklyn.
3:30	DUMBO & waterfront	Photos + coffee.
5:45	Dinner (Brooklyn/Seaport)	Final night views.
7:30	Optional sunset photos	Bridge park.
8:00	Wrap	Return when ready.

Quick Tips (Make NYC Easier)

- Each day is grouped by neighborhood to reduce transit time.
- Plan a short hotel break before dinner—NYC days are long.
- The Staten Island Ferry is free and runs 24/7.
- For the Brooklyn Bridge, start in Manhattan and walk back from Brooklyn for views.
- The High Line works best late afternoon into early evening.

What to Pack (Short & Sweet)

- Comfortable walking shoes (non-negotiable).
- Portable phone charger.
- Layers (subway heat + outdoor wind).
- Reusable water bottle.

Optional Notes

Full guide + landmark descriptions:

<https://travelmakesmehappy.com/top-15-iconic-nyc-landmarks-you-wont-want-to-miss/>

Updated January 09, 2026