

Shutterbug Excursions

NYC Magical Mystery Tour

May 2, 2009



Welcome to our Spring 2009 NYC Excursion... we're gonna have a great time!

First, let's go over a few guidelines that will help make the tour more enjoyable for everyone.

If you're taking the bus, make sure you're on time! The DC-NYC bus leaves DC at 3:30AM and departs NYC at 6:00PM – they are almost always right on time, so there's no wiggle room here.

Otherwise, for the tour in NYC itself, it's up to you to keep up with the pack. We won't stop to wait for people to catch up. The good news is that if you become detached from the group, you can use this guide to find us again – the maps will show you where we'll go and the routes we'll take once we get there. On the next page, you'll find my cell phone number and an approximate timetable of when we'll be where.

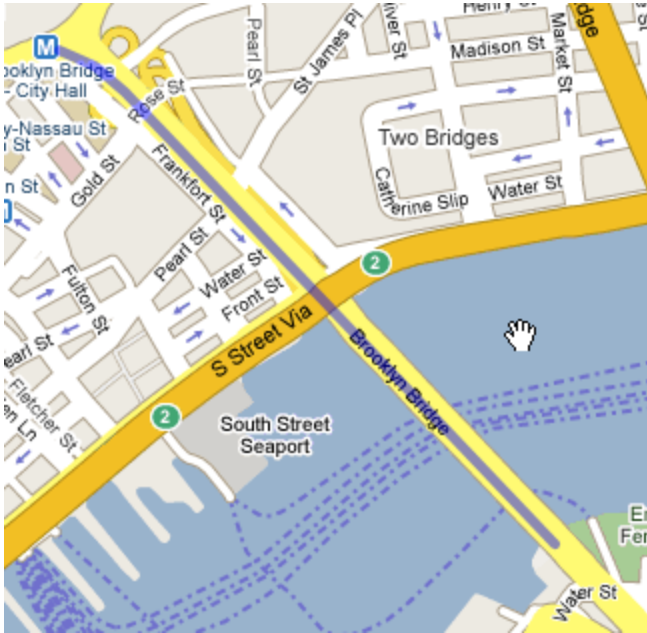
I suggest you also take the cell phone numbers of several other Excursionaires on the tour – that will make it easier to connect in case you get detached.

Also, I suggest you “buddy up” with at least one other person and watch out for each other. It's much easier for two or three people to keep track of each other than for thirty.

Other than that, get your cameras ready, put a smile on your face, and prepare for a great day!

Steve Rosenbach

Brooklyn Bridge



Start: Come out of Brooklyn Bridge/City Hall subway station, cross Park Row, and head for the pedestrian walkway of the Brooklyn Bridge.

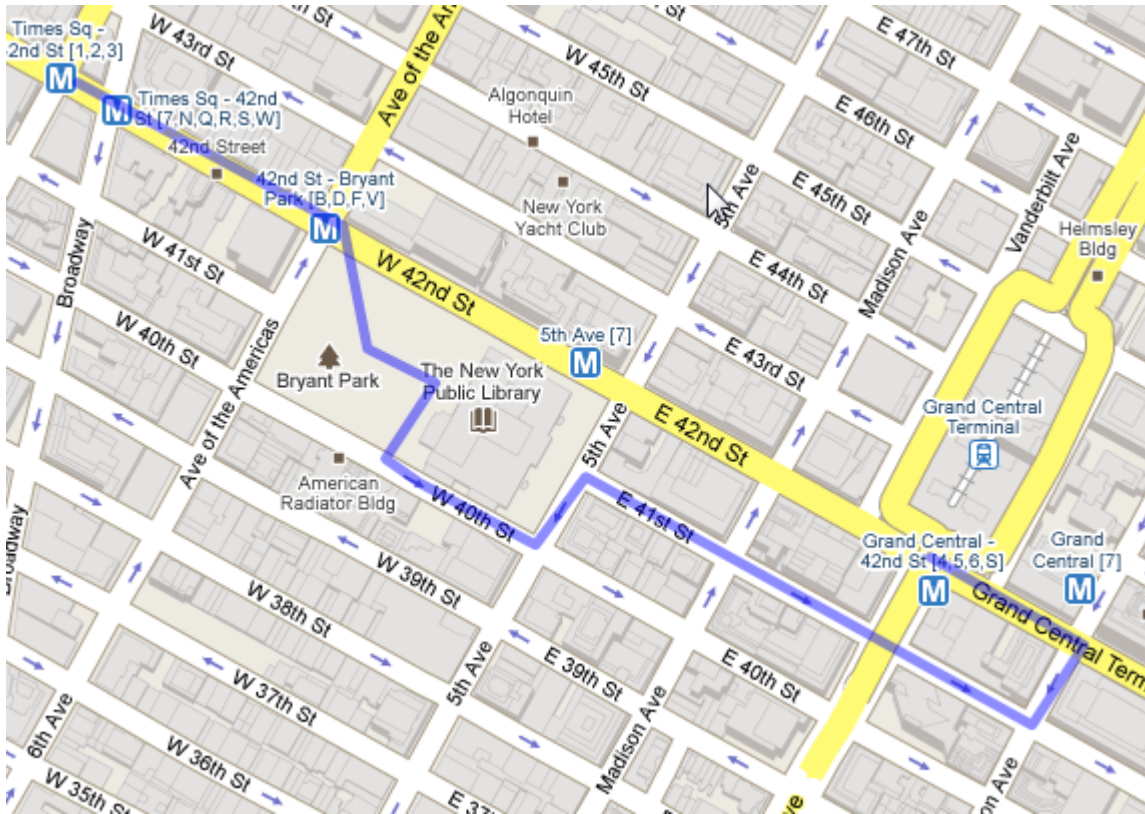
Yes! There is actually a wide, comfortable boardwalk on the Brooklyn Bridge, thoughtfully provided by its designer for your pleasure more than 140 years ago. It's well above the traffic lanes and offers a spectacular view of lower Manhattan, the New York Harbor, and downtown Brooklyn. We'll walk almost the entire length of the bridge, up to the Brooklyn-side tower, then retrace our steps back to the subway station.

Walking out towards Brooklyn, we'll be facing the sun – you may be able to get nice silhouette photos, but watch out for washed-out sky and underexposed foregrounds.

The best views are definitely towards lower Manhattan. The sun will be at your back, and, if it's a clear day, you'll have dramatic early-morning lighting of the tall buildings. The western sky should provide a nice blue background. If you have a polarizing filter, try it to get a darker shade of blue and more saturated colors overall.

End: Back into the same Brooklyn Bridge/City Hall subway station we climbed out of earlier, where we'll take the *uptown* train to Grand Central Terminal. Look for these signs: ④ ⑤ ⑥. The ④ ⑤ are Express lines, so we'll try to get one of them. The ⑥ will get us there, too, but it's nine stops to Grand Central instead of only two.

Grand Central Station and Midtown East



Start: The subway stops right below Grand Central Terminal. We'll climb the stairs and make our way to the Main Concourse, one of the most famous public spaces in the US.

We'll start in the Main Concourse. Photo opportunities include:

- The space itself – huge with lots of people – a wide angle lens or the wider end of your zoom will be best to capture the vastness
- Architectural details – from the grand marble stairways to small details that you'll need to get close for
- People photos – waiting, scurrying, etc
- Don't forget to look up... what a ceiling!


The we'll walk through Grand Central out the Lexington Avenue exit to see the famous Chrysler Building – photo opportunity!! We'll try to go into the lobby of the Chrysler Building to photograph the Art Deco lobby (security may or may not let us in.)

We'll head South on Lexington Avenue and turn left (West) at 41st St. A block later, we'll be at Park Avenue, with a great view of the front of Grand Central Terminal, so we'll stop for photos.

Head West again on 41st St., and two blocks later, we'll be at 5th Avenue, directly across from the New York Public Library. We'll take time for photos of the beautiful Beaux-Arts building, including the famous two Lions.

Now to the corner of Fifth and 40th Street, we'll go West again and into Bryant Park. Nice photo opportunities in the park itself, as well as some of the old (Radiator Building) and newer (W. Grace Building) buildings surrounding the park.

For the final leg of this part of the tour, we'll head West on 42nd St to Times Square.

End: Into the Times Square/42nd Street subway station at 42nd Street and 7th Ave. Look for these signs:  and get on the *uptown* platform. Any train with any of these markings is OK, as even the local is only 4 shorts stops from here to our next station at 72nd Street and Broadway.



- 1 – Broadway Local – 4 stops
- 2 – 7th Ave Express Times Sq to 72n St
- 3 – 7th Ave Express Times Sq to 72n St/Broadway

- Shakespeare Gardens
- Belvedere Castle/Turtle Pond/Upper Central Park View
- The Ramble
- Bow Bridge

End: We'll end this segment of the tour at Bethesda Terrace. Even if you've never been here before, you've seen in many times in the movies. Take some photos around the fountain and of the Arcade under 72nd Street. There will probably be some very talented street entertainers here – take some photos, but unfortunately, we can't stay long enough to watch the whole show – plenty still to see in the Park.

Central Park II: Bethesda Terrace to the Plaza Hotel (59th and Fifth)



Start: From Bethesda Terrace.

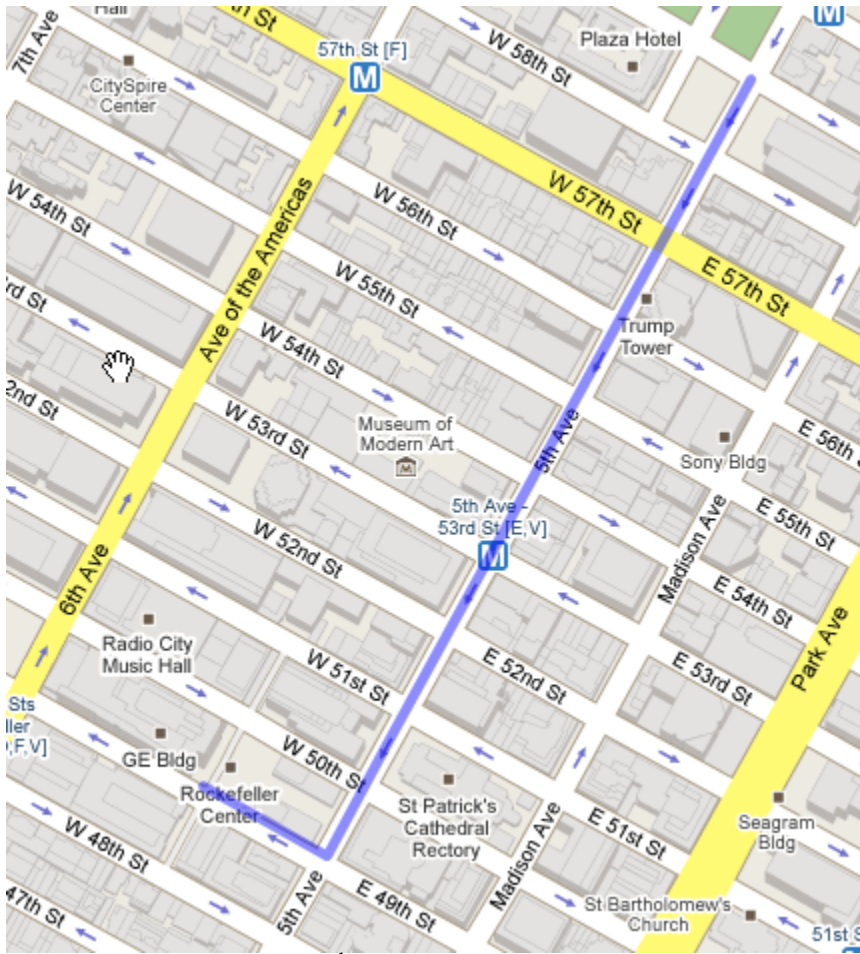
Crossing 72nd Street, we'll walk along The Mall (also called Poet's Walk.) This is wide path lined with tall trees on both sides. The statues you'll see along the path are writers and poets. Good people-watching photos here – lots of families out for a stroll.

After we cross Center Drive, some of the sights we'll see are

The Dairy
Wolman Rink (featured in the movie *Serendipity*)
Gapstow Bridge

End: We'll leave the Park at 59th Street, across from the Plaza Hotel.

Fifth Avenue: Plaza Hotel to Rockefeller Center



Start: Fifth Avenue at 59th Street

Besides the highlights below, this stretch of Fifth Avenue is iconic for having been in so many movies (think of *Breakfast at Tiffany's*). If you have a telephoto (or use the telephoto setting on your digicam lens) take some photos straight down the Avenue of the crowds – they'll have that compressed, sardines-in-a-can look.

Places to see along 5th Avenue:

- 9 West 57th Street
- Tiffany's
- Trump Tower
- St. Thomas Church

At St. Patrick's Cathedral on Fifth between 51th and 50th – we'll have 15 minutes for photos and a visit inside the church.

End: Rockefeller Center – cross 5th Avenue from St. Patrick's and check out the statue of Atlas in front of the International Building. Some people say his face is modeled on Mussolini – what do you think? We'll walk down Channel Gardens (between 50th and 49th Streets) to the Skating Rink for some final Rockefeller Center photos before moving on. Be sure to get some photos of “30 Rock”, the GE Building.

Park Avenue:




Start: Rockefeller Center

Walk back up 5th Avenue to 51st Street and turn East (right), then walk 2 blocks to Park Avenue. Now turn towards the South and see the classic NYC panorama down Park Avenue towards the Met Life (formerly Pan Am) Building. Check out all the yellow taxis!

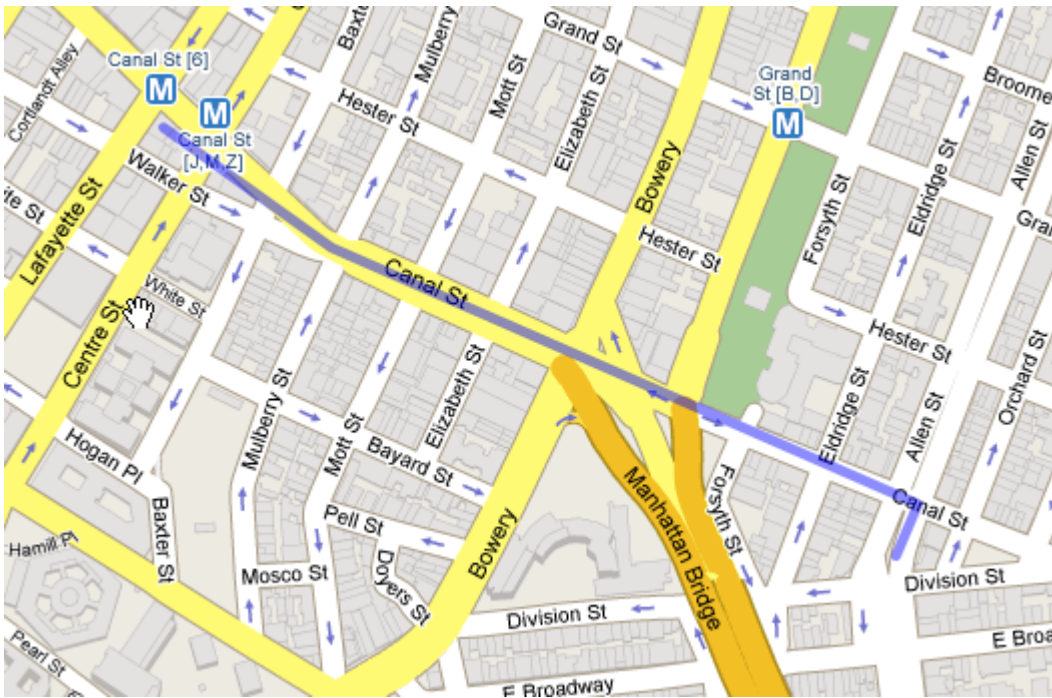
We'll head back towards Grand Central Terminal by walking South on Park Avenue. Be sure to catch these highlights:

- The large traffic islands on Park Avenue - they should be in full bloom
- St. Bartholomew's Church – seen in lots of movies
- Tower 750 (former GE Building) – 50-story Art Deco classic skyscraper
- Waldorf-Astoria Hotel
- Helmsley Building

End: We'll enter Grand Central Terminal again by walking through one of the arcades in the Helmsley Building, then going into the Met Life Building, heading straight back (towards the South) and taking the large escalators back to the Main Concourse in Grand Central. You'll get some good photos on the escalator, so have your camera ready!

We'll follow signs in Grand Central for the subway, and take the Lexington Avenue Local  train to Canal Street.

Return to Chinatown & Pick Up Bus



Start: Canal Street Station

Our trip is pretty much over now, and it's time to walk back to the bus. But along the way from the subway to the bus, stop to pick up some carry-out for the trip home.

There are some small Chinese restaurants near the subway stop, and if you prefer, a Subway ☺ sandwich shop as well.

End: 3 Pike Street – the bus will leave at 6:00PM sharp. (See next page for enlarged map to locate bus stop.)

