

NEW YORK

54 Activities

New York City

A Family Activity Guide

Parks · Museums · City Adventures · Free Activities

FREE SAMPLE · PAGE NUMBERS REFER TO THE FULL GUIDE

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FROM THE EDITOR

A New York day the whole family can enjoy

Start with one thing your children want to do: a dinosaur hall, a boat ride, skating or a playground. Add a meal and, if there is time, one nearby stop. A focused day leaves room to enjoy what you find.

This guide brings together 54 activities across all five boroughs. Seven sections help you choose; maps and five suggested itineraries turn those choices into routes. Suggested ages, pacing, and food and transport allowances are editorial judgments. Operator age guidance and admission restrictions are identified separately.

One good outing, a nearby meal, and room to stay curious.

Read each listing's practical details before booking. Ticket tiers, seasonal closures and conditional free periods can change the plan. Prices and schedules change, so confirm your date through the linked official page. Allow for equipment rental, tours, simulators, other add-ons or online service fees.

Leave something for another visit. If the children are absorbed in a game, an animal or a view, the next stop can wait. With teenagers, consider Moving Image, Intrepid, Movement climbing or Broadway, then let them choose a neighborhood walk and meal.



Kit

EDITOR, KIDPATHS NEW YORK CITY

DAY PLAN 01 OF 05

Harbor views and room to play

For a classic first weekend, pair this Saturday harbor outing with Sunday's Brooklyn museum-and-waterfront plan. This free-attraction day allows for waits at both ferry terminals; consult the current sailing schedule.

ITINERARY 01

Your route

Lower Manhattan: harbor views, outdoor play and a free museum

9:30am

Staten Island Ferry

Start at Whitehall. Take the next suitable sailing to St. George and enjoy the harbor crossing.

Disembark at St. George, then join an appropriate return sailing. Allow about two hours for the full outing, including terminal time.

11:30am

Lunch near The Battery

Use a picnic in an allowed outdoor area, or choose a nearby meal before the children are hungry.

12:30pm

The Battery Playscape

Give the climbing and play spaces their own time. SeaGlass is an optional paid addition, outside this budget.

Walk north to Bowling Green. Allow fifteen minutes with children, plus a pause if needed.

2pm

National Museum of the American Indian

Choose a focused indoor visit. Entry is free without tickets; finish while the children still want to look.

MONEY

Planning total \$84: attractions \$0, food allowance \$60, transport \$24 for four fare-paying riders making two \$3 trips. SeaGlass and other extras are additional.

Change of plan: In poor weather, shorten or postpone the ferry and start at NMAI when it opens at 10am. The playground is optional; do not force an exposed harbor day.

DAY PLAN 02 OF 05

Subway cars and the Brooklyn waterfront

Choose Wednesday through Sunday for the Transit Museum. This route gives the museum and waterfront time of their own without adding a full bridge crossing.

ITINERARY 02

Your route

Brooklyn: a museum morning followed by a relaxed waterfront afternoon

10am

New York Transit Museum

Reserve an entry window. Start with the vehicles or exhibits that interest the children most.

Allow thirty to forty minutes to reach DUMBO on foot with children; use the live route and choose transit if walking does not fit the group.

12:30pm

Lunch in DUMBO

Juliana's is one pizza option. Leave room for a queue or choose another meal before the afternoon becomes rushed.

2pm

Jane's Carousel

Budget one ride each, then pause by the waterfront. Check the seasonal opening days before using this route.

2:30pm

Brooklyn Bridge Park

Stay near the Main Street playground and waterfront. Skip the long walk to Pier 6 unless everyone actively wants it.

MONEY

Planning total \$160: Transit Museum \$50 for two adults and children ages six and ten; carousel \$16 for four tickets; food allowance \$70; transport \$24. Sharing rules may reduce carousel cost.

Change of plan: In wet weather, give the Transit Museum more time and shorten the waterfront. Keep the planned DUMBO lunch as a seated break rather than adding another timed attraction.

DAY PLAN 03 OF 05

Nature day: fossils and Central Park

Follow a morning of natural history with an unhurried park afternoon. This Upper West Side nature day has one substantial museum booking; children's interests decide the route, and the outdoor portion stays flexible.

ITINERARY 03

Your route

Manhattan: natural history indoors, then an afternoon in Central Park

- | | |
|----------------|---|
| 10am | American Museum of Natural History
Begin with the agreed first hall. This budget uses general admission, without ticketed exhibitions or shows. |
| 12:30pm | Lunch on the Upper West Side
Shake Shack at 366 Columbus Avenue is one nearby option. Allow enough time to sit down and regroup over lunch. |
| 2pm | Central Park
Choose a short walk and a place to pause. If Heckscher Playground is the priority, allow for the additional walk south rather than treating it as next door. |
| 3:30pm | Finish near your chosen exit
Leave the rest of the afternoon open. This route does not add a zoo or rink ticket. |

MONEY

Planning total \$212: general admission \$118 for two adults and two children, food allowance \$70, transport \$24. New York State resident pricing may differ; extras are not included.

Change of plan: If the weather is poor, keep the afternoon indoors at the museum only while the children remain interested. Do not add a second large museum simply to fill the time.

DAY PLAN 04 OF 05

Midtown sights and a toy-store stop

A terminal, a public library and a park create a day without attraction admission. Use the library's current visitor hours, and choose a weekday for the simplest fit.

ITINERARY 04

Your route

Midtown Manhattan: free landmarks, a park pause and Rockefeller Center

10am

Grand Central Terminal

Look around the Main Concourse while keeping clear of passenger movement. Choose a few details rather than rushing through every passage.

Walk west to Fifth Avenue. Allow fifteen to twenty minutes with children and street crossings.

11am

New York Public Library

Visit the Stephen A. Schwarzman Building's permitted public areas and current free displays. Check room-access rules on arrival.

12:30pm

Lunch break

Choose a nearby counter or picnic in Bryant Park. Outside food and drinks, including water, cannot be brought into the library.

1:30pm

Bryant Park

Take a seated pause and let the family decide how much more sightseeing it wants. Paid seasonal attractions are optional.

Walk north to Rockefeller Center. Allow twenty to thirty minutes with children and street crossings.

2:30pm

FAO Schwarz

Browse the flagship and see whether the piano is available. Purchases and paid experiences are outside this free-attraction plan.

3:30pm

Optional Times Square look

If the family still has energy, take a short look around the Theater District before heading home. Save a Broadway show for a separately booked plan.

MONEY

Planning total \$84: attraction admission \$0, food allowance \$60, transport \$24. FAO purchases, paid experiences and a Broadway show are additional.

Change of plan: In rain, shorten Bryant Park and take a longer lunch. Check library and store hours before setting out. If replacing the afternoon with a Broadway matinee, rebuild the timing around the actual ticket.

DAY PLAN 05 OF 05

Rainy day: hands-on science in Queens

Choose Wednesday through Sunday for indoor NYSCI exhibits included with general admission. Keep the outdoor Science Playground and mini golf outside this rainy-day budget. Suggested times are flexible pacing, not scheduled sessions.

ITINERARY 05

Your route

Queens: one indoor science destination with time to revisit favorites

	Take the 7 train to 111th Street, then continue to NYSCI at 47-01 111th Street. Check MTA service before traveling.
10am	Connected Worlds Use gestures and movements to guide resources through animated ecosystems. Ask the children to notice what changes when they try a different action.
11:30am	The Big Bubble Experiment Blow, stretch and examine bubbles with the exhibit's tools. Try changing one thing at a time, then compare what happens together.
12:30pm	Butter Beans Kitchen café The museum's café serves hot and cold food and snacks. Confirm service for your visit; outside food and beverages are not permitted in the café.
1:30pm	Powering the City Explore interactive activities about producing and distributing energy. Connect the city's power grid with the things your family uses at home.
3pm	Finish while everyone has energy Head home when the family is ready. No second attraction or outdoor walk is required to complete this plan.

MONEY

Planning total \$166: general admission \$82 for two adults and children ages six and ten; food allowance \$60; transport \$24 for four fare-paying riders making two \$3 trips. Movies and other add-ons cost extra.

Change of plan: Check opening and café service before travel. If the café is unavailable, eat lunch before arriving and start the museum in the early afternoon; choose two exhibits instead of following the full schedule.

FREE SAMPLE · NEW YORK CITY FAMILY ACTIVITY GUIDE

The day plans are yours. The rest of the city is in the full guide.

When one of these days needs a swap, or the weather changes the morning, the full New York City guide has every outing and map behind these five plans, ready on your phone.

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