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See New York City in Style With The Tour

by Winnie McCroy
EDGE Editor
Friday Jul 29, 2016

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Hot on the heels of their successful multi-media event The Ride, comes CEO Richard Humphrey's The Tour, a 90-minute bus trip that marks a new generation of sightseeing. This innovative way to sightsee is touted as "a love letter to New York, where every seat is the best seat in the house."

And with three rows of stadium seating all set in one side-view direction looking out massive windows and a glass roof, that tagline is true. You can say goodbye to craning your neck to catch a glimpse of local landmarks - you'll easily see them all.

The Tour's vehicles are the tallest allowed by federal law, accommodating 49 participants to enjoy an experiential, all-encompassing, fun- and fact-filled event. And the jazzy bus comes complete with audio/visual support including videos of historic events and film scenes on 40 screens, concert surround-sound system with audiovisual effects, rock concert lighting and 4,100 LED lights.

The lengthy bus tour allows visitors to luxuriate in climate-controlled comfort as an informed and personable Licensed Gold Star Tour Navigator shares with you completely researched information - and quite a few funny stories - that you'll want to know about local sights. The bus itself even gets a voice as a character called The Ride, who shares fun facts with riders.

The Tour picks you up outside the Marriott Marquis Hotel at 45th Street in Times Square, and heads up Broadway, where riders can see Shubert Alley and Broadway theatres including the Booth, Palace, and more.

It heads through Hell's Kitchen for a view of the Hearst Tower, Restaurant Row, and then highlights a bit of neighborhood history, including the low-class, cold-water flats that allegedly gave this area, also known as "Clinton," its fiery moniker.

The Tour rolls through Columbus Circle and Lincoln Center, providing a look at the Metropolitan Opera and the newly-renamed David Geffen Hall. During a recent trip, one tour guide shared her thoughts on how the Big Apple got its nickname: in her estimation, the 'truest' fable had to do with horse racing, equines' love for apples, and the fact that the biggest horse races were held in the biggest city: aka "The Big Apple."



(Source:experiencetheride.com)

You'll see classic hotels including The Ansonia (the first to ever have air conditioning) with a rooftop farm and the city's largest pool and Continental Baths where Bette Midler, aka Bathhouse Betty, got her start. Another memorable hotspot is The Dakota, where John Lennon was shot, and his widow, Yoko Ono (who still resides there) donated \$1 million for the development of Strawberry Fields in nearby Central Park, so mourners wouldn't clog the entryway for her neighbors.

As you roll past the Park, take a look at Tavern on the Green, which used to be a sheep barn, and Trump Tower, aka "Hair Force One." When The Tour hits Fifth Avenue, it's your chance to check out high-end flagship stores for Tiffany's, Gucci, Rolex and more. Not to mention Rockefeller Plaza and St. Patrick's

Cathedral, the largest neo-Gothic cathedral in the U.S.

By the time The Tour returns passengers to Times Square, you'll know the difference between a Broadway and Off-Broadway show (it has to do with the number of seats in the theatre), to avoid the 'desnuda' boxes, and to not kiss The Naked Cowboy (he swaps spit with hundreds of women each day).

The Tour's \$1.5 million state of the art motor coaches depart three times daily, seven days a week, from 45th Street and Broadway. Tickets are \$45.

For information, visit <https://experiencetheride.com/sightseeing-attractions/the-tour/> or <https://www.facebook.com/TheTourNYC/>



Winnie McCroy is the Women on the EDGE Editor, HIV/Health Editor, and Assistant Entertainment Editor for EDGE Media Network, handling all women's news, HIV health stories and theater reviews throughout the U.S. She has contributed to other publications, including The Village Voice, Gay City News, Chelsea Now and The Advocate, and lives in Brooklyn, New York.


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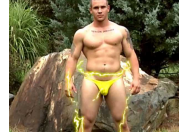
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