

GAWA 2018 NYC Teacher Orientation Tour Terms, Conditions and Tour Arrangements

Objectives of the New York Teacher Orientation Study Tour

Key program objectives are to provide the opportunity to:

- Build participants geographic, cultural, social and historical knowledge of NYC, to directly assist in their classroom teaching of Year 12 ATAR Geography Unit 4 Depth Study 2.
- Assist in the gathering of resources and knowledge to assist in their lesson delivery.
- Assist teachers in their planning of, and demonstrate possible activities for, school based student tours.
- Build potential cross-sector and school friendships and partnerships.

Tour Dates

The first formal activity of the tour will commence at 4 pm on Sunday the 1st of July, meeting in the hotel foyer. We ask that all participants have checked into the hotel by this time. The study tour will conclude on the morning of Wednesday 11th July. Wednesday 4th July and Sunday the 8th July will be 'free days' for participants to plan their own activities.

Study tour land costs

Tour price will be LAND ONLY, covering accommodation, ground transport and group activities and tours. The land only tour cost will be **\$2,800**. Personal expenses, most meals and refreshments plus personal comprehensive travel insurance (approx. \$100) will be at participants' own expense. The participants' tour fee includes a \$150 per participant to offset GAWA administration and GAWA indemnity insurance fee. The tour leaders will be paying the full tour fee and will be receiving a commission payment from GAWA to plan and conduct the tour. The commission payment is imbedded in the participants' tour fees. GAWA is running this tour as a non-profit venture and **any fees collected in excess of costs will be spent solely on the tour participants during the tour.**

A deposit of \$1000 should be paid no later than: 31st October 2017 by EFT or cheque to GAWA:

Once deposits for the minimum tour number have been received the tour will be confirmed and you will be receipted for your payment. This deposit will be non refundable as it will be used as a part payment for accommodation in New York City. If insufficient deposits are received to run the tour the deposits received will be refunded in full. You may wish to pay the full price of the study tour at this time. Alternatively GAWA will send you a payment schedule with the receipt of your deposit.

Flight costs

Participants are encouraged to arrange their own air travel schedule, allowing flexibility of flights, preferred airline, possible extensions and stopovers. All three of the New York City tri-state area airports: JFK Airport & LaGuardia Airport (both in Queens) and Newark (New Jersey) have shuttle bus and taxi services into Manhattan Island. JFK has a Skytrain service to Jamaica Station where the E Train subway line can be caught into Manhattan. Participants are expected to meet the tour group and leaders at our hotel at 4.00 pm Sunday 1st July. As soon as the payment of your deposit has been confirmed by GAWA you should book your preferred flights and travel insurance.

Travel Insurance

We require all participants to purchase their own **comprehensive travel insurance**. Your travel insurance policy must include **personal liability** cover – most policies offer this cover. We advise that

you check the inclusions and procedures for lodging claims prior to your departure. A photocopy of proof of purchase, including the insurance company name and the policy number, should be e-mailed or faxed to the GAWA Office by the time of your second payment. Immediate purchase of travel insurance (for the dates of travel) at the time the tour is confirmed usually covers the holder of the policy for a number of unforeseen issues that may prevent them from travelling. Please note that travel insurance policies associated with personal credit cards will not be recognised as an acceptable form of insurance as their level of cover may be insufficient or linked to minimum spend levels, which have not been attained or maintained.

Accommodation

Accommodation will be at a 3½ to 4-star hotel in the Midtown region of Manhattan island. The name and address of the hotel will be confirmed shortly after the deposits are received and the tour confirmed. Accommodation will be on a twin-share basis (two persons per room). Sharing a room with a fellow traveler (obviously your partner if attending) is often a welcome part of the experience and if you are on your own, we can partner you with another participant. There will be opportunities for single accommodation (one person per room) with a single supplement payment in addition to the tour fee. This fee will be confirmed upon confirmation of the hotel details. Hotels charge by the room and not by the occupancy rate and therefore we have the need to charge this additional fee to cover single room occupancy rates.

Tax deductibility

GAWA advises you to contact your tax professional to find out whether your study tour expenses are tax deductible. Travellers have found that they may be able to claim against tax and significantly reduce the cost of their trips.

Meals

We aim to have a welcome meal and drinks on the first Sunday evening and a farewell function on the Tuesday evening. Once final participant numbers and activity costs are confirmed we hope to be in the position to offer a number of other food and drink experiences as part of the tour. There will be opportunities for you to explore the famous NYC street food carts and local cafes for casual lunches and evening meals will be a mixture of group activities and 'explore your own' dinners. When applicable, we will try to meet special dietary requirements but we can't always guarantee personal preferences.

Ground Transport

Once the group tour commences we will take care of all ground transport detailed in the itinerary. We will provide you with a seven-day Metrocard, which we will top up for the last three days. This will cover all public transport in NYC and you will get to know and hopefully love, the famous NYC Subway system. Using public transport is a great way to get the feel of any of the world's great cities. During your leisure time you will also be able to use the Metrocard.

Entrance Fees

All entrance fees to all study tour attractions, facilities and activities are included in the cost of the study tour. All participants will receive a 10-day New York City Pass which will give entry to most of the places of interest and can be used on the participants 'free days'. Any activities included in the tour and not covered by the card will be paid for by GAWA.

Tour Leaders

Matt Hildebrandt, Scotch College.

GAWA textbook author – New York City Case Study. GAWA Conference Presenter. Matthew has led two student tours of NYC and his most recent private visit was August 2016.

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Darryl Michie, Morley SHS.

GAWA textbook editor and contributing author to New York City and other chapters. GAWA Conference Convener 2005 – 2012. Has visited NYC on two occasions, most recently spending four weeks in NYC in Dec/January 2016 visiting his daughter who lived in New York for 13 months.

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Group Size

Thirty people have expressed their interest in the NYC Tour. In most cases, the group will operate as a whole, however for some activities we may need to split into two smaller groups.

Passport and Visa Requirements

Travellers to the USA will need to hold a passport with at least 6 months validity remaining on it after your arrival date back in Australia. The following information is from the Australian Government's Smart Traveller website, www.smarttraveller.gov.au and is necessary for entry into the USA.

Visa Waiver Program (VWP) and the Electronic System for Travel Authorisation (ESTA)

The eligibility requirements for the ESTA changed on 17 June 2016.

All Australian passport holders seeking to visit or transit the United States under the VWP must apply for an ESTA. The cost is US\$14 and is payable online by credit card.

ESTA is a web-based system that determines the eligibility of visitors to travel to the United States under the VWP. Travellers who do not have a valid ESTA before travelling may be denied boarding, experience delayed processing or be denied admission at a port of entry.

The official site for obtaining an ESTA is www.cbp.gov/esta. There have been reports of unauthorised websites charging users to submit ESTA applications, or wrongly claiming to produce a faster approval process. Beware of using links in emails or from other websites to access the official site.

An online ESTA application must be completed for each VWP traveller, including accompanied or unaccompanied children. A third party, such as a relative or travel agent, is permitted to submit an ESTA application on behalf of a VWP traveller.

VWP and passport requirements

To enter the United States under the VWP, you must have a valid current Australian e-Passport. All valid current Australian passports (except Emergency Passports, Documents of Identity and Provisional Documents) are e-Passports. Confirm your passport is an e-Passport by checking if there is a chip page in the centre of the passport. ...

We would advise tour participants to have completed these formalities by the time their second payment is due.

Additional information for dual citizenship holders may also be found on this website. Other information concerning entry into the USA can be found on this site and may be of relevance to your personal situation.

Vaccinations and Your Health

No specific health warnings or vaccination advice exists for this region of the United States on the Australian Government's Smart Traveller website. However the following note reinforces the need

for comprehensive travel insurance.

The standard of medical facilities and care throughout the United States is comparable to Australia. Medical costs in the United States are extremely high. A visit to a doctor in the United States for even minor complaints can cost several hundred dollars, excluding laboratory tests or medication costs. In the absence of accepted health insurance (or proof of ability to pay), payment would generally be required up front.

Certain elements of the tour could be physically and emotionally demanding for some tour participants and certain inherent risks and dangers may exist in the activities. Whilst every reasonable effort to minimise exposure to known risks will be made, all hazards and dangers associated with these activities cannot be foreseen or may be beyond the control of GAWA and the tour leaders. It is a condition of participation to accurately complete the attached medical information form and contact details.

In the case of a tour participant suffering an injury or illness, GAWA, represented by the tour leaders will obtain any necessary ambulance, medical assistance and/or emergency evacuation services appropriate for the participant's safety or well-being, in consultation with the participant's Travel Insurance provider. Tour participants must accept responsibility for any medical and other necessary costs incurred.

Packing for Your Trip and Climate

July in NYC is summer and is typically warm to hot and quite humid. Average July maximum 29°C, average July minimum 20°/21°C and average July humidity 64%. Nothing people from Perth cannot handle! Summer clothing will be the order of the day. Neat casual will suffice for the evenings and we do not envisage formal attire being necessary for any of our planned activities. Of course, you may wish to plan a special occasion, which may require formalwear.

The purchase of power adaptors for AUS/US plugs is recommended before you travel and are available at many stores where electrical goods are sold (purchase of such items at the airport is not a wise investment). Please also consider your portable devices recharging requirements.

Luggage

Please make yourself familiar with your preferred airline's carry-on and stored luggage allowances. Information on carry-on luggage and restricted items can be found at www.smarttraveller.gov.au and on your airline website.

Personal Expenses and Money Exchange

You will need to take some extra money to cover meals, drinks, laundry, souvenirs, plus any additional purchases you may wish to make. Some form of Cash Card, preloaded in American Dollars is a recommended way of carrying your US dollars. These work like a credit card when purchases are made and can be used to withdraw cash from ATMs for a small fee. These are available through most Australian banks, Australia Post and some airlines where expenditure is usually linked to frequent flyer points. These can be easily blocked if lost and topped up if required. It is advised that some cash also be secured for tipping and incidental purchases. The use of your Australian credit card will attract very high fees and charges and poor exchange rates and should only be used as a last resort. A bad case of bill shock is certain to be experienced on your return home when you receive your next statement!

Tipping

Unfortunately tipping is a firm and expected element across all aspects of the hospitality industry in the USA. An internet search of the topic will provide you with numerous websites to guide you through the etiquette of tipping.

Intinerary

Now that the tour has been confirmed, your tour leaders will be compiling the itinerary and activity schedule. Updates will be sent to participants.

Activities and Tours **may include** the following and more:

- Round Island Ferry Orientation Tour
- Walk the High Line – guest speaker, gentrification and economic restructuring
- Greenwich Village walking food tour
- Williamsburg – gentrification
- Guest Speakers (American Association of Geographers)
- Brooklyn/Williamsburg – urban renewal
- Museum of Natural History
- Broadway, Times Square
- 9/11 Memorial Museum/One World Centre, Downtown
- Empire State Building/Top of the Rock, Midtown orientation
- Chelsea Markets
- Wall Street, China Town, Little Italy
- The Metropolitan Museum, Central Park
- Upper West Side, Upper East Side
- The 7 Line - Queens to Willets Point, urban renewal
- Staten Island Ferry – Statue of Liberty, Ellis Island
- Flat Iron Building. Eataly food centre
- New York Library Geography Reading Room
- Greenpoint – Newtown Creek Waste Water Treatment Plant
- 4th July, Independence Day, Fireworks on the East River
- Nine days in NYC with two days free to explore at will

| Inclusions | Exclusions |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 3 ½ - 4 star accommodation• Experienced group leaders• Ground transport as listed in the itinerary• Meals as listed in the itinerary• Entrance fees to sites listed in the itinerary and all tour activities• Guest presenters | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Airfares• Meals not listed in the itinerary• Tips and gratuities for additional activities• Passport and Visa expenses• ‘Extras’ bills at hotels for laundry, telephone, refreshments• Personal comprehensive travel insurance |