

TRAVEL TIPS FOR FIRST TIMERS TO NYC

Check Your Pockets

NYC is a fast-moving city, and that pace has caused many a personal item to be misplaced over the years. The joke is that nobody actually buys an umbrella in NYC, they just inherit them from wherever one was left behind. Getting in and out of taxis, getting in and out of your seat at restaurants—sometimes things just fall out of pockets or get misplaced. The best tip is to always check your pockets before and after making any big moves. Leaving a bar or restaurant? Getting out of an Uber? Take a minute to physically put your hands on the personal items you brought with you. Keys, wallet, purse, shopping bags, etc. All it takes is a moment to make sure you aren't leaving anything behind.

Don't Talk to Strangers

This one seems pretty obvious, since we've all been told this mantra since childhood, but it bears repeating. If somebody is asking for directions, be polite but firm and simply say you're sorry but you aren't from here, so you can't help. Sadly, there's a lot of mental illness in the city. If somebody is aggressively asking for money, or just acting sketchy in general, just don't engage with them. You're not going to solve their problems in that moment, but they might become a problem for you if you aren't careful. If your conscience gets the best of you, and you feel compelled to give, be cautious, use common sense, and always make sure you are with other people.

Look Both Ways, Even on a One-Way Street

There aren't really traffic laws in New York so much as there is an intricate fabric of unspoken social contracts between cars, busses, cyclists, motorized scooters, pedestrians, and all other manner and modes of transportation. The general gist of it always falls somewhere between, "Get the f*** out of the way", "watch where the f*** you're going", or just simply "f*** you, deal with it". (*We're a friendly people, I promise!*) So just always look both ways, twice, and in general keep your wits about you and your head on a swivel.

Stay Alert and Walk with a Friend

This one is all about getting around on foot, especially after dark. It's really simple. Stick to the buddy system. Be aware of your surroundings. Know where you are going, and try not to become distracted by conversation or your phone.

Yellow Cabs & Subways aren't that Complicated

It's really simple: If you see a Yellow with its light on, its open. Step to where you are visible. Put up your arm and they will pull over to pick you up. Just get in. Once you are inside, be polite, say hello, and tell them where you are going. If you know the cross streets, that's best. For the subway, most of the turnstiles now accept a tap from your phone or credit card. No more waiting at the machines to reload a metro card—unless you want to for some reason. Still, the easiest way for somebody unfamiliar with either to get around is to just use a ride-share service like Lyft or Uber. There you go.

Problem solved.