

## SUE'S NYC BIRTHDAY BASH DETAILS



Only 39!

Thanks so much for joining me on this NYC adventure! I truly appreciate the company.

TRAIN: 6:45 am from West Haven Arrive at 6:15 to purchase tickets on the platform. Everett! It's train #6509 and it arrives at GCT at 8:50.

See you there!

ADD A METRO PASS (\$5.00 = two rides)



For newbies:

Directions: 20 Railroad Avenue (I-95, Exit 42 off I-95 - CT 162 W/Saw Mill Rd. We purchase the tickets on the platform.

Parking: DON'T park in the first lot! Continue pass the train station, go under the train bridge, and take the immediate right into the BACK parking lot. You can park right up near the tracks /building and your car will be right there when you get off the train!!! If you want to hit Dunky D's, continue on under the train bridge to the traffic light. Note the gas station to the right. There is a Dunky D's there.

MEET: 8:50 - 9:00 am at Grand Central Terminal by the Golden Clock Info Kiosk. (Hit the restrooms! Jessie! We would love to meet you here!

### IMPORTANT TO KNOW FOR PACKING:

- 1) The Liberty Cruise requires a total security check. So, minimize the metal (belt buckles, jewelry, etc.) No scissors, nail files, etc. You know the drill.
- 2) No food or beverage is allowed on board. You can bring lights snacks for the morning, but you can't have any food or bottles of water on the cruise. (There are beverages on board for sale if you are thirsty.)

CRUCIAL: Pack your printed Hop On Hop Off /Liberty Cruise confirmations now! (Even if you were able to download the app, bring the documents!) You can still use your app if you have it.

### SUGGESTED:

A traveler with a light load is a happy traveler!

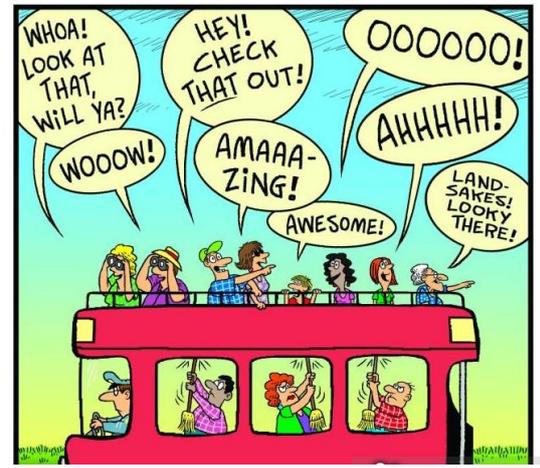
1. Camera gear: what you need. Tripods won't be necessary and would be a problem for boat security.
2. Lenses – both wide angle and zoom images will be de rigueur for the day. Consider a wide-ranging versatile zoom to avoid having to carry extra lenses and weight as well as to avoid having to change lenses all day.
3. A warm windbreaker is good for both any cruise splashes and/or cooler temps later in the day.
4. No hats or scarves that could blow off from the top deck of the bus. Perhaps a headband or scrunchie will keep long hair from blowing in your face when you're trying to take a shot.
5. Wear sturdy comfy shoes. We're minimizing the walking, but still have a 15-min. walk from a bus stop to Battery Park City, to our restaurant with some walking determined by our interests.

## COMMENTS:

NOTE: This is our first time doing this. Patience, flexibility and lemonade would be appreciated. It's a super group, so I know we can cope with anything and keep smiling and clicking!!

ON THE BUS: A traveler said to remember to pick up earplugs on a table in the bus. The first ones on the bus will race and grab a section of seats. When safe to do so, we can swap seats if we want to. Let's try for the back of the bus. I have tags for us to put on our camera bags to identify us as a group. I used birthday cakes so people might have some empathy; give us some slack and help us get on the bus together.

PHOTO OPS: I first thought of the double decker as a "photographer transport vehicle" a year ago. Finally, here we are! I thought it would be nice to be driven instead of walking 10 miles as usual. As I first realized in Paris, seated on a bus you can photograph "up" so much more, capturing aspects of architecture you can't from the sidewalk. You get a bird's eye view of and super wide angles of the frenetic views of pedestrians going in all directions. So, look up and down and all over. We will have to adjust to this dynamic and learn to see from this vantage point. It will be great fun to discover what it's like as well as see what our images look like. Zoom! Zoom! Click! Click! Have fun!



## SKELETAL ITINERARY

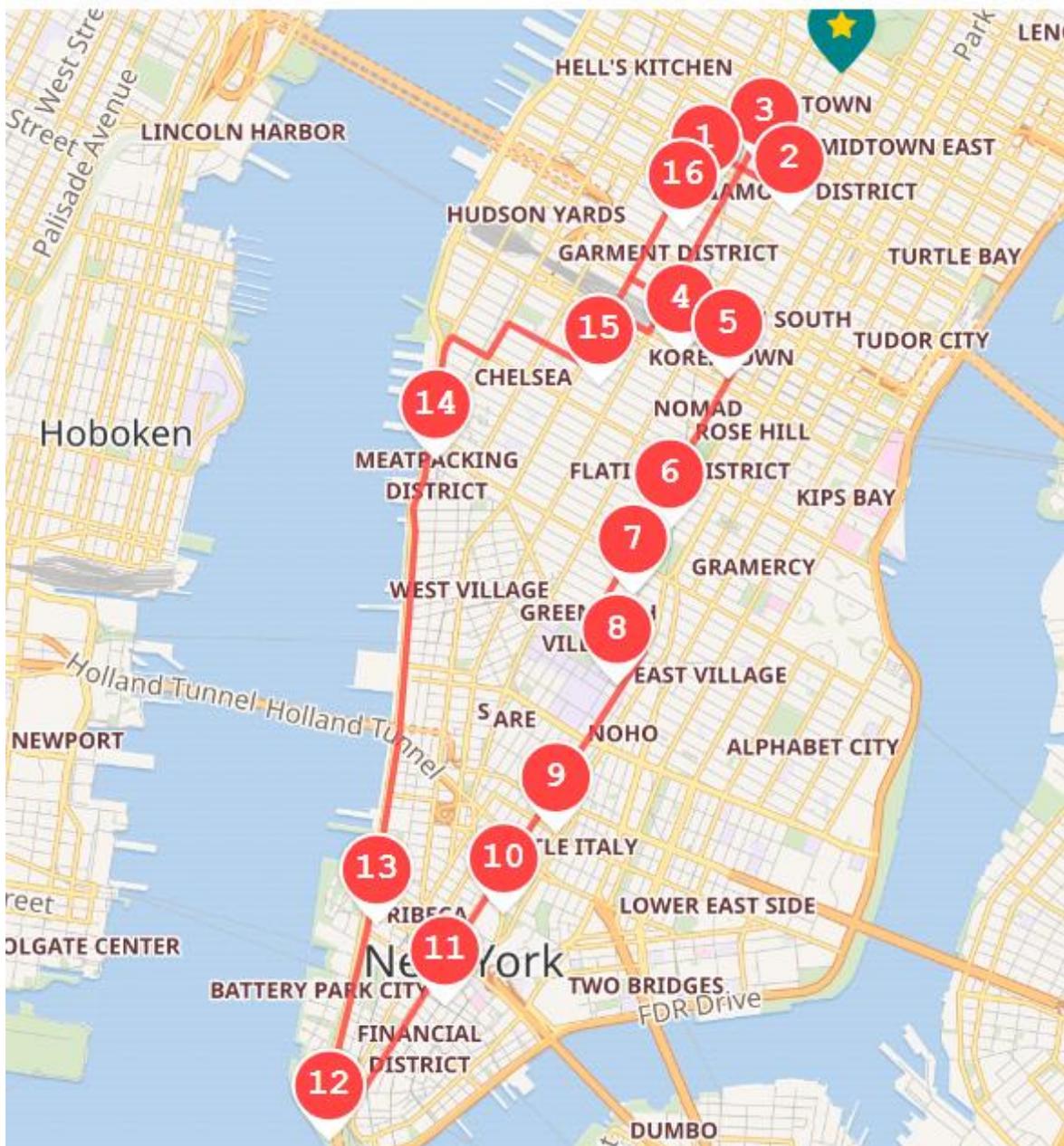
This includes the principle events and times, but we can be flexible and add stops, depending on how the HoHo goes, how the busses are running, the crowds, and how much time we have.

1. Meet at Grand Central Terminal at 9:00.
2. Redeem our printed voucher at 2 E. 42<sup>nd</sup> Street. It's a block down and across the street from GCT just past Café Metro – very close!!
3. Go to Stop #1 ASAP of the Hop On Ho Off (HoHo from now on) bus near Times Square. Be prepared to wait in a line. It's first come – first served. (Take pics of passers-by!)  
We can use the Live View link for the ETA of the busses:  
<https://www.topviewnyc.com/livemap>
4. Head southward on the HoHo past Stops #2 - #12: Rockefeller Center, Macy's, Empire State Building, Flatiron, Union Square, Washington Square Park, Soho, Canal Street, City Hall, Battery Park.
5. 12:30-ish Get off at Stop #13. Grab a sandwich for lunch. Walk 15 minutes to the Hudson at Battery Park City.  
If we reach Stop #13 earlier, we can photograph in this beautiful new area. Board the Liberty Liberty Cruise boat. (Or we can do this afterwards. ) Take pictures as we back away from Manhattan and cruise around the Hudson River and pass near the Statue of Liberty.
6. Return to Stop #13 and continue on the HoHo by Stops #14 – 16. We will continue past Stop #1 and go around again, stopping off at Stop #7 – Union Square – for dinner. (On this pass, you can take pics from the other side of the bus.) I am pleased the bus can take us to dinner, too!
7. 6:00 (Reservations) Dinner at Max Brenner in Union Square. It features a chocolate bar and chocolate concoctions beyond belief. Splurge! (Plus lot of cool photos!) Check out the menu pics!

<https://maxbrenner.com/locations/usa/restaurant-nyc/>

HEAD HOME (via Metro to GCT) If we are energized, we can do one more thing.

One whole loop = 2.5 hours (to help with judging our time)



TOP VIEW HOP ON HOP OFF BUS

DOWNTOWN ROUTE

- 1 Times Square West                      46th St btwn 7th Ave & 8th Ave, off of 8th Ave
- 2 Rockefeller Center                      6th Ave between 47th St & 48th St
- 3 Times Square North                      7th Ave btwn 50th St & 51st St
- 4 Macys                                        150 W 34th St, btwn 6th Ave & 7th Ave

- |                          |   |
|--------------------------|---|
| 5 Empire State           | 34th St btwn Broadway & 5th Ave   |
| 6 Flatiron               | 5th Ave btwn 21st St & 22nd St  |
| 7 Union Square           | 5th Ave btwn 14th St & 15th St  |
| 8 Washington Square Park | 8th St btwn University Pl & Greene St   |
| 9 Soho                   | 519 Broadway btwn Spring St & Broome St   |
| 10 Canal Street          | Broadway between White St & Walker St, off of Walker St                                 |
| 11 City Hall             | 250 Broadway between Park Pl & Murray St  |
| 12 Battery Park          | 17 Battery Place, between West st & Washington St                                       |
| 13 Liberty Cruise Stop   | 199 Chambers St, North-East corner of West Side Highway & Chambers St                   |
| 14 Highline              | West Side Highway btwn 16th St & 17th St  |
| 15 Garment District      | 8th Ave btwn 28th St & 29th St  |
| 16 Port Authority        | 8th Ave between 42nd St & 43rd St, in front of 42nd St – Port Authority Subway entrance |

Let's try to find one of these!!! (They help release tension in an urban pressure cooker!)  
 NYC is so cool!

