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What strikes first time visitors as special or unusual when they arrive in New York City?

Jehan Semper, 12/16/2017

Many first time visitors to New York City arrive by plane at JFK, Newark or LaGuardia International Airport. The commute from these airports provides a view of the New York City skyline that is absolutely everything they believed it would be, but better! That's the first thing.

Once they arrive on Manhattan island and start to "do things", they realize that everything in New York City is close together. The buildings are big, but New York City is old, so New York City is small. All of the most famous Broadway theatres, Times Square, St. Patrick's Cathedral, the beautiful and majestic library on Fifth Avenue and the actual Fifth Avenue are within quick walking distance of each other. And, the same is true for Columbus Circle, Lincoln Center and the grand 59th Street entryway to Central Park.

When they have made the decision to visit the Statue of Liberty, their walk in Downtown Manhattan to the Liberty Island ferry leads them near Wall Street, the Canyon of Heroes and World Trade Center as well as the oldest church in New York, Trinity Church, on Broadway and Rector St. Being the oldest neighborhood in New York with its narrow streets and subterranean shops and entryways, Downtown Manhattan truly gives visitors an idea of New York City's small town history.

But, the most surprising fact about New York City is the size of the Statue of Liberty. In 1886 it was the tallest structure in New York at approximately 300 feet. However, in comparison to the structures in lower Manhattan today, visitors often have the experience of having to really look for Lady Liberty as the ferry travels in New York Harbor. Visitors smile at how small yet completely awe inspiring she is, really.

[Orca: A True Story](#) is a great documentary about Downtown Manhattan, its culture and its people. It's the only place in New York that you'd have millionaires and homeless people making conversation. I know, because I made [Orca: A True Story](#). Go behind-the-scenes with [The Making of Orca: A True Story](#) to see what Downtown New Yorkers are really like. [Orca: A True Story](#) is available on [Amazon](#).

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