



# MEJDI TOURS

## MEJDI Tours Scheduled Departure

<b>Tour:</b>	The American Dual Narrative Series: Blue/Red Divide in The Big Apple
<b>Dates:</b>	April 21-24, 2022
<b>Included:</b>	3 nights' accommodation at the following hotels or similar (double occupancy): Le Méridien New York, Central Park 1 conservative guide for 4 days 1 liberal guide for 4 days Public transportation/walking tours on days 1-3 Private coach transportation on day 4 NYC MetroCard Group departure airport transfer Meals listed in the itinerary: 3 breakfasts, 2 lunches, 2 dinners Entrances, sites, and honorariums for speakers <sup>1</sup> US-based customer service representatives
<b>Not included:</b>	Airfare Arrival airport transfers Travel insurance- <b>HIGHLY RECOMMENDED</b> Single Supplement-\$375 Meals not mentioned in the itinerary Gratuities Anything not explicitly mentioned in the included section
<b>Pricing<sup>2</sup>:</b>	10+ Paying Participants - \$1,900 Per Person <i>without accommodation (day touring only)</i> - \$1,600 Per Person

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<sup>1</sup> Subject to confirmation based on availability

<sup>2</sup> Subject to change based on confirmation. This quote is valid for 2 weeks.

## **Overview:**

Take an in-depth look behind the curtain of American politics in the nation's largest and most populous city. Explore the boroughs of the Big Apple through multiple lenses, with two guides – one conservative and one liberal. Stroll the streets of lower Manhattan, known as “Old New York,” and study the roots of immigration and how they shaped the American politics of today. Sit down with local immigrants and hear first-hand stories about the sought after “American Dream” and what that looks like for an immigrant living in NYC today, and discuss the political perspectives behind modern immigration. Trace the rise of industry from the formation of labor unions to present day Wall Street. Explore the effects of big business on the government, and vice versa. Examine the effects of cyclical gentrification on some of the city’s most diverse neighborhoods, and discuss the role of diversity in politics. Explore how civil planning plays a role in the health and well-being of the city’s residents. Discuss the effects of Covid-19 on NYC, and explore disparities in healthcare by neighborhoods hit hardest by the pandemic. Explore the role of human engagement and emotion in political conflict and learn how to approach uncomfortable conversations from a place of understanding, rather than persuasion. Discover the necessary steps to stop verbally assassinating “the other” and learn to “disagree better.”

## **Itinerary:**

### **Day 1: Arrival - Midtown, Manhattan**

Arrive into New York City. Transfer to your hotel in Midtown, Manhattan (on own). Then, meet your guides and set the stage for an exploration into the politics of NYC with a classic walking tour of Midtown. Take a guided walk through Central Park, the first landscaped park in the United States, and now the natural heart of the city’s busiest borough. Visit the United Nations Headquarters, and learn how the UN seeks to uphold democratic governance as a set of values in order to promote international participation, equality, security, and human development. This evening, take part in a workshop with your guides on active listening, presence, and assertive communication in order to explore how members of opposing political parties can work toward better understanding each other and communicate more effectively. Then, head out for a welcome dinner at a local restaurant.

*Overnight: Le Méridien New York, Central Park (D)*

### **Day 2: Lower Manhattan**

This morning, explore Lower Manhattan, the cradle of New York City and home to some of the city’s oldest and most historic sites. Visit the Tenement Museum, whose two historical tenement buildings were home to an estimated 15,000 people, from over 20 nations, between 1863 and 2011. See the Asch Building, home of the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory fire of 1911, that drew attention to inhumane workers’ conditions and spurred the growth of international labor unions. Walk through the financial district and discuss the politics of Wall Street and the influences of big business on government. Visit the 9/11 Memorial & Museum and discuss the aftershocks of the tragedy on New York City, its political and economic reverberations throughout the world, and its effect on foreign policy. Learn about the Islamic Community Center and mosque, known as “Ground Zero Mosque,” and the controversy surrounding its proposed construction blocks from the former site of the

World Trade Center. Return to your hotel and enjoy dinner on your own in Midtown this evening.

*Overnight: Le Méridien New York, Central Park (B, L)*

### **Day 3: Brooklyn**

Take the subway to Lower Manhattan and board a ferry to Brooklyn. Then, set off on a walking tour to explore the political diversity of one of New York's most eclectic boroughs. Visit the residential neighborhood of Bay Ridge, historically a Republican stronghold, known for its military presence and large population of first responders. Sit down with a firefighter or police officer and learn about the struggles that have faced first responders throughout the Covid-19 crisis and how the local community has supported these essential services. Meet with a representative from the Brooklyn Young Republican Club and learn about how grassroots political movements take shape in Brooklyn's neighborhood clubs. Meet with a representative from Arab Women's Voice, a nonpartisan political consulting firm owned and operated by Arabic women, who actively canvassed to increase voter activity in 2020 amongst the marginalized Muslim communities of Brooklyn, specifically in Bay Ridge. Visit a youth organization spearheading the Black Lives Matter movement in Brooklyn and championing young black leaders to train each other through peership. Hear lesser known stories about 9/11 and its aftermath from locals in Brooklyn Heights, and examine the effects of cyclical gentrification and the shift toward more youthful and "trendy" communities. Enjoy time on your own for shopping and exploring, then watch the sunset over the East River before joining the group for a farewell dinner. Return to your hotel in Manhattan this evening.

*Overnight: Le Méridien New York, Central Park (B, D)*

### **Day 4: Queens**

Arise early this morning and meet your coach and driver for a transfer to Queens. Start the day at the Queens Museum, a lesser-known engaging and educational art museum located on the World's Fair Grounds at Flushing Meadows-Corona Park area of Queens. Tour the museum and get an overview of the city via a scaled-down 3D model of all five boroughs. Discuss the political geography of each borough as well as what makes each one unique. Then, continue on to Jackson Heights for a guided walking & culinary tour of New York's (and arguably the world's) most diverse neighborhood. Stop at bakeries, cafes, and restaurants from several of the neighborhood's predominant ethnicities and sample authentic dishes from around the world. Chat with local immigrants and restaurant owners, hear first-hand stories about the sought after "American Dream" and what that looks like for an immigrant living in NYC today, and discuss the political perspectives behind modern immigration. Discuss how politics plays a role in civil planning, and how it in turn alleviates and/or contributes to disparities in socioeconomic and racial divides. Discuss the effects of Covid-19 on NYC, and explore disparities in healthcare by neighborhood. Explore how New Yorkers tackled the pandemic and how the city continues to control the spread by zip code. Discuss how the politics surrounding Covid-19 have changed New York, what lessons were learned, and where the city will go from here. Then, transfer to the airport for your flight home today. *(B, L)*