



On the Wing Around New York City

For Phenomenal Fun Aloft, Try Gotham



Why fly New York City? Because you can! The Big Apple. It is the world's beating heart, some say, a mirror and a magnet for all humanity. Banking, fashion, finance, publishing, tourism: it all happens here in Gotham (from England's "goat hamlet," a town where residents once acted insane to avoid taxes); here, where the latitude is Istanbul, the longitude is Bogata, and the populace, more than 1.5 million in Manhattan's 33.8 sq. miles, make up a city – you'll see – that never sleeps.

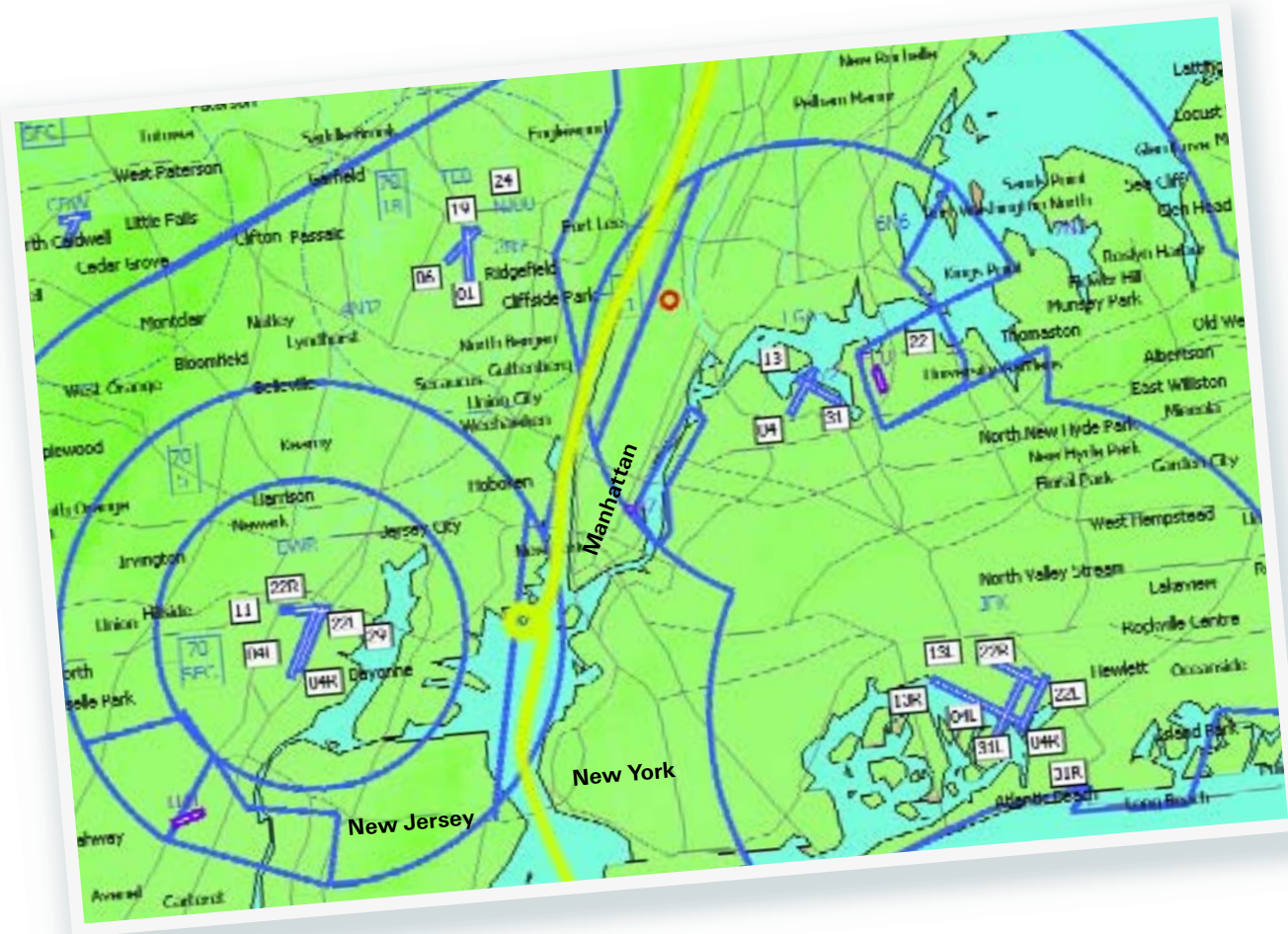
Why fly New York City? Because few self-pilot tours can wake you up to all the fun going on below, as well rouse your red-blooded American thrill at our country's enterprise. Why fly New York City? Because, no, despite 9-11 you will not be intercepted by an F-16 and yes, as you wing above everybody so busy in the city below, you will know: this is a town that means excitement!

The essentials for this flying adven-

ture are simple: 1) a New York City Helicopter Chart; and 2) a New York City Terminal Chart. Why fly New York City with the navigation charts used by whirly-birds? "It is an awesome flight," says Pilot Michael. He adds that by flying low, abiding by helicopter rules and in constant communication with all chopper traffic, "looking up to the towering Manhattan sights is amazing. Exciting. A definite wild ride!" Fixed-wing flyers, should they enter Class B airspace above 13-mile-long Manhattan Island (jammed with JFK, LGA and EWR traffic) can get vectored all over, so it is best, say the experienced, to fly the Hudson River. Here, skimming over the bridges that link New York with New Jersey is Pilot Michael's personal thrill, as is 360-degree circles around the Statue of Liberty.

Got a 'copter or want to fly New York City in one? You will have the flight of your life, says Louis Maldonado, owner of Pegasus Global Helicopter Corp. in

Manhattan Island looking south (above) is a sight no less stirring than its bridges, among them (opposite) Manhattan (foreground) and Brooklyn (background).



Map provided by Voyager Flight Planning Software

Linden, NJ, a friendly, popular purveyor of NYC tours. To hover above the city, whirling into and around it as close as is possible aloft, is a “mind-boggling” experience. He adds: “New York is un-be-liev-a-ble. A great metropolis. From the air it is simply breathtaking.”

Got your breath ready to be taken? Great. Begin your NYC adventure at New Jersey’s Linden Municipal Airport (LDJ), where by flying north you catch the Hudson River. This is boundary to the great glacial detritus that is Manhattan, the native Lenape peoples’ “hilly island” or “place of general inebriation.” The former port of New Amsterdam, once owned by the Dutch West India Co., used to be about fur, tobacco and timber, with the “wall” of Wall Street meant to keep English and Indian raiders out of town. In 1664 the English nonetheless arrived, by battleship, and re-christened the place after the Duke of York. The old duke likely never saw it coming (besides the

Revolution): the 19th c. public works like the Erie Canal, built by Irish immigrants; the post-Civil War splendors erected along Fifth Avenue by fabulously wealthy types like Rockefeller (oil) and Carnegie (steel); the great Jazz Age migration from the South to Harlem; the art explosion of the ’70s; the booming stock market of the ’80s; and all along, the neighborhoods that evolved – among them, stylish Soho, scrappy Chinatown, anti-establishment East Village and glamorous Midtown.

Ready, now, to wing the river south and see for yourself the city so colorfully built by American guts and glory and gumption? Terrific. This is only some of what you will see; you whirly-birds, getting an especially close “up-close-and-personal,” will enjoy an even more powerful wow!:

“It is the Milky Way come down to earth,” said architect Le Corbusier, of the USS Intrepid, the spectacular sea-air-space museum now at anchor in the

Hudson. Grant’s Tomb, also on the river in Riverside Park, is President Ulysses S.’s impressive granite mausoleum. “Let us have peace,” is thereupon engraved, a sentiment to ponder when the Chelsea Piers are in view. Here, the *Lusitania* once docked and the *Titanic*, sadly, once headed. As Manhattan itself looms, awe at the architecture: the iconic Art Deco Chrysler Building, where gargoyles oversee the city scene and 32 Otis elevators, each paneled in a different wood, glide New Yorkers skyward; the pencil-slim Empire State Building, another legendary Art Deco darling whose crowning spire originally was designed to dock, despite two failed attempts, dirigibles; and, closer to the ground, the sprawling United Nations headquarters, set in 18 lushly landscaped acres as a Modernist “international zone” not part of the U.S. at all.

Look closely, and there it is: Yankee Stadium, one of baseball’s most revered cathedrals where Babe Ruth, Lou Gehrig

(From top): Whirling above the West Side offers a wonderful photo op; the Empire State building, the gilded Met Life building and the Statue of Liberty are all stunning in-air sights; a bird’s eye view of Central Park.



and Mickey Mantle performed heroics. You won’t miss this, of course: Central Park. This 843 acres of mid-city “Riviera” is the pastoral, picturesque former swamp that in 1857 became our nation’s first artificially landscaped park. Or this: Fifth Avenue. Once a dirt path to the beaver-trading post of Albany, today’s representative of NYC magnificence (found here: the Met) stands as a phenomenon as powerful as Broadway, where the white-hot energy of Times Square is the glittering center for 30 major theaters; here, the packed houses prove, as it’s said, that the only thing New Yorkers do harder than work, is play.

Why fly New York City? Because you will buzz bridges – the Washington, Brooklyn, Queensboro, Williamsburg – whose singular style hint of so many fascinations to come. Like? Like Ellis Island, lower Manhattan’s 27.5-acre immigration facility that from 1892 to 1924 welcomed the ancestors of 40 percent of today’s Americans. And Ground Zero, Battery Park’s sense-stirring, soul-shaking symbol of freedom, challenged, only to be...ah, yes, here she is...reaffirmed. The Statue of Liberty. Fly a 360-degree turn here on your return to LDJ and you will know a moment of awe and meaning no cliché or cheap souvenir can tarnish. Swoop as close as you’re allowed and – like the thrill you’ll experience with every sight on this flight – never again will you beg the question: Why fly New York City?

Because, says Maldonado, “there is nothing, I mean *nothing* so special.”

NYC helicopter and terminal charts are available through your local FBO, as well as www.sportys.com. For a superb NYC helicopter tour, contact www.pegasus-flight.com, or call (866) 734-2358.

