

New York City — One-Day Photo Tour

A light-first route · summer timing (≈5:25 AM sunrise · 8:31 PM sunset)

1 DUMBO, Brooklyn

SUNRISE

Washington St framing the Manhattan Bridge, Brooklyn Bridge Park skyline at first light — empty before the crowds

Lens: 24-70mm + 70-200mm · **Getting there:** Start here (subway F to York St)

☂ Shoot under the bridge; wet-cobblestone reflections

4:50 AM
to 6:30 AM



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2 Brooklyn Bridge walk

GOLDEN HOUR

Walk toward Manhattan in soft light — cables, gothic arches, skyline. Near-empty this early

Lens: 16-35mm / 24-70mm · **Getting there:** 5-min walk to the bridge entrance

☂ The stone arches give cover and a moody frame

6:30 AM
to 8:00 AM



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3 The Oculus & Financial District

ARCHITECTURE

Calatrava's white ribs inside the Oculus, Stone Street, the Charging Bull before the queues

Lens: 16-35mm / 24-70mm · **Getting there:** 10-min walk off the bridge into Lower Manhattan

☂ The Oculus is fully indoors — perfect wet-weather stop

8:00 AM
to 9:30 AM



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4 Grand Central Terminal

INTERIOR

Light beams through the east windows, the main concourse, the celestial ceiling

Lens: 24-70mm · **Getting there:** ~20 min, subway 4/5 uptown to Grand Central

☂ Indoors — unaffected

10:00 AM
to 11:00 AM



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5 Bryant Park (rest & refuel)

MIDDAY

Harsh light — recharge, grab lunch, back up your morning files. Scout the afternoon

Lens: — · **Getting there:** 5-min walk west

☂ Café tables / the library reading room nearby

11:30 AM
to 1:30 PM



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6 SoHo & West Village

AFTERNOON STREET

Cast-iron facades, fire escapes, street life, the West Village's leafy corners

Lens: 24-70mm + 35/50mm · **Getting there:** ~15 min, subway to Spring St

☂ Covered storefronts and rain-slicked cobblestones

1:30 PM
to 4:30 PM



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7 Gantry Plaza State Park, LIC

SUNSET

The Midtown skyline across the East River, sunset behind it, the LIC waterfront and gantries

Lens: 24-70mm + 70-200mm + tripod · **Getting there:** ~30 min, subway 7 to Vernon Blvd-Jackson Av

☂ Skip the open waterfront; shelter and shoot moody skyline gaps

6:30 PM
to 8:31 PM



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8 Gantry Plaza — Blue hour

NIGHT

Blue-hour skyline lights, long exposures, river reflections. (Optional add-on: a late Top of the Rock slot for the view from above)

Lens: 24-70mm + tripod · **Getting there:** Stay put

8:31 PM
to 9:30 PM



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IF IT RAINS

Keep DUMBO, the Brooklyn Bridge arches, the Oculus, Grand Central, and SoHo storefronts — all work in (or shelter from) rain. Skip or shorten the open LIC waterfront; rain over the skyline at blue hour can be spectacular if you protect your gear.

LATE START (9 AM)

Starting at 9 AM? Skip the DUMBO sunrise and the bridge walk. Open at Grand Central, do the Oculus/FiDi late morning, SoHo in the afternoon, and keep the Gantry Plaza sunset and blue hour — the highest-value blocks.

GEAR CHECKLIST

- Mirrorless/DSLR body (+ spare battery)
- 24-70mm walk-around
- 70-200mm for compressed skylines
- 16-35mm wide for the Oculus & bridge
- Small travel tripod (sunrise + blue hour)
- Microfibre cloth & a rain sleeve
- MetroCard / OMNY on your phone
- Power bank

FULL ROUTE IN MAPS



Scan for the whole day, in order

SAFETY & ETIQUETTE

Standard city sense: keep gear zipped on the subway, stay aware around empty pre-dawn streets, and don't block bridge bike lanes. Tripods are fine in parks but discouraged inside Grand Central at busy times — shoot handheld there.