



# MindStormPhoto New York City 2014

Burt and Evelyn Johnson

# New York City 2014

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# New York, Here We Come

## New York, Here We Come



We have spent the last couple of days in New Jersey, visiting with Zoya and Vladimir (friends we first met in St Petersburg, Russia in 1992), seeing the last of the Fall Colors, visiting the New York PhotoPro expo, and shopping for last minute items for Iceland.

Today we moved to East Village in New York City, where we will explore for the next week. Evelyn was last in NYC in 1982 on a trip for Apple, and I was last here in 1968, as a college freshman (the year before I met Evelyn). We walked the neighborhood around our AirBnb room, and found it to be an amazing, if expensive, area.

# New York, Here We Come

Today we moved to East Village in New York City, where we will explore for the next week. Evelyn was last in NYC in 1982 on a trip for Apple, and I was last here in 1968, as a college freshman (the year before I met Evelyn). We walked the neighborhood around our AirBnb room, and found it to be an amazing, if expensive, area.

We arrived a bit hungry, so went into a tiny sandwich shop (Porchetta) and had a fabulous pork sandwich -- which we would have called a hornita in Ecuador. We then discovered an Indian spice shop, where we purchased a dozen spices that we cannot find in Ecuador. After taking those back to the room (our arms were full), we took a short nap, then went out in search of dinner.

Since our intended restaurant had a half hour waiting time, we dropped around the corner at Eddy's for a drink and scallop ceviche appetizer. We had never had a cold scallop ceviche before, and the taste was incredible. We then moved over to UpState, the restaurant we had chosen for dinner (TripAdvisor 5 star rating was definitely deserved). We sat at the bar, and asked the bartender for a wine recommendation to go with our meal. He first offered a sparkling white wine, that didn't quite suite our taste, so he then suggested and let us sample a sauvignon blanc, which we preferred more. After a generous pouring, he brought out our smoked salmon "share plate," followed by a scallop main course. Everything was over-the-top delicious. Our bartender (Frank) turned out to be from Chile, and we talked briefly (he was kept pretty busy) about South American seafood and culture.

All in all, a very nice reintroduction to New York City. Now, if only the temperature would rise about 20 degrees and wind stop blowing, this would be a perfect trip!



# The City of the Young

## The City of the Young



This was a long day of walking and subway-ing (I know it's not a word, but we did it!) around New York City. We started by going to the 9/11 memorial where the World Trade Center once stood. It was massively impressive, with more buildings still going up.

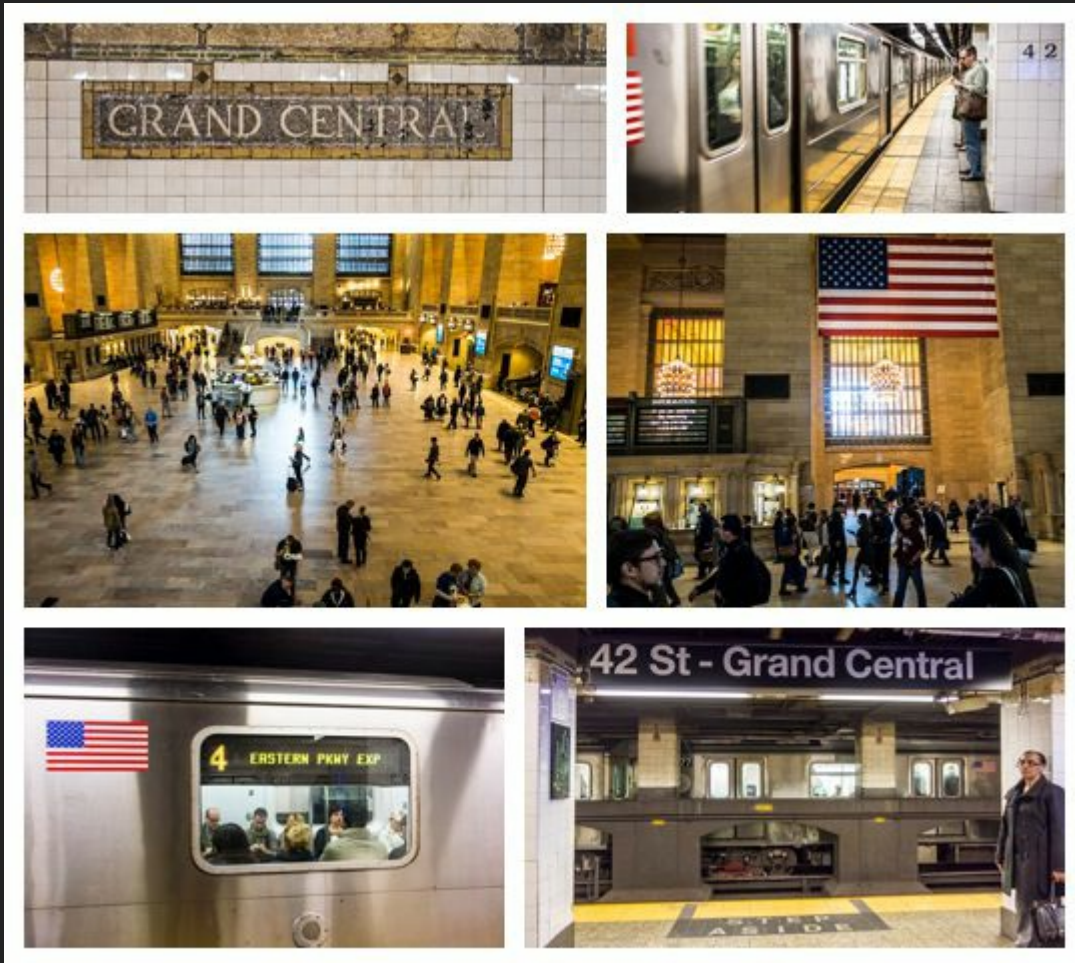
# The City of the Young



The internal display was extremely well done, and highly emotional for those of us that watched the towers come down, even if only on TV. There were classes of middle-school students also going through it, running and enjoying themselves. I then realized that 9/11 was ancient history to them, just as was World War II was to me when I grew up in the 1950s. Sobering thought...



# The City of the Young



*Next on our tour was Grand Central Station. Huge, and exactly as imaged from the various movies that have scenes here.*



*We went to Gallagher's for dinner, and had a fabulous steak -- at New York prices of course, then followed that by attending "The Book of Mormons" on Broadway.*

# The City of the Young



We wrapped up the night by visiting Times Square. You're in New York City? Gotta see Times Square! It was then that I noticed how young those on the town were. The Under-30 set outnumbered the grey-hair set easily 10-to-1. This part of the city truly belongs to the young. And, even at 11:00 pm at night, the streets, Trader Joe's, restaurants and bars were jammed packed — New York is known as the City that Never Sleeps, and we concur.

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, November 4, 2014

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# Exotic New York

## Exotic New York



Another day of wandering around New York City and running up record numbers on our pedometers. We have gotten used to seeing a lot of fresh fruits and flowers in Ecuador. New York has small corner stands throughout East Village, with everything just as fresh but having a more polished display.





# Exotic New York

First target neighborhood was Chinatown. We had expected something similar to Chinatown in San Francisco, but this seemed much larger and more vibrant. There were the expected ducks hanging in the windows, and rows of spices, but the seafood was the most impressive. Massive amounts of fish, much of it still live, caught with a net out of an aquarium and killed specifically for the buyer.



# Exotic New York

Wandering into a local park, we came upon a scene that could have been from 100 years ago. Men played mahjong, while women played cards, and a small group of musicians in a corner performed Chinese music.



Adjoining Chinatown is Little Italy, which was our next destination for the day. The peripheral of Little Italy was all Chinese stores, which surprised us -- seems that Chinatown is expanding at the expense of Little Italy. Walking a couple more blocks, and the scenes from Italy began to emerge. This region was less obvious and much smaller than the neighboring Chinatown though.



# Exotic New York

We have gotten pretty good at getting around on the subway here (which is a lot cleaner and more efficient than we expected), and took a train uptown to see "*A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder*" on Broadway. It was one of the best musicals we have seen, with the lead having facial contortions to rival the young Jim Carey (you know -- when he was still funny...).

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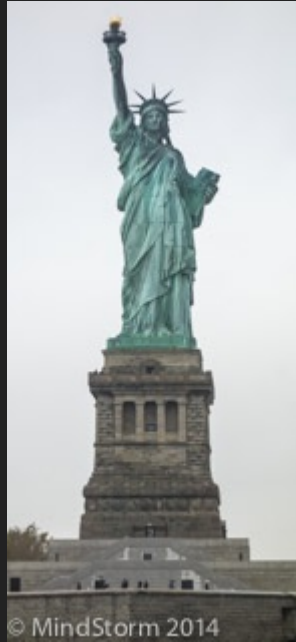
, November 5, 2014

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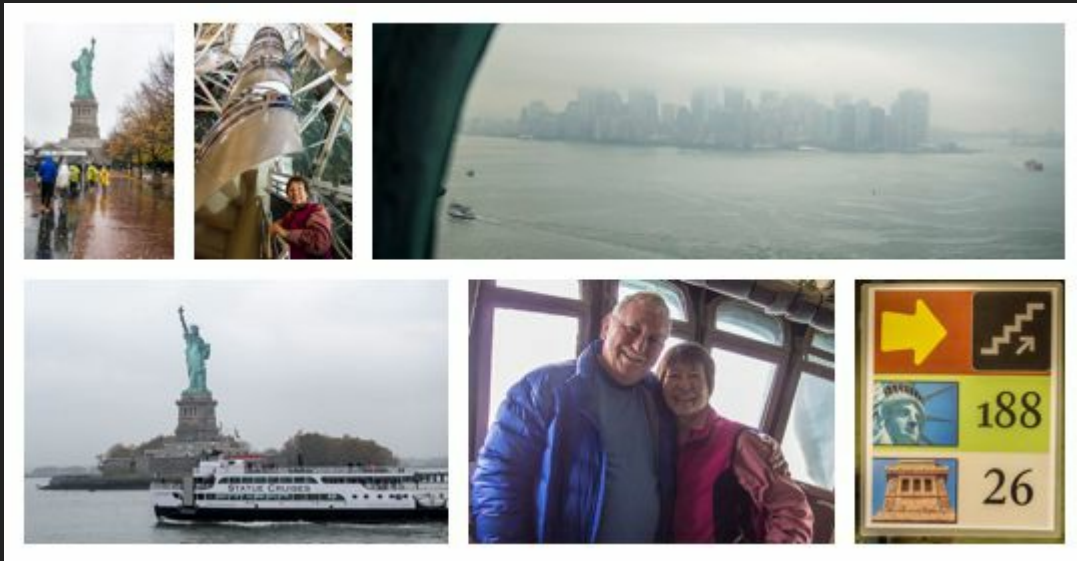
# Liberty In The Rain

## Liberty In The Rain



To go to the top of the Statue of Liberty requires buying tickets months in advance. We had ours for today -- which turned out to be the only day on our New York trip that was raining. Besides getting soaked, it gave us lots of photographs of the Manhattan skyline partially hidden in the clouds.

# Liberty In The Rain



The climb to the crown is 188 steps above the pedestal, up a claustrophobic narrow circular staircase. One way up and one way down. Once you start, you are committed with no turning back till you reach the top. Unfortunately, the view from the top is anti-climatic, with only tiny views of the bay through small plexiglass windows facing away from the city. Glad we went, but not sure I'd recommend it to others...



An optional free stop back to Manhattan is at Ellis Island. The museum display there was exceptionally well done, and is a stop I'd recommend to all. The tour ended with an emotional 30 minute documentary of the immigrants, much of it in their own words when interviewed in 1989.



# Wrapping Up New York

## Wrapping Up New York



We wrapped up our first week of New York City today, walking our feet off and taking more subways up and down Manhattan. We started by walking through Central Park, where surprisingly, the Fall colors were still visible.



While in the area, we visited Columbia University to check out the campus. Alice (The High School daughter of the friends we are staying with in New Jersey) wants to go there, so we were curious. It was a beautiful, but very small campus, with only 4500 students.

# Wrapping Up New York



In the same area was the Frick Collection museum -- an art collection created by Henry Frick (1849-1919). Entry is free on Sunday from 11-1, so we walked over and went through the museum. I am not an expert in painting, but this was one of the best collections I have seen in a museum in years.

# Wrapping Up New York



When in the area of Central Park, we also visited the Natural History museum. We particularly wanted to see "George" -- the last Galapagos tortoise of his species. We saw him alive on our trip to the Galapagos in 2009, but he died last year and is now on display in New York. The rest of the museum turned out to be fascinating too. I haven't been to a Natural History museum in a few years, and this was a pleasant walk through dinosaur bones and lifelike animal displays.



# Wrapping Up New York



Once you seen 'em stuffed, might as well head out to the Bronx Zoo to see them live too. Unfortunately, the Winter schedule has many of the major animal displays closed though.



# Wrapping Up New York Again

## Wrapping Up New York Again



Our time in New York City is coming to a close. Today we walked more of downtown, came across a kid's skating rink, a small park devoted to gay & lesbian couples, and went to the Mecca of Apple Users everywhere -- the 5th Ave Apple store. We were glad we didn't actually have anything to buy there though, as it was a packed madhouse and would have been near impossible to actually make a purchase.

# Wrapping Up New York Again



Last night we went to the Cornelia Street Cafe to listen to the **Rhythm Future Quartet**, a talented gypsy jazz group.



# Wrapping Up New York Again



Tonight we listened to a jazz vocalist named Roz Corral at the 55 Bar. Below is a portion of her [Anyone Can Whistle](#) performance. A night of "bar hopping" for us means going to two different bars in one night, so we then ventured over to a piano bar called Mezzrows.

[Roz Corral singing Anyone Can Whistle](#) on [Vimeo](#).

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, December 1, 2014

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