

2 Girls Who Travel Take New York: From Niagara to NYC in 48 Hours

By Valerie Jones and Kim Floyd

2 Girls Who Travel

New York is synonymous with Big City lights, skyscrapers and endless things to do.

Or maybe you're just thinking of New York City. Believe it or not, New York State can also be just as fun. Albeit a bit slower, but don't sleep on Upstate New York!

On our most recent 2 Girls Who Travel adventure, we explored the entire state – from top to bottom and even nearby New Jersey, too! Keep reading for the highlights.

Beginning in Niagara Falls, we soon noticed the differences between the U.S. side and the Canada side (if you didn't know, Niagara Falls straddles the Canadian border).

The U.S. didn't have grabbed our passports and trekked over to Canada. Cool, right? A 15-minute walk at night allowed us some beautiful shots of The Falls illuminated with the colored lights and the ability to enjoy the Canadian side of Niagara Falls – specifically Clifton Hills – which boasts plenty of food and entertainment including a bowling alley, a wax museum, Ripley's Believe it Or Not Museum, go-kart track, restaurant chains like Applebee's and Hard Rock Cafe as well as restaurants we weren't familiar with. Did we mention casinos? (Note: the U.S. side has casinos also and from what we hear, they have higher payouts).

Niagara Falls Tour

Exploring on our own is always good in our book, but we also love a good tour – because you know we don't know EVERYTHING!

So we booked a Niagara Falls tour. It was the "Over the Falls Tour" and we visited the "Cave of the Winds." It was awesome! Here's a couple things you should know about this tour:

- You WILL get wet.
- You'll get some of the absolute best up-close shots of

The Falls ever. So worth it!



New Jersey

After a few days in Corning, NY (located in the Finger Lakes region – think wine, wine and more wine), we rented a car and drove into Elizabeth, New Jersey where our hotel was located, for the weekend. The car ride was a pleasant alternative to flying for a change as it allowed us to really get the scenic views of Upstate New York.

While in Jersey, we drove to Liberty State Park in Jersey City to visit the Statue of

Liberty. (Note: you can also take the ferry for a fee and get very close to the statue. In our case, there was a body of water separating us, so we got as good as shots as we could).

We found free parking near the Jennifer Chalsty Planetarium and walked just over a mile through the park to see the Statue.

New York City

Once we figured out the best way to get to the City from Jersey, New York City was our oyster!

First, we caught a Lyft to Harlem, the first area we wanted to visit in Manhattan. We stopped by famed soul food restaurant Amy Ruth's for lunch.

Their entrees are named after prominent African Americans and the food was excellent. Portions were a good size for the price. And we were full to the point

so we had to get our walk on to wake up. Harlem is known for its hustle and bustle and being a mecca for African American businesses.

We soaked it all up as we walked block after block.

We also made a stop in famed Red Rooster Harlem and enjoyed a couple of cocktails. The vibe here is on point – there's black art, good music, colorful decor and cool people. We highly recommend you make it one of your stops if ever visiting Harlem. We hear the nightlife is good, too!

Can't forget about Levain Bakery where you'll find some of the biggest cookies you've ever had! They have numerous locations – we visited the one in Harlem.

We ended up catching another Lyft to get to Times Square where we walked around and did a bit of shopping. As you know, Times Square is ALWAYS busy and there's just so much to do!

After we'd done enough damage, we now had to figure out the best way to get back to New Jersey. For more on that adventure, head to the 2 Girls Who Travel blog – www.2girlswotravel.com and search "NYC."

All-in-all, our quick trip to New Jersey and NYC was great and the perfect way to end our week in New York. We can't wait to book our next trip ... stay tuned!

About 2 Girls Who Travel: Armed with a love for culture, adventure, food, arts and entertainment – and equipped with a laptop, camera and cellular devices – 2 Girls Who Travel has a mission to share their journey with the world. They conduct exclusive interviews, write about cool finds, give destination-specific travel tips and provide their takes on the best food and drinks and so much more. Embodying two different kinds of travelers – Val is the adventure-seeking

millennial and Kim is the cultured lover of luxury – readers will learn more about them as they share their experiences traversing the globe! Subscribe to the 2 Girls Who Travel blog at [2girlswotravel.com](http://www.2girlswotravel.com).

