

Annual Christmas Lights of New York City Tour

December 1 – 7, 2024 (7 Days)

Tentative Itinerary



Welcome aboard our 51st annual escorted tour to New York City for the Holidays! This trip is guaranteed to be a magical experience, and sure to put you in the holiday spirit! This year we are excited to include tickets to two Broadway musicals (limited offer, see Website for current promotions) as well as four nights at the exclusive Marriott Marquis hotel located in the heart of Times Square! As always, our New York City Holiday Tours include a ticket to Radio City Music Hall's Christmas Spectacular starring the Rockettes, as well as opportunities for world-class shopping in time for the gift giving season! Please read the information carefully. Feel free to call if you have any questions. Your Tour Manager looks forward to meeting you and delivering a well-managed and enjoyable escape where all you must do is... sit back, relax, and enjoy yourself! Collins Tours is the original tour provider to New York City from our region, we do New York better than anyone else!

-Sincerely, Greg Collins - President & CEO

Day 1: Sunday, Dec 1 – Courtyard Marriott, South Portland, ME

- Your Christmas Lights of New York City Tour begins this morning! Meet your coach or shuttle at the designated pick-up location assigned to you.
- Please arrive 15 minutes before the times listed below to ensure luggage is loaded and passengers are onboard in a timely manner.
- Stops to pick up passengers will be brief (10 min.), and we ask that you remain on the motor coach unless the stop is a scheduled coffee break or lunch.

FINAL PICK-UP LOCATIONS & DEPARTURE TIMES

Nova Scotia Travellers:

- **Halifax**, Sobeys Lacewood Drive – TBA
- **Dartmouth Crossing**, Hampton Inn – TBA
- **Halifax Airport**, Quality Inn – TBA
- **Truro Heights Big Stop** - TBA

New Brunswick Travellers:

- **Aulac** Irving Big Stop - TBA
- **Moncton** Magnetic Hill McDonald's – TBA
- **Fredericton**, Lincoln Big Stop – TBA
- **Saint John**, Rte. 1 Irving – TBA

Prince Edward Island Travellers: Shuttle to Aulac NB

- **Charlottetown** Mall, near Superstore entrance – TBA

- For your convenience, today's drive includes coffee breaks, and an hour lunch stop (your expense).
- All our tours are pre-registered with Customs & Immigration. Expect minimal delays at border crossings.
- Your tour manager will represent you during our appointment at the border. Everyone is responsible for having proper identification and ensuring you can legally enter the U.S.
- Your tour manager will check the group into the Courtyard Marriott in Portland for our late afternoon arrival and have your bag sent to your room, all part of Collins Tours signature check-in service!

Tour Itinerary – The Original Christmas Lights of New York City, December 1-7, 2024

- For those interested we will take you to a shopping center before arriving at our hotel, for some holiday shopping! Shoppers will be picked up at 7:00 pm at the same location you were dropped at, then returned to the hotel where your luggage will be waiting inside your hotel room.
- Enjoy the remainder of the evening and dinner at your own expense in South Portland.

Day 2: Monday, Dec 2 – Portland – Marriott Marquis, Times Square New York City (B) - *Tonight's Performance: Christmas Spectacular at Radio City Music Hall*

- Enjoy your complimentary hot continental breakfast before our departure from the hotel this morning. Your tour manager will check out all guests. Please be sure to cover your personal room charges or incidentals prior to check out.
- This morning's drive will have us passing through New Hampshire and Massachusetts followed by an hour lunch stop at Connecticut's Blue Colony Diner (your expense). Please note, meal portions are large at this restaurant.
- We estimate a late afternoon arrival at the Marriott Marquis, located in the heart of Midtown Manhattan and the top hotel in NYC being offered from Atlantic Canada.
- Your tour manager will check everyone in at the hotel, hand out room keys and have your bags delivered to your room. Please note baggage handling may take up to one hour, but you do **not** need to be in your room for baggage delivery.
- Enjoy dinner on your own & at your expense before our Christmas Spectacular performance.
- Please meet your group at the designated location, to take a short transfer to the Radio City Music Hall for this evening's highlight, Radio City Music Hall's Christmas Spectacular, featuring the Rockettes **(included)** with orchestra level seats! (Please note - security will be slow during entry of the show).
- 15 minutes following the show, meet your tour manager at a designated area to board the motor coach back to the hotel. If you choose to explore the city from Radio City Music Hall on your own, please advise your tour manager before the show starts.
- The rest of the evening is on your own and at your own expense.



Day 3: Tuesday, Dec 3 – New York City - *Included Broadway Show (TBA)*

- Take time to enjoy breakfast New York City style today (your expense). You may choose between a couple of restaurants near our hotel.
- Meet your tour manager this morning for our professionally guided tour. Our local guide will take us for a tour aboard the motor coach that includes a short walk in Central Park at Strawberry Fields, world-famous 5th Avenue, the Financial District, and St. Patrick's Cathedral and a photo op of Lady Liberty from Battery Park (weather permitting).
- Today's lunch break and afternoon will be **on your own**.
- Dinner is on your own this evening (your expense)
- After dinner, we head out for one of our tour's highlights: a hit Broadway musical production! **(included)**. Meet your tour manager once again on the motor coach next to your hotel to enjoy your complimentary transfer to the theatre. Your tour manager will distribute the theatre tickets in advance.
- Please meet your tour manager 15 minutes following the show for transportation back to the hotel at a location convenient for our coach (location TBA) and for those who wish to walk back to the hotel please advise your tour manager prior to the start of the show.
- Enjoy the rest of the evening on your own.

Day 4: Wednesday, Dec 4 - New York City (Group Dinner)

- Breakfast is on your own again today. There are multiple options near our centrally located hotel. Perhaps today is the day to visit The Metropolitan Museum of Art, The Museum of Natural History, do some Macy's shopping or explore more of what Central Park has to offer?
- Join us this evening for a night of unforgettable dining and entertainment at an upscale Restaurant with a glass of wine or beer included. This dinner is a seated served dinner overlooking Times Square and a value of over \$175 CAD per person.



Day 5: Thursday, Dec 5 - New York City *2nd Broadway Show - Limited Offer *See Website for Promotional Details*

- Take time to enjoy breakfast New York City style today (your expense).
- It is another “free” day in New York City! Explore the city on your own. Perhaps travel down to the Statue of Liberty or roam the Central Park Zoo.
- Make sure you are back in the lobby late this afternoon for our highlight of the day, another world class Broadway attraction! **(Limited Offer - See Website for Promotional Details)**! Meet your tour manager on the motor coach outside your hotel for your transfer to the theatre. Your ticket also includes return transportation to the hotel. Or you can choose to walk back – simply let the tour manager know your intentions before leaving the hotel.
- Please meet your tour manager 15 minutes following the show for transportation back to the hotel at a location convenient for the coach (location TBA).
- Enjoy the rest of the evening on your own.

Day 6: Friday, Dec 6 – New York City - Hampton Inn & Suites, Augusta, ME (Farewell Dinner)

- Take time to enjoy breakfast (your expense) before we check out of the New York City hotel. Don't forget to cover any personal room expenses or incidentals prior to check out.
- Bid farewell to, “The Big Apple” as we make our way north.
- Our drive today includes a short coffee break, followed by an hour lunch along our route (meal not included and on your own).
- We expect a late afternoon arrival at the Hampton Inn Augusta. After we arrive at the hotel, we will meet in the lobby for a transfer to our Farwell Group dinner with a glass of wine or beer **(included)** at a restaurant nearby. Time to share stories of our exciting visit to New York City... and start planning your next group getaway!
- Following dinner, the remainder of the evening is on your own.

Day 7: Saturday, Dec 7 - Home (B)

- Enjoy a delightful complimentary buffet breakfast before our departure. We have a lunch break scheduled along the way (on your own).
- We make our way back to the Canadian border for a brief stop at the Duty-Free Store, followed by an appointment at Canadian Customs & Immigration at the border crossing. Once again, be sure to have your valid passport ready. NOTE: Your duty-free allowance for this trip is \$800 per person.
- The coach will drop you back **at your original pick-up points**. Arrival times are dependent on border traffic and are not exact. Estimated arrival times are as follows.

New Brunswick:

- **Fredericton**, Lincoln Irving Big Stop – TBA
- **Saint John**, Rte. 1 Irving – TBA
- **Moncton**, Magnetic McDonald's – TBA
- **Aulac Irving Big Stop** - TBA

Nova Scotia:

- **Halifax Airport**, Quality Inn – TBA
- **Dartmouth Crossing**, Hampton Inn –TBA
- **Halifax**, Sobeys Lacewood Drive – TBA
- **Truro Heights Big Stop** - TBA

Prince Edward Island:

- **Charlottetown Mall**, near Superstore Entrance – TBA

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

- Tour itineraries are **ONLY a guideline (estimates)** and may need to be modified by your tour manager and are subject to change due to various unforeseen factors, such as weather, traffic, mechanical issues, emergencies, and other “Acts of God.” Collins Tours & Consulting Ltd. is not responsible or liable, in any way, for delays caused by unforeseen events. No refunds or reimbursements will be offered in the event of any such occurrence.

Hotels Contact Information:

Courtyard Marriott, 100 Southborough Dr. South Portland, Maine, Ph: 1-207-253-5005
Marriott Marquis Hotel NYC – 1535 Broadway, New York, NY, Ph: 1-212-398-1900
Hampton Inn Augusta, 388 Western Ave. Augusta, Maine, Ph: 1-207-622-4077

- Customs & Immigration: **Everyone entering the U.S. must have a Valid Passport.** U.S. Customs has the right to refuse entry to anyone with a past record. Please check with border agents to confirm your status if you are concerned about entry in the USA. Collins Tours is not responsible for any matters relating to your refusal at the border, and will not provide compensation, reimbursement, or refunds for denied entry into the USA. All passengers who may be affected by a past record or criminal offence will be responsible for their own transportation back to original pick-up locations. All prescription medication needs to be clearly labeled for Customs and Immigration to clear it.
- Duty Free Rules allow each person to claim \$800 if they have been out of the country for at least 48 hours.
- To simplify your shopping experiences, purchase American currency in advance, as many US banks will not exchange your money without a US bank account. Debit cards must be VISA or MasterCard flagged to be accepted at US stores.
- Please remove all personal belongings when departing the bus. We’re not responsible for items left behind.
- **REMEMBER:** your tour manager handles hotel check in/check out procedures, overall group management (e.g., timely transitions, itinerary planning), and group representation at Concerts and Customs and Immigration. We work hard to ensure that everyone enjoys his or her experience to the fullest.

Gratuities for your Tour Manager & Driver are **NOT** included in the tour price.

Here are guidelines on *Tipping Etiquette*:

- Collins Tours Manager - Ranging from \$7.00-\$9.00 per person, per day.
- Bus driver-\$5.00-\$6.00 per person, per day
- Private city tour guides- \$3.00 per person, per day

Thank you for choosing to travel with Collins Tours!
We look forward to assisting you with all your future travel needs!

