A different way to see New York!

There are lots of great things to do in New York City. You can go to the top of the Empire State building, have a meal in Little Italy or take a boat to Liberty Island, but how about something a bit different?

Everyone visits Manhattan’s beautiful Central Park, but for a different view of New York, visit the High Line. The High Line is a park on an old New York train line: it goes above the ground along the west side of Manhattan, over the streets and through some buildings! It’s a 1.6-kilometre park in the sky! It takes about an hour to walk along the High Line. You see the city in a different way, and there are lots of places to sit or have a drink. There’s also a park theatre, so you can watch a play high above the streets!
Another way to see Manhattan is from the water. You can hire kayaks on the Hudson River from the New York Kayak Club. Tours last from one and a half hours, for a quick trip along the river, to ten hours, for a tour around Manhattan Island. Instructors give all tourists a quick lesson before they go on the river, so don’t worry if you don’t know how to kayak.

Tourists usually visit the most famous buildings and parks of New York, but they don’t meet local people. The Big Apple Greeter service gives tourists the opportunity to meet and spend time with New Yorkers. Volunteers take people around the ‘Big Apple’ (New York) for a few hours. They won’t take you to the big tourist attractions, but they’ll show you some places that most tourists never see. The service started in 1992. It now has 300 volunteers, and they give tours in 20 languages. It’s a great way to see the city, and it’s free – just book online before you go.
**Accomplice is a different way to meet people and see the city at the same time.** On an *Accomplice* tour, you play a game. The day before the tour, somebody phones you with a strange message like ‘Meet a man in a black jacket in front of Timothy’s café on Broadway at 10 a.m.’. The next day you meet a group of people there, and the ‘man in the black jacket’ gives you more instructions. Your group must go around the city, meet people, find clues and answer questions. *Accomplice* takes about three hours, and you see some cool places.

For more excitement, you can learn some circus skills! *The New York Trapeze School* teaches young people how to do stunts on a trapeze. They also teach lots of other circus skills. You can do a two-hour class for $22. It’s exciting, and it isn’t dangerous because they always use safety ropes. The trapeze school is next to the Hudson River. In the summer, you get great views of New York from up on a trapeze!