

New York

“Have you ever tried Shawarma? There is a shawarma joint about 2 blocks from here. I don’t know what it is but I wanna try it.”

And this is how I got to know about the city of New York. The Avengers was the first movie which introduced me to those jaw dropping skyscrapers, the Yellow cabs, the place where every building is covered with Billboards, the very different nature of Broadway Shows, the “Big Apple”.

Ever since I got to know about the city, it was my dream to be there one day. When I got selected for an Exchange semester for the USA, I had decided that no matter what, I am going to New York City. And when I got to know that I am being placed in New Jersey, only my friends knew how much crazy happy I got to hear about being placed near “The” City. Now I was just counting days to go there as soon as possible.

The day arrived, I came on campus and right after 2 days, I departed for New York City. I had no idea which bus to take, what to do, I just trusted Google maps and got on the bus and went to New York. The first step that I took on New York City and there was this highest building that I had seen, the New York Times. And then every other building was higher than the previous one. It was a day when time literally flied away and I had no idea how. I was roaming in the streets, looking at the skyscrapers with my mouth open, exploring the Subway station, looking at the rivers flowing on both the sides, walking in

the never ending Central park, and I don't even know when it started to get dark and I found myself in the most illuminated part of the world, Times Square.

It was a world in itself, there were lights and lights everywhere, there were the famous red stairs there, two statues of the people whom I didn't know at that point were there and then there were a lot of people there, A WHOLE LOT!! I didn't remember a time when I had seen this much people anywhere before with this much Energy. The surprising part was that there wasn't really an activity to do in Times Square, it is just a part of New York City, a piece of land but everyone seemed to be busy and enjoying. There was a never ending flow of people there. My phone was already dead so I just stood there, observing the surrounding and watching people come and go. This was my first trip to New York City.

After that, there was a never ceasing love of the city that took me there a lot of times. Right after my first trip, I again went to the city after just one day. And since then, I've been there for 11 times in just two months. I've done a lot of things in New York since then. I've been to the three, Brooklyn, Manhattan and the George Washington Bridges. I've been to all the five boroughs of New York City. I've visited many museums, Cathedrals, Parks, I have seen a Broadway show, I have jogged in Central Park, I have been in Times Square till there was almost no one there, I have been to top of Empire State Building, I have tried Gyros from different streets, I have taken a Yellow Cab, I have seen the Adventure Land – Coney Island, I have been to 5 major ethnic areas of New York, Little Odessa, Jackson Heights, Chinatown, Little Italy & the Harlem. And the one thing I am proud of myself for the most is that I've seen every street of

Manhattan, I have covered entire length of Manhattan from the Broadway Bridge, 226th Street to Battery parks and not a lot of people can say that they have done it.

Some people ask me that don't I get bored as I have been there so many times but I just say "Home is where the heart is". They don't know the city because they haven't been there. This city is a whole world in itself, you can come here every single day, and you will find completely different things to do at the exact same places. I come here alone, with friends, with colleagues, with professors, and no matter who you are with,

And yes, I have also tried that Shawarma from a lot of different streets in New York!

