

## Visiting the Top of the Rock in New York

New York, New York. The city that never sleeps. With a population of over 8.5m people, someone's always bound to be awake! And so many sights to see, hear, and experience across this sprawling metropolis. A visitor could spend a lifetime there and see something new every day.

I recently traveled to New York, my first time in fact, and spent four days in this iconic city of the world. I visited some of the best known landmarks, such as the Statue of Liberty, Central Park, and of course, the Top of the Rock down in central Manhattan.

The Top of the Rock is located in the Rockefeller Center, a huge complex of 19 commercial buildings spanning from 48th to 51st Streets in downtown Manhattan. The Rockefeller Center houses Radio City, an ice skating rink, shops, restaurants, and of course, the Top of the Rock. A must-see attraction in NY, if the reviews are to be believed.

And reviews there are aplenty. People have a lot to say about the Top of the Rock. Amazing views, for starters. 850ft (260m) up in the air. The observation deck towers over NY, offering incredible views. On a clear day, one can see the city below for miles and miles. You can witness the world go around beneath you, and it is an unforgettable view.

So I decided to experience it for myself. I wanted to go up there and see for myself. And I had another good reason to visit the Top of the Rock. I am a keen amateur photographer, you see. I never go anywhere without my trusty camera. I wanted to photograph that amazing view that everyone was talking about. And specifically, I wanted to photograph the sunset from the Top of the Rock. You can purchase special sunset tickets, too. They cost a bit more, but they're worth it, on clear days of course.

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So I got my tickets, and (im)patiently waited for the day and the time set for my visit. But there was a problem. A huge problem. The sky was overcast on the evening of my planned visit. Oh no. The whole point of me visiting the Top of the Rock was to take clear photographs of the NY sunset. So I went back to the ticket desk, explained the situation, and luckily, the good folks working at the ticket desk have no issue with exchanging the tickets for another day, where the sun would hopefully be shining, and no cloud would obstruct the view. I got tickets for the following evening instead.

I (im) patiently waited, again. The morning dawned sunny. It remained sunny throughout the afternoon. I waited. Not a cloud in the sky in the evening.

Time to go up to the Top of the Rock. The elevator ride takes about 45 seconds from the ground to the top. The ride itself is quite cool, as the cabin's ceiling is transparent. Images are projects on it as the elevator soars upwards, making for a short, but entertaining journey.

Once the elevator doors slide open, there is a short walk to the Observation Deck. It is an awesome, inspiring place with views that open up a world of spectacle below and all around you. The views are breathtaking.

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Then the sun begins to set, and magic is born. Watching the sun setting from the Top of the Rock is a truly unforgettable experience. The fading light casts ochre and golden shades everywhere as the shadows become longer and longer. Twilight is a witching moment, an instant in time that burns an afterimage of dreams and inspirations.

And to witness it from The Top of the Rock takes your mind to another plane.