Cover photo description:
The observation deck atop Rockefeller Plaza dubbed “Top of the Rock”, offers sightseers a 360-degree panoramic view of the city, including an unobstructed view of the Empire State Building (pictured) from the 70th floor observatory, 850 feet (259 meters) in the sky!
Dear Friends,

In 2015, the Voice of America calendar highlighted the states and the breathtaking views of the American southwest region. For 2016, we’re taking you on a street-level tour of New York City. By street-level, we mean that VOA is showing you neighborhoods and attractions around “The Big Apple” that you may not know exist. We think the calendar shows off the great diversity that is New York City, and we hope that you will enjoy it.

We also hope you will continue to enjoy Voice of America’s journalism and programs. You have a lot of company, because VOA’s global audience continues to grow. We now reach 171 million people, the highest number in our history. While a portion of our audience still listens to VOA on shortwave radio, the platform on which we started broadcasting in 1942, our expanded reach can be traced to two factors.

First, while we expect our audience numbers to keep growing on television and the Internet, it looks like our future growth may belong to mobile devices. Our research shows us that more people already receive VOA’s coverage and programs through mobile phones or tablets than they do through desktop or laptop computers. And, analysts predict that the number of mobile users of VOA content may soon be greater than our audience on radio and television combined. Additionally, our ongoing and new partnerships with some of the world’s most respected television and radio companies are major contributors for the increase in VOA’s audience.

We’re reaching more people in more ways than ever before, because whether in a crowded media market, or in areas where the flow of free information is limited, more and more people find that the Voice of America is a credible, reliable and trusted source of news about America and the world.

2015 was a good year for VOA, but you can be sure that all of us will work to make this an even better year. We wish you a Happy and Healthy 2016!

Sincerely,

Your Friends and Colleagues at Voice of America
One of New York City’s truly hidden gems is **City Island**, a fishing village in the northeast section of The Bronx. Surrounded by the waters of Long Island Sound and Eastchester Bay, the shipbuilding industry on City Island prospered into the 20th century. During the First and Second World Wars, City Island produced minesweepers and tugboats, as well as many of the landing craft used in beach invasions. In addition, City Island has produced seven Americas Cup-winning yachts. City Island has retained a unique small-town atmosphere, and this stunning sunset is proof of its age-old beauty. *Photo Description: cityisland.com*
You can go anywhere in New York City through the 656 miles (1,056 km) of its subway system. Here, passengers are boarding the train at the 8th Street and Broadway station, which is one of the stops for New York University in Manhattan’s Greenwich Village.
Van Cortlandt Park, in the northwest Bronx, is a natural showcase featuring the last of New York City’s native woodlands. Among the park’s 1,146 acres is one of its most popular attractions, the Van Cortlandt Lake, the largest body of freshwater in the Bronx. Its upper basin can be appreciated from the Van Cortlandt Golf Course, which itself made history as the nation’s first municipal golf course when it opened in 1895. The Park is named after Dutch settler Jacobus Van Cortlandt, who bought the original tract of land in 1694. Photo Description: vcpark.org
For many, the Bronx is synonymous with blight and burned-out buildings. But in the northeast part of the borough, the New York Botanical Garden stands out. A “living museum” since its founding in 1891, the Garden is an oasis in the urban landscape. Spread across 250 acres, the Botanical Garden is registered as a National Historic Landmark, and supports over one million living plants in extensive collections. Nearly one million people visit the New York Botanical Garden each year. Photo Description: The New York Botanical Garden
Although Manhattan's Central Park is known to most people, the other boroughs have green spaces that are equally enjoyable. This is *Prospect Park* in Brooklyn, and a young boy is enjoying the sight of a rainbow kite making its way to the sky on a lovely spring afternoon.
In 1916, Polish immigrant Nathan Handwerker started a nickel hot dog stand on Brooklyn's Coney Island with a $300 loan from two friends and his wife's secret spice recipe. Today, Nathan's is the most famous hot dog in the world, with restaurants across the globe; products in every supermarket in America; and millions of fans. And yes, the first Coney Island store is still there. Photo Description: nathansfamous.com
From 1892 to 1954, over twelve million immigrants entered the United States through the portal of **Ellis Island**, a small island in New York Harbor. Ellis Island is located in the upper bay just off the New Jersey coast, within the shadow of the Statue of Liberty. Annie Moore, a teenaged Irish girl, accompanied by her two brothers, entered history and a new country as she was the very first immigrant to be processed at Ellis Island.  

*Photo Description: The Statue of Liberty-Ellis Island Foundation*
One of the main attractions in lower Manhattan is **Washington Square Park**. Families bring their children to play; dog owners bring their pets to the dog run; and street musicians like this group will set up and play for passers-by, hoping to earn a few dollars for their efforts.
The New York Public Library system has 92 branches throughout the city, but the library on Fifth Avenue and 42nd Street in Manhattan is often referred to as the main branch. The landmark building is also a favorite spot for local workers and visitors to relax and play around the two lions who "guard" the library.
Three bridges connect the boroughs of Manhattan and Brooklyn; seen here are two of them: the **Manhattan Bridge** (left) and the **Brooklyn Bridge** (right). Construction of the Brooklyn Bridge began on January 3, 1870, and the bridge was open to traffic on May 24, 1883. The Manhattan Bridge was started on October 1, 1901, and was open to traffic on December 31, 1909. This stunning view, looking from Manhattan into Brooklyn, is from the roof of VOA's New York Bureau at One Federal Plaza. *Photo Description: ny.com*
The **Bow Bridge**, one of New York's most romantic settings, and a muse for photographers, is the first cast-iron bridge in Central Park and the second oldest in America. It was built between 1859 and 1862, and its name was inspired by its graceful shape, reminiscent of the bow of an archer or violinist. *Photo Description: centralparknyc.org*
The **Washington Square Arch** in Manhattan’s Greenwich Village was erected in 1889 to celebrate the centennial of the inauguration of the first U.S. President, George Washington. Sculpted out of marble, the Arch is decorated with sculptures of Washington in both his civilian and military lives. In the first decades of the 20th century, the Village became an increasingly bohemian neighborhood, and the Arch became a site of artistic and social rebellion. Today, the Arch remains one of Manhattan’s important urban landmarks. *Photo Description: nyu.edu*
Built on the site of the former Twin Towers, One World Trade Center features more than 3.5 million square feet (325,160.64 square meters) of space, composed of offices, an observation deck and broadcast facilities. At 1,776 feet (541.32m) tall, One World Trade Center is the tallest building in the Western Hemisphere. Photo Description: onewtc.com