See a Broadway show
New York City is known for its live theater. There are literally dozens of Broadway and Off-Broadway shows to choose from, and getting tickets has never been easier and more convenient. Just head over to the Theater Development Fund’s TKTS booth (www.tdf.org), located under the distinctive red staircase in Times Square.

Don’t be scared by the long lines; they move quickly. You can get discounted tickets to many of the shows right up until curtain time, and they now accept credit cards in addition to cash and travelers checks.

You can now also purchase full-price tickets to future performances for all shows and same-day full-price tickets to shows that aren’t being discounted.

Honor the fallen at the 9/11 Memorial
One of the first things you’ll notice about New York is the new tower that has risen in Lower Manhattan. Reconstruction of the World Trade Center complex is well under way, and the site will near completion next year, at which time all four sides of the National September 11 Memorial will be accessible to the public.

For now, visitors can access the memorial at the intersection of Albany and Greenwich streets. If you are interested in visiting the memorial itself, you must first acquire tickets online, at www.911memorial.org. Visitors may be asked to show valid photo ID matching their visitor pass name, and all visitors and baggage are subject to security screening.

Go figure skating
The Rink at Rockefeller Center is open to the public. You can skate beneath the gilded statue of Prometheus and the glittering Christmas tree. You can even get skating lessons there if you like. For more information, call (212) 332-7654 or visit www.patinagroup.com/east/iceRink.

If you are too shy to skate with thousands of tourists gawking at you from above, check out the Wollman Rink in Central Park, (212) 439-6900, www.wollmanrinkingrink.com; or the Sky Rink at Chelsea Piers at 23rd Street and the Hudson River, (212) 336-6100, www.chelseapiers.com.

See New York from above
You can see just about everything in New York City from the top of Rockefeller Center, an Art Deco masterpiece of a building. The lines for Top of the Rock are much shorter than at the Empire State Building, yet the views are just as awe-inspiring.

Tickets are expensive but worth it. It’s located in Midtown at 30 Rockefeller Plaza. For information, call (212) 698-2000 or visit www.topoftherocknyc.com.

Enter Manhattan on foot
Try this one if the weather is nice. You can get a priceless view of lower Manhattan by walking across the Brooklyn Bridge from the other side of the East River.

Here’s how. Get on the Brooklyn-bound A Subway train to High Street. Then look for the walkway entrance next to the Federal Court Building. There are stairs on Cadman Plaza East and Prospect Street or a ramp entrance on Johnson and Adams streets.

The stroll takes 20 minutes to an hour, depending on how much time you spend taking pictures and reading the informative plaques along the way. You’ll also have views of the Manhattan and Brooklyn skylines, the Statue of Liberty, Ellis Island and the South Street Seaport.

Ride the Staten Island Ferry
One of the greatest things about New York City is the Staten Island Ferry, which goes from the lower tip of Manhattan to the St. George section of Staten Island. It’s one of the most enjoyable trips you’ll ever take — and the best part is that it’s free!

Once you board, you can move about as you pass by the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island to the west, Governor’s Island, Queens and Brooklyn to the east and the Verrazano-Narrows Bridge off to the south in the distance. A round trip excursion will take an hour. You’ll have to get off in Staten Island and get back on. Take the 1, N or R Subway train to South Ferry; or the 4 or 5 to Bowling Green.