



# JOHN SEMLAK

Licensed Tour Guide, New York City

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*I have been a tour guide in New York City since 2012. I have a passion for the area's history, architecture, cityscape, and culture. I give neighborhood tours, city tours, museum tours, and tours of historic sites such as Green-Wood Cemetery or the National September 11 Memorial.*

*I love researching the history of the area to create engaging presentations and tours. I specialize in topics such as architectural history, abolitionism and the underground railroad, Abraham and Mary Lincoln, sports history, Colonial history, and history of cemeteries.*

*During the pandemic I started a MA in History at Arizona State which will help me in researching for, preparing for, and delivering engaging presentations and tours.*

## EDUCATION

### Illinois State University

1990-1993

BA in History

## EXPERIENCE

### WorldStrides

February 2020 - present

Course Leader

I lead student groups around NYC, attending to their safety and logistical needs, showing them an amazing city, and helping them learn the city's history and culture.

### New York Adventure Club

April 2019-present

Tour Guide

I create virtual and in-person walking tours on historical topics including Lincoln in New York and the Origins of Baseball in New York

### Freelance

December 2012-present

Tour Guide

Since 2012 I have been a tour guide with over a dozen tour operators in New York. I have conducted tours in English and Russian. I have given tours of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, The American Museum of Natural History, the Statue of Liberty, Ellis Island, Central Park, the High Line, and other attractions.

### British International School Moscow

April 2006-May 2012

English as an Additional Language Coordinator

I coordinated a team of 3-4 teachers whose job is to provide ESL support at a British-style high school. I taught ESL, history, and geography.

## SKILLS

- Creating engaging virtual tours and presentations on Zoom and other platforms
- Russian (Fluent)

## CERTIFICATIONS

### New York City Sightseeing Guide License

December 2012

NYC Department of Consumer Affairs

### GANYC Certified Guide

September-December 2018

Guides Association of New York City

## **Digital Photography**

PhotoUno Photography School

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## **Certificate in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages**

International House Moscow