

2026-27 PACKING CHECKLIST

Weather & Packing Guide What to Bring to NYC

From 35°C summers to -10°C winters —

a realistic, season-by-season packing checklist for Indian students.

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NYC's Four Seasons

Nothing like Indian weather — plan for genuine extremes

New York City swings from humid, 30°C+ summers to winters that regularly drop below freezing, with real snow and biting wind chill. Most Indian students underestimate winter specifically — it's colder, longer and windier than anything most cities in India experience. Layering, not a single 'big' coat, is the actual strategy that works.

27–35°C

Summer (Jun–Aug) — hot, humid, occasional storms

-10 to 7°C

Winter (Dec–Feb) — wind chill makes it feel colder

4–24°C

Spring & Fall — wide daily swings, layer up

Season	Months	What It's Actually Like
Summer	Jun–Aug	Hot and humid, 27–35°C; July–August are the most intense. Sudden thunderstorms are common.
Fall	Sep–Nov	Starts mild (~24°C) and cools sharply by November (~4°C). The most pleasant season to arrive in — but pack for the cold end of it.
Winter	Dec–Feb	Genuinely cold: -10°C to 7°C, occasionally colder with wind chill. Snow and sleet are routine in January–February.
Spring	Mar–May	Winter lingers into March; expect chilly, overcast days well into April before it genuinely warms up.

If you're arriving for a Fall (September) intake, don't pack only for the mild weather you'll land in. By November you'll need a genuine winter coat, and by January–February you'll need the full cold-weather kit below. Buying it gradually in the US is fine — but bring at least a base layer and one warm layer from day one.

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What to Actually Pack

By season — tick as you go

Winter essentials (Dec–Feb, and edges of Nov & Mar)

- A genuine waterproof winter coat or down parka — not just a wool coat or a light jacket
- Thermal base layers (tops and leggings) — worn under your regular clothes, not instead of them
- At least 2–3 warm sweaters for layering
- Waterproof, insulated boots — regular sneakers will not handle snow and slush
- Gloves, a warm hat/beanie, and a scarf — all genuinely necessary, not optional accessories
- Wool socks (a few pairs)

Summer essentials (Jun–Aug)

- Light, breathable cotton clothing — t-shirts, shorts, breathable shirts
- Comfortable sandals or sneakers
- Sunglasses, a hat, and sunscreen
- A compact umbrella or light rain jacket for sudden thunderstorms

Fall & Spring essentials (transitional seasons)

- A few light-to-medium jackets or blazers for layering
- Long-sleeve shirts and at least one or two sweaters
- A pair of comfortable, sturdy walking shoes — NYC is a genuinely walking city
- A compact umbrella — useful in every season, not just summer

The one rule that matters more than any single item: layer, don't bulk up. A thermal base layer + a sweater + a proper waterproof outer coat will keep you warmer and more flexible across a genuinely wide range of NYC winter days than one very thick coat worn alone.

Skip these: heels or any slippery-soled shoes in winter (icy pavements and subway stairs are genuinely dangerous), a light fall coat as your only winter layer, and packing your entire wardrobe — you can buy weather-specific layers affordably once you're there.

Two easy ways to get FREE counselling

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Packed but still unsure what to expect?

Our counsellors help Indian students prepare for life in the US beyond just admissions — including realistic budgeting for winter gear and city essentials — completely free of cost.

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This guide reflects typical New York City seasonal weather patterns based on historical averages, current as of mid-2026. Actual conditions vary year to year — always check the specific forecast for your travel dates before finalising your packing. Shiksha Study Abroad is an independent counselling platform.