Nieuw York, New York, Knew York, Gnu York, v York,

As you board the Nieuw Amsterdam for the first JoCo Cruise aboard it, it inspires in you a feeling that it is not just a celebration of New York as it is, but of a possible alternate New York, where instead of ceding control to the British, the Dutch settlers carved Manhattan out of the dirt and sailed it into the Atlantic.

This vision is soon joined by a Calvino-style cavalcade of alternate New York Cities. One where everything is a little to the east, with Portuguese Harlem and Little Monaco. One where the sea level is higher, with gondolas for taxis and where Canal Street is redundant. A mathematical version with robots calculating their way through Times Square. But aren't these visions too vivid, too real? Suddenly you realize this isn't your imagination: you've come unstuck in New Yorks!

Of course, one of the benefits of a cruise is seeing different places without having to transport yourself. A cruise through alternate realities could be even more enjoyable than one through the Caribbean. Just as long as you can find your way back to your original one in time for your flight home...

MetroQuest is a Puzzle Hunt containing nine puzzles, plus a metapuzzle. Two puzzles will be released on the evening of the first five nights of the cruise. The answer to each puzzle is a word or short phrase. You can solve the puzzles solo or in groups of two, depending on your level of experience. When you've solved a puzzle, get your answer checked by a member of the team (identified by buttons on our lanyards) to get stickers which will chart your progress.

If you get stuck, ask one of us for hints. The internet should not be required, but nobody knows everything, so a code sheet is provided with common ciphers and other useful information you might have found on Wikipedia. There will be a wrap-up and raffle drawing on the last sea day, with anyone who has solved at least one puzzle eligible for prizes.

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