



nileGUIDE

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Around the World in NYC

Queens, New York City, 4 Days

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Guide Description



AUTHOR NOTE: From Astoria to Koreatown to Brighton Beach, New York is one of the most ethnically diverse cities in the world. Here is a small sampling of the many cultural and culinary experiences that are awaiting you in the Big Apple.

Itinerary Overview

things to do
restaurants
hotels
nightlife

Day 1 - New York City

DAY NOTE: Begin your international exploration of New York with a trip to El Museo del Barrio, the only museum in the city dedicated to Latino art and culture. After undergoing renovations, the museum will reopen in the fall of 2009. If you're planning to visit before then, take in a very different type of international museum experience at the Neue Galerie, dedicated to Austrian and German art. The museum is home to two charming Viennese-style cafes, Café Sabarsky and Café Fledermaus, where you can sip coffee and sample from a menu ranging from goulash to sacher torte.



El Museo del Barrio
Puerto Rican Art



Neue Galerie New York
German/Austrian art in beautiful surroundings



Cafe Fledermaus
Tasty treats of Vienna

Day 2 - Queens

DAY NOTE: Of all New York City's boroughs, Queens is the most diverse, with immigrants making up around half of the population. The rabid fan base of Sripraphai, a somewhat nondescript Thai place in Woodside, say it offers by far the best Thai food in New York. (To get there, take the 7 train from Manhattan to Woodside-61st Street.) And while Astoria is known for its bustling Greek restaurants and bars, it's also home to one of the city's last remaining beer gardens, the Bohemian Hall & Beer Garden on 24th Avenue. (The closest subway stop is the N at Astoria Boulevard), which offers a hearty menu (try the grilled sausages cooked outside in the summer) along with good Czech and German beers on tap and many others in bottles.



Sripraphai
Affordable and delicious Asian fare

Day 3 - New York City

DAY NOTE: Learn more about the history of the immigrant experience in New York City (and the rest of the United States) at the Lower East Side Tenement Museum, housed in a former tenement building on Orchard Street. The Lower East Side and East Village are well-stocked with diverse dining options:

try Khyber Pass, located in the heart of the East Village, for affordable and delicious Afghani specialties, or head to Veselka for an equally affordable menu of Ukrainian food. Save your money for caviar and martinis at Pravda, a Moscow-by-way-of-Soho cocktail bar known for its selection of vodkas.



Lower East Side Tenement Museum
Unique museum explores immigrant life in New York City



Khyber Pass
Cheap Afghan food



Veselka
Hip Ukrainian fare, open 24 hours

Day 4 - New York City

DAY NOTE: For a very different Slavic scene, head out of Manhattan to Brighton Beach (close to Coney Island), a neighborhood dubbed "Little Odessa" for its proliferation of former residents of that Ukrainian city. Primorski, on Brighton Beach Avenue (take the B or Q to the Brighton Beach stop) is a favorite for its large menu of Eastern European dishes, its heaping plates and its festive atmosphere.

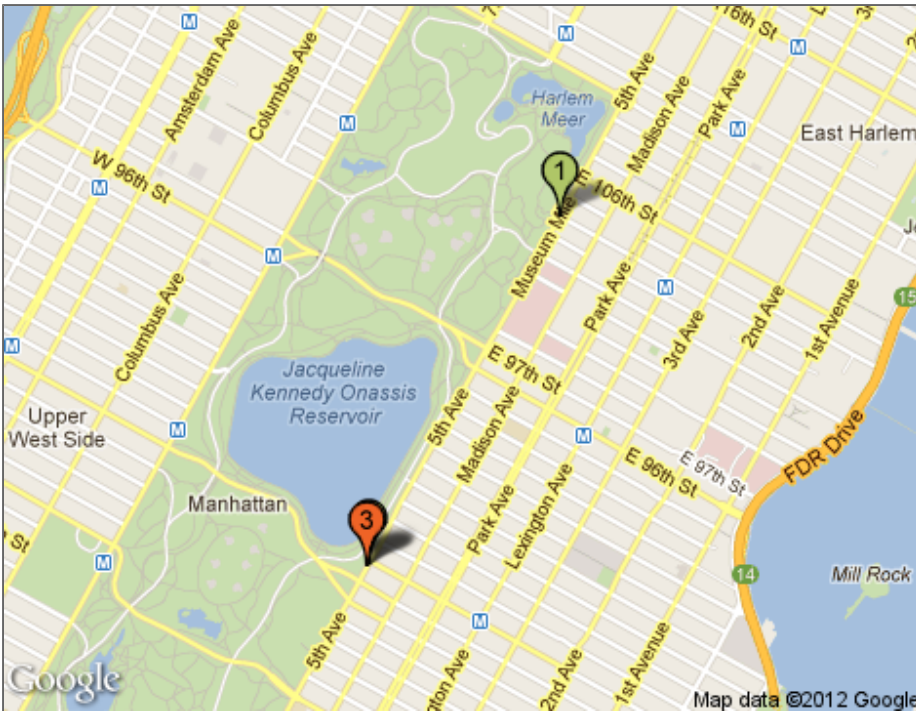


Coney Island
Brooklyn beach resort



Primorski
Try more at Primorski

Day 1 - New York City



QUICK NOTE

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contact:

tel: +1 212 831 7272

fax: +1 212 831 7927

<http://www.elmuseo.org>

location:

1230 Fifth Ave

New York NY 10029

hours:

W-Su 11a-5p

1 El Museo del Barrio

DESCRIPTION: What started in 1969 with a small display in a classroom in East Harlem is today the only museum in America dedicated to Puerto Rican, Caribbean, and Latin American art. The northernmost Museum Mile institution has a permanent exhibit ranging from pre-Columbian artifacts to photographic art and video. The display of santos de palo (wood-carved religious figurines) is noteworthy, as is "Taino, Ancient Voyagers of the Caribbean," dedicated to the highly developed cultures that Columbus encountered when he landed in the "New World." The well-curated exhibitions tend to focus on 20th-century artists and contemporary subjects. A massive renovation closed the gallery space through summer of 2009, but by the time you read this, the expanded galleries should be in operation. © Frommer's



Photo Courtesy of El Museo del Barrio

contact:

tel: +1 212 628 6200
fax: +1 212 628 8824
<http://www.neuegalerie.org/>

location:

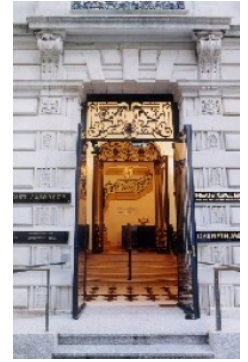
1048 Fifth Ave
New York NY 10028

hours:

Thurs-Sun 11am-6pm

2 Neue Galerie New York

DESCRIPTION: This museum is dedicated to German and Austrian art and design, with a particular focus on the early 20th century. Displayed on two floors, the collection features painting, works on paper, decorative arts, and other media from such artists as Klimt, Kokoschka, Kandinsky, Klee, and leaders of the Wiener Werkstätte decorative arts and Bauhaus applied arts movements, such as Adolf Loos and Mies van der Rohe, respectively. The gallery made headlines in 2006 when it acquired Klimt's Portrait of Adele Bloch-Bauer I -- dubbed the Golden Adele -- for a record-setting \$135 million. The museum floated the idea of adding a high premium (up to \$50) to view its new masterpiece, but the outcry caused the management to reconsider. You can see the Golden Adele for the \$15 admission fee, without extra charge. In Fall 2008 through early 2009, you can see the work of Alfred Kubin, and Spring 2009 brings the exhibition "The Birth Of Expressionism: Brücke In Dresden And Berlin, 1905-13" through the end of June. Once occupied by Mrs. Cornelius Vanderbilt III, the impeccably restored, landmark-designated 1914 Carrère & Hastings building (they built the New York Public Library as well) is worth a look itself. **Cafe Sabarsky** is modeled on a Viennese cafe, so museumgoers in need of a snack break can expect a fine Linzer torte. © wcities.com



wcities

contact:

tel: 1 212 288 0665
fax: 1 212 645 7127

location:

1048 5th Avenue
New York NY 10028

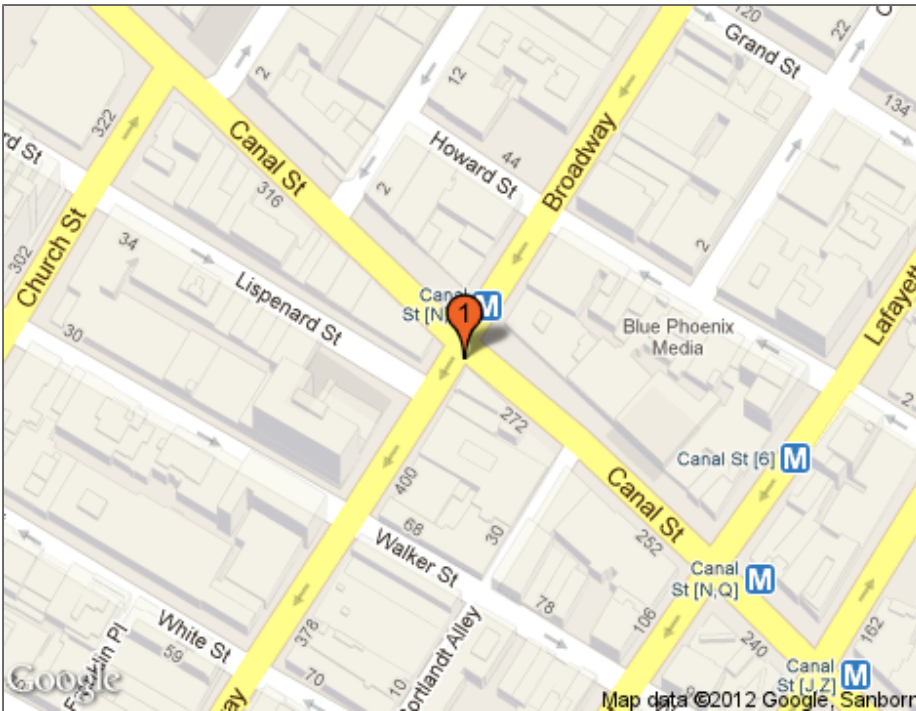
hours:

9a-6p M & W, 9a-9p Th-Su

3 Cafe Fledermaus

DESCRIPTION: This new neighbor to Café Sabarsky is located on the Upper East Side, nestled within the Neue Galerie premises. After an interesting walk through the gallery, step into the café for authentic Austrian treats. Sausages, Spaetzle, Wiener Schnitzel and most other popular names line the food menu. Crowds pour in even during the afternoons, so make sure you go well in advance to enjoy the treats of Vienna. © wcities.com

Day 2 - Queens



QUICK NOTE

DAY NOTE: Of all New York City's boroughs, Queens is the most diverse, with immigrants making up around half of the population. The rabid fan base of Sripraphai, a somewhat nondescript Thai place in Woodside, say it offers by far the best Thai food in New York. (To get there, take the 7 train from Manhattan to Woodside-61st Street.) And while Astoria is known for its bustling Greek restaurants and bars, it's also home to one of the city's last remaining beer gardens, the Bohemian Hall & Beer Garden on 24th Avenue. (The closest subway stop is the N at Astoria Boulevard), which offers a hearty menu (try the grilled sausages cooked outside in the summer) along with good Czech and German beers on tap and many others in bottles.

contact:

tel: 1 718 899 9599
<http://www.sripraphairestaurant.com/>

location:

64-13 39th Avenue
Woodside NY 11377

hours:

Th-Tu 11:30a-10p

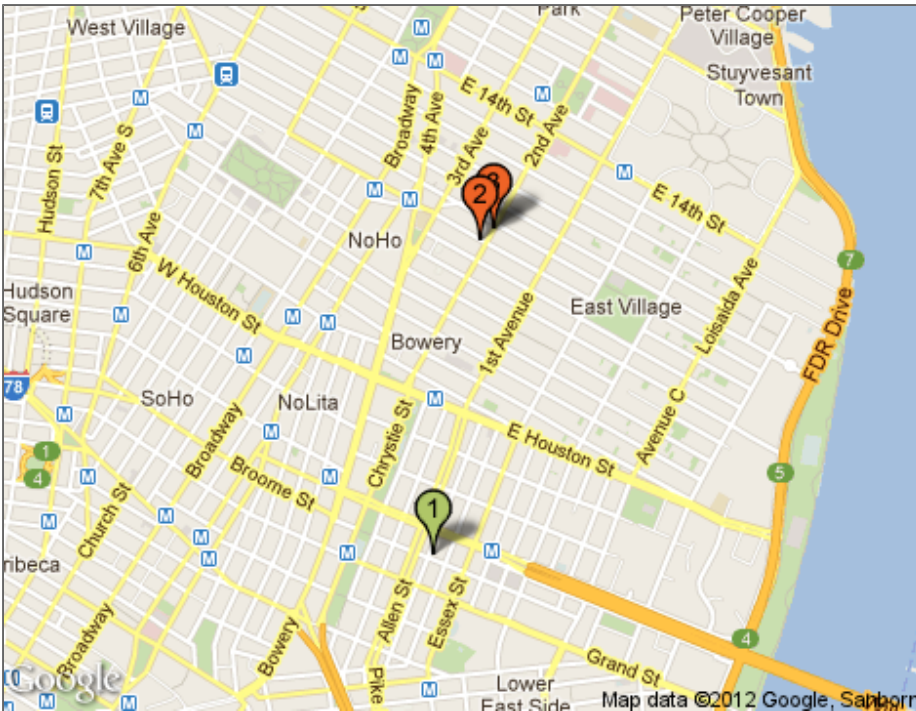
1 Sripraphai

DESCRIPTION: Don't be fooled by the simple appearance of Sripraphai. The food here is as terrific as the prices. Crispy Dried Catfish, Chili-Pepper Salad, Fiery Beef Panang, Minced Pork - the list is endless. Get here early because its usually packed and they don't take reservations. Tip: Enjoy your wonderful Thai meal alfresco because it can really get cramped inside. If you are stuffed, pack some coconut-rice confections or milk pudding for the road. © wcities.com



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Day 3 - New York City



QUICK NOTE

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contact:

tel: +1 212 431 0233 / +1 212 431 0714

fax: +1 212 431 0402

<http://www.tenement.org/>

location:

90 Orchard Street
New York NY 10002

hours:

There are 5 different tours, and they leave at various hours daily from 11am-5pm (The schedule is complicated and varies by month, so check the website or call.)



Lower East Side Tenement Museum

DESCRIPTION: This museum, founded in 1988, is dedicated to all the immigrants who came to New York City during the 1800s, but in particular to the occupants of this one-time tenement on Orchard Street. See life as new Americans experienced it in Chinatown, Little Italy and elsewhere on the Lower East Side through photos, displays and memorabilia. The gallery is free. © wcities.com



Photo courtesy of Lower East Side Tenement Museum

contact:

tel: 1 212 473 0989

location:

34 St. Mark's Place
New York NY 10003

hours:

Noon-midnight M-Su

2 Khyber Pass

DESCRIPTION: The air is filled with spices, the dining experience is memorable and the cost is low. Add the antique Afghan musical instruments, throw pillows and oriental rugs, and you have a truly exotic destination. Vegetable soup with noodles and yogurt, scallion dumplings with yogurt-mint sauce, and pumpkin-filled turnovers are popular appetizers. Try entrees like quorma sabz (pieces of lamb and scallions sautéed with spinach and coriander), or chopped beef patties with basmati rice and lots of hot spices. © wcities.com

contact:

tel: 1 212 228 9682
<http://www.veselka.com>

location:

144 2nd Avenue
New York NY 10003

hours:

24-hours daily

3 Veselka

OUR LOCAL EXPERT SAYS:

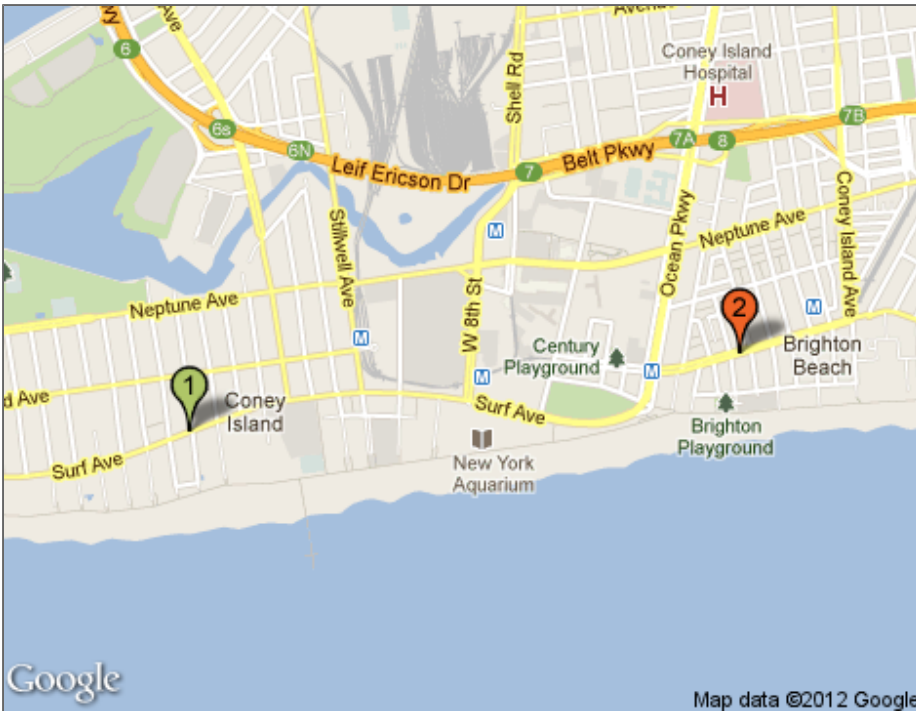
Hungry diners should try the the bigos, a Ukrainian stew featuring kielbasa, roast pork shoulder, sauerkraut and onions and billed as "a substantial meal fit for a hunter."

DESCRIPTION: Whenever the craving hits for hearty eastern European fare at old-world prices, Veselka fits the bill with fluffy and light (if that's possible) pierogi (small doughy envelopes filled with potatoes, cheese, or sauerkraut), kasha varnishkes (cracked buckwheat and noodles with mushroom sauce), stuffed cabbage, grilled Polish kielbasa, freshly made potato pancakes, and such classic soups as a sublime borscht. Breakfast is special here. If all you want is a burger, don't worry -- it's a classic, too. Despite the authentic fare, the diner is comfortable, modern, and appealing, with an artsy slant and delicious house-made desserts. Veselka surpasses its status as a popular after-hours hangout with clubbers and other night owls to be a favorite at any hour. © Frommer's



citysearch

Day 4 - New York City



QUICK NOTE

DAY NOTE: For a very different Slavic scene, head out of Manhattan to Brighton Beach (close to Coney Island), a neighborhood dubbed “Little Odessa” for its proliferation of former residents of that Ukrainian city. Primorski, on Brighton Beach Avenue (take the B or Q to the Brighton Beach stop) is a favorite for its large menu of Eastern European dishes, its heaping plates and its festive atmosphere.

contact:

tel: +1 718 372 7099

<http://www.coneyislandusa.com/>

location:

1208 Surf Avenue (Post)
New York NY 11224

hours:

Call for details

1 Coney Island

DESCRIPTION: This peninsula in southernmost Brooklyn boasts a diverse community of 60,000 people and a broad, sandy beach with a historic boardwalk. Its selection of amusement parks and attractions may have seen better days, but they can still provide a rich slice of Americana and a day of family fun during a spring or summer visit. As a major resort and amusement destination, Coney Island reached its peak in the early 20th century. Its popularity declined after World War II and for many years it was sorely neglected, but in recent years the area has been revitalized with the opening of KeySpan Park, home of the minor league baseball team the Brooklyn Cyclones. In addition to the Cyclones fans that swarm the area in spring and summer, Coney Island attracts thousands to its annual Mermaid Parade, which takes place on Surf Avenue every summer and features an array of floats and performers in crazy costumes. Another star attraction is the original Nathan's Famous hot dog stand, which opened in 1916 and quickly became a landmark. Its annual hot dog eating contest, held every July 4th since Nathan's opened, has recently attracted widespread attention, including international television coverage.



wcities

Those coming to Coney Island shouldn't miss the Astroland Amusement Park, with its selection of rides including the historic Cyclone, built in 1927 and one of the oldest roller coasters still operating in the United States. Wonderwheel Amusement Park provides an even bigger selection of thrill rides, while the Coney Island Aquarium houses dolphins and sea lions. The Riegelmann boardwalk, another landmark, stretches continuously along the beach from West 37th Street in the community of Seagate through Coney Island proper and Brighton Beach to the beginning of the community of Manhattan Beach, a distance of approximately two-and-a-half miles. © NileGuide

contact:

tel: 718 891 3111

fax: 718 368 9637

<http://www.primorski.net/>

location:

282 Brighton Beach Avenue
New York NY 11235

hours:

M-Th 11a-midnight, F 11a-2a,
Sa 11a-3a, Su 11a-1a

2 Primorski

DESCRIPTION: Primarily a Russian food joint because of the owner's background, this restaurant has a lot to offer besides vodka. It also has a wine list if the fiery Russian water does not go well with your taste buds. Another great part about this place is the fact that they have live music every night. This makes a delightful place to dine at or dance, because they have a floor where the staff will beg to see your moves. Albeit the decibel level is a tad bit too high, though what do you expect from a restaurant with a live band and lots of vodka? © wcities.com



Photo courtesy of Primorski

New York City Snapshot

Local Info

New York, New York: There's truly no other city in the world like it. The city reaches far and wide with neighborhoods and people changing at every block you cross. Don't let the Big Apple intimidate you though, it's got a little bit of everything for travelers of all kinds to enjoy. Shopaholics and fashionistas roam the pricey boutiques of Soho while downtown locals flock to the street food of Chinatown. View stately museums of the Upper East Side or challenge your knowledge of art browsing Chelsea, this sprawling metropolis offers the best of all worlds...and that's just the big city of Manhattan. Here's an overview of some of that island's noteworthy neighborhoods, as well as the basics on the outer boroughs, too—Brooklyn, the Bronx, Queens and Staten Island. To dig deeper on any of these destinations, check out the relevant Neighborhood Information section.

Midtown

This is the beating heart of the Big Apple, complete with towering skyscrapers, packed streets, and many of the city's top destinations for sightseeing, shopping, and entertainment, including Times Square, the United Nations, the Empire State Building and Rockefeller Center. This is must-see New York, but make sure to spend some time outside this neighborhood if you want to breathe a bit more freely.

Central Park

Nestled between the Upper West and Upper East Sides, this 843-acre oasis is the most visited urban park in the country. Among its many charms are miles of winding pathways, several lakes and ponds, two skating rinks, a zoo, and a conservatory. Visit in the summer if you can, when the park hosts free concerts and plays.

Times Square/Theater District/Hell's Kitchen

The once seedy Times Square zone is all cleaned up and packed full of chain restaurants and other tourist-friendly attractions. Catch a Broadway show in the Theater District, or head west to Hell's Kitchen, also cleaned up from its seedier days and full of dining and nightlife options.

Chelsea

Chelsea has been the center of the city's art scene since the mid-1990s, with more than 200 galleries centered mostly in its western reaches (near 10th and 11th Avenues). In addition to the High Line, a newly opened public space along an old elevated railway, it also boasts some of the city's hottest nightclubs, is chock-full of busy restaurants and bars, and has long been seen as the heart of gay-friendly New York. □

Gramercy/Flatiron/Union Square

This central neighborhood has a little of everything, from pedigreed Gramercy Park to bustling Union Square (site of the city's largest greenmarket). It's also home to a number of the city's most popular restaurants, and the dining options abound on Park Avenue South and the area around Madison Square Park, near the iconic Flatiron Building.

Greenwich Village/West Village

With its labyrinthine (compared to the Midtown grid) streets and historic townhouses, the Village is classic New York. Its eastern region contains Washington Square Park and New York University, while the charming, formerly bohemian West Village is home to increasingly upscale shopping and restaurants. Head further west to the Meatpacking District, now a mecca of expensive dining/nightlife options.

East Village □

The East Village stands out for its young, arty, funky (though nowhere near as edgy as in years past) vibe, on display in its many shopping, dining and nightlife options. History buffs will appreciate landmarks like St. Mark's-in-the-Bowery Church, while a cleaned-up Tompkins Square Park offers great people-watching.

Lower East Side

□ Go below Houston Street on the east side and you'll find even more restaurants, boutiques and bars lining the streets of the ever-more-upscale Lower East Side. Though this area was once home to some of the city's worst slums, its gritty past has made way for a vibrant shopping, dining and nightlife scene. Learn about the neighborhood's past at the Lower East Side Tenement Museum (it's free!) or check out the historic Orchard Street Shopping District.

Soho

Though many galleries have moved to Chelsea, Soho still boasts its own art scene. Shopping is the real draw in this neighborhood, however, from high-fashion boutiques to the chain stores that line Broadway. At the eastern end of Soho, Nolita is perfect for shoppers who favor smaller, more unique stores. A plethora of kitschy Italian restaurants still draw tourists to the lively neighborhood of Little Italy, around Mulberry Street, including the throngs attracted by the annual San Gennaro Festival.

Lower Manhattan

This diverse zone encompasses Chinatown (with its designer knock-offs and dim sum), swanky Tribeca, family-friendly Battery Park City, and the bustling (at least during the week) Financial District. Must-see spots include South Street Seaport, Wall Street and the New York Stock Exchange, and the World Trade Center site.

Upper East Side □

The Metropolitan, the Whitney, and the Guggenheim are only the biggest players in this stately, museum-filled neighborhood, which also boasts some of the city's best high-end shopping (Madison Avenue) and some of its highest-priced real estate (Fifth Avenue along Central Park, Park Avenue).

Upper West Side

The beautiful Upper West Side, historically a mecca for New York City artists, writers and intellectuals, is also one of the city's most family-friendly neighborhoods, with brownstone-lined streets, brunch spots, shops galore, and easy access to Central Park. It's also home to Lincoln Center, the Museum of Natural History, architectural gems like the Ansonia and the Dakota, and (a bit further north) Columbia University.

Harlem

Long a vibrant center of African-American history, music and culture, Harlem has changed a lot in recent years, as a diverse new crowd of residents have started calling its stately old brownstones home. It's still a great destination for soul food (try stalwarts like Sylvia's) as well as live jazz and nightlife at historic spots like the Cotton Club or the Lenox Lounge.

New York City Snapshot continued

Brooklyn

From the galleries of Williamsburg to the brownstones of Brooklyn Heights, from family-friendly Park Slope to kitschy Coney Island, devotees of this borough wouldn't live anywhere else. Walk across the Brooklyn Bridge and check out the views from the Promenade, or stroll in Prospect Park, for just a taste of what Brooklyn has to offer. But don't neglect this outer borough on your next visit, there's plenty reason for Brooklyn to be worth your while.

Queens

The largest borough, Queens is also the most ethnically diverse, boasting arguably the best food in the city, from Greek in Astoria, to Indian in Jackson Heights, to Chinese and Korean in Flushing. It is also a popular destination for sports (Citi Field--new home to the New York Mets--and U.S. Open tennis) and culture (check out P.S. 1 Contemporary Art Center in Long Island City).

The Bronx

Though New York's northernmost borough is best known to many as the home of Yankee Stadium, the Bronx offers a good deal more than meets the eye. Explore

its beaches and museums, its world-famous zoo and botanical garden, its own Little Italy, quaint City Island, and more parkland than any other borough.

Staten Island

The breathtaking views from the free Staten Island Ferry are just the beginning of this borough's charms. With a more suburban feel than any of the other boroughs, Staten Island boasts a number of parks, as well as a zoo, a children's museum, a botanical garden, a minor league baseball stadium, and a restored colonial village.

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