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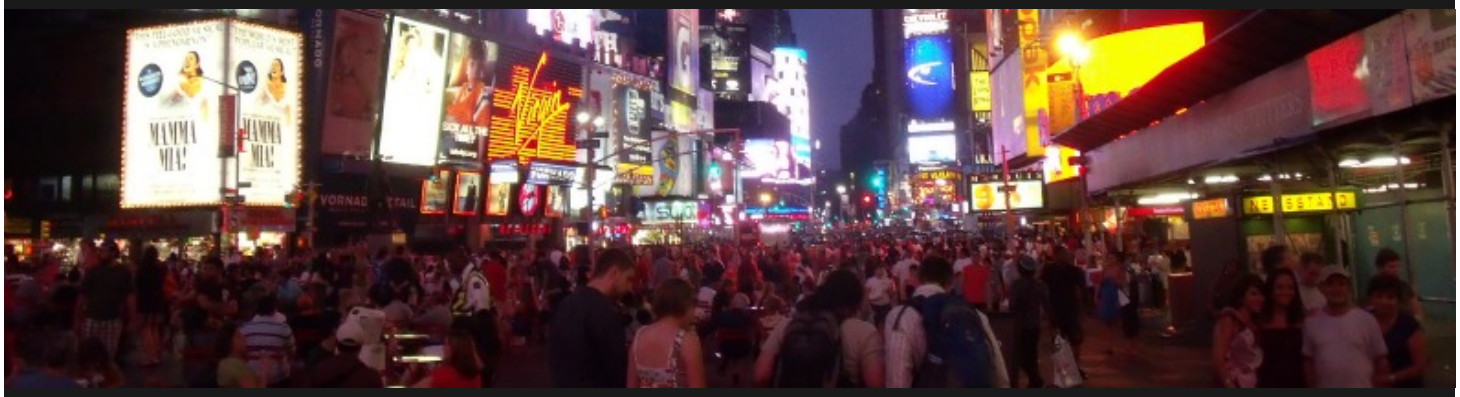

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Best NYC Brunch Spots

New York City, 1 Day

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Guide Description

AUTHOR NOTE: Whether dining with your family, a date, or a group of friends, brunch is one meal everyone can agree on. These six spots offer some of the city's most remarkable brunching experiences. From the deluxe Sunday smorgasboard at Aquavit to the endless Bloody Mary menu at Prune to the stunning skyline views of the River Cafe, make your morning-into-the-afternoon meal something to remember.

Photo: Waiting for Sunday brunch at Prune. By advencap.

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Itinerary Overview

things to do
restaurants
hotels
nightlife

Day 1 - New York City

Eleven Madison Park
Windows and wines

Aquavit
Scandinavian dream restaurant

Cookshop
A bustling venue

Public
By public demand!

Little Owl (The)
A fabulous dining roost

Prune
Affordable elegance

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QUICK NOTE

contact:
tel: 1 212 889 0905
fax: 1 212 889 0918
www.elevenmadisonpark.com

location:
11 Madison Ave.
New York NY 10010

hours:
LUNCH: Thursday - Saturday: 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.DINNER: Monday - Sunday: 5:30 pm - 10:00 p.m.

1 Eleven Madison Park

DESCRIPTION: Incredibly tall windows look out over Madison Square Park in this Danny Meyer-owned restaurant. The successful owner of Union Square Cafe and Gramercy Tavern fame has employed the culinary genius of chef Kerry Heffernan and an outstanding wait staff, and has put together a marvelous wine cellar for the perfect patron satisfaction. While the food is generally American, the elegant style of preparations and presentations of traditional French cuisine influence it. Eleven Madison Park also hosts private events in its premises. Call for details. © wcities.com

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contact:
tel: 1 212 307 7311
fax: 1 212 265 8584
http://www.aquavit.org/

location:
65 East 55th Street
New York NY 10022

hours:
M-F Lunch 11:45a-2:30p, Dinner 5:30p-10:30p, Sat Dinner 5:30p-10:30p

2 Aquavit

DESCRIPTION: With respect to tradition, a penchant for excellence and the conviction to try new techniques and ingredients, Aquavit transforms Nordic cuisine with extraordinary care. For lunch, an a la carte menu of Scandinavian classics such as Swedish Meatballs, Gravlax and Toast Skagen. For dinner, try the a four-course prix fixe or seven-course tasting menu of modern Nordic selections. The dining room has just been redesigned with modern and rustic elements that complement and complete the Nordic dining experience. In the Bar and Lounge you can savor craft cocktails and a variety of Nordic tastes tailored to your selections ideal for a date, casual meeting or an after-work gathering. The Linné salon and Nobel Room accommodate Private Dining functions for meetings, social gatherings and elegant entertaining for up to 100 guests. © NileGuide

wcities

contact:
tel: 1 212 924 4440
http://www.cookshopny.com

location:
156 10th Avenue
New York NY 10199

hours:
Brunch: Saturday & Sunday 10:30am-4:00pm Breakfast: Monday - Friday 8:00am-11:00am Lunch: Monday - Friday 11:30pm-4:00pm Dinner: Monday - Saturday

3 Cookshop

DESCRIPTION: On far west Tenth Avenue, Cookshop is brawny and boisterous with food to match. Seating can be tight, and you would hear your neighbor's conversation if it the whole place weren't so loud. But never mind: Enjoy the chef's creations. A pizza with shaved king oyster mushrooms and stracchino cheese or the grilled Montauk squid in a salsa verde make good starters to complement the restaurant's innovative cocktails. Or combine a few snacks like the fried spiced hominy or the smoked pork tacos as starters for the table. Cookshop offers entree options in four categories: sauté, grill, wood oven, and rotisserie. The whole roasted porgy, head and all, cooked in the wood oven, is moist and full of flavor, while the chili-braised beef short ribs, served over cheddar grits, from

Photo courtesy of Cookshop

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5:30pm-11:30am, Sunday 5:30pm-10:00pm

the sauté section, are tender to the bone. Service is casually efficient and helpful. © Frommer's

contact:
tel: 1 212 343 7011
fax: 1 212 343 0918
www.public-nyc.com

location:
210 Elizabeth Street
New York NY 10012

hours:
Dinner:; Monday through Thursday, 6pm-11:30pm; Friday and Saturday, 6pm-12:30am ; Sunday 6pm-10:30pm.; Brunch:; Saturday and Sunday, 10.30am-4pm

4 Public

wcities

DESCRIPTION: Pretty lights suspended from the ceiling, wooden furnishings, and a cozy bar define this restaurant's interiors. It has some highly unusual fare on its menu, which is why it is quite popular - for the more adventurous at heart, there are such dishes as Confit Rabbit, Snail & Oxtail Ravioli, and even Grilled Kangaroo! If you don't feel up to such items, there are dishes like Roast New Zealand Snapper, and Goan Vegetable Curry with Steamed Rice. There are a few wines to round off any meal, and the staff is highly obliging too. © wcities.com

contact:
tel: 1 212 741 4695
fax: 1 212 741 1695
www.thelittleowlnyc.com

location:
90 Bedford Street
New York NY 10014

hours:
Dinner: Monday - Saturday: 5:00pm - 11:00am, Sunday: 5:00pm - 10:00pm Lunch: Monday - Friday 12:00am - 2:30pm Brunch: 10:30am - 2:30pm Saturday and Sunday (Walk in only)

5 Little Owl (The)

citysearch

DESCRIPTION: A tin and gold painted ceiling and a full view of the open kitchen is what greets you at The Little Owl. The cuisine is a mix of classical American and Mediterranean. The contemporary menu comprises of dishes made by seasonal ingredients of the freshest quality, which is always a good sign. Saying that The Little Owl pays attention to detail is an understatement. First timers and regulars will agree, the restaurant goes to lengths to accommodate its patrons, whether it means customizing a dish which is not on the menu, remembering someone's favorite dish or even getting a particular bottle of wine from elsewhere. The Pork Chop is a special favorite at The Little Owl, so maybe the crispy soft-shell crab and the duck confit will have to await future visits. © wcities.com

contact:
tel: 1 212 677 6221
fax: 1 212 677 6982
http://www.prunerestaurant.com/

location:
54 East 1st Street
New York NY 10003

hours:
Lunch: M-F 11:30a-3p, Sa-Su 10a-3:30p; Dinner: M-Th

6 Prune

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OUR LOCAL EXPERT SAYS:
Try a boozy brunch at Prune--the menu features 10 different variations on the Bloody Mary--but come early, as the restaurant doesn't take reservations for brunch.

DESCRIPTION: A light and airy dining room overlooks an open kitchen here, where good American food is served in a charming ambience. Oysters, Gravlax, and Deviled Eggs are good starters. Popular entrees include Braised Rabbit Legs with

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6p-10:30p, F-Sa 6p-11p, Su 5p-10p	Carrots and Fennel, Braised Beef Short Ribs with Yorkshire Pudding and Grilled Rib Eye Steak with Parsley-Shallot Butter. For dessert, the Warm Chocolate Cake is delicious; try the Oranges with Vanilla Beans, and the unexpected and fantastic Butter and Sugar Sandwiches. A prix fixe menu is available on Sunday evenings. © wcities.com

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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 ofSoho while downtown locals flock to the street food ofChinatown. View stately museums of theUpper East Side or challenge your knowledge of art browsingChelsea, 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 andStaten 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, includingTimes Square, theUnited Nations, theEmpire State Building andRockefeller 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, this843-acre oasis is the most visited urban park in the country. Among its many charms are miles of winding pathways, several lakes and ponds, twoskating rinks, azoo, and a conservatory. Visit in the summer if you can, when the park hosts freeconcerts andplays.

Times Square/Theater District/Hell's Kitchen

The once seedyTimes 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, withmore than 200 galleries centered mostly in its western reaches(near 10th and 11th Avenues). In addition to theHigh 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 pedigreedGramercy Park to bustlingUnion 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 iconicFlatiron 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 containsWashington Square Park andNew 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 likeSt. Mark's-in-the-Bowery Church, while a cleaned-upTompkins 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 theLower 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 ofLittle Italy, around Mulberry Street, including the throngs attracted by the annual San GennaroFestival.

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 includeSouth Street Seaport,Wall Street and theNew York Stock Exchange, and theWorld Trade Center site.

Upper East Side

TheMetropolitan, theWhitney, and theGuggenheim 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 toCentral Park. It's also home toLincoln Center, theMuseum of Natural History, architectural gems like theAnsonia and theDakota, 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 likeSylvia's) as well as live jazz and nightlife at historic spots like theCotton Club or theLenox Lounge.

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Brooklyn

From thegalleries of Williamsburg to the brownstones of Brooklyn Heights, from family-friendly Park Slope to kitschyConey Island, devotees of this borough wouldn't live anywhere else. Walk across theBrooklyn Bridge and check out the views from thePromenade, or stroll inProspect Park, for just a taste of what Brooklyn has to offer. But don't neglect this outerborough 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--andU.S. Open tennis) and culture(check outP.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 ofYankee Stadium, the Bronx offers a good deal more than meets the eye. Explore its beaches and museums, its world-famouszoo andbotanical garden, its own Little Italy, quaintCity Island, and more parkland than any other borough.

Staten Island

The breathtaking views from the freeStaten 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 asa zoo,a children's museum, a botanical garden,a minor league baseball stadium, anda restored colonial village.

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Fun Facts

New York State: New York **Country:** United States

New York City By The Numbers:

Population: 8.3 million(city); 19.8 million(metropolitan) Average January Temperature: 32°F/ 0°C Average July Temperature: 77°F/ 25°C Annual Rainfall: 47in/ 1200mm Waterfront: 578mi/ 930km Elevation: 87ft/ 27m Location shoots: 40,000 annually Number of islands that NYC is made up of: 50

Quick Facts:

Time zone: GMT- 5(GMT- 4 from first Sunday in April to Saturday before last Sunday in October); Eastern Standard Time(EST) Electricity: 110/120 volts, 60Hz; round two-pin plugs are standard. Country dialing code: 1 Telephone area code: Manhattan 212, 646& 917; outer boroughs 718, 347 or 917

Did You Know?

The nickname, The Big Apple, came from sportswriter John Fitzgerald eavesdropping on stable hands in New Orleans, terming NYC's racetracks as"The Big Apple".

The department store Macy's is the world's largest store.

Babe Ruth slammed his first home run in the first game ever played at Yankee Stadium.

Once the skyline of NYC wasn't dominated by tall skyscrapers. In the 1660s, a two-story windmill was the highest building in New York City.
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