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Business Travel to NYC: Around the Corner from Wall Street and the Financial District

New York City, 2 Days

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Guide Description



AUTHOR NOTE: If you're in New York on business, sometimes the city seems like one big maze of skyscrapers and taxi cabs...but there's much more here for the business traveler than meets the eye. Just a short walk from Wall Street and the Financial District, you can find great dining options, watering holes and sightseeing destinations that will help you make the most of your trip to the Big Apple.

Photo: Downtown New York City skyline, seen from Governor's Island. By Sarah.

Itinerary Overview

things to do
restaurants
hotels
nightlife

Day 1 - New York City

DAY NOTE: After a busy morning of meetings, take a long lunch at Les Halles, a downtown steakhouse that also serves classic French brasserie fare. Famous for its association with the outspoken star chef Anthony Bourdain (author of "Kitchen Confidential" and host of the Travel Channel's "No Reservations"), the restaurant is a Financial District favorite for working lunches. Walk off your steak and French onion soup in Battery Park, a green oasis at the southern tip of Manhattan. If you've got a free afternoon, step onto the Staten Island Ferry for some of the best views of the city skyline and the Statue of Liberty—gratis, or take a trip to Ellis Island, gateway for millions of immigrants to America in past centuries. In the evening, stroll over to South Street Seaport for a meal at Bridge Café, housed in a historic building in the shadow of the Brooklyn Bridge, or stop in to cozy Nelson Blue to sample some tasty New Zealand wines, beers and pub grub.

	Les Halles Downtown Financial district steakhouse and brasserie
	Battery Park Southern tip of Manhattan
	Staten Island Ferry Free trip across New York Harbor
	Ellis Island Historic gateway for millions of immigrants to the United States
	Bridge Cafe Eclectic American food in a 18th century institution
	Nelson Blue South Street Seaport gastropub with Kiwi flavor

or Off-Broadway production at the TKTS booth (located at the corner of Front and John Streets, near the rear of the Resnick/Prudential Building at 199 Water Street). For a dinner that's a production in itself, head to SHO Shaun Hergatt, a brand new luxury restaurant offering high-concept cuisine (all housed in an obscure condominium development). If you don't have an early flight out and don't want the night to end, try a nightcap at Brandy Library, located just a little bit north, in TriBeCa.

	Century 21 Designer discount heaven
	Alfanoose Falafel paradise
	South Street Seaport Historic port houses tourist-friendly shops & restaurants
	SHO Shaun Hergatt Modern French cuisine with an Asian accent
	Brandy Library A hallowed center of brandy

Day 2 - New York City

DAY NOTE: Devoted shoppers doing business in the Financial District can use their morning coffee break to duck out and see what designer bargains are available at Big Apple institution Century 21. If your day leaves no time for a leisurely lunch out, grab a quick, tasty Middle Eastern meal at Alfanoose, known for serving some of the city's best falafel. At happy hour, bond with a group of colleagues over a pint at Wall Street institution Ulysses, or head back to nearby South Street Seaport, where you can check out the fascinating "Bodies" exhibit (11 Fulton Street) or buy some discounted theater tickets for a Broadway

Day 1 - New York City

QUICK NOTE

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contact:

tel: 2122858585

leshalles.net/brasserie/

location:

15 John Street
New York NY 10038

hours:

Mon-Fri 7:30am-midnight;
Sat-Sun, 11:30am-midnight

Les Halles Downtown

DESCRIPTION: Voted the Best French Brasserie, by readers of Time Out New York, Brasserie Les Halles opened Les Halles Downtown in the Financial District on Tuesday, December 18, 2001. Owner Philippe Lajaunie is committed to the neighborhood, "New York is the most dynamic place in the world," he says. "Lower Manhattan will come back & we want to be a part of it. We are providing everything from the great steaks & potatoes that made us famous, to the best seafood from the small markets in Chinatown, French specialties that you may not see anywhere else, & fantastic hamburgers." Lajaunie describes the latest Les Halles brasserie as a downtown steakhouse that also serves classic French brasserie dishes like Onion Soup, Grilled Sea Food, Confit de Canard, & Choucroute Garnie, (familiar to fans of Brasserie Les Halles on Park Avenue). There are also less familiar French dishes, such as Tartiflette, a combination of thinly sliced potatoes layered with bacon & baked with Reblochon cheese. © OpenTable

contact:

tel: +1 212 344 3491

fax: +1 212 344 3496

http://www.thebattery.org/

location:

State Street
New York NY 10280

hours:

Call for details

1 Battery Park

DESCRIPTION: As you traverse Manhattan's concrete canyons, it's sometimes easy to forget that you're actually on an island. But here, at Manhattan's southernmost tip, you get the very real sense that just out past Liberty, Ellis, and Staten islands is the vast Atlantic Ocean. The 21-acre park is named for the cannons built to defend residents after the American Revolution. Castle Clinton National Monument (the place to purchase tickets for the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island ferry) was built as a fort before the War of 1812, though it was never used as such. Battery Park is a park of monuments and memorials, many paying tribute to tragedy and death. Here you will find the East Coast Memorial, dedicated to 4,601 servicemen who died in Atlantic coastal waters during World War II; the New York Korean War Veterans Memorial; the American Merchant Mariner's Memorial, dedicated to Merchant Mariners lost at sea; the Salvation Army Memorial; the Hope Garden, dedicated to those who live with HIV or have died from AIDS; the Irish Hunger Memorial, a tribute to those who died during the potato famine in Ireland; and the 22-ton bronze sphere by Fritz Koenig that was recovered from the rubble of the World Trade Center, where it stood on the plaza between the two Twin Towers as a symbol of global peace -- severely damaged but still whole. Mingling throughout these memorials you will find the requisite T-shirt vendors, hot-dog carts, and Wall Streeters eating deli sandwiches on the many park



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benches. Pull up your own bench for a good view out across the harbor. © Frommer's

contact:
tel: +1 718 390 5253
<http://www.siferry.com/>

location:
1 Bay Street
New York NY 10301

hours:
24 Hrs

2 Staten Island Ferry

DESCRIPTION: This is undoubtedly New York City's best free ride. The 25-minute one-way trip across New York Harbor should give you ample opportunity to see such nearby sites as the Statue of Liberty, Brooklyn Bridge and lower Manhattan's skyscrapers. The fare for the ferry, which runs every 20 to 30 minutes, actually went down from 50 cents a few years ago. During rush hour, it is filled with Staten Island residents going to or from work in Manhattan. Cars and motorcycles are no longer allowed on the ferry. © wcities.com



contact:
tel: +1 212 561 4588
<http://www.ellisland.com/>

location:
Ellis Island
New York NY 10004

hours:
Daily 9:30am-5:15pm (last ferry departs around 3:30pm)

3 Ellis Island

DESCRIPTION: Not far from Liberty Island and the Statue of Liberty stands Ellis Island, former gateway to the United States. Between 1892 and 1954, over 12 million Immigrants were processed in the "Main Building" at Ellis Island. In 1990, the long disused buildings were restored and the Immigration Museum was born. The Museum offers a variety of exhibits and programs about the history of Ellis Island and the immigration process. Today, the Main Building is a three floor museum, containing a variety of self-guided permanent exhibits. The museum includes a research library that contains materials related to the Statue of Liberty, Ellis Island and immigration history. Visitors can use the museum's resources to track their own ancestors. The Oral History Collection includes over 1,000 taped and transcribed interviews of Ellis Island immigrants and staff. Both the Library and Oral History Collection are open to the public during regular operating hours of the museum. © wcities.com



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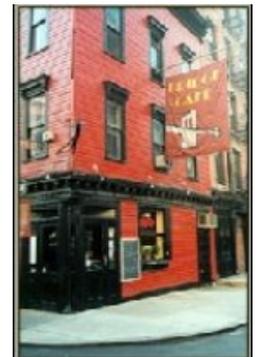
contact:
tel: 1 212 227 3344
fax: 1 212 619 2368
<http://bridgecafenyc.com/>

location:
279 Water Street (at Dover St)
New York NY 10038

hours:
Su-M 11:45a-10p, Tu-
Th 11:45a-11p, F 11:45a-
Midnight, Sa 5p-Midnight

4 Bridge Cafe

DESCRIPTION: The simple wood-framed building housing the Bridge Café (once home to a brothel) was erected in 1794, long before the nearby Brooklyn Bridge. Today, the Bridge Café bills itself as "the oldest drinking establishment in New York"--it also offers a well-regarded menu of favorites like lobster rolls and soft-shell crabs (in-season), in-bone rib eye steaks, crab cakes and its famous buffalo steak, served with lingonberry sauce and house-made potato gnocchi. © NileGuide



citysearch

Day 2 - New York City

QUICK NOTE

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contact:
tel: 212/227-9092
www.c21stores.com

location:
22 Cortlandt St
New York NY 10271

1 Century 21

DESCRIPTION: Prices here on designer goods are 40% to 70% off what you would pay at a department store or designer boutique. Don't think that \$250 Armani blazer is a bargain? Look again at the tag -- the retail price is upward of \$800. This is the place to find things like super cheap Calvin Klein tees, last season's Lucky jeans, this season's Dolce & Gabbana sunglasses, or the perfect Missoni sweater. Kids' clothes, linens, luggage, and housewares are also part of the extensive stock (head to the basement for the latter). The only drawback is the throngs of people who flock here every day, making the most strategic shopping time to shop with sanity weekday mornings, before the lunch rush. © Frommer's



Photo Courtesy of Century21

contact:
tel: 1 212 528 4669
fax: 1 212 608 9207
www.alfanoose.com/

location:
8 Maiden Lane
New York NY 10038

hours:
M-Sa 11a-9p

2 Alfanoose

DESCRIPTION: Alfanoose is touted as the best falafel joint in all of New York. Owner Mouhamad Shami's commitment to making the healthiest and most authentic Lebanese food goes a long way in maintaining the high standards. This eatery was resurrected after 9/11 solely because of the loyal patronage it enjoyed. Sometimes there are serpentine queues outside as people wait for their shawarmas and falafels. Homemade hummus, kafta bil-saniyeh and vegetarian moussaka are voted to be the best of the best. So the next time you have the urge to eat Lebanese in New York, you know where to head. © wcities.com



Photo courtesy of Alfanoose.

contact:

tel: +1 212 732 7678
fax: +1 212 964 8056
<http://www.southstreetseaport.com>

location:

12 Fulton St
New York NY 10038

hours:

Museum Apr-Dec Tues-Sun
10am-6pm, Thurs 10am-8pm;
Jan-Mar Fri-Mon 10am-5pm
(On Mon, Schermerhorn Row
galleries only); ships open
noon-4pm

3 South Street Seaport

OUR LOCAL EXPERT SAYS:

The Titanic Memorial, a small white lighthouse located at the intersection of Fulton and Water streets at the gateway to the seaport, commemorates the sinking of the RMS Titanic in 1912.

DESCRIPTION: This historic trading port, which dates back to the 1600s, is located on the edge of the Financial District, where Fulton Street meets the East River. It was restored and revitalized for tourist use in the late 1960s, and now boasts more than 120 shops, restaurants, and bars, as well as the South Street Seaport Museum, the Pier 17 Pavilion, and the New York City Police Museum. Visitors to the Seaport will also find some of the oldest architecture in downtown Manhattan, including renovated original mercantile buildings from the early 19th century, renovated sailing ships, and the former Fulton Fish Market.

With its cobblestone streets and broad piers, South Street Seaport offers a welcome escape from the congested, skyscraper-lined streets of downtown. There are usually free outdoor performances going on - check out a number of prominent and up-and-coming acts at the outdoor stage set up in the summertime - and the cool breezes, fun people-watching, and beautiful views of the Brooklyn Bridge can all be enjoyed for free. © NileGuide



Photo courtesy of visitingdc.com

contact:

tel: 212-809-3993
<http://www.shoshaunhergatt.com/>

location:

40 Broad Street
New York NY 10004

hours:

Mon-Fri, 7am-9:30am,
noon-2pm, 5-10pm; Sat,
5-10pm; Sun, closed

4 SHO Shaun Hergatt

OUR LOCAL EXPERT SAYS:

The Setai is located on a stretch of Broad Street that is closed to traffic (one block from the New York Stock Exchange).

DESCRIPTION: Located off the beaten path in the Financial District (in The Setai condominium development), SHO Shaun Hergatt boasts cutting edge ingredients, painstaking presentation, and a sleek modern ambiance. Hergatt, a talented Australian chef, worked for years in Ritz-Carlton hotels, and his new restaurant carries on the commitment to luxurious excess: a signature appetizer is the "Golden Egg," a slow-poached egg served with caviar and gold leaf. Other over-the-top offerings include "mille-feuille" of foie gras, buttery roasted Maine lobster and "three-day" short ribs.

© NileGuide



Photo courtesy of SHO Shaun Hergatt

contact:

tel: 212 226 5545

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

location:

25 North Moore Street

New York NY 10013

hours:

Su-W 5p-2a, Th-Sa 4p-4a

5 Brandy Library

DESCRIPTION: Don't mistake this for a library. This bar is refined and high end. The room's warm amber lighting and leather chairs are ideal to sink into or cuddle with someone special. The staff are friendly and have to climb ladders to fetch the brandy bottles that line the bar's vertical shelves. The menu lists the best brandys and scotch available in the world. There are exquisite Cognacs, rustic Calvados and more than a hundred cocktails. The Hors D'Ouevres are as special, and include the Maine Scallop Ceviche, foie gras and cavier. If you're feeling particularly decadent, ask for the 1914 brandy. © wcities.com



flickr4jazz

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.

© NileGuide

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: 47 in / 1200 mm
Waterfront: 578 mi / 930 km
Elevation: 87 ft / 27 m
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.

©