



nileGUIDE

ALL YOU NEED TO PLAN YOUR PERFECT TRIP



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Lower Manhattan and Brooklyn Highlights

New York City, Brooklyn, 3 Days

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Guide Description



AUTHOR NOTE: This trip takes you through my early years in Lower Manhattan and Brooklyn, with an eye towards architecture, open spaces, local libations and nibbles, a gorgeous botanical garden and lots more to gape at and photograph. Be a local for a few days! Comfy shoes are a must, as is public transportation and your best New Yorker impersonation. Hint: They're actually some of the nicest, most helpful and friendliest people in the world!

Photo: Brooklyn Bridge











by See-ming Lee ☐☐☐ SML

Itinerary Overview

things to do
restaurants
hotels
nightlife

Day 1 - New York City








DAY NOTE: This day has you waking up at a sweet budget hotel that's well-located for today's mission, the Lower East Side and Lower Manhattan. Breakfast and lunch will take you back to your (or my) roots, with Jewish-style deli fare, and the afternoon has you browsing in The Strand (a vast bookstore), slurping some gelato and enjoying photo ops and wandering this historical part of Manhattan with an eye on history and architecture (don't miss the Flatiron building!). There's a bit of comic relief in the afternoon/evening at the Comic and Cartoon Art museum and a quick trip to Cuba before bed.

	Hotel 17 Chic budget hotel
	Zucker's Bagels and Smoked Fish Delicatessen in the Hood
	The Lower East Side Conservancy Promoting local Jewish history
	Lower East Side Tenement Museum Unique museum explores immigrant life in New York City
	Second Avenue Deli Jewish Deli Staple
	The Strand 18 miles of books, new and used
	il laboratorio del gelato Hip gourmet ice cream
	Flatiron Building Jewel of the Flatiron District
	Museum of Comic and Cartoon Art Feast for the eyes
	Son Cubano Retro Cuban

Day 2 - New York City, Brooklyn

DAY NOTE: Today focuses on Brooklyn, kitch and posh, from a bakery style breakfast to hotdogs and pizza throughout the

day, two of Brooklynite kids' favorite munchies. Even if you don't eat meat, get a cup of fries with a tiny spear fork at Nathan's and wander the boardwalk and it's kitchy stores or walk on the beach like we used to when I was a kid. Astroland is an old-style amusement park with a wooden roller coaster, for the brave. Later, there's a pizza tour where you'll try two styles of Brooklyn's best junkfood, thin (Neopolitan) and thick (Sicilian)-crust pizzas. Later on you'll head to Prospect Park, designed by Olmstead and considered the crowning glory of NYC parks, where free music and performances are on offer in the summer. After night falls you're back in Manhattan for an alehouse evening on the small island's side of the Brooklyn Bridge.

	Almondine Bakery Brooklyn bakery
	A Slice of Brooklyn Pizza Tour Pizza lover's group bus tour of Brooklyn
	Coney Island Brooklyn beach resort
	Astroland Amusement Park Cyclone, Wonder Wheel and other historic Coney Island rides
	Nathan's Famous Best dogs on the planet
	Celebrate Brooklyn Free entertainment in Prospect Park, with music, dance, film and more
	Jeremy's Ale House Beer at the Brooklyn Bridge

Day 3 - New York City

DAY NOTE: Rise and shine for a mornign of garden traipsing and coffee sipping in Brooklyn's Botanic Garden which has walks and plants, an accessible herb garden, and in the springtime, Sakura Matsuri, or the cherry blossom festival. Have breakfast (or a second breakfast here), and then wander down Park Slope's 7th Avenue for yuppie, kid-friendly fashion and shopping, followed by a walk over the Brooklyn Bridge, if you're feeling up to it. From there take a trip down to the bottom of Manhatting, paying a tribute at the WTC Visitor center, and wandering down Wall street to the South Street Seaport, where a panoply of eating options are available, and you can tour the big ship (Peking) museum there (this is where a child was recently rescued from

Itinerary Overview

things to do
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the East River, so hold on tight). If you haven't yet had enough water, walk down to the South Ferry train station and take a free ride on the Staten Island Ferry which affords you a view of the Statue of Liberty. Once back, head slightly uptown into little Italy to wander the streets and try your luck in what has become an increasingly Asian area. Try Venieros for a cannoli or a bubble tea from any of a variety of shops. This day ends in an intimate vinoteca where you can sample some of the world's best wines in cozy atmosphere.



Brooklyn Botanic Garden

Bonsai bonanza



Brooklyn Heights Promenade

Riverside walkway offers great skyline views



Brooklyn Bridge

Historic bridge offers stunning skyline views



Tribute WTC Visitor Center

9/11 tribute, featuring interactive exhibits



South Street Seaport

Historic port houses tourist-friendly shops & restaurants



Staten Island Ferry

Free trip across New York Harbor



Veniero's Pasticceria and Caffè

Old Fashioned Desserts



Little Italy

Feast on Mulberry Street



Terroir

24-seat vinoteca

Day 1 - New York City



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contact:

tel: +1 212 475 2845
fax: +1 212 677 8178
<http://www.hotel17ny.com>

location:

225 E 17th St
New York NY 10003

1 Hotel 17

DESCRIPTION: Hotel 17, located just blocks from Union Square, the East Village and Gramercy Park, is a quirky spot perfectly suited to hipsters on a budget. A unique combination of cheap and chic, the hotel also has an interesting history, once housing a pre-fame Madonna and several other up-and-coming New York City notables. Rooms are available with either shared and private bathrooms, and are equipped with amenities such as television with basic cable, toiletries and limited wi-fi.
© NileGuide



Hotels.com

contact:

tel: +1 212 608 5844
fax: +1 212 608 5848

location:

146 Chambers Street

2 Zucker's Bagels and Smoked Fish

DESCRIPTION: This fairly new delicatessen serves great bagels, smoked fish, salad and eggs. Zucker's is a branch of the popular Murray's Bagels in Chelsea. Zucker's has a quick takeaway counter and a delivery service as well. The dining area has a vintage look and feel with its intricate

New York NY 10007

detailing and white tiles. So if you are in Tribeca and you have a craving for bagels, you know the answer to your prayers is not too far away! © wcities.com

hours:

Mo to Su from 06:30 AM to 08:00 PM

contact:

tel: +1 212 374 4100
fax: +1 212 385 2693
<http://www.lowereastsideny.com/historical.htm>

location:

235 East Broadway
New York NY 10002

hours:

9:30a-5:30p M-Th, 9:30a-3p F

3 The Lower East Side Conservancy

DESCRIPTION: The Lower East Side Conservancy is an organization dedicated to preserving the Jewish heritage and culture of Manhattan's Lower East Side. They offer walking and minibus tours highlighting historic synagogues and the neighborhood's culinary delights. The Bialystoker and Eldridge Synagogues are associated with this group and are featured on their tours. Call for tour schedules and prices. © wcities.com



citysearch

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.)

4 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: +1 212 689 9000
<http://www.2ndavedeli.com/>

location:

162 East 33rd Street
New York NY 10016

5 Second Avenue Deli

DESCRIPTION: Since first opening in 1954, The Second Avenue Deli has become one of the best-known names on the world-renowned Manhattan Jewish Deli scene. The menu consists of time-tested favorites like corned beef sandwiches, matzo ball soup, and pastrami served in a dining room surrounded by Yiddish memorabilia. Though the original location on 2nd Street was closed down in 2006, it has since reopened at a new location on 33rd Street with its original menu still intact. You won't regret traveling those extra blocks for a taste of this Manhattan landmark. © wcities.com



Photo courtesy of Second Avenue Deli

contact:
tel: 212/473-1452
www.strandbooks.com

location:
828 Broadway
New York NY 10003

6 The Strand

OUR LOCAL EXPERT SAYS:

The Strand also operates a kiosk in Central Park, at 60th Street and 5th Avenue, directly across from the Pierre Hotel. It's open daily (weather permitting), 10 am to dusk, April through December.

DESCRIPTION: Something of a New York legend, The Strand is worth a visit for its staggering "18 miles of books" as well as its extensive inventory of review copies and bargain titles at up to 85% off list price. It's unquestionably the city's best book deal -- there's almost nothing marked at list price -- and the selection is phenomenal in all categories (there's even a rare-book department on the third floor). Still, you'll work for it: The narrow aisles mean you're always getting bumped; the books are only roughly alphabetized; and there's no air-conditioning in summer. Nevertheless, it's a used-book-lover's paradise.



Photo courtesy of The Strand

contact:
tel: 1 212 343 9922
<http://laboratoriodelgelato.com/>

location:
95 Orchard Street
New York NY 10002

hours:
Daily 10am-7pm

7 il laboratorio del gelato

OUR LOCAL EXPERT SAYS:

Cash only.

DESCRIPTION: This small ice cream café on the Lower East Side offers a changing selection of as many as 200 gelatos and sorbets, all freshly handmade on the premises from locally sourced seasonal ingredients. Regularly available flavors include hazelnut, dark chocolate, banana, as well as more unusual offerings such as olive oil, black mission fig, and Mexican cinnamon basil. © NileGuide



citysearch

contact:
tel: +1 212 484 1200
<http://www.nycvisit.com/content/index.cfm>

location:
175 Fifth Ave
New York NY 10010

hours:
M-Sa 11a-8p ; Sun noon-8p

8 Flatiron Building

DESCRIPTION: Built in 1902 and designed by Daniel H. Burnham, this building is considered the oldest and possibly one of the most famous skyscrapers in New York City. Instantly recognizable, the building includes a mix of Gothic and Renaissance architectural styles and has a peculiar wedge shape (like that of an old-fashioned flat iron) that has made it a New York favorite. The area's Flatiron District is named after this enduring New York symbol. © wcities.com

contact:
tel: +1 212 254 3511
fax: +1 212 254 3590
<http://www.moccany.org/>

location:
594 Broadway

9 Museum of Comic and Cartoon Art

DESCRIPTION: The Museum of Comic and Cartoon Art (MoCCA) provides visitors with the chance to explore the different worlds of cartoons and comics through their exhibitions. Past exhibitions include Will Eisner: A Retrospective, The Golden Age of Saturday Morning Cartoons, and Modern Fairy Tales. Along with showcasing current artists, MoCCA aims to examine how comics and

New York NY 10012

hours:

F-M 12p-5p

cartoons have been used to discuss politics, society, and culture in general. Adults and children alike will be fascinated by MoCCA's diverse catalogue of exhibitions, so travelers with children should definitely consider stopping here. © wcities.com

contact:

tel: 1 212 366 1640

www.soncubanonyc.com

location:

405 W 14th

New York NY 10014

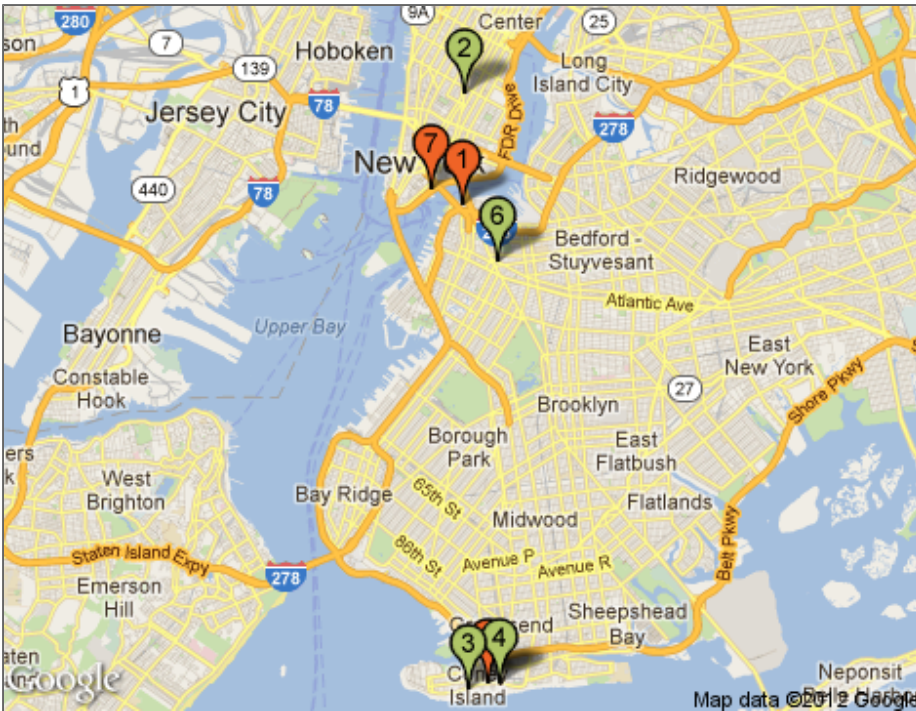
A Son Cubano

DESCRIPTION: Son Cubano epitomizes 1950's Cuban retro-glamour. Chandeliers, mosaic tile walls, folk-art paintings, and vintage photographs decorate the room. Exotic tropical flowers and candles give the restaurant a sultry, sexy mood. The live Latin music Monday through Saturday always draws a very fashionable crowd. It is all the tropical romance, festivity, and flavor of Cuba in a downtown urban setting. Son Cubano offers an extensive list of tapas as well as a full-service dinner. The cuisine is nostalgic Caribbean home cooking — aromatic and flavorful with notes of garlic, onion, red pepper, and white wine. One of the signature dishes is Ropa Vieja — shredded flank steak in a tomato sauce with green olives, served with sweet plantains and white rice. The chef also creates modern-tropical interpretations of Cuban dishes that would satisfy the most sophisticated urban palette. © wcities.com



Photo courtesy of Son Cubano

Day 2 - New York City, Brooklyn



QUICK NOTE

DAY NOTE: Today focuses on Brooklyn, kitch and posh, from a bakery style breakfast to hotdogs and pizza throughout the day, two of Brooklynite kids' favorite munchies. Even if you don't eat meat, get a cup of fries with a tiny spear fork at Nathan's and wander the boardwalk and it's kitchy stores or walk on the beach like we used to when I was a kid. Astroland is an old-style amusement park with a wooden roller coaster, for the brave. Later, there's a pizza tour where you'll try two styles of Brooklyn's best junkfood, thin (Neopolitan) and thick (Sicilian)-crust pizzas. Later on you'll head to Prospect Park, designed by Olmstead and considered the crowning glory of NYC parks, where free music and performances are on offer in the summer. After night falls you're back in Manhattan for an alehouse evening on the small island's side of the Brooklyn Bridge.

contact:

tel: 1 718 797 5026
fax: 1 718 797 5028
<http://www.almondinebakery.com/>

location:

85 Water Street
New York NY 11201

hours:

Su 10a-6p, M-Sa 7a-7p

1 Almondine Bakery

DESCRIPTION: Reported as having one of the best macaroons in town - the Almondine Bakery is really popular for its flavors. This is an excellent place to visit for brunch or breakfast according to the locals. Including the fact that they bake organic bread thrice a day, the pastries served are fresh too. © wcities.com



Almondine Bakery

contact:

tel: +1 212 209 3370
http://bknpizza.com/index.html

location:

4th Avenue
New York NY 10003

2 A Slice of Brooklyn Pizza Tour

DESCRIPTION: This one-man tour group led by Brooklyn native Tony Muia takes you to two of Brooklyn's finest pizzerias. Sample 2 distinct styles of pizza (thin-crust Neapolitan made in a brick oven and authentic Sicilian style pizza), learn about pizza history, and visit important landmarks such as Coney Island's boardwalk and Brooklyn Bridge Park. Onboard the bus, view film clips from famous Brooklyn movies ("Saturday Night Fever", etc.) while driving by the actual film sets. As you eat your way through Brooklyn, Muia keeps the group entertained with tales of notorious Brooklynites, childhood stories, and Brooklyn trivia! © wcities.com



wcities

contact:

tel: +1 718 372 7099
http://www.coneyislandusa.com/

location:

1208 Surf Avenue (Post)
New York NY 11224

hours:

Call for details

3 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.

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



wcities

contact:

tel: +1 718 372 0275 / +1 718 265 2100

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

location:

1000 Surf Avenue
New York NY 11224

4 Astroland Amusement Park

DESCRIPTION: Head out to the boardwalk at Coney Island to experience true New York atmosphere and a place frozen in time, with old fashioned photo booths, a freak show, and rides right on the water. The main attractions are the fabulous Wonder Wheel Ferris that slides and swings as you spin around, and the world famous Cyclone roller coaster - this New York historic landmark has been luring thrill seekers since 1927. Eighty-six feet high and made completely of wood, the Cyclone will scare just about anyone! © wcities.com



wcities

contact:

tel: 1 718 946 2202
<http://www.nathansfamous.com>

location:

1310 Surf Avenue
Brooklyn NY 11224

hours:

Mo to Su from 08:00 AM to 01:00 AM

5 Nathan's Famous

DESCRIPTION: Home of the Famous Fourth of July International Hot Dog Eating Contest, Nathan's Famous has been serving mouth-watering hot dogs since 1916 at its landmark location in Coney Island. What started as a nickel hot dog stand has grown to a nationwide franchise, but hot dog aficionados swear that no other hot dog can compare to the original Nathan's! Maybe it's the sea air or the honky-tonk atmosphere – no one knows for sure, but one bite into these crunchy all-beef dogs will win over the greatest skeptic. The fries (with or without gobs of cheese or chili) are to die for! © wcities.com



contact:

tel: +1 718 855 7882
fax: +1 718 802 9095
<http://www.brooklynx.org/celebrate>

location:

647 Fulton Street
Brooklyn NY 11217

6 Celebrate Brooklyn

DESCRIPTION: Located at the Prospect Park Band Shell in Brooklyn's Prospect Park, this festival runs the length of the summer and hosts a wide variety of free outdoor performances. From June to August, shows range from film screenings to spoken word, world music and contemporary pop bands. © wcities.com



Photo courtesy of Celebrate Brooklyn

contact:

tel: 1 212 964 3537
<http://www.jeremysalehouse.com/>

location:

228 Front Street
New York NY 10038

hours:

8a-11p M-F, 11a-midnight Sa, 11a-7p Su

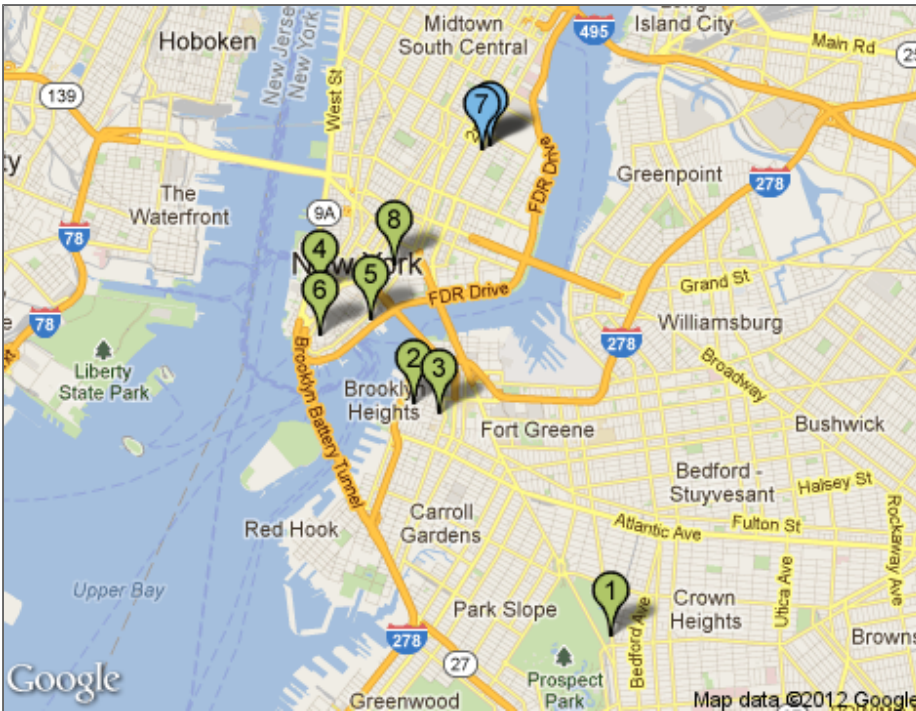
7 Jeremy's Ale House

DESCRIPTION: This is a peculiarly popular pub, located in a grungy garage by the Brooklyn Bridge near Wall Street yet packed every night. Fridays are the most crowded, with young men and women coming here to meet, eat and enjoy the cheap beers. However, they are definitely not going for the décor, which resembles a dilapidated airplane hangar. Standard breakfast fare, sandwiches and salads are served. Fish and chips, calamari, clams and ostrich burgers are also popular. © wcities.com



Photo courtesy of Jeremy's Ale House

Day 3 - New York City



QUICK NOTE

DAY NOTE: Rise and shine for a mornign of garden traipsing and coffee sipping in Brooklyn's Botanic Garden which has walks and plants, an accessible herb garden, and in the springtime, Sakura Matsuri, or the cherry blossom festival. Have breakfast (or a second breakfast here), and then wander down Park Slope's 7th Avenue for yuppie, kid-friendly fashion and shopping, followed by a walk over the Brooklyn Bridge, if you're feeling up to it. From there take a trip down to the bottom of Manhatting, paying a tribute at the WTC Visitor center, and wandering down Wall street to the South Street Seaport, where a panoply of eating options are available, and you can tour the big ship (Peking) museum there (this is where a child was recently rescued from the East River, so hold on tight). If you haven't yet had enough water, walk down to the South Ferry train station and take a free ride on the Staten Island Ferry which affords you a view of the Statue of Liberty. Once back, head slightly uptown into little Italy to wander the streets and try your luck in what has become an increasingly Asian area. Try Venieros for a cannoli or a bubble tea from any of a variety of shops. This day ends in an intimate vinoteca where you can sample some of the world's best wines in cozy atmosphere.

contact:
tel: +1 718 623 7200
<http://www.bbg.org>

location:
900 Washington Ave
New York NY 11238

hours:
Apr-Sep: Tu-F 8a-6p, Sa-Su & holidays 10a-6p; Nov-Mar: Tu-F 8a-4:30p, Sa-Su & holidays 10a-4:30p

1 Brooklyn Botanic Garden

DESCRIPTION: This small but beautiful botanic garden features a Japanese hill and pond garden, as well as the Cranford Rose Garden, herb garden, the Children's Garden and the Steinhard Conservatory of indoor flowers and plants. In all, there are 52 acres and 12,000 varieties of botanicals, ranging from the tiny bonsai to the towering oak. Self-guided tours, individual classes and certificate programs are all available. Students come with your valid id cards, if you want to avail of a concession. © wcities.com



contact:

tel: +1 718 965 8900
http://www.pps.org/parks_plazas_squares/greatplaces/one

location:

Brooklyn Heights
New York NY 11201

2 Brooklyn Heights Promenade

DESCRIPTION: Hop in your car, take a pleasant drive, park it on the street and take a walk while embracing the awesome sight. Tagged by many citizens as one of the best views of the city, the promenade on Brooklyn Heights is known for exactly this reason. A stroll in the early morning or late evening can end up being very romantic. © wcities.com



contact:

tel: 212 484 1200 (Tourist information)
fax: 212 245 5943 (Tourist information)
<http://www.nyc.gov/html/dot/html/motorist/bridges.html#brooklyn>

location:

Off South Street Viaduct
New York NY 11201

3 Brooklyn Bridge

DESCRIPTION: Opened in 1883, the Brooklyn Bridge is one of the oldest suspension bridges in the United States. It stretches 5,989 feet (1825 meters) across the East River and connects the boroughs of Manhattan and Brooklyn. At the time of its construction, it was the largest suspension bridge in the world and the first steel-wire suspension bridge. The bridge was designed by the New Jersey architect John Augustus Roebling, who died before construction began after he contracted tetanus from a wound sustained in a ferry accident during surveys for the bridge project. Built from limestone, granite, and cement, the Brooklyn Bridge is an example of Gothic-style architecture, with its characteristic pointed arches topping twin passageways through huge stone towers. Because Roebling designed a bridge and truss system six times stronger than he thought it needed to be, the Brooklyn Bridge is still standing, while many other bridges built around the same time have had to be replaced.

In the past, the inside lanes of traffic on the bridge carried the elevated trains of the Brooklyn-Manhattan Transport (BMT) Corporation from stations in Brooklyn to a terminal at Manhattan's Park Row. Streetcars shared the other lanes with other traffic until the elevated trains stopped using the bridge in 1944 and the streetcars moved to the center lanes. Six years later, the streetcars also stopped running, and the bridge was rebuilt to its present configuration, with six lanes of automobile traffic. A separate walkway runs along the centerline for pedestrians and bicyclists, and boasts some of the best views of the Manhattan and Brooklyn skylines. © NileGuide



wcities

contact:

tel: +1 212 393 9160 x138 / +1 866 737 1184
<http://tributenyc.org>

location:

120 Liberty Street
New York NY 10006

4 Tribute WTC Visitor Center

DESCRIPTION: Located within the Standard Oil Building, just south of the World Trade Center, the Tribute WTC Visitor Center was created in the wake of September 11, 2001. Tribute offers visitors to the World Trade Center site a place where they can connect with people from the September 11th community. Through walking tours, exhibits and programs, the Tribute WTC Visitor Center offers "Person to Person History," linking visitors who want to understand and appreciate these historic events with those who experienced them.



Photo courtesy of Tribute WTC Visitor Center

The space features interactive exhibits and five galleries that deal with different aspects of the 9/11 tragedy. All walking tours make five stops while traveling around the site. Most of the tour takes place indoors, traveling along the windows of the World Financial Center and looking out onto Ground Zero. Guides share key facts and reveal specific events of the day while weaving their personal experiences of survival, loss, and healing throughout the tour, giving visitors an unparalleled opportunity to connect with history first-hand. © NileGuide

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

5 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: +1 718 390 5253
<http://www.siferry.com/>

location:

1 Bay Street
New York NY 10301

hours:

24 Hrs

6 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: 1 212 674 7070
fax: 1 212 420 8566
<http://www.venierospastry.com/>

location:

342 East 11th Street & 1st Avenue
New York NY 10003

hours:

Su-Th 8a-Midnight, F-Sa
8a-1a

7 Veniero's Pasticceria and Caffè

DESCRIPTION: If you're looking for an old fashioned neighborhood pastry store, Veniero's is it. Treats include old time favorites from tarts and gelato to cake and coffee. Serving families for generations since 1894, Veniero's is now available to order from online as well so you'll never be without your favorite desserts. © wcities.com



Photo courtesy of Veniero's Pasticceria and Caffè

contact:

tel: +1 212 484 1222 (Tourist Information)
fax: +1 212 245 5943 (Tourist Information)
<http://www.littleitalynyc.com/>

location:

Mulberry Street
New York NY 10013

hours:

Varies by individual business

8 Little Italy

DESCRIPTION: The heart of this well-known Italian neighborhood is Mulberry Street. Years ago, the vast majority of people who lived here were Italian, but expansion of Chinatown and Italian migration to the suburbs has changed the make-up of the neighborhood. Still, cafes, restaurants and bakeries line the street. Take a walk and smell the fresh baked bread, garlic and sauces. Stop for a glass of wine or tiramisu at a sidewalk cafe, or gaze longingly at the salamis hanging from store windows. © wcities.com



Royal Cinema

contact:

tel: +1 212 625 9463
<http://www.thrillist.com/terroir>

location:

413 East 12th Street
New York City NY 10009

hours:

Mo to Sa from 05:00 PM to 02:00 AM, Su from 05:00 PM to 12:00 AM

9 Terroir

DESCRIPTION: From the oeno-dude behind Hearth, this 24-seat vinoteca's pouring a huge selection of new and old world wines, e.g., Monte Bello '92 (from Santa Cruz) and L'Etoile '04 (from the Jura region of France). Small plate highlights include duck ham w/ hen of the woods panini, iberico ham charcuterie, and turkey wings "agro dolce" -- a sauce known in Congressional hearings as "Clemens de leche". © Thrillist



citysearch

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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Brooklyn Snapshot

Local Info

Just across the East River lies one of the largest and most distinctive cultural boroughs of New York City: Brooklyn. Only a subway ride away from Manhattan, this historical piece of the city transcends traditions, cultures, and cuisine unlike any other part of New York. Downtown Brooklyn is the borough's business center, up north is where creatives and artists have revealed working studios, while in the south you'll find some of the best and cheapest food including everyone's favorite- pizza, and in the center stretches Prospect Park which dissects several neighborhoods surrounded by literary and community institutions. There's the Russian-speaking community at Brighton Beach, the Irish, Italians and Norwegians at Bay Ridge, the Polish at Greenpoint and the Hispanics and Chinese at Sunset Park. Aside from this amazing diversity, Brooklyn is an exciting spot to visit because of its proud residents and the feeling of true community.

Sights

From the landmarks that have made Brooklyn famous to the parks and museums that dot this distinct city, you'll never run out of things to see. Walk or cycle to Manhattan via the Brooklyn Bridge, view the late 19th and early 20th century rowhouses at the Park Slope Historic District and ride the world's oldest wooden rollercoaster ride, the Coney Island Cyclone. And don't forget to make time in your itinerary to view the many museums in Brooklyn. Go to the Brooklyn Museum at Prospect Park which, by the way, is home to over 200 species of birds in their natural habitat, the New York Transit Museum in the Downtown area and the Brooklyn Children's Museum at Bedford-Stuyvesant. The Brooklyn Botanic Garden with its over 10,000 plant species and the 800-acre Marine Park are also well worth the trip. If you're in Brooklyn during the summer, Coney Island is still a favorite beach and amusement park hangout. And don't forget to grab a world-famous Coney Island Hotdog at Nathan's. Check out the New York Aquarium while you're there, too.

Dining

Brooklyn's diversity is also reflected in its food. 8th Avenue hosts high-end gourmet restaurants alongside cheap noodle shops. If you're craving Italian, Mexican or Japanese, head to Park Slope, which has a ton of restaurants reviewed in the Zagat's guide. Pizza lovers can take A Slice of Brooklyn pizza tour. Sample a taste of local beers at the Brooklyn Brewery. The Kensington, Fort Greene and Williamsburg Districts are also home to trendy restaurants. There's also a thriving restaurant scene in Smith Street at the Carroll Gardens area.

Shopping

Downtown Brooklyn is the main shopping district. Like any American city, you can find a great number of shops and department stores that sell anything from clothing to electronics. Go to Cobble Hill district if you want to shop for books and to Park Slope for health food options. For local jewelry and arts and crafts, check out the Brooklyn Flea in Fort Greene on Saturdays from 10 am to 5 pm.

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