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New York City, 3 Days

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Guide Description



AUTHOR NOTE: Immerse yourself in the quintessential New York: spend three days exploring the city's most famous buildings and sights.

Photo: Flatiron Building. By Sarah.

Itinerary Overview

things to do
restaurants
hotels
nightlife

Day 1 - New York City

DAY NOTE: The point of entry for many daily commuters, Grand Central Station is also a noteworthy spot for visitors to check out; if you're hungry, grab a bite in the downstairs food court, or just gawk at the ceilings in the main concourse. The Chrysler Building is an iconic NYC skyscraper--check it out from the outside, but for a bird's eye view of the city head a bit further downtown and upstairs to the observation deck of the Empire State Building. Complete your first day with a trip down to the Flatiron District, named for the distinctive triangular-shaped building at the intersection of 23rd Street, Fifth Avenue, and Broadway.

 **Grand Central Terminal**
Historic transportation hub

 **Chrysler Building**
Sky-high

 **Empire State Building**
Classic skyscraper offers great views from its observatory

 **Flatiron Building**
Jewel of the Flatiron District

Day 2 - New York City

DAY NOTE: Early mornings are different at South Street Seaport since the famous Fulton Fish Market relocated to the Bronx, but it's still a scenic spot to soak up some New York history and kick off the second day of this trip. From there you can get some great views of Brooklyn and the iconic Brooklyn Bridge, then head west to the hub of the Financial District and check out the New York Stock Exchange. After catching a glimpse of the Woolworth Building, another beautiful old building located downtown, go see the ultimate NYC icon--The Statue of Liberty--up close by catching one of the ferries that leave Battery Park every half-hour beginning at 8:30am.

 **Brooklyn Bridge**
Historic bridge offers stunning skyline views

 **South Street Seaport**
Historic port houses tourist-friendly shops & restaurants

 **Wall Street & the New York Stock Exchange**
Heart of Wall Street

 **Woolworth Building**
Downtown skyscraper

 **Statue of Liberty**
Lady Liberty welcomes the masses to New York and America

Day 3 - New York City

DAY NOTE: Take in a little more culture today with a visit to one or both of the most iconic New York museums: the Metropolitan Museum of Art or the Frank Lloyd Wright-designed Guggenheim Museum (under renovation as of spring 2008). In the evening, head across town to take in some live music at Lincoln Center, or check out the bright lights and constant action in Times Square.

 **Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum**
Modern art in Manhattan

 **Metropolitan Museum of Art**
Mammoth museum featuring art from around the world

 **Jazz at Lincoln Center**
Great jazz in one of the city's premier venues

 **Times Square**
Iconic center revamped for the tourist's enjoyment

Day 1 - New York City

QUICK NOTE

DAY NOTE: The point of entry for many daily commuters, Grand Central Station is also a noteworthy spot for visitors to check out; if you're hungry, grab a bite in the downstairs food court, or just gawk at the ceilings in the main concourse. The Chrysler Building is an iconic NYC skyscraper--check it out from the outside, but for a bird's eye view of the city head a bit further downtown and upstairs to the observation deck of the Empire State Building. Complete your first day with a trip down to the Flatiron District, named for the distinctive triangular-shaped building at the intersection of 23rd Street, Fifth Avenue, and Broadway.

contact:

tel: +1 212 340 3404
<http://www.grandcentralterminal.com/>

location:

87 East 42nd Street
New York NY 99723

1 Grand Central Terminal

OUR LOCAL EXPERT SAYS:

The timeless--no pun intended--meeting place in Grand Central Terminal is under the gilded clock atop the information station at the center of the concourse.

DESCRIPTION: Often called Grand Central Station, this major transportation hub located on the corner of Park Avenue and 42nd Street serves commuters on the New York City subway as well as the Metro-North Railroad, which travels to Westchester, Putnam, and Dutchess Counties in New York and Fairfield and New Haven counties in Connecticut. Aside from its importance as a transportation center, Grand Central Terminal is also one of New York's most durable landmarks, and a dramatic symbol of the hustle and bustle of the city. The decision to electrify New York's trains around 1900 meant that rail yard operations were moved underground and centered in a new, breathtaking Beaux-Arts terminal building, completed in 1913. Later, Grand Central was almost destroyed (the fate of the original Pennsylvania Station across town), but preservationists including Jacqueline Kennedy had it declared landmark in the mid-1960s.

Those approaching Grand Central Terminal from the south are rewarded with views of the building's impressive façade, topped by a 13-foot clock. The clock features the world's largest example of Tiffany glass and is surrounded by huge sculptures of the Roman gods Hercules, Minerva, and Mercury. The interior of the terminal's main concourse is 120 feet wide, 375 feet long, and 125 feet high, and is covered with an impressive vaulted ceiling, painted like an evening sky, with gilded stars and constellations (part of a recent four-year-long renovation). Some 125,000 commuters pass through the terminal every day, in addition to some 500,000 visitors. © NileGuide



wcities

contact:

tel: +1 212 682 3070
http://www.nyc-architecture.com/MID/MID021.htm

location:

405 Lexington Ave
New York NY 10174

hours:

8:30a-5:30p M-F

2 Chrysler Building

DESCRIPTION: This classic example of Art-Deco architecture stands 77 stories and 1,048 feet (319 meters) high, looming above the busy intersection of Lexington Avenue and 42nd Street. Ground was broken for its construction in 1928, during an intense competition in New York City to build the world's tallest skyscraper. Designed by architect William Van Alen to house the Chrysler Corporation, the steel-framed brick building was briefly the world's tallest, topping one rival skyscraper built at 40 Wall Street, but was swiftly overtaken by the Empire State Building in 1931. After the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center on September 11, 2001, the Chrysler Building is again the second-tallest building in New York City.

When the Chrysler Building first opened, it contained a public viewing gallery on the 71st floor, but this was closed to the public in 1945. The building itself is worth a look, however, for its elegant style and distinctive ornamentation. At its top is a series of gleaming arches that gradually diminish in size and are made of stainless steel. Narrow triangular windows pierce the arches, which end in a slim stainless steel spire reaching some 185 feet into the air. Ornaments used on the building include enormous eagle heads (replicas of the 1929 Chrysler hood ornaments), pineapples, and automobile-themed images. The elegant Art-Deco lobby also merits a visit, with its gleaming expanses of marble, chrome, and painted fresco. © NileGuide



Photo courtesy of Chrysler Building

contact:

tel: +1 212 736 3100
fax: +1 212 947 1360
http://www.esbnyc.com/

location:

350 5th Avenue, Suite # 3210
New York NY 10118

hours:

Daily 8am-2am, last elevator at 1:15am

3 Empire State Building

OUR LOCAL EXPERT SAYS:

Kids love the NY Skyride, which offers a simulated flight over New York City without leaving the second floor of the Empire State Building. Tickets are \$25.50 or \$38 combined with a trip to the observatory.

DESCRIPTION: This 102-story Art Deco skyscraper, located at the intersection of Fifth Avenue and West 34th Street, has been one of New York's most notable landmarks since its completion in 1931. Built as part of an intense competition to build the world's tallest building, the Empire State Building overtook its rivals - 40 Wall Street and the Chrysler Building - to gain the distinction, which it held for four decades, before the World Trade Center towers were completed in 1971. With the destruction of the World Trade Center in the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, the Empire State Building again became the tallest building in New York City. It was designed by Gregory Johnson and his architectural firm Shreve, Lamb and Harmon.

The building's façade is classic, with modernistic stainless steel canopies marking the entrances on 33rd and 34th Streets and leading to corridors surrounding a core of 67 elevators. Though the Chrysler Building is undoubtedly the more attractive of New York's two Art Deco towers, the Empire State Building has earned its reputation as a top destination largely due to the popularity of its indoor and outdoor observation decks. The outdoor observatory on the 86th floor, with its sweeping 360-degree views of the city, is one of the most popular in the world, and has been visited by more than 110 million people. The second observation deck, on



cities

the 102nd floor, is completely enclosed and much smaller, and it may be closed on days with especially high traffic. In addition to the observation spaces, the building has 85 stories (2,158,000 square feet) of commercial and office space. In 1964, floodlights were added to illuminate the top of the building at night; special colors are chosen to match seasonal and other events, such as Christmas, St. Patrick's Day, or victory by any one of New York's sports teams. © NileGuide

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

4 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

Day 2 - New York City

QUICK NOTE

DAY NOTE: Early mornings are different at South Street Seaport since the famous Fulton Fish Market relocated to the Bronx, but it's still a scenic spot to soak up some New York history and kick off the second day of this trip. From there you can get some great views of Brooklyn and the iconic Brooklyn Bridge, then head west to the hub of the Financial District and check out the New York Stock Exchange. After catching a glimpse of the Woolworth Building, another beautiful old building located downtown, go see the ultimate NYC icon--The Statue of Liberty--up close by catching one of the ferries that leave Battery Park every half-hour beginning at 8:30am.

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

1 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



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contact:

tel: +1 212 732 7678

fax: +1 212 964 8056

<http://www.southstreetseaport.com>

location:

12 Fulton St
New York NY 10038

hours:

2 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.



Photo courtesy of visitingdc.com

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

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

contact:
tel: +1 212 656 3000
fax: +1 212 656 5557
<http://www.nyse.com/>

location:
11 Wall Street
New York NY 10271

hours:
M-F 9:30a-4p

3 Wall Street & the New York Stock Exchange

DESCRIPTION: The Stock Exchange's present home on Wall Street did not open until 1903, but trading in stocks began well before that; by the time this building became its headquarters, the Exchange had already been in existence for more than a hundred years. Today, people trade hundreds of millions of shares electronically as well as by the floor broker system. Visitors can see the action on the floor from a viewing gallery. Multi-media exhibits help explain the frenzy below. Admission is free. © wcities.com



wcities

contact:
tel: +1 212 397 8200
<http://www.nyc-architecture.com/SCC/SCC019.htm>

location:
233 Broadway
New York NY 10279

4 Woolworth Building

DESCRIPTION: This soaring "Cathedral of Commerce" cost Frank W. Woolworth \$14 million worth of nickels and dimes in 1913. Designed by Cass Gilbert, it was the world's tallest edifice until 1930, when it was surpassed by the Chrysler Building. At its opening, Pres. Woodrow Wilson pressed a button from the White House that illuminated the building's 80,000 electric light bulbs. Called the "Mozart of skyscrapers" by architectural critic Paul Goldberger, the neo-Gothic architecture is rife with spires, gargoyles, flying buttresses, vaulted ceilings, 16th-century-style stone-as-lace traceries, castlelike turrets, and a churchlike interior. Housing financial institutions and high-tech companies, the grand tower is still dedicated to the almighty dollar. Step into the lofty marble entrance arcade to view the gleaming mosaic Byzantine-style ceiling and gold-leafed neo-Gothic cornices. The corbels (carved figures under the crossbeams) in the lobby include whimsical portraits of the building's engineer Gunvald Aus measuring a girder (above the staircase to the left of the main door), Gilbert holding a model of the building, and Woolworth counting coins (both above the left-hand corridor of elevators). Stand



Photo courtesy of Woolworth Building

near the security guard's podium and crane your neck for a glimpse at Paul Jennewein's murals Commerce and Labor, half hidden up on the mezzanine. Cross Broadway for the best overview of the exterior. © Frommer's

contact:

tel: 212-363-7620
fax: +1 212 363 6304
www.nps.gov/stli/

location:

Liberty Island
New York NY 10004

hours:

Daily 9am-3:30pm (last ferry
departs around 3:30pm);
extended hours in summer

5 Statue of Liberty

OUR LOCAL EXPERT SAYS:

As of late 2009, the elevator at Liberty Island was reported to be "out of service for an extended period of time," so that visitors with Monument Access Passes were required to climb 168 steps to the top of the pedestal. Visitors should confirm via the website whether the elevator will be in service before their trip .

DESCRIPTION: This iconic copper statue was presented to the U.S. by France in 1886 as a commemoration of the U.S. centennial and a gesture of friendship between France and the U.S. Since then, it has stood at Liberty Island in New York Harbor as a welcome to all visitors, immigrants, and Americans returning from abroad. Construction of the statue, supervised by sculptor Frederic Auguste Bartholdi and engineer Gustave Eiffel (mastermind of Paris's famous tower), began in France in 1875 and was completed in 1884, after which the statue was dismantled and transported across the Atlantic to be reassembled.

Lady Liberty stands approximately 151 feet tall and weighs 225 tons (450,000 pounds). Visitors used to be able to climb the 354 steps to peer at the view through the windows in her crown, but this option is no longer available. Currently, the museum and ten-story pedestal are open for visitation but are only accessible if visitors have a "Monument Access Pass" which is a reservation that visitors must make at least two days in advance of their visit and pick up before boarding the ferry. There are a maximum of 3000 passes available each day (with a total of 15,000 visitors to the island daily). © NileGuide



photo courtesy of Koshyk

Day 3 - New York City

QUICK NOTE

DAY NOTE: Take in a little more culture today with a visit to one or both of the most iconic New York museums: the Metropolitan Museum of Art or the Frank Lloyd Wright-designed Guggenheim Museum (under renovation as of spring 2008). In the evening, head across town to take in some live music at Lincoln Center, or check out the bright lights and constant action in Times Square.

contact:

tel: +1 212 423 3500

fax: +1 212 966 0924

http://www.guggenheim.org/new_york_index.shtml

location:

1071 Fifth Avenue at 89th Street
New York NY 10128

hours:

Sat-Wed 10am-5:45pm; Fri
10am-7:45pm

1 Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum

OUR LOCAL EXPERT SAYS:

The Guggenheim's "Second Sundays" program offers family-oriented guided tours with creative, hands-on gallery activities for young visitors.

DESCRIPTION: Opened in 1959 to house the impressive collection of mining tycoon Solomon R. Guggenheim, the museum is considered by many to be a work of art in itself. Architect Frank Lloyd Wright worked for 16 years (he died one month before the museum opened) to create not just an art museum but a completely unique space, where the building and the art work together to create "an uninterrupted, beautiful symphony." From the outside, the oddly shaped Guggenheim has drawn comparisons to an upside-down cupcake, a Jello mold, or a pile of twisted ribbon. Inside, a long ramp spirals upward for a quarter of a mile above a large central rotunda, topped by a domed glass ceiling. Wright's love of nature led him to make the building appear on the inside like a giant seashell, with each room opening fluidly into the next. In 1993, a controversial expansion and renovation added even more exhibition space to the museum, which houses a large permanent collection of Impressionist, post-Impressionist and other modernist work and mounts several large-scale special exhibitions each year. These are usually devoted to the work of a single modern artist or to a topic, such as the Aztec Empire, the Art of the Motorcycle, or Family Pictures. Located at the corner of 89th Street and Fifth Avenue, the Guggenheim is now one of the city's most popular attractions, with more than 900,000 visitors each year. © NileGuide



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contact:

tel: +1 212 535 7710

fax: +1 212 570 3972

<http://www.metmuseum.org>

location:

1000 Fifth Ave
New York NY 10028-0198

hours:

Sun, holiday Mon (Memorial Day, Labor Day, and so

2 Metropolitan Museum of Art

OUR LOCAL EXPERT SAYS:

To cover the costs of special exhibitions, the Met asks guests to pay the full "recommended" admission fee, which is \$20 for adults. This fee includes one-day admission to the Main Building as well as to The Cloisters Museum & Gardens in Fort Tryon Park, the Met branch dedicated to the art and architecture of medieval Europe.



forth), and Tues-Thurs
9:30am-5:30pm; Fri-Sat
9:30am-9pm

DESCRIPTION: Don't expect to fully take in all that this enormous museum has to offer in one visit. With the finest collection of American art in the world, a collection of more than 3,000 European paintings, an expansive array of art from ancient Egypt, and recently renovated halls of Greek, Roman, Cypriot, and Asian art, there is a reason the Metropolitan Museum is considered the foremost symbol of arts and culture in a city chock-full of arts and culture. Often referred to simply as "The Met", the museum is located on Fifth Avenue at 82nd Street, on the eastern edge of Central Park and at the center of the so-called "Museum Mile".

First opened in 1872, the Met has been significantly expanded over the years, and its permanent collection now contains more than two million works of art, divided into nineteen curatorial departments. In addition to its giant holdings of American, European, Egyptian, African, Asian, Oceanic, Byzantine, and Islamic art, the museum is also home to encyclopedic collections of musical instruments, costumes and accessories, and antique weapons and armor from around the world. A number of notable interiors, ranging from 1st century Rome through modern American design, are permanently installed in the Met's galleries. The Met also organizes and hosts a continually changing series of special exhibitions each year. © NileGuide

contact:
tel: +1 212 258 9800
fax: +1 212 258 9900
<http://www.jazzatlincolncenter.org>

location:
Time Warner Center, 11th Floor
New York NY 10023

3 Jazz at Lincoln Center

DESCRIPTION: Jazz at Lincoln Center, located in the Time Warner Center, kicked off their inaugural season with a three-week Grand Opening Festival brimming with a variety of performances, speakers and special events. Bill Cosby, Langston Hughes and Cassandra Wilson were a few of the many unforgettable guests featured at the gala. The 100,000 sq. ft. space features three performing and concert spaces uniquely designed with state of the art acoustic design and technology. The facility also features major rehearsal spaces, a recording studio, and two classrooms to teach young musicians. The center produces events including parades, picnics, festivals, big-band battles and contests. See website for events calendar and more. © wcities.com



wcities

contact:
tel: +1 212 768 1560 (Times Square Alliance)
fax: +1 212 768 0233 (Times Square Alliance)
<http://www.timessquarenyc.org/>

location:
1560 Broadway, Between 46th & 47th streets
New York NY 10036

4 Times Square

OUR LOCAL EXPERT SAYS:
A free tour of the area run by the Times Square Alliance leaves every Friday at noon from the Times Square Information Center. Perhaps even more helpfully, the center also has public restrooms and a wealth of tourist resources.

DESCRIPTION: Located at the junction of Broadway and Seventh Avenue and stretching from West 42nd to West 47th



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Street, its glittering lights and neon signs make Times Square one of the most iconic sights of New York City. Formerly the property of fur trading and real estate tycoon John Jacob Astor, the square got its name in the early 1900s when the New York Times moved into a new skyscraper on 42nd Street. After new subways brought thousands of commuters to 42nd Street, the city's theaters moved up from the Bowery and lower Broadway, and the area is now the center of New York's bustling theater district.

In the decades after the Great Depression, Times Square became known as a dangerous neighborhood and a symbol of the city's decline and corruption from the 1960s to the 1990s. After a long-term development plan and a comprehensive crackdown on crime by the city government, the infamous center of pickpockets and porno theaters has been thoroughly reinvented and filled with more upscale and tourist-friendly attractions, hotels, vendors, and street performers. © NileGuide

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: 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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