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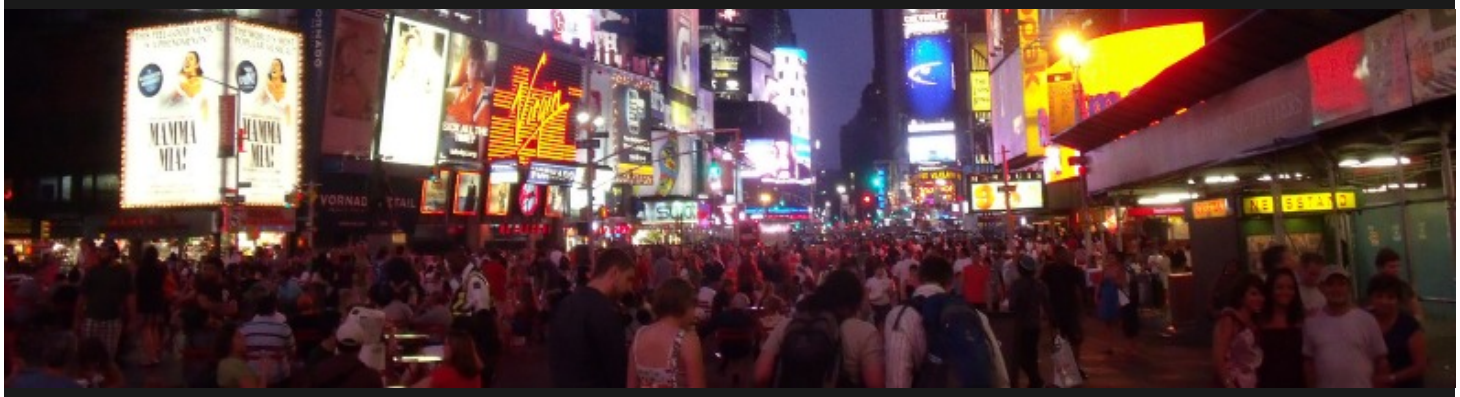

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Top 10 NYC - Bars & Nightlife

New York City, Brooklyn, 1 Day

Table of contents:

Guide Description 2
Itinerary Overview 3
Daily Itineraries 4
New York City Snapshot 7
Brooklyn Snapshot 9

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Guide Description

AUTHOR NOTE: New York nightlife can be many things to many people--whatever you're in the mood for, you can find it here. There are low-lit, relaxed wine bars (Turks & Frogs) and bars with old-fashioned and newfangled cocktails (Pegu Club). If you like your music live, check out Joe's Pub at the Public Theater, or the Bowery Ballroom, where all kinds of emerging (and already arrived) artists perform. If you prefer DJs, APT is a chic, relatively low-key spot for dancing and drinks in the sometimes overwhelming Meatpacking District. Cafe Noir, in Soho, is a small, dark bar & restaurant with a sophisticated but still relaxed vibe and tasty food and drinks. Or, venture out to Brooklyn for a different scene--two fun spots to try are Barcade (where you can play video games and choose from a wide selection of beers) or Union Hall, which boasts more great live music, plus two bocce ball courts.

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Itinerary Overview

things to do
restaurants
hotels
nightlife

Day 1 - New York City, Brooklyn

Turks & Frogs
Frog princes are here

APT
Intimate and trendy

The Jade Bar and The Rose Bar
Hot spots with cool décor

Public/Newman Theater (The)
World famous cultural center

Bowery Ballroom
Live shows

Cafe Noir
Tapas bar and bistro

Pegu Club
Downtown cocktail club

Union Hall
Bocce and live entertainment

Barcade
Micro brews and video games

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Day 1 - New York City, Brooklyn

QUICK NOTE

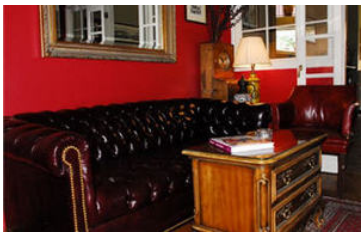
contact:
tel: 212 691 8875
fax: +1 212 691 8845
http://www.turksandfrogs.com/westvillage/index.html

location:
323 West 11th Street
New York NY 10014

hours:
M-Su 5p-4a

1 Turks & Frogs

DESCRIPTION: Got a date fixed and planning on the venue? You have to consider this tranquil bar, which was a Turkish antique shop prior to its bar status. The decor is in green and red with a few old urns (Turkish of course) put up in nooks and corners. The bar can pour you about 60 kinds of wine. Avid eaters can go for the Lebni, which is almost yoghurt with a lot of cheese. Only don't stuff too much of it, as there is no Turkish bath to relax. One more Turks and Frogs is located at 458 Greenwich Street. © wcities.com



citysearch

contact:
tel: +1 212 414 4245
http://www.aptnyc.com/

location:
419 West 13th Street
New York NY 10014

hours:
6p-4a M-Su

2 APT

DESCRIPTION: Located in the Meatpacking District, APT has been featured as New York's Best Bar in the Zagat Guide. Walk in through heavy metal doors and find yourself a comfortable seat on one of the long tables in the warmly-lit basement. This is a very drinks-and-starters place, and ideal for a night out with close friends. Make sure to order a round of popular Pimm's Cup shots, it's the fastest way to get a buzz! Be warned, however - if you drink too much, be prepared to use the not-so-impressive restroom! © wcities.com

citysearch

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contact:
tel: 212 920 3300
fax: +1 212 673 5890
http://www.gramercyparkhotel.com/bars.html

location:
Gramercy Park Hotel
New York NY 10010

hours:
Daily 12p-4a

3 The Jade Bar and The Rose Bar

wcities

DESCRIPTION: The Jade Bar and the Rose Bar are two of New York's hottest night spots. The elegant and super plush decor of these sister bars in the Gramercy Park Hotel is highlighted by the paintings and furnishings of renowned artists such as Andy Warhol, Damien Hirst, and Julian Schnabel, and by the hot young celebrities who frequent them. If your willing to pay the steep prices you will be sure to enjoy many gawking opportunities, as well as a great cocktail. Reservations are required after 9p. © wcities.com

contact:
tel: 212 539 8500
http://www.publictheater.org

location:
425 Lafayette Street
New York NY 10003

hours:
Box Office: 1p-6p Su-M, 1p-7:30p Tu-Sa

4 Public/Newman Theater (The)

Public/Newman Theater (The)

DESCRIPTION: Since opening in 1954, the Joseph Papp Public Theater has been considered one of the city's finest cultural institutions. Contemporary and classic stage productions performed here, such as A Chorus Line and The Tempest, have won a number of major awards (including the prestigious Tony). Mesmerizing cabaret performers such as Ute Lumper and Faith Prince are regularly booked at the theater's popular bar, Joe's Pub. Admission prices vary with the show. Call or visit the Web site for more information. © wcities.com

contact:
tel: 212 533 2111 / 212 260 4700 (Box Office)
http://www.boweryballroom.com/

location:
6 Delancey Street
New York NY 10002

5 Bowery Ballroom

citysearch

DESCRIPTION: Run by the same people behind the **Mercury Lounge**, the Bowery space is bigger, accommodating a crowd of 500 or so. And even better, the stage is big and raised to allow good sightlines from every corner. The sound couldn't be better, and Art Deco details give the place a sophistication that doesn't come easy to general-admission halls. The balcony has its own bar and seating alcoves. This place is a favorite with such alt-rockers as Vic Chesnutt, Travis, Steve Earle, Rinocerose, the Delgados, and Toshi Reagon, as well as more established acts (Neil Finn, Patti Smith, Joan Jett & the Blackhearts), who thrive in an intimate setting. Save on the service charge by buying advance tickets at Mercury's box office. © Frommer's

contact:
tel: 212 431 7910
fax: 212 431 3781
http://www.cafenoirny.com/

location:
32 Grand Street
New York NY 10013

6 Cafe Noir

DESCRIPTION: This chic hybrid of a bar, tapas bar and bistro is located in the western part of Soho. It serves food (both full meals and tapas) until 4a. The menu draws from European, North African and Spanish influences. The tapas menu is extensive, but patrons may also choose from entrees like paella or grilled steak. The décor is very French, with banquettes and a black-and-white checkered floor. It is romantic and intimate, but can get crowded and smoky at peak times. © wcities.com

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hours:
Noon-4a M-Sa, 11a-4a Su

contact:
tel: 212 473 7348
http://www.peguclub.com

location:
77 W Houston St
New York NY 10012

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

7 Pegu Club

citysearch

DESCRIPTION: Mixologist and owner Audrey Saunders, formerly of Bemelman's Bar in the Carlyle Hotel, makes magic with cocktails. In 2005 she opened her own little downtown gathering spot where she can even better showcase her immense talents. The cocktails here change seasonally and will astound you with their creativity. It helps that the staff uses fresh squeezed juices, homemade ginger beer, and the largest assortment of bitters you will find anywhere. You know you are in serious cocktail heaven when your drinks are served with liquid condiments; if your Pisco Punch needs a bit more sugar, you can squeeze a dropperful in. Or if your Gin-Gin Mule just doesn't pack the citrus tang you would like, add a dash of lime. Be sure to explore the far-from-typical-bar-food menu. © Frommer's

contact:
tel: (718) 638-4400
http://www.unionhallny.com/

location:
702 Union Street
Brooklyn NY 11215

hours:
Mo to Fr from 04:00 PM to 04:00 AM,Sa to Su from 12:00 PM to 04:00 AM

8 Union Hall

Photo courtesy of Union Hall

DESCRIPTION: The walls are lined floor to ceiling with stuffed bookshelves, and a fireplace will warm your toes if you sit in one particularly intimate corner. Wait your turn at one of two bocce ball courts, or head downstairs for live music performances. © wcities.com

contact:
tel: 718 302 6464
http://www.barcadebrooklyn.com/

location:
388 Union Avenue
Brooklyn NY 11230

hours:
M-Sa 5p-4a, Su 5p-2a

9 Barcade

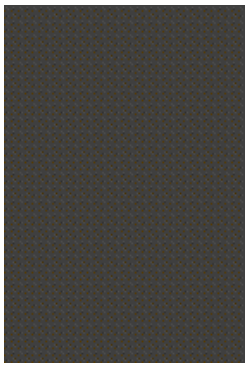

Photo courtesy of Barcade

DESCRIPTION: For those that crave a little IPA with their Donkey Kong, Barcade just might be the place. The lovingly designed space combines hand-crafted pub furnishings with several truckloads of classic arcade games. Draught craft brews are the specialty of the house (featuring East Coast heavy hitters like Dogfish Head and West Coast humdingers like Lagunitas), but there is also a full bar. So whether you like a shot of Beam before a round of Centipede, or a goblet of Belgian-style strong ale to accompany a rousing Mrs. Pac-Man tournament, Barcade can probably accomodate you. See website for frequently updated draught list, special event announcements, Happy Hour info and more. © wcities.com

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New York City Snapshot

Local Info

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

Midtown

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

Central Park

Nestled between the Upper West and Upper East Sides, this843-acre oasis is the most visited urban park in the country. Among its many charms are miles of winding pathways, several lakes and ponds, twoskating rinks, azoo, and a conservatory. Visit in the summer if you can, when the park hosts freeconcerts andplays.

Times Square/Theater District/Hell's Kitchen

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

Chelsea

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

Gramercy/Flatiron/Union Square

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

Greenwich Village/West Village

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

East Village

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

Lower East Side

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

Soho

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

Lower Manhattan

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

Upper East Side

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

Upper West Side

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

Harlem

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

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Brooklyn

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

Queens

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

The Bronx

Though New York's northernmost borough is best known to many as the home ofYankee Stadium, the Bronx offers a good deal more than meets the eye. Explore its beaches and museums, its world-famouszoo andbotanical garden, its own Little Italy, quaintCity Island, and more parkland than any other borough.

Staten Island

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

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Fun Facts

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

New York City By The Numbers:

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

Quick Facts:

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

Did You Know?

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

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

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

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

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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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