



nileGUIDE

ALL YOU NEED TO PLAN YOUR PERFECT TRIP



Wikimedia Commons

Top 10 - NYC on a Budget

New York City, 1 Day

Table of contents:

Guide Description 2

Itinerary Overview 3

Daily Itineraries 4

New York City Snapshot 9

Guide Description



AUTHOR NOTE: You don't have to break the bank to enjoy a visit to the Big Apple...there are plenty of bargains to be found even in one of the most expensive cities in the world. For shopping and great cheap food (try the dim sum), head to Chinatown. Tour historic South Street Seaport and pick up some discount Broadway tickets at the TKTS booth there. Check out the Union Square Greenmarket, or head to Coney Island for a walk along the boardwalk and a Nathan's Famous hot dog. At Upright Citizens Brigade, catch cheap--or even free!--comedy shows. Corner Bistro burgers and Caracas arepas are among the city's best, and Angelica and Tartine draw crowds for their great food and BYOB policies. For dessert, scoop up a sweet Italian treat at the tiny Il laboratorio del gelato. Finally, the Cosmopolitan in Tribeca gives you an affordable but comfortable home base in a great location for exploring the city.

Photo: Coney Island's Wonder Wheel. By Sarah.

Itinerary Overview

things to do
restaurants
hotels
nightlife

Day 1 - New York City



Chinatown

Asian experience in Manhattan, beyond dumplings and dim sum



South Street Seaport

Historic port houses tourist-friendly shops & restaurants



Coney Island

Brooklyn beach resort



Upright Citizen's Brigade Theatre

Wise-guy skits



Corner Bistro

Burgers-and-beers in a classic Village spot



Caracas Arepa Bar

Flight to Venezuela



Tartine

Tiny bistro, hearty French fare



il laboratorio del gelato

Hip gourmet ice cream



Angelica Kitchen

Organic haven



Cosmopolitan Hotel-Tribeca

Affordable Tribeca Hotel

Day 1 - New York City



QUICK NOTE

contact:

tel: +1 212 484 1222(Tourist Information)

fax: +1 212 245 5943(Tourist Information)

<http://www.explorechinatown.com>

location:

Canal Street to Bayard Street
New York NY 10002

1 Chinatown

OUR LOCAL EXPERT SAYS:

After fighting it out with the Canal Street crowds for knock-off bags, go with a group to one of the neighborhood's many restaurants for dim sum, a filling selection of bite-sized treats, usually eaten for breakfast, brunch, or lunch.

DESCRIPTION: New York's Chinatown is a cultural haven full of ancient and exotic traditions, and a huge amount of restaurants. This bustling and crowded neighborhood is home to over half of the city's Chinese population. In the grocery stores and fruit stands, you will find many food items available nowhere else in the city—from exotic fruit and vegetables to live snails and dried shrimp. In recent years, excellent Thai, Vietnamese and Korean restaurants have joined the mix. © wcities.com



wcities

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

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.

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: +1 718 372 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.



wcities

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

contact:
tel: 212 366 9176
<http://www.ucbtheater.com/>

location:
307 West 26th Street
New York NY 10001

4 Upright Citizen's Brigade Theatre

DESCRIPTION: "The sketch comedy troupe at this 74-seat Chelsea space delights audiences with wise-guy antics. The Brigade has gained notoriety for their crazy performances on the Comedy Central TV channel. Popular productions include "The Real Road Rules." Shows are featured daily. Conservative spenders will also appreciate the regular admission fee. Cash only. There are also comedy classes taught at the theater's Manhattan Improv Guerilla Camp. (cash, check or money order only)." © wcities.com



Photo courtesy of Upright Citizens Brigade Theater

contact:
tel: 1 212 242 9502
fax: 1 212 242 9502
<http://cornerbistro.ypguides.net>

location:
331 West 4th Street
New York NY 10014

hours:
11:30a-4a M-Sa, noon-4a Su

5 Corner Bistro

DESCRIPTION: Nestled in the heart of the West Village, this casual American bar and restaurant keeps late hours (until 4a) and serves cheap, casual fare. Greasy but tasty burgers, and fries. A friendly spot, Corner Bistro caters to a diverse crowd of downtown denizens, as well as the college types who party on Bleeker Street. It is cash only, but at these prices you should have no problem paying the bill. © wcities.com



citysearch

contact:
tel: 1 212 529 2314
<http://www.caracasarepabar.com>

location:
93 1/2 East 7th Street
New York NY 10009

hours:
M-F 5:30p-10:45p, Sa
noon-10:45p, Su noon-9:45p

6 Caracas Arepa Bar

OUR LOCAL EXPERT SAYS:
There is a second branch of Caracas Arepa Bar located at 291 Grand Street in Williamsburg, Brooklyn. Reservations are accepted at the Brooklyn branch only.

DESCRIPTION: As you can tell by its name, this tiny East Village spot specializes in arepas--soft, spongy corn tortilla-like pockets with a crispy bite on the outside and a tantalizing array of fillings inside. Some of the delicious options include chicken and chorizo, guacamole and cheddar cheese, pork with mango salsa and shredded beef with black beans and mashed



Photo courtesy of Caracas Arepa Bar.

sweet plantains. Vegetarian options abound, and tasty side dishes include ensalada fresca (watercress, cherry tomatoes and avocado over a bed of yucca and cucumbers) and fried green plantains topped with mojito mayo. Snag a table inside if you're willing to wait; otherwise you can get take out at the counter next door and take your arepa for a picnic in nearby Tompkins Square Park.

© NileGuide

contact:

tel: 1 212 229 2611

fax: 1 212 229 1972

http://newyork.citysearch.com/profile/7117406/new_york_ny/tartine.html

location:

253 West 11th Street
New York NY 10014

hours:

9a-10p Tu-Su

7 Tartine

DESCRIPTION: This tiny, adorable bistro features ivy covered windows, potted plants and wood paneling, all of which help to create a cheery atmosphere. The fare is simple but hearty. Chicken Potpie with dumplings, homemade soups and Strawberry Shortcake will make you think you are at your favorite aunt's home. The wait staff is pleasant but always busy, so be patient. Their BYOB (bring your own bottle) policy is a great draw. No reservations are accepted. Cash only. © wcities.com



wcities

contact:

tel: 1 212 343 9922

<http://laboratoriodelgelato.com/>

location:

95 Orchard Street
New York NY 10002

hours:

Daily 10am-7pm

8 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: 1 212 228 2909

fax: +1 212 228 3108

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

location:

300 East 12th Street
New York NY 10003

hours:

11:30a-10:30p M-Su

9 Angelica Kitchen

DESCRIPTION: This organic restaurant serves a wonderful feast without preservatives or sugar. It also offers no meat, eggs or dairy products, which suits its downtown clientele just fine. Tasty dishes are offered at great prices, served at comfortable tables in a homey atmosphere. If you can have only one dish, go for the massive Dragon Bowl-it is a tasty mix of tofu, rice, seaweed and vegetables. Even the Tofu Cheesecake is tasty. Cash only. © wcities.com



citysearch

contact:

tel: +1 212 566 1900 / +1 888
895 9400

fax: +1 212 566 6909

<http://www.cosmohotel.com>

location:

125 Chambers Street
New York NY 10007



Cosmopolitan Hotel-Tribeca

DESCRIPTION: Rooms at the Cosmopolitan Hotel in Tribeca are basic and plain, but modern and clean, and the larger loft-style rooms have an added character. Beyond its frugality, the Cosmopolitan's best asset is its location: on the corner of Chambers Street and West Broadway in fashionable Tribeca, near such fun spots as The Odeon and more upscale restaurants such as Nobu. It is a great home base for exploring neighborhoods such as Lower Manhattan and South Street Seaport, Soho, Chinatown and Little Italy. © NileGuide



Photo courtesy of Cosmopolitan
Hotel-Tribeca

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