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Gallery-Hopping in Chelsea

New York City, 1 Day

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Guide Description



AUTHOR NOTE: West Chelsea is the hottest destination for New York City's gallery scene—and Saturdays are prime time for touring the area, as many galleries open up for free receptions or special events. While you're in the area, take a stroll along the High Line, an old elevated railway that's been converted into a stunning public space, complete with great views and noteworthy art installations.

Photo: Water tanks on the roof of a Chelsea art gallery. By Victoria Peckham.

Itinerary Overview

things to do
restaurants
hotels
nightlife

Day 1 - New York City

DAY NOTE: A reasonably priced hotel in the neighborhood is the Chelsea Lodge; if you prefer a splurge, try the Maritime. Start your day of gallery hopping with a fortifying breakfast at La Petite Abeille, one of a small chain of Belgian restaurants in the city. Then head to West 24th Street between 10th and 11th Avenues, a block stocked with great options such as the Gagosian Gallery, the Gladstone Gallery, the Mary Boone Gallery and the Matthew Marks Gallery. Another good block for browsing is West 22nd, home to both the 303 Gallery and the Dia Center for the Arts. The latter is known for its bookstore's wide selection of unusual art books. You can simply wander the streets in this neighborhood and see if anything in the window calls your attention, or you can get a full list of West Chelsea galleries at www.westchelseaarts.com. After a long day of looking at (or perhaps even buying, if you're feeling flush) art, Chelsea is also packed with great dining options. On 10th Avenue, try dinner at Cookshop for a fancier dining experience, or grab a spot at the bar in the perennially packed Spanish tapas restaurant Tia Pol. The Red Cat, with a Mediterranean menu, is a popular spot for sophisticated art patrons. Or, if you prefer kicking back with a margarita, try the Rocking Horse Café.

	Chelsea Lodge Comfortable rooms with basic facilities
	Petite Abeille Belgian bistro chain
	Gagosian Gallery Influential gallery in Chelsea
	Gladstone Gallery Works of art
	Matthew Marks Gallery Top gallery
	Mary Boone Gallery What a boon!
	303 Gallery Beyond the ordinary
	Dia Center for the Arts Warhol and more

	High Line Old elevated railway becomes a green escape on the West Side
	Cookshop A bustling venue
	Tia Pol Real Spanish Tapas
	Red Cat (The) West Chelsea bistro
	Rocking Horse Cafe Mexicano Murals and margaritas

Day 1 - New York City

QUICK NOTE

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contact:

tel: +1 212 243 4499 / +1 800
373 1116 (Toll Free)
fax: +1 212 243 7852
<http://www.chelsealodge.com>

location:

318 West 20th Street
New York NY 10011

1 Chelsea Lodge

DESCRIPTION: The Chelsea Lodge is located in the heart of New York City, near the Greenwich Village and West Village areas of Manhattan. The hotel is also within walking distance of two 8th Ave subway stops at 14th and 23rd streets. Guests loved the quiet backside garden area, complete with patio seating and plenty of trees that serves as reprieve from the busy city streets. Accommodations are small but immaculately clean, with flat screen televisions, basic furnishings and bathroom facilities that are shared with other guests on the hallway. The hotel lacks on-site dining but a number of cafes and restaurants are available on the same block. © Raveable



Photo courtesy of Chelsea Lodge

contact:

tel: 1 212 604 9350
http://www.petiteabeille.com/index_flash.html

location:

107 West 18th Street
New York NY 10011

hours:

7a-7p M-F, 9a-6p Sa-Su

2 Petite Abeille

DESCRIPTION: This local Belgian restaurant chain has continued to increase in popularity thanks to its cheery ambiance, hearty food and moderate prices. It is a favorite at lunchtime due to its quick service and casual atmosphere. Try the salmon and spinach quiche, or arrange your own salad medley. © wcities.com



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contact:
tel: +1 212 741 1111
fax: +1 212 741 9611
<http://www.gagosian.com/>

location:
555 West 24th Street
New York NY 10011

3 Gagosian Gallery

OUR LOCAL EXPERT SAYS:

The two other Gagosian locations in New York are on Madison Avenue and West 21st Street.

DESCRIPTION: Up-and-coming artists dream of showing at this popular gallery, located in an enormous, cathedral-like warehouse space in Chelsea. With a network of galleries--including three in New York, two in London, one in Los Angeles and one in Rome--owner Larry Gagosian can be considered one of the most influential tastemakers in the art world, and this gallery almost rivals museums in the quality of its work. The inaugural exhibit in this Chelsea space in 2000 was a massive steel installation by Richard Serra; that same year, some 100,000 people visited Gagosian's Damien Hirst exhibition--featuring a three-story-high anatomical model--in 12 weeks.
© NileGuide



Photo courtesy of Gagosian Gallery

contact:
tel: +1 212 206 9300
fax: +1 212 206 9301
<http://www.gladstonegallery.com>

location:
515 West 24th Street
New York NY 10011

4 Gladstone Gallery

DESCRIPTION: The Gladstone Gallery features works of artists both local and international. Names include Sharon Lockhart, Gary Hill and Bruce Conner; shows are a must-see for art-lovers. The stately rooms that display the work of the artist feature white-washed walls with an artistic touch to the floors as well. Displays include paintings and sculptures. © wcities.com

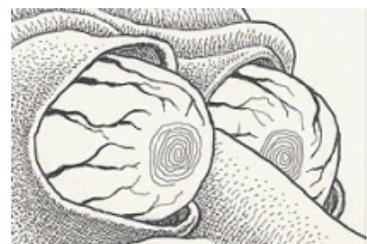


Photo courtesy of Gladstone Gallery

hours:
Tu-Sa 10a-6p

contact:
tel: +1 212 243 0200
<http://www.matthewmarks.com/>

location:
522 West 24th Street
New York NY 10011

5 Matthew Marks Gallery

DESCRIPTION: Matthew Marks is one of the best known galleries in the continuously growing Chelsea art world. View the works of art world heavyweights such as Willem de Kooning, Sam-Taylor Wood, Tracey Moffatt and Nan Goldin. One recent show was *Invocations*, featuring silkscreen photographs by Tracey Moffatt. The gallery also represents Robert Adams, David Armstrong, Andreas Gursky, Brice Marden and many more. © wcities.com



Photo courtesy of Matthew Marks

hours:
10a-6p Tu-Sa

contact:

tel: +1 212 752 2929
fax: +1 212 752 3939
<http://www.maryboonegallery.com/>

location:

541 West 24th Street
New York NY 10011

hours:

10a-6p Tu-Sa

6 Mary Boone Gallery

DESCRIPTION: This branch of the Mary Boone art galleries, which was formerly a garage, is where new talents are given a chance to prove their mettle in the art world. Creations by artists like Damian Loeb, Jay Davis and David Salle, line the stark white walls of this huge gallery. It was the original Mary Boone Gallery at 420, West Broadway that helped establish a name for the owner back in the 1980's. But this new downtown location has helped bring in a lot of monetary success. Relatively new artists on the block, such as Inka Essenhigh and Will Cotton have a lot to owe to this fabulous art-house! Check website for more details on current and upcoming events. © wcities.com



Mary Boone Gallery

contact:

tel: +1 212 255 1121
fax: +1 212 255 0024
<http://www.303gallery.com/>

location:

547 West 21st Street
New York NY 10011

hours:

10a-6p Tu-Sa, Summer:
10a-6p M-F

7 303 Gallery

DESCRIPTION: The 303 is not your regular gallery - so if you think your visit is going to be boring, you're wrong! This place hosts solo and group exhibitions and at times even art fairs. Sue Williams, David Thorpe and Edgar Bryan are some of the world famous artists who have displayed their works here. © wcities.com



Photo courtesy of 303 Gallery

contact:

tel: +1 212 989 5566
fax: +1 212 989 4055
<http://www.diacenter.org/>

location:

535 West 22nd Street
New York NY 10011

hours:

Nov-Apr: F-M 11a-4p, May-
Oct: Th-M 11a-6p

8 Dia Center for the Arts

DESCRIPTION: This modern facility features the exhibition and promotion of contemporary arts in American life. Paintings, prints, sculptures and numerous unusual and fascinating works of art are available for viewing, as well as poetry and other creations appealing to the ear. In the past, the center has featured work by Andy Warhol, Joseph Bueys and Robert Irwin. School groups are welcome at Dia Art Foundation. © wcities.com



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contact:

<http://www.thehighline.org/>

location:

Gansevoort Street to 20th
Street
New York NY 10011

9 High Line

OUR LOCAL EXPERT SAYS:

The High Line is open every day from 7 am to 10 pm. Access points from street level are located at Gansevoort St, 14th St and 20th St (stairs only) and 16th St (stairs and elevator access). Currently, no dogs are allowed.



David Berkowitz

DESCRIPTION: When it was built in the 1930s, as part of a massive public improvement program, the High Line elevated train traffic some 30 feet, safely above the streets of Manhattan's West Side. With the growth of interstate trucking, freight traffic decreased; the last train ran on the High Line in 1980. It was threatened with demolition through the late 1990s, when an organization called Friends of the High Line began advocating for its preservation and its conversion into a public space. After a design competition, construction began in 2008, including the installation of pathways, access points, seating, lighting, and planting. In June of 2009, the first section of the High Line (stretching from Gansevoort Street in the Meatpacking District to 20th Street, between 10th and 11th Avenues) opened to the public amid great excitement. Concessions ranging from coffee and bottled water to mozzarella panini and peach-berry lemonade are available along the High Line walkway, as well as landscaped green spaces and chairs for lounging.
© NileGuide

contact:
tel: 1 212 924 4440
<http://www.cookshopny.com>

location:
156 10th Avenue
New York NY 10199

hours:
Brunch: Saturday &
Sunday 10:30am-4:00pm
Breakfast: Monday -
Friday 8:00am-11:00am
Lunch: Monday - Friday
11:30pm-4:00pm Dinner:
Monday - Saturday
5:30pm-11:30am, Sunday
5:30pm-10:00pm

A Cookshop

DESCRIPTION: On far west Tenth Avenue, Cookshop is brawny and boisterous with food to match. Seating can be tight, and you would hear your neighbor's conversation if it the whole place weren't so loud. But never mind: Enjoy the chef's creations. A pizza with shaved king oyster mushrooms and stracchino cheese or the grilled Montauk squid in a salsa verde make good starters to complement the restaurant's innovative cocktails. Or combine a few snacks like the fried spiced hominy or the smoked pork tacos as starters for the table. Cookshop offers entree options in four categories: sauté, grill, wood oven, and rotisserie. The whole roasted porgy, head and all, cooked in the wood oven, is moist and full of flavor, while the chili-braised beef short ribs, served over cheddar grits, from the sauté section, are tender to the bone. Service is casually efficient and helpful. © Frommer's



Photo courtesy of Cookshop

contact:
tel: +1 212 675 8805
fax: +1 212 675 8806
<http://www.tiapol.com>

location:
205 10th Avenue
New York NY 10011

hours:
Lunch: Tu-F Noon-3p,
Brunch: Sa-Su 11a-3p Dinner:
M-Th 5:30p-11p, F 5:30p-Mid,
Sa 6p-Mid, Su 6p-10:30p

B Tia Pol

DESCRIPTION: Dinner at Tia Pol means tapas, tapas and more tapas! There's no paella option or any other meal-sized plates of any kind. When you come here, you come here to tapa! You may start with a soup or salad, but then it's on to tapas both hot and cold. Hot specialties include perennial must-haves patatas bravas, salt cod 'n' potato puree, and especially the inky squid. Tapas of the cold variety include spanish almonds, anchovies, and an octopus terrine. Brunches afford diners a chance to see the tapas philosophy at work on a different type of fare: sample churros, brioches and croissants all augmented with sweet butter, chocolate or marmalade. Or go for any number of egg dishes or even a breakfast pork loin



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sandwich. At lunch, sandwiches are the star - though to be more precise, they're known as bocadillos. See website for menu and more. © wcities.com

contact:

tel: 1 212 242 1122
<http://www.theredcat.com>

location:

227, 10th Avenue, between
23rd and 24th Streets
New York NY 10011

hours:

Dinner: Monday – Thursday:
5:30pm – 11:00pm; Friday –
Saturday: 5:30pm – 12:00am,
Sunday: 5:00pm – 10:00pm
Lunch: Tuesday - Saturday:
12:00 - 2:30

C Red Cat (The)

DESCRIPTION: Chef and owner Jimmy Bradley has created a lively, friendly and fun bistro in this newly popular area of west Chelsea. With small tables for intimacy and red banquettes for more social gatherings, The Red Cat features a lively crowd every night of the week. While overall this spot is fairly low-key, do not be surprised to see celebrities like Uma Thurman and ex-husband Ethan Hawke dining at the next table. The food is the real draw however, with a pleasing mix of New American and Mediterranean flavors. © wcities.com



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contact:

tel: 1 212 463 9511
fax: 1 212 243 3245
<http://www.rockinghorsecafe.com/>

location:

182 Eighth Avenue at 19th
Street
New York NY 10011

hours:

11:30a-11p Su-Th, 11:30a-
midnight F-Sa

D Rocking Horse Cafe Mexicano

DESCRIPTION: The charming Mexican murals and marvelous margaritas may attract some of the patrons here, but it is the food that will bring them back. Sure, this place has the obligatory burritos, chips and guacamole; but it also has applauded appetizers, unusual entrees and delectable desserts. Chef Sue Torres is innovative more than she is a stickler for authenticity and has come up with many dishes which, if they do not have them yet in Monterrey, Mexico, then perhaps they should. © 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 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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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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