**New York City**

**Overview**

New York’s capacity to surprise and delight never waivers - this is a metropolis which constantly reinvents itself, setting trends which every other world city clamours to follow.

Manhattan remains the vibrant centre, the first among the Five Boroughs. Walk its long, unending avenues and you’ll see a cross–section of the globe: the frenetic buzz of Chinatown, the bookish hush around New York University and Washington Square Park, the epicentre of black culture in Harlem.

Ticking off every cultural highlight in the city is nigh on impossible. First timers should make a beeline for the big–hitters: the Statue of Liberty, MoMA, the Empire State Building. For those returning, the city’s outer neighbourhoods and green spaces are a must. Brooklyn’s stunning Prospect Park and Inwood Hill Park (the latter the only undeveloped part of Manhattan) are great ways to spend an afternoon.

Foodies will be overwhelmed with options. The Astoria neighbourhood in Queens is a great bet for those looking to eat cheaply and well, with a melting pot of Greek, Italian, Egyptian and Chinese restaurants. This is New York at its most real, away from the razzle dazzle of Fifth Avenue and fast gentrifying areas of Brooklyn.

If you’re more interested in shopping than eating, then New York has it covered. Music lovers are blessed with a first rate record shopping scene, led by Rough Trade NYC and South Slope’s ace Permanent Records, while the weekly Brooklyn Flea Market (held at various locations throughout the year) is great for unique treasures and one–off fashion.

Night owls can find a dark booth and a great selection of cocktails and beers all over the city, but the Lower East Side and Brooklyn’s Greenpoint and Williamsburg neighbourhoods serve up some of the best spots. Maison Premiere’s absinthe cocktails are a great way to kick off a night on the tiles on uber-hip Bedford Avenue.

Just remember that even the hardiest New Yorker hasn’t seen everything the city has to offer. Pick a few highlights and you’ll be certain to want to come back for more.

**Getting Around**

**Public Transport**

Public transport is run by the Metropolitan Transit Authority (MTA), New York City Transit (tel: 511; [www.mta.info](http:// www.mta.info)).

The 24 hour subway is fast and cheap, although it is still best avoided late at night. The network serves over 400 stations. Staten Island is served by the MTA Staten Island Railway (tel: 511; [www.mta.info](http://www.mta.info)).

To ride the subway, purchase a MetroCard, available at newsagents and station kiosks. Various types of cards are available, including pay-per-use, and 7-day unlimited travel. Kiosks accept credit/debit cards (some also accept cash); when a credit card is used, you will be asked to enter your zip code for verification. However, if your credit card account has a billing address outside of the United States, instead, type in '99999'.

Bus services are extensive and 24 hour, with stops every few blocks. Fares are paid with a MetroCard or exact change.

**Taxis**

Taxis are hailed on the curb. A 10-15% tip is expected, and there are various surcharges. Private car services can be called directly for fixed rate fares. These are especially useful outside of Manhattan, where it can difficult to hail a taxi on the street.

**Driving**

Driving in Manhattan is not recommended to visitors. The traffic is horrendous and combined with impatient drivers, exorbitant parking fees, and elusive street parking, and you rapidly get the picture.

**Car Hire**

Drivers must be at least 25 years old. Recommended car hire companies include include Alamo (tel: 1 877 222 9075; [www.alamo.com](http://www.alamo.com)), Avis (tel: 1 800 633 3469; [www.avis.com](http://www.avis.com)), Budget (tel: 1 800 218 7992; [www.budget.com](http://www.budget.com)), Dollar (tel: 1 800 800 4000; [www.dollar.com](http://www.dollar.com)) and Enterprise (tel: 1 800 261 7331; [www.enterprise.com](http://www.enterprise.com)).

**Bicycle Hire**

There are over 644km (400 miles) of bike lanes in New York. New York has become much more bicycle friendly in recent years, with key bike lanes up the west side of Manhattan, down Broadway and across the bridges between Manhattan and Brooklyn or Queens.

New York's bike-sharing scheme, Citibike (tel: 1 855 245 3311; <http://citibikenyc.com>) has thousands of bikes for quick hire around the city. Bite of the Apple Tours/Rentals, 203 West 58th Street (tel: 212 541 8759; [www.centralparkbiketour.com](http://www.centralparkbiketour.com)), offers bicycle hire.

For bike maps and other info, visit NYC Bike Maps ([www.nycbikemaps.com](http://www.nycbikemaps.com)).

**Sightseeing**

**NYC & Company - Convention and Visitors Bureau**

This is one of several official information centres strategically located around the city.

**Thoroughfare**

810 Seventh Avenue

**Neighborhood**

between 52nd and 53rd Streets

**Locality**

New York City

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

United States of America

**Telephone**

(212) 484 1222.

**Website**

http://www.nycgo.com

**Opening Times**

Mon-Fri 0830-1800, Sat-Sun 0830-1700.

**Passes**

The City Pass (tel: (208) 787 4300 or 1 888 330 5008; [www.citypass.com](http://www.citypass.com)) offers a combined ticket to six selected New York attractions. The pass is valid for nine days and is available for purchase at any of the attractions or online.

**Attractions**

**High Line**

The most recent high-profile addition to the city's green space is the conversion of the elevated railway tracks that ran along part of Manhattan's West Side from 30th Street to Gansevoort Street. Today visitors can stroll this picturesque greenway that runs between Chelsea and the Meatpacking district, with various access points (including lifts) along the way. There are places to lounge and admire the view (of the city, the Hudson River and the street life below the tracks), plus food vendors and abundant greenery; designers used scrubby native plants and reinstalled the rail tracks to give the setting a slightly wild appearance.

**Thoroughfare**

XXX

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

XXX

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

XXX

**Telephone**

212 500 6035.

**Website**

http://www.thehighline.org

**Opening Times**

Daily 0700-2200.

**Admission Fees**

No

**Disabled Access**

Yes

**UNESCO**

No

**Importance**

Low

**Greenwich Village & the West Village**

Greenwich Village is one of the liveliest and trendiest districts of New York City. For much of the 20th century, Greenwich had a reputation as New York's bohemian district, where artists and writers would gather in salons and coffee houses. The Village was also the epicentre of the gay rights movement after the infamous Stonewall Riots occurred here in 1969. These days, well-heeled professionals rather than struggling artists live in the restored townhouses and small apartments of the Village. Christopher Street, which runs through the centre of the district, is still a lively part of New York's gay scene, whilst Bleecker Street is a good place to shop, with high-end boutiques (Marc Jacobs, Cynthia Rowley) scattered west of Seventh Avenue. Greenwich Village also has a thriving nightlife, with lively cafés and bars staying open late into the night.

**Thoroughfare**

Greenwich Village, New York

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

XXX

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

United States of America

**Telephone**

XXX

**Website**

XXX

**Opening Times**

XXX

**Admission Fees**

XXX

**Disabled Access**

Yes

**UNESCO**

No

**Importance**

Medium

**Central Park**

A magnificent city sanctuary situated in the centre of Manhattan. Designed by Frederick Law Olmsted and Calvert Vaux, it opened in 1876 and now offers numerous recreational and cultural outlets. The Belvedere Castle (a stone castle built on Vista Rock in the middle of the park at the 79th Street Transverse) offers excellent views, while the Shakespeare Garden, just west of the castle, contains flowers and herbs mentioned in the Bard's plays. The Central Park Conservancy offers various free walking tours. There is also a theatre and sports facilities in addition to the celebrated Central Park Zoo.

**Thoroughfare**

From 59th Street to 110th Street

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

New York

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

United States of America

**Telephone**

212 310 6600 or 360 2726 (walking tours hotline).

**Website**

http://www.centralparknyc.org

**Opening Times**

Daily 24 hours (park); daily 1000-1630 (visitor centre).

**Admission Fees**

No

**Disabled Access**

Yes

**UNESCO**

No

**Importance**

High

**Metropolitan Museum of Art**

‘The Met,' a most cherished New York institution, is home to more than two million works of art. It opened in 1870 with a modest collection of 174 European paintings and has grown to be the largest art museum in the western hemisphere. Now its collected works span 5,000 years of culture and the museum is home to some 2,500 of the finest paintings, including Vermeers, Rembrandts, Impressionists and Post-Impressionists as well as Renaissance, African, Asian, and Islamic art. It is believed that its 36,000 pieces of Egyptian art is the greatest outside of Cairo.

**Thoroughfare**

1000 Fifth Avenue

**Neighborhood**

at 82nd Street

**Locality**

New York

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

United States of America

**Telephone**

212 535 7710.

**Website**

http://www.metmuseum.org

**Opening Times**

Tues-Sun 0930-1730, Fri-Sat 0930-2100.

**Admission Fees**

Yes

**Disabled Access**

Yes

**UNESCO**

No

**Importance**

Medium

**Solomon R Guggenheim Museum**

The Guggenheim Museum, a seven-storey conical building designed by US master architect Frank Lloyd Wright, is worth visiting for the architecture alone. Opened in 1959, its design represented a new way to view art and was a radical departure. Visitors ascend to the top floor via a lift and descend at their own pace on a continuous, circular ramp. The open rotunda makes it possible to see many levels and exhibits simultaneously. The Guggenheim's acclaimed collection consists of late 19th- and 20th-century art works, many of which came from the private collection of Solomon's niece, Peggy Guggenheim.

**Thoroughfare**

1071 Fifth Avenue

**Neighborhood**

at 89th Street

**Locality**

New York

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

United States of America

**Telephone**

212 423 3500.

**Website**

http://www.guggenheim.org

**Opening Times**

Sun-Wed and Fri 1000-1745; Sat 1000-1945.

**Admission Fees**

Yes

**Disabled Access**

Yes

**UNESCO**

No

**Importance**

Low

**Museum of Modern Art (MoMA)**

Founded by Abby Aldrich Rockefeller, John D Rockefeller II's wife, the Museum of Modern Art (MoMA), houses the most important modern art collection in the USA, covering a variety of media from the late 19th and 20th centuries, with impressive touring exhibitions.

Some of the most prominent features include a lobby that connects 53rd and 54th streets; an atrium that soars 33.5m (110ft) above street level; and innovative glass curtain walls that provide views of the Abby Aldrich Rockefeller Sculpture Garden and the vibrant midtown surroundings.

**Thoroughfare**

11 West 53rd Street

**Neighborhood**

between Fifth and Sixth Streets

**Locality**

New York

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

United States of America

**Telephone**

212 708 9400.

**Website**

http://www.moma.org

**Opening Times**

Sat-Thurs 1030-1730, Fri 1030-2000.

**Admission Fees**

Yes

**Disabled Access**

Yes

**UNESCO**

No

**Importance**

High

**Top of the Rock**

Originally inspired by the slick designs of the grand ocean liners, the Rockefeller Center's observation deck offers exceptional views. The deckchairs upon which New Yorkers once relaxed to escape the bustle below may be long gone, but the exceptional views remain. From the 70th floor, 260m (850ft) above street level, the unobstructed 360-degree vista takes in the best of the city's landmarks, including the Brooklyn Bridge, the Empire State Building, the Chrysler Building and Central Park. Hands-on exhibits keep visitors busy on the mezzanine floor.

**Thoroughfare**

30 Rockefeller Plaza

**Neighborhood**

50th Street entrance

**Locality**

between Fifth and Sixth Avenues

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

United States of America

**Telephone**

1 877 692 7625/NYC ROCK or 212 698 2000.

**Website**

http://www.topoftherocknyc.com

**Opening Times**

Daily 0800-2400.

**Admission Fees**

Yes

**Disabled Access**

Yes

**UNESCO**

No

**Importance**

Low

**Rockefeller Center**

Built in 1932-40, the Rockefeller Center is a masterpiece of urban design. The best approach is from the Channel Gardens, opposite Saks on Fifth Avenue to arrive at the focal point of the complex, the sunken plaza, used as an ice-skating rink in winter and an open-air restaurant in summer. Behind this, the GE building dominates the scene with its art deco ambience. The Rockefeller Center is home to NBC, Radio City Music Hall and Christie's Auction House. NBC Studio tours are available.

**Thoroughfare**

Fifth Avenue

**Neighborhood**

47th Street to 52nd Street

**Locality**

New York

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

United States of America

**Telephone**

212 332 6868 or 1 877 692 7625/NYC ROCK.

**Website**

http://www.rockefellercenter.com

**Opening Times**

Daily 24 hours (plaza).

**Admission Fees**

Yes

**Disabled Access**

Yes

**UNESCO**

No

**Importance**

Medium

**Empire State Building**

Immortalised by Hollywood cinema, this stunning skyscraper is one of New York's most recognized buildings. Completed in 1931, the 102-storey Empire State Building is a wonderful example of art deco architecture and the observatories on the 86th and 102nd floors offer magical views of the city; the 86th floor deck is open air. Each night, the top 31 storeys are illuminated with colours that reflect a holiday, a special event or pays homage to a particular organization. The New York Skyride, on the second floor, features a video and a motion-simulator ride around NYC's attractions.

**Thoroughfare**

350 Fifth Avenue at East 34th Street

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

New York

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

United States of America

**Telephone**

212 736 3100.

**Website**

http://www.esbnyc.com

**Opening Times**

Daily 0800-0200.

**Admission Fees**

Yes

**Disabled Access**

Yes

**UNESCO**

No

**Importance**

High

**Brooklyn Bridge**

Dubbed the eighth wonder of the world when it was completed after 30 years of construction in 1883, John Augustus Roebling's design remains a masterful feat of engineering. One of the world's first steel wire suspension bridges (and at one time one of the world's longest) links Manhattan with Brooklyn, over the East River. The bridge's mile-long wooden promenade, located above the car traffic, is open to pedestrians and cyclists and offers stunning views of the city. Go early in the morning to beat the heavy crowds.

**Thoroughfare**

Park Row, New York

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

XXX

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

United States of America

**Telephone**

XXX

**Website**

XXX

**Opening Times**

Daily 24 hours.

**Admission Fees**

No

**Disabled Access**

Yes

**UNESCO**

No

**Importance**

Medium

**National September 11 Memorial and Museum**

One of New York's most evocative memorials opened on 11 September 2011, 10 years after the terrorist attack that destroyed the World Trade Center and claimed nearly 3,000 lives. Names of everyone killed that day surround two bronze reflecting pools set inside the footprints of the twin towers. A museum dedicated to the events surrounding September 11 is scheduled to open in 2013. Visitor passes to the memorial, for a specific date and time, can be reserved on the website. Passes for same-day visits are also available on a first-come, first-served basis at the memorial. The building is close to the new, striking 541m-high (1,776ft) One World Trade Center, the city's tallest building.

**Thoroughfare**

1 Albany Street

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

New York

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

United States of America

**Telephone**

212 266 5211.

**Website**

http://www.911memorial.org

**Opening Times**

1000-2000.

**Admission Fees**

No

**Disabled Access**

Yes

**UNESCO**

No

**Importance**

High

**Statue of Liberty**

The ultimate symbol of the American Dream, Lady Liberty, standing majestically over New York Harbor, is probably the most famous landmark in America. The people of France donated the statue in 1886, to commemorate the alliance during the American Revolution. It was the first sight of the New World to be seen by the 12 million immigrants who passed through Ellis Island in the early and mid 20th century. Limited tickets to visit the crown are available by advance reservation. Park rangers give guided tours.

**Thoroughfare**

Liberty Island

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

New York Harbour

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

United States of America

**Telephone**

212 363 3200 (information) or 1 877 523 9849/LADY TIX (tickets).

**Website**

http://www.nps.gov/stli

http://www.statuecruises.com

**Opening Times**

Check the website for the latest times.

**Admission Fees**

No (but there are admission fees for the ferry).

**Disabled Access**

Yes

**UNESCO**

Yes

**Importance**

High

**Shopping**

**Introduction**

A city famous for its elegance and Bohemian chic, New York is a shopper's paradise, hawking everything from cutting-edge designer fashions to flea market bargains.

**Souvenirs**

Classic souvenirs include clothing or accessories emblazoned with iconic New York City logos like NY Yankees, NY Mets, FDNY, NYPD or the new basketball team, the Brooklyn Nets. The ubiquitous I 'heart' NY label is plastered on everything from bags and t-shirts to luggage tags and Christmas ornaments.

**Key Areas**

The smartest shops are on Madison Avenue in the Upper East Side. Fifth Avenue is a magnet for the label conscious. Soho is the most European of the neighbourhoods. The East Village and the Lower East Side harbour street fashion, with vintage shops and music stores.

**Markets**

On weekends, the Antiques Garage Flea Market, 112 West 25th Street (between Sixth and Seventh Avenues), spreads an assortment of vintage goods. Along Broadway and Soho, street vendors that hawk almost everything. The Brooklyn Flea consists of several huge markets held on weekends in Fort Greene and Williamsburg.

**Shopping Centres**

The mall at the Time Warner Center at Columbus Circle houses a variety of upscale shops. Famous department stores include Saks Fifth Avenue, 611 Fifth Avenue; Macy's, 151 W 34th Street; and Bloomingdale's at 504 Broadway in Soho and 59th Street at Lexington.

**Opening Times**

Business areas open as early as 0800, while shops in Soho and the East Village open at 1200. Many stay open until at least 1900. Department stores are generally open Monday to Saturday 1000-2000 and Sunday 1200-1800.

**Tax Information**

There’s a sales tax of 8.875% on most consumer goods (clothes and shoes are taxed at a lower rate - no tax under US$110, 4.5% over US$110). Visitors are unable to claim a tax refund.

**Nightlife**

New York nightlife is non-stop and highly addictive, from bustling neighbourhood bars to swank cocktail lounges and nightclubs. The East Village is famous for its local bars that stay open late and its small live music clubs. The Lower East Side offers a similar nightlife scene and vibe. Soho is the cool capital, with its small chic bars attracting models, poseurs and media types. The gay scene is headquartered in the bars of Chelsea, the West Village and Hells Kitchen. Gramercy, in the 20s on the east side, has a smaller selection of velvet-rope cocktail lounges. The city's best nightclub scene can be found around the Meatpacking District.

Normal club closing time is 0400, although many venues are open all night. An ever-changing crop of ‘after-hours' places offer entertainment until sunrise, however, alcohol cannot legally be served between 0400 and 0800 or after 2400 on Sunday. The minimum drinking age is 21.

*Time Out New York* ([www.timeoutny.com](http://www.timeoutny.com)) is a good source of nightlife event information, published weekly. A good online nightlife and restaurant guide is Yelp ([www.yelp.com/nyc](http://www.yelp.com/nyc)).

**Bowery Ballroom**

Outfitted in classy art deco style building, this three-level club is one of New York's best live music venues. It has a cosy downstairs lounge that isn’t overbearingly hipster-ish, and a 500-capacity concert hall that welcomes all kinds. It’s become a cool, mid-sized venue for indie-rock, and after the concert, you can stick around for drinks.

**Type**

Live Music

**Thoroughfare**

6 Delancey Street

**Neighborhood**

between Bowery & Crystie Street

**Locality**

New York City

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

United States of America

**Telephone**

212 533 2111.

**Website**

http://www.boweryballroom.com

**Mayahuel**

Immediately welcoming new bar with a Mexican feel and a strong line in tequila and mescal. The small wooden shack of an exterior belies the treasures to be found inside, from the near-perfect mixed drinks to the excellent bar food.

**Type**

Bars

**Thoroughfare**

304 East 6th Street

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

New York City

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

United States of America

**Telephone**

212 253 5888.

**Website**

http://www.mayahuelny.com

**Death and Company**

Craft cocktails are big news in NYC, and Death & Co (the name is a nod to a saying about prohibition) is at the top of this game. Go early as it’s seating only. If not, you’ll give your name to the doorman, and be put down on his list. If you gain entry, prepare yourself for cocktails like you’ve never tasted.

**Type**

Bars

**Thoroughfare**

433 East 6th Street

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

New York City

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

United States of America

**Telephone**

212 388 0882.

**Website**

http://www.deathandcompany.com

**McSorely’s Ale House**

About as low-fi as it gets, both in terms of the spit and sawdust barroom and the drinks menu, which extends to ‘dark’ or ‘light’ beer. Choose one and sit back in a charmingly raucous atmosphere that has a hint of old New York about it. A unique drinking experience.

**Type**

XXX

**Thoroughfare**

15 East 7th Street

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

New York City

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

United States of America

**Telephone**

212 473 9148.

**Website**

http:// www.mcsorleysnewyork.com

**Bourgeois Pig**

Happily embracing its moniker, this low-lit bar is a whirl of gilded mirrors, plush armchairs and couches, richly hued wallpaper, a glimmering chandelier and a trendy young crowd. Wine is the drink of choice, though the cocktails are also nicely made. There's also a decent selection of appetizers and small plates, including cheese boards, mussels and fondue.

**Type**

Bars

**Thoroughfare**

111 East 7th Street

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

New York City

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

United States of America

**Telephone**

212 475 2246.

**Website**

http://www.bourgeoispigny.com

**Cielo**

One of the longer lasting New York clubs in a town where venues open and close every week. Cielo runs a number of dance nights, encompassing electro, Latin beats, soul, house and disco classics. Its DJ roster is enviable, and boasts the seminal Louie Vega.

**Type**

Clubs

**Thoroughfare**

18 Little w 12th Street

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

New York City

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

United States of America

**Telephone**

212 645 5700.

**Website**

http://www.cieloclub.com

**The Knitting Factory**

This famous Brooklyn venue stages a good mix of rock, punk, bluegrass and experimental sounds on its three levels. Catch up and coming acts as well as more established, alternative types. There are also film screenings and special events.

**Type**

Live Music

**Thoroughfare**

361 Metropolitan Avenue

**Neighborhood**

Brooklyn

**Locality**

New York City

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

United States of America

**Telephone**

347 529 6696.

**Website**

http://bk.knittingfactory.com

**The Mercury Lounge**

A trendy as you like music venue in the Lower East Side, this building actually used to house the servants for the Astor family, now catering more to slaves to fashion. Expect the odd secret gig here for big name bands – Radiohead and Lady Gaga have both graced the stage, and played to crowds of only 250 people.

**Type**

Live Music

**Thoroughfare**

217 East Houston Street

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

New York City

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

United States of America

**Telephone**

212 260 4700.

**Website**

http://www.mercuryloungenyc.com

**Carnegie Hall**

The greatest names from all schools of music, from Toscanini to Gershwin, have performed at the legendary venue of Carnegie Hall. Open since 1881, the hall (actually three halls) boasts an astonishing and eclectic repertoire, and is considered the height of artistic endeavour in many fields.

**Type**

Classical Music

**Thoroughfare**

154 West 57th Street, at Seventh Avenue

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

New York City

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

United States of America

**Telephone**

212 247 7800.

**Website**

http://www.carnegiehall.org

**Brooklyn Academy of Music**

Universally known as BAM, Brooklyn Academy of Music is America's oldest performing arts academy and one of the busiest and most daring producers in New York. During autumn, BAM's Next Wave Festival showcases the hottest international attractions in avant-garde dance and music.

**Type**

Music and Dance

**Thoroughfare**

30 Lafayette Street

**Neighborhood**

between Flatbush Avenue and Fulton Street, Brooklyn

**Locality**

New York City

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

United States of America

**Telephone**

718 636 4100.

**Website**

http://www.bam.org

**Metropolitan Opera House**

Known as the Met, this is located in the Lincoln Center and is New York's premiere opera venue and home to the Metropolitan Opera from September to late April, during which time around 27 productions are staged. A symphony-sized orchestra supports the enormous cast, which includes a chorus and children’s choir.

The New York State Theater, also housed in the Lincoln Center, is where the New York City Opera perform. Its wide and adventurous programme varies wildly in quality but seats go for less than half the Met's prices.

**Type**

Opera

**Thoroughfare**

Lincoln Center

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

New York City

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

United States of America

**Telephone**

212 721 6500.

**Website**

http://www.lincolncenter.org

**Le Poisson Rouge**

This high-concept art space stages a wildly eclectic mix of live music and DJ nights. Recent events have seen the likes of Lou Reed, Beth Orton, Balkan gypsy funk bands and avant-gardist John Zorn. On DJ nights, the spacious dance floor insures there's plenty of room to move, and the sound system is world-class. In addition to the concert space, Le Poisson Rouge has an all-day hangout and art gallery.

**Type**

Live Music

**Thoroughfare**

158 Bleecker Street

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

New York City

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

United States of America

**Telephone**

212 505 3474.

**Website**

http://www.lepoissonrouge.com

**Mehanata**

One of the best places for a night of dancing in the Lower East Side, Mehanata is a small multi-story club with a high-spirited dance floor and a wild soundtrack - a mix of Slavic bands and DJs spinning world grooves hold court. The upstairs lounge has a more laid-back vibe, where hookahs are available. For a bit of a lark, partygoers head down to the ice cave to don old Soviet army uniforms and chug vodka from ice-carved glasses.

**Type**

Clubs

**Thoroughfare**

113 Ludlow Street

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

New York City

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

United States of America

**Telephone**

212 625 0981.

**Website**

http://www.mehanata.com

**The Standard**

The stylish Standard Hotel in the Meatpacking District has several enticing drinking spots, including an outdoor beer garden (glass-enclosed in the winter) on the street level with classic German brews. On the rooftop, Le Bain is a top nightspot that attracts a largely Euro crowd. It has a buzzing dance floor and panoramic views over the city, and during the summer, party people hop into the spacious Jacuzzi (towels provided).

**Type**

Clubs

**Thoroughfare**

848 Washington Street

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

New York City

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

United States of America

**Telephone**

212 645 4646.

**Website**

http://www.standardhotels.com/high-line

**Activities**

**Basketball**

After baseball, basketball is the city's favourite spectator sport, particularly now that Brooklyn has its own home team. The New York Knicks ([www.nba.com/knicks](http://www.nba.com/knicks)), which play their home games in Madison Square Garden, have a huge fan base, despite a sometimes lacklustre performance. The Brooklyn Nets ([www.nba.com/nets](http://www.nba.com/nets)) play their games in the new Barclay Center, an easy subway ride from Manhattan. Basketball season runs from October to May.

**Baseball**

New York has two professional baseball teams, and seeing a game live is a great way to tap into the city's deep-down love of sports. The New York Yankees (<http://newyork.yankees.mlb.com>) are one of the most successful franchises in the major leagues, and play often exciting games at the new Yankee stadium in the Bronx. Slightly less loved, the NY Mets (<http://newyork.mets.mlb.com>) also have a new stadium, where they hold court in Queens. Both can be reached by subway. The season runs April to October.

**Hiking**

New York is very much a walking city and ripe for urban hiking, but if you want to surround yourself with nature, then head to Central Park. Although thousands of visitors come to the park each day, it's not difficult to escape the crowds and find a bit of solitude amid wooded trails that pass near ponds, streams, waterfalls and rocky outcroppings. Good places to hike include the Ramble, which is popular with birdwatchers, and the Harlem Meer in the north section of the park.

**Sailing**

Local sailing schools offer the chance to admire New York from out on the water. Manhattan Sailing School (tel: 212 786 0400; [www.sailmanhattan.com](http://www.sailmanhattan.com)) offers boat charters in the city, as well as a range of classes - including a weekend-long learn-to-sail course. Out on scenic Long Island, the New York Sailing School (tel: 914 235 6052; [www.nyss.com](http://www.nyss.com)) has a good selection programmes and vessels.

**Climbing**

New York has a handful of indoor climbing walls. In Manhattan, the best place to climb is at Chelsea Piers. There, avid climbers try their hand on the Sports Center Climbing Wall (tel: 212 336 6000; [www.chelseapiers.com](http://www.chelseapiers.com)), a 14m (46ft) high wall. Those who want a wider range of options should head to Brooklyn. The dedicated climbing gym Brooklyn Boulders (tel: 347 834 9066; [www.brooklynboulders.com](http://www.brooklynboulders.com)) has 2,044sq m (22,000sq ft) of climbing surface and dozens of routes from beginner to expert. Classes are available.

**Kayaking**

New York is surrounded by water, and getting out there under your own steam makes for an adventurous alternative to harbour tours. The New York Kayak Company (tel: 212 924 1327; [www.nykayak.com](http://www.nykayak.com)) has kayaks for hire from Pier 40 in Manhattan’s Hudson River Park, and the Manhattan Kayak Company (tel: 212 924 1788; [www.manhattankayak.com](http://www.manhattankayak.com)) runs group tours, including easy paddles across the Hudson River, intermediate (four-hour) trips out to the Statue of Liberty and advanced 80 km (50 miles) courses that circumnavigate the island of Manhattan.

**Ice skating**

In winter months, ice skating in New York is incredibly popular. The Rockefeller Centre (tel: 212 332 6868; [www.rockefellercenter.com](http://www.rockefellercenter.com)) is the most famous rink, and is open right through to early April. Rinks in Central Park ([www.centralparknyc.org](http://www.centralparknyc.org)) and Bryant Park are also much visited. If the weather is less than ideal, Riverside Park on the Hudson River at 142nd Street has a covered rink.

**Restaurants**

Eating out is a way of life in New York, from the famous diner breakfasts and brunches, to some of the finest restaurant experiences in the world. Even grabbing a hotdog from a street vendor feels somewhat iconic. An eating out guide for New York is an encyclopaedic task in itself, but here are some examples.

Visitors should make a reservation well in advance to avoid disappointment. It is not unreasonable for patrons to call for a table in the trendiest eating places a few months in advance. Sales tax of 8.375% is automatically added to the bill but service charges are only standard for large groups.

The New York restaurants have been split into three price categories:   
Expensive (over $65)   
Moderate ($35 to $65)   
Cheap (up to $35)   
These prices include starter, main course and dessert. Not included is tax and a customary tip of 15-20%.

**Porter House New York**

Come for the views (of Central Park), stay for the food. This is about as good as it gets for carnivores, with steaks done to absolute perfection, including a subtle chilli-rubbed Rib Eye. In case that all sounds too healthy, there’s also butter-poached lobster for some wild indulgence. Chef Michael Lomonaco oversees the meat feast.

**Price**

Expensive

**Thoroughfare**

10 Columbus Circle

**Neighborhood**

Manhattan

**Locality**

New York

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

United States of America

**Telephone**

212 823 9500.

**Website**

http://www.porterhousenewyork.com

**Cuisine**

Grillhouse

**Locanda Verde**

Robert de Niro is famously a part-owner of this rustic style Italian eatery in the TriBeCa district. Celebrated chef Andrew Carmellini brings the classics to a town that knows its Italian food. Fennel-glazed duck with sunchokes and pioppini mushrooms appears on the menu along with simpler fare such as ‘My Grandmother’s Ravioli’. The atmosphere is casually stylish and relatively affordable.

**Price**

Moderate

**Thoroughfare**

377 Greenwich Street

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

New York

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

United States of America

**Telephone**

212 925 3797.

**Website**

http://www. locandaverdenyc.com

**Cuisine**

Italian

**Balthazar**

A slice of Paris in Manhattan, this is chef Keith McNally’s latest New York venture. It has won plaudits aplenty for its authenticity, and remains a haven of sophistication and suave for Manhattan’s bon viveurs. French classics, such as duck confit, salade Niçoise and bouillabaisse (the speciality on Friday) are superb. It's also a great place to come for weekend brunch.

**Price**

Moderate

**Thoroughfare**

80 Spring Street

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

New York

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

United States of America

**Telephone**

212 965 1414.

**Website**

http://www.balthazarny.com

**Cuisine**

French

**Fluffy's Cafe and Bakery**

Located steps from Broadway, this small snack shop, with a few tables and a counter that faces the street, has quick service, delicious bakery goods, wraps and fresh fruit, all very reasonably priced. It is a perfect breakfast, lunch and snack stop for someone on the go or for take away. No alcohol.

**Price**

Cheap

**Thoroughfare**

855 Seventh Avenue (between 54th and 55th Streets)

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

New York

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

United States of America

**Telephone**

212 247 0234.

**Website**

http://www.fluffyscafe.com

**Cuisine**

American

**Dinosaur Bar-B-Que**

Not many authentic Southern barbecue joints have managed to set up with any success in New York, but this one is worth the jaunt uptown to Harlem. Standard fare – ribs, pulled pork, brisket – and a lively atmosphere that will instantly put you at ease. There's live music on weekend nights.

**Price**

Cheap

**Thoroughfare**

700 West 125th Street at Twelfth Avenue

**Neighborhood**

Harlem

**Locality**

New York

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

United States of America

**Telephone**

212 694 1777.

**Website**

http://www.dinosaurbarbque.com

**Cuisine**

BBQ

**Daniel**

Named after renowned chef-owner Daniel Bolud, this restaurant consistently ranks among the city's most opulent venues for French fare. With an accent on seasonal ingredients, culinary masterpieces have included Louisiana crayfish with Iberico ham, Quebecois suckling pig and whole-baked American red snapper in a salt crust. Jacket and tie are required for gentlemen.

**Price**

Expensive

**Thoroughfare**

60 East 65th Street (between Park and Madison Avenues)

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

New York

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

United States of America

**Telephone**

212 288 0033

**Website**

http://www.danielnyc.com

**Cuisine**

French

**Blue Hill**

One of New York's best farm-to-table restaurants, Blue Hill serves beautifully prepared dishes that showcase top produce from biodynamic farms of the Northeast. Dishes aren't overly complex and let the delectable ingredients speak for themselves - Berskshire pork, perfectly ripe vegetables, Hudson Valley duck and decadent chocolate bread pudding. Top-notch service and elegant ambience add to the experience.

**Price**

Expensive

**Thoroughfare**

75 Washington Place

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

New York City

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

United States of America

**Telephone**

212 539 1776.

**Website**

http://www.bluehillfarm.com

**Cuisine**

Modern American

**Eataly**

On the edge of Madison Square Park, you'll find Eataly, a sprawling Italian food emporium with dining spaces for lovers of antipasti, cheese, wine, seafood and much more. Up top, is La Birreria, a rooftop restaurant and beer garden, where you can linger over a hearty meal (market-fresh fish, beer-braised pork shoulder), matched by tasty microbrews.

**Price**

Moderate

**Thoroughfare**

200 Fifth Avenue

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

New York City

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

United States of America

**Telephone**

212 229 2560.

**Website**

http://www.eataly.com

**Cuisine**

Italian

**Barney Greengrass**

Going strong for over 100 years, this traditional Jewish deli serves all the Kosher classics, including cheese blintzes, caviar and loads of smoked fish. Sturgeon and smoked salmon are superb here, and best paired with a bagel and cream cheese. The ambiance at this Upper West Side haunt is casual, and makes a great start to the day, New York Times in hand.

**Price**

Cheap

**Thoroughfare**

541 Amsterdam Avenue

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

New York City

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

United States of America

**Telephone**

212 724 4707.

**Website**

http://www.barneygreengrass.com

**Cuisine**

Jewish

**Flights**

**Introduction**

Airlines offering flights to New York from the UK include British Airways, Virgin Atlantic, American Airlines, Continental Airlines, United Airlines, Delta Airlines and many European and international carriers. Flights to New York are competitively priced, but as the city is a year-round destination, its popularity means that prices are steady. New York flights in the lead up to Christmas, when tourists flock to the city to shop, are especially expensive.

**Flight Times**

From London - 8 hours; Los Angeles - 5 hours 20 minutes; Toronto - 1 hour and 40 minutes; Sydney - 22 hours.

**Rail**

**Services**

New York is well connected by rail.

New York City has two main stations. Grand Central Station, 42nd Street, Park Avenue, is the terminus for Metro-North Railroad, with services to upstate New York, New Jersey and Connecticut. Pennsylvania Station, referred to as Penn Station, 34th Street, Sixth Avenue, serves Amtrak and the Long Island Railroad.

Penn Station and Grand Central Station both have ATMs, bars, cafes, waiting rooms, shops and taxi ranks. Grand Central Station is a model of regeneration and the city's most impressive transport hub. Penn Station, on the other hand, is institutional, without many comfortable waiting areas.  
  
Rail travel tends to be expensive, although a number of rail passes are available to overseas visitors. There is no central rail information number and all enquires should be directed to the relevant provider or Amtrak.

**Operators**

New York City's rail services are primarily operated by Amtrak (tel: 1 800 872 7245; www.amtrak.com), with services to Philadelphia, Washington DC, Boston, Atlanta, Baltimore, Chicago, New Orleans, Miami and Los Angeles. Trains also go to Toronto and Montreal in Canada.

**Journey Times**

From Philadelphia - 1 hour 30 minutes; Washington DC - 3 hours 30 minutes; Boston - 3 hours 40 minutes.

**Transport To The City**

XXX

**Road**

**Introduction**

US freeways and interstates are recognisable by numbers: odd numbers go north-south and even numbers run east-west over their whole length, although at any single, localised point this may seem different. Driving is on the right. Speed limits vary from state to state, although in New York the limit is 48kph (30mph) in the city and 105kph (65mph) on freeways. It is illegal to turn right on a red light in New York City (but legal in most other parts of the country).

The minimum driving age is 16 years, though special restrictions apply for drivers under 18. An International Driving Permit is recommended, although it is not legally required and a full national driving licence is accepted. All travellers are strongly advised to acquire supplementary insurance. A yellow ‘non-resident, interstate liability insurance card', which acts as evidence of financial responsibility, is available through motor insurance agents.

The American Automobile Association - AAA (tel: 212 468 2600; [www.aaa.com](http://www.aaa.com)) provides information and roadside assistance to members.

**Emergency Breakdown**

AAA (tel: 1 800 222 4357).

**Routes**

Travel to Manhattan from New Jersey, Philadelphia and Washington DC is across the George Washington Bridge or through the Lincoln or Holland Tunnels. The Verrazano-Narrows Bridge connects Brooklyn with Staten Island. Queensborough Bridge links Manhattan and Queens. The Triborough Bridge leads to upstate New York, while the New England Thruway and Bruckner Expressway lead to New England.

**Driving Times**

From Philadelphia - 2 hours; Boston - 4 hours; Washington DC - 4 hours; Montreal - 6 hours.

**Coaches**

The Port Authority Bus Terminal, 628 Eighth Avenue at 40th Street (tel: 1 800 221 9903; [www.panynj.gov/bus-terminals/port-authority-bus-terminal.html](http://www.panynj.gov/bus-terminals/port-authority-bus-terminal.html)) handles long-distance and regional buses, as well as buses to the airports. Greyhound (tel: 1 800 231 2222; [www.greyhound.com](http://www.greyhound.com)) operates bus services that link New York City to points throughout North America.

**Water**

**Introduction**

New York has two terminals used by visitors arriving by cruise ship. NY Cruise (tel: (212) 246 5450; [www.nycruise.com](http://www.nycruise.com)) operates terminals on Manhattan's west side, near 55th Street, and in Red Hook, Brooklyn. Many commuter ferry services operate from terminals at Lincoln Harbor, Hoboken, Harborside, Liberty Harbor and Liberty Landing on the Hudson River, St George on Staten Island, Hunters Point in Queens and West 38th Street, Pier 11 and South Ferry on Manhattan.

The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey (tel: (212) 435 7000; [www.panynj.go](http://www.panynj.go)v) can provide more information.

**Ferry Services**

The Staten Island Ferry (tel: 718 727 2508; [www.siferry.com](http://www.siferry.com)) is free and operates from Whitehall terminal in Battery Park, travelling out past the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island to Staten Island every half an hour, daily 24 hours.

There are a variety of ferry operators, including New York Waterway (tel: 1 800 533 3779/53 FERRY; [www.nywaterway.com](http://www.nywaterway.com)) and Seastreak America (tel: 732 872 2628 or 1 800 262 8743/BOAT RIDE; [www.seastreak.com](http://www.seastreak.com)).

**Transfer To City**

XXX

**Excursions**

**Hudson Valley**

Roughly two hours' drive north of New York City, the picturesque Hudson Valley makes a refreshing break from the concrete jungle, with its leafy state parks, farms and apple orchards and quaint country towns. Highlights here include hiking and swimming in Harriman State Park or nearby Bear Mountain State Park. Art-minded visitors will want to visit the Storm King Art Center, a sprawling open-air museum in the town of Mountainville, or the Dia Beacon, with cutting-edge exhibits in a former factory.

**Telephone**

914 631 8200.

**Website**

http://www.hudsonvalley.org

**Sandy Hook**

Set on an alluring stretch of the New Jersey Shore, Sandy Hook has a mix of ocean and bay beaches, an historic lighthouse (the nation's oldest) and good bird watching. It's also an easy escape from New York City, accessible via a one-hour ferry ride from Lower Manhattan. Other attractions include the abandoned barracks of Fort Hancock and biking and walking along the Henry Hudson Trail, which stretches for 14.5km (9 miles).

**Telephone**

732 872 5970.

**Website**

http://www.sandy-hook.com

http://www.seastreak.com

**Coney Island**

Located just a 45-minute subway ride from Manhattan in south Brooklyn, Coney Island is a popular haunt for New Yorkers and tourists alike, because of its stretch of beach and historical amusement parks. Major attractions include the New York Aquarium, Surf Avenue and West Eighth Street. Coney Island's amusement area comprises several amusement parks, including the redesigned Luna Park, opened in 2010, and the Wonder Wheel, the tallest ferris wheel in the world. Many visitors partake of a Nathan's Famous hot dog on the boardwalk.

**Telephone**

XXX

**Website**

http://www.coneyisland.com

http://www.lunaparknyc.com

**Long Island**

Situated to the east of New York City, Long Island stretches for 190km (118 miles) into the Atlantic. Coastal parts of residential Long Island have some beautiful white sand beaches popular with New Yorkers for weekend retreats.

The north and south shores differ greatly. The south shore is fringed by almost continuous sandy coastline, including Jones Beach and gay-oriented Fire Island National Seashore, reachable by ferry. Meanwhile, the north shore is more immediately beautiful; its cliffs topped with luxurious mansions, estates, farms and excellent ‘ma and pa' wineries.

**Telephone**

631 951 3900 or 1 877 386 6654.

**Website**

http://www.discoverlongisland.com

**Tours**

**Tours with native New Yorkers**

Big Apple Greeters is a free service sponsored by NYC & Company. A knowledgeable, native New Yorker will escort one to six people who are travelling together to special places such as neighbourhoods, sites or ‘off the beaten path' destinations. Reservations and schedule must be confirmed in advance.

**Telephone**

212 669 8159.

**Website**

http://www.bigapplegreeter.org

**Boat tours**

Circle Line Sightseeing Cruises is the only cruise line that circles Manhattan Island, departing from Pier 83 on 42nd Street on the Hudson River. Other options include the Semi-Circle Cruise, the evening Harbor Lights Cruise or the Liberty Cruise Ellis Island and the Statue of Liberty. At both Pier 83 and Pier 16, South Street Seaport, adventurers can take the ‘Beast' speed boat for a 30-minute thrill ride.

**Telephone**

212 563 3200.

**Website**

http://www.circleline42.com

**Helicopter tours**

Liberty Helicopters gives visitors a bird's eye view of famous New York City landmarks. Helicopter flights depart from the West 30th Street and 12th Avenue heliport.

**Telephone**

212 967 6464 or 1 800 542 9933.

**Website**

http://www.libertyhelicopters.com

**Ellis Island tours**

Ellis Island Tours, led by Tom Bernardin, author of The Ellis Island Immigrant Cookbook, gives visitors a comprehensive view of what it was like to immigrate to America.

**Telephone**

212 229 0202.

**Website**

http://www.ellisislandtours.com

**Bike tours**

Much like a walking tour service provider, Bike the Big Apple offers a range of interesting thematic bike tours for short and longer distances. Tour rates include bike and helmet hire.

**Telephone**

347 878 9809 or 1 877 865 0078.

**Website**

http://www.bikethebigapple.com

**Walking tours**

New York's streets were made for walking. In fact walking is the best way for visitors to really explore the city. There are numerous guided tour operators, including Big Onion Walking Tours, who, for over a decade, have offered entertaining, informative and contemporary tours of New York's historic districts, ethnic neighbourhoods and interesting destinations. Tours last about two hours. Departure points vary depending on the tour.

The tour, Walkin' Broadway, gives participants a chance to learn the stories and secrets of Broadway while hearing snippets of great musicals. Before long, participants find themselves singing and dancing from one theatre to the next.

**Telephone**

212 439 1090 or 1 888 606 9255/WALK; 212 997 5004.

**Website**

http://www.bigonion.com

http://www.walkinbroadway.com

**Bus tours**

Gray Line New York Tours offers closed- and open-top double-decker bus tours, calling at numerous stops around the city in a two- to three-hour loop. The ‘All Loops Tour' offers hop-off hop-on tours of Manhattan with 50 stops. Tickets are valid for 48 hours. Buses depart from Gray Line Visitors Center at 777 Eighth Avenue (between 47th and 48th Streets) among many other locations.

A Slice of Brooklyn bus tours organises fun and informative tours of Brooklyn including a tour of the area's best pizzerias.

**Telephone**

212 445 0848 or 1 800 669 0051 ; 212 209 3370.

**Website**

http://www.newyorksightseeing.com

http://www.asliceofbrooklyn.com

**Movie tours**

On Location Tours operates bus tours of the sites of America's top TV shows, including Sex and the City and The Sopranos. Other tours include ‘Central Park Movie Tour' and ‘Manhattan TV and Movie Tour'. Tours last from two to three and a half hours. Booking is essential for all tours and meeting points vary depending on the tour taken.

**Telephone**

212 683 2027.

**Website**

http://www.screentours.com

**Events**

**NYC Restaurant Week**

More than 300 restaurants are set to participate in the culinary celebrations in which food-lovers get to sample some of New York City's finest dining establishments. Multi-course prix-fixe lunches and dinners provide great values. It's held twice a year in winter and summer.

**Theme**

Food & Drink

**Start Date**

21 Jul 2015

**End Date**

15 Aug 2015

**Date Description**

XXX

**TBC**

No

**Cost**

Three-course lunch around $25, three-course dinner around $38.

**Website**

http://www.nycgo.com/restaurantweek

**Venue Name**

Various venues.

**Thoroughfare**

XXX

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

XXX

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

XXX

**Frequency Period**

yearly

**Frequency Number**

1

**Importance**

Medium

**New York City Marathon**

One of the world's most popular marathons, the New York City Marathon has been held since 1970 and attracts 50,000 runners every year. The race route runs through all five of New York City's boroughs.

**Theme**

Sport

**Start Date**

02 Nov 2015

**End Date**

02 Nov 2015

**Date Description**

First Sunday in November.

**TBC**

Yes

**Cost**

Free to spectate; prices vary to run.

**Website**

http://www.ingnycmarathon.org

**Venue Name**

Throughout the city.

**Thoroughfare**

XXX

**Neighborhood**

Central Park

**Locality**

New York

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

United States of America

**Frequency Period**

yearly

**Frequency Number**

1

**Importance**

High

**Greenwich Village Halloween Parade**

Puppeteers, bands, performers and freaks of all persuasions come out to join the exuberant costume parade. Anyone in costume can join in and it's always one of the city's most jubilant celebrations. The parade starts on the edge of Soho and goes up through Greenwich Village.

**Theme**

Entertainment

**Start Date**

31 Oct 2015

**End Date**

31 Oct 2015

**Date Description**

XXX

**TBC**

Yes

**Cost**

Free.

**Website**

www.halloween-nyc.com

**Venue Name**

Along Sixth Avenue.

**Thoroughfare**

Sixth Avenue

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

New York

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

United States of America

**Frequency Period**

yearly

**Frequency Number**

1

**Importance**

Medium

**Fourth of July**

Most towns and cities host their own Fourth of July celebrations, but certainly the best known of these is in New York City and is hosted by Macy's. Get a spot early in the day as west side Manhattan streets fill up with spectators eager to see the impressive fireworks show over the Hudson River.

**Theme**

Culture

History

**Start Date**

04 Jul 2015

**End Date**

04 Jul 2015

**Date Description**

XXX

**TBC**

No

**Cost**

Free.

**Website**

http://social.macys.com/fireworks

**Venue Name**

West side, Manhattan

**Thoroughfare**

XXX

**Neighborhood**

Manhattan

**Locality**

New York City

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

United States of America

**Frequency Period**

yearly

**Frequency Number**

1

**Importance**

Low

**Bryant Park Summer Film Festival**

From June to August, this grassy Midtown park screens outdoor films on Monday nights. Picnics abound, and the film choices are usually well-known classics rather than new releases. Films start around sunset, and the lawn opens at 5pm; go early to get a spot.

**Theme**

Theatre & Film

**Start Date**

16 Jun 2015

**End Date**

18 Aug 2015

**Date Description**

Mondays between mid-June and mid-August.

**TBC**

Yes

**Cost**

Various.

**Website**

http://www.bryantpark.org

**Venue Name**

Bryant Park, 42nd Street.

**Thoroughfare**

XXX

**Neighborhood**

Bryant Park

**Locality**

New York

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

United States of America

**Frequency Period**

yearly

**Frequency Number**

1

**Importance**

Medium

**Summerstage**

A fantastic free performing arts festival that takes place in Central Park each year. It was founded in 1986 and features a wide range of top-name performers across genres - including music, dance, theatre and spoken word. Many events are free. Other NYC parks also host similar events throughout the summer.

**Theme**

Music

**Start Date**

07 Jun 2015

**End Date**

08 Sep 2015

**Date Description**

Various dates, June until September.

**TBC**

Yes

**Cost**

Varies.

**Website**

www.cityparksfoundation.org/summerstage

**Venue Name**

Central Park.

**Thoroughfare**

XXX

**Neighborhood**

Central Park

**Locality**

New York

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

United States of America

**Frequency Period**

yearly

**Frequency Number**

1

**Importance**

Low

**NYC Pride**

The annual lesbian and gay pride march, which travels southwards down Fifth Avenue and ends in Greenwich Village, with a street festival and dance party. Expect outlandish costumes and behaviour, but high spirits and inclusive attitudes.

**Theme**

Gay & Lesbian

**Start Date**

30 Jun 2015

**End Date**

30 Jun 2015

**Date Description**

Last Sunday in June.

**TBC**

Yes

**Cost**

Free.

**Website**

http://www.nycpride.org

**Venue Name**

Upper Fifth Avenue to the Village.

**Thoroughfare**

Upper Fifth Avenue

**Neighborhood**

to the village

**Locality**

New York

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

United States of America

**Frequency Period**

yearly

**Frequency Number**

1

**Importance**

High

**Chinese New Year**

This is one of the biggest Chinese New Year celebrations in the country, and always draws big crowds. There are several celebrations in New York, with firecrackers, parades and dragon-clad dance troupes. This always falls in either January or February, though the date changes every year.

**Theme**

Culture

Entertainment

Spectacle

**Start Date**

19 Feb 2016

**End Date**

05 Mar 2016

**Date Description**

XXX

**TBC**

Yes

**Cost**

Free.

**Website**

http://www.explorechinatown.com

**Venue Name**

Chinatown.

**Thoroughfare**

XXX

**Neighborhood**

Chinatown

**Locality**

New York

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

United States of America

**Frequency Period**

yearly

**Frequency Number**

1

**Importance**

Low

**Mermaid Parade**

The city's most informal and most lively parade has a nautical theme, and features women and men alike dressed in glittering and riotous costumes and covered in ample body paint. The city’s classic theme parks provide the perfect backdrop to this celebration of the weird and wonderful.

**Theme**

Spectacle

**Start Date**

20 Jun 2015

**End Date**

20 Jun 2015

**Date Description**

XXX

**TBC**

No

**Cost**

Free.

**Website**

http://www.coneyisland.com/mermaid.shtml

**Venue Name**

1208 Surf Avenue, Coney Island.

**Thoroughfare**

1208 Surf Avenue

**Neighborhood**

Coney Island

**Locality**

New York

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

United States of America

**Frequency Period**

yearly

**Frequency Number**

1

**Importance**

Low

**Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade**

This is something of a New York institution, featuring huge hot-air balloons in the shape of cartoon characters, such as Snoopy, the Pink Panther and Mickey Mouse. Arrive early and dress warmly, as it's often a cold day.

**Theme**

Culture

**Start Date**

27 Nov 2015

**End Date**

27 Nov 2015

**Date Description**

Thanksgiving day.

**TBC**

Yes

**Cost**

Free.

**Website**

social.macys.com/parade

**Venue Name**

72nd Street to 34th Street.

**Thoroughfare**

145th Street

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

New York

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

United States of America

**Frequency Period**

yearly

**Frequency Number**

1

**Importance**

Medium

**New Year's Eve**

A million people come to New York each year with the express purpose of ringing in the new year by watching the ball drop in Times Square. If you dare to brave the cold and the crowds, you can celebrate the more than century-old tradition, too.

**Theme**

Entertainment

Spectacle

**Start Date**

31 Dec 2015

**End Date**

31 Dec 2015

**Date Description**

XXX

**TBC**

Yes

**Cost**

Free.

**Website**

http://www.timessquarenyc.org

**Venue Name**

Times Square.

**Thoroughfare**

42nd Street and Broadway,

**Neighborhood**

Times Square

**Locality**

New York

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

United States of America

**Frequency Period**

yearly

**Frequency Number**

1

**Importance**

High

**Tribeca Film Festival**

This film festival was founded by actor-director Robert De Niro in 2003 as part of a post-9/11 effort to attract visitors to return to lower Manhattan. In less than a decade, it has become New York's premiere film festival. In addition to film screenings, there are talks, panels and a street fair.

**Theme**

Theatre & Film

**Start Date**

16 Apr 2016

**End Date**

27 Apr 2016

**Date Description**

XXX

**TBC**

Yes

**Cost**

Various.

**Website**

http://www.tribecafilm.com/festival

**Venue Name**

Throughout the city.

**Thoroughfare**

XXX

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

New York City

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

United States of America

**Frequency Period**

yearly

**Frequency Number**

1

**Importance**

Medium

**The Armory Show**

New York has no shortage of art fairs, but the annual Armory Show is considered by dealers and collectors alike to be one of the most important fairs of international modern and contemporary work.

**Theme**

Art & Literature

**Start Date**

05 Mar 2016

**End Date**

08 Mar 2016

**Date Description**

XXX

**TBC**

Yes

**Cost**

General admission is $30.

**Website**

http://www.thearmoryshow.com

**Venue Name**

Piers 92 & 94.

**Thoroughfare**

Twelfth Avenue, 55th Street

**Neighborhood**

Manhattan

**Locality**

New York

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

United States of America

**Frequency Period**

yearly

**Frequency Number**

1

**Importance**

Low

**Hotels**

New York's best lodging options range from the stylish and boutique to venerable classics, with striking new hotels opening all the time. The slow season for high-end hotels is in the summer. To get cheap New York hotels, visitors should reserve as far ahead as possible. It's a good idea to browse the internet, as hotels often post specials that casually go unmentioned over the phone.

The New York hotels below have been divided into three pricing categories:  
Luxury (over US$400)   
Moderate (US$200 to US$400)   
Cheap (under US$200)   
These prices are per room per night and exclude the 14.75% city and state taxes, and the US$3.50 per room per night occupancy tax. Service charges or breakfast are not included unless otherwise specified.

**Crosby Street Hotel**

This chic downtown hotel features 86 individually designed guestrooms and suites, all with floor-to-ceiling windows, original artwork and a stylish contemporary design. Guests also enjoy the leafy garden, the private screening room and a whimsically designed bar. The hotel is beautifully located on a cobblestone street just a short stroll from the great dining and shopping in Soho and Nolita.

**Category**

Luxury

**Thoroughfare**

79 Crosby Street

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

New York City

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

United States of America

**Telephone**

212 226 6400.

**Website**

http://www.crosbystreethotel.com

**West Eleventh**

Set in the charming, tree-lined neighbourhood of the West Village, West Eleventh is a cosy alternative to midtown high-rises. Lodging is in one of five spacious suites, which are more like small apartments (complete with small kitchen units) than hotel rooms. Each has tall ceilings, decorative fireplaces, elegant furnishings and pleasant views. Great restaurants are just outside the door.

**Category**

Moderate

**Thoroughfare**

278 West Eleventh Street

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

New York City

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

United States of America

**Telephone**

212 675 7897.

**Website**

http://www.west-eleventh.com

**The Jane**

For an affordable stay in a great downtown location, it's hard to top the Jane. Rooms are clean if decidedly small and play off a nautical theme. Those used to life at sea won't mind the 'cabins', which are a mere 5sq m (50sq ft) in size. The bigger 'Captain's Cabins' are roomier at 23sq m (250sq ft) and have flat-screen TVs and iPod docks.

**Category**

Cheap

**Thoroughfare**

113 Jane Street

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

New York City

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

United States of America

**Telephone**

212 924 6700.

**Website**

http://www.thejanenyc.com

**The Paramount**

There is nothing traditional about The Paramount, a post-modern showplace. For example, in the entrance, red roses are displayed vertically in vases set into the wall. The lobby bar, designed by Philippe Starck, has platinum walls and a glamorous staircase sweeping up to the mezzanine. Guests can gaze down from their tables to the music and theatre industry leaders reclining on the slightly off-kilter furniture below.

**Category**

Moderate

**Thoroughfare**

235 West 46th Street (between Broadway and Eighth Avenue)

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

New York

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

United States of America

**Telephone**

212 764 5500 or 1 877 692 0803.

**Website**

http://www.nycparamount.com

**Chelsea Lodge**

A charming brownstone building in the middle of Chelsea that has been restored to within an inch of its life, and is one of the best value hotels in New York. The rooms aren’t the biggest in town, but they’re clean and well-designed, if a little intimate. The stylish woodwork décor makes it feel classier than most hotels in its price category, and guests have individual bathrooms, but shared toilet facilities.

**Category**

Cheap

**Thoroughfare**

318 West 20th Street

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

New York

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

United States of America

**Telephone**

212 243 4499.

**Website**

http://www.chelsealodge.com

**Lowell Hotel**

New York hotels don’t come too much classier than this 1927 landmark building, set on a leafy street in one of the Upper East Side’s most fashionable spots. Discreet and aristocratic, the liveried doormen escort you to opulent rooms crammed with period furniture and antique décor. It manages to retain an understated air, though, and is the ultimate retreat for those that can afford it.

**Category**

Luxury

**Thoroughfare**

28 East Sixty Third Street

**Neighborhood**

between Madison and Park Avenues

**Locality**

New York

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

United States of America

**Telephone**

212 838 1400.

**Website**

http://www.lowellhotel.com

**The Gershwin**

Not far from the much-photographed Flatiron Building is The Gershwin. With its red facade and odd-shaped Hershey kiss-like designs, the Gershwin is tough to miss. Buttercup yellow walls or cherry-red moulding decorate the simple but comfortable rooms. Pop art décor and nightly entertainment (film screenings, art openings, live jazz) draw a 20-something crowd.

**Category**

Moderate

**Thoroughfare**

7 East 27th Street (between Sixth and Seventh Avenues)

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

New York

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

United States of America

**Telephone**

212 545 8000

**Website**

http://www.gershwinhotel.com

**Ye Olde Carlton Arms Hotel**

A somewhat divisive ‘art’ hotel that lots of people really love for its location and pricing, but which you’re going to dislike if you’re humourless, or are a stickler for high levels of cleanliness. The rooms are individually designed with striking, and sometimes shocking, motifs, and the casual air recalls a backpacker’s hostel but with individual rooms. Bohemian, definitely.

**Category**

Cheap

**Thoroughfare**

160, East 25th Street

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

New York

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

United States of America

**Telephone**

212 679 0680.

**Website**

http://www.carltonarms.com

**St Regis**

This New York hotel jewel, built in 1904, has been restored to its original grandeur. The marble-floored lobby hints at the luxury found in the guest rooms - silk-covered walls, richly detailed crown moulding and crystal chandeliers. The Manhattan hotel is centrally located for taking in the wondrous shopping scene along Fifth Avenue, or strolling into nearby Central Park. The elegant dining room of Astor Court is a requisite stop for afternoon tea.

**Category**

Luxury

**Thoroughfare**

2 East 55th Street (at Fifth Avenue)

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

New York

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

United States of America

**Telephone**

212 753 4500

**Website**

http://www.starwood.com/stregis/index.html

**History**

This area of North America was originally inhabited by the Lenape tribe of Native Americans, specifically the Unami.

Though European settlement began around 1609, modern New York City began with the formal creation of the five boroughs in 1898, and mass immigration followed in the early 20th century.

Each new community established roots in a different neighbourhood, giving the city areas like Chinatown, Little Italy and the Lower East Side - a stronghold of Jewish immigrants. African-Americans migrated from the south and helped fuel a cultural boom of art, music and literature in Harlem.

Despite the Great Depression of the 1930s, development continued, and skyscrapers began to shape the city’s aesthetic. Art deco buildings went up, as did as bridges and parkways, right through until WWII.

A post-war economic boom saw a real expansion of the residential boroughs, as Wall Street and the United Nations led the way in world economics and political affairs. Shipbuilding and fabric production declined but hotels, restaurants and bars opened up on an astonishing scale, transforming the city into a service economy.

New York in the 1960s shook with race riots, gang wars and activism on a proactive scale. Even through to the late 1970s, much of the city remained edgy.

As Wall Street took centre stage during the materialism of the 1980s, crime and unemployment stayed high, but as the 1990s approached, reform and social recovery were in the air. The dotcom market roared into life, fuelling a building boom across the city. Meanwhile, tough-talking Mayor Rudy Giuliani tackled crime, helping make New York, America's safest big city.

2001 was defined by the horrendous terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center, when 3,000 people died. The trauma eventually fortified the city, and New York set about rebuilding itself, both psychologically and physically.

The 2000s saw New York on the ascent. New projects reshaped the city, from waterfront parks on Manhattan's West Side and Brooklyn to new stadiums and ballparks (including new arenas for the NY Yankees, the Mets and the Brooklyn Nets).

**Did you know?**   
• In 1789, New York City became the first capital city of the US.  
• A B-25 Bomber crashed into the 79th floor of the Empire State Building in 1945, leaving a 20-foot hole in the side.  
• In 1944, the lights in the crown of the Statue of Liberty flashed dot-dot-dot-dash which means ‘V, for Victory in Europe’ in Morse code.

**Weather**

**Best Time To Visit**

New York is an excellent place to visit at any time of year, although it is particularly pleasant during the spring and early autumn, when temperatures hover around 21ºC (70ºF). New York winters tend to be unpredictable, although cold temperatures bring less snow here than to other nearby cities, while summers are hot and muggy, often lasting until September. For cultural offerings (opera, theatre, symphony, ballet), the best time to visit is from September to May. Free outdoor concerts and festivals, however, make for a lively summer calendar.

**Data**

**Dialling Code**

212 / 917 / 718 / 646 / 347

**Population**

8400000

**Population Year**

2012