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NEW YORK CITY GUIDE

New York City Marathon

2nd November, 2014



NEW YORK CITY

Visit New York - and see the world! Nowhere else offers such diversity in such a compact and exciting way; and no other city has the energy and arrogance to make it work so well.

New York City is made up of the five boroughs of Queens, Brooklyn, Bronx, Staten Island and Manhattan. Within these boundaries live 7.2 million people, including significant populations of Spanish, Irish, Italian, Chinese, Russians and Jewish. It's an **eclectic** mix of the world's cultures and nationalities, and means that anything you could possibly want, in NY, "You got it!". You can eat anything at anytime, and while you sleep the city keeps on going, churning out the American dream.

Explore the city on foot and you will find that the highlights are all around you, compelling, addictive and in your face. Alternatively catch one of the famous yellow cabs down **Broadway** or jump aboard the subway trains that rattle their way through the city's many neighbourhoods - it's a unique place no matter what perspective you take on it.

The city has outstanding **museums**, cultural icons like the **Statue of Liberty**, and even a vast dose of parkland right in the middle of Manhattan. You've got the centre of American commerce, sitting alongside Greenwich Village's community of gentrified bohemia, and you can see Broadway and baseball all in one day. Like a truly great city, **The Big Apple** takes its contradictions and diversity and blends them into an exciting, spicy cocktail that will fire your imagination and bring you back for more.

And, if you're wondering about the origins of the city's famous sobriquet it actually comes from jazz musicians' slang for small towns: "little apples" or even "the sticks"; but New York was always the "Big Apple." The name has stuck and no other title encapsulates this amazing place quite so well.

NY awaits - come take a bite!

The Annex on 39th Street between 9th and 10th Avenue is a popular weekend antiques market that stocks furniture, toys, jewellery and other collectables. .

Malls and Department Stores

Some of New York's flagship department stores are practically malls in their own right. Over several floors these merchandising megaliths sell absolutely everything you could need.

On 6th Avenue and 33rd Street, the Manhattan Mall is New York's main shopping mall. This temple of commerce occupies nine floors and houses over 80 shops including Ann Taylor and The Limited.

The largest department store in the world, Macy's covers an entire block and occupies an incredible ten floors packed to the rafters with just about everything you could possibly want. Herald Square at 34th St and Broadway.



A firm favourite with New Yorkers, Bloomingdale's stocks everything from designer clothes to gourmet foods. 1000 3rd Ave at 59th St.

Saks Fifth Avenue specialises in luxury fashion for both men and women and is renowned for the quality of its service. The store has a slightly more upmarket feel than some of its competitors. 611 5th Ave at 49th St.

Outlet Centres

Woodbury Premium Outlets just one hour's drive north of New York is officially the world's largest collection of designer outlets. In over 220 stores you can find all the big names in global fashion, including Chanel, Ralph Lauren, Gucci, Prada and Christian Dior.



Souvenirs of the Big Apple are widespread, although a lot of people plump for a Yankees hat (the red one rather than the traditional blue has become more popular with kids recently), or Knicks vest. A miniature Statue of Liberty is perhaps the cheesiest of souvenirs but nevertheless proves enduringly popular with the tourist masses. The traditional "I Love NY" T-shirt is considered fashionably post-modern nowadays by some and worn with a laconic sense of irony, but beware the low quality cheap versions - hawked all over the city.

Best Areas

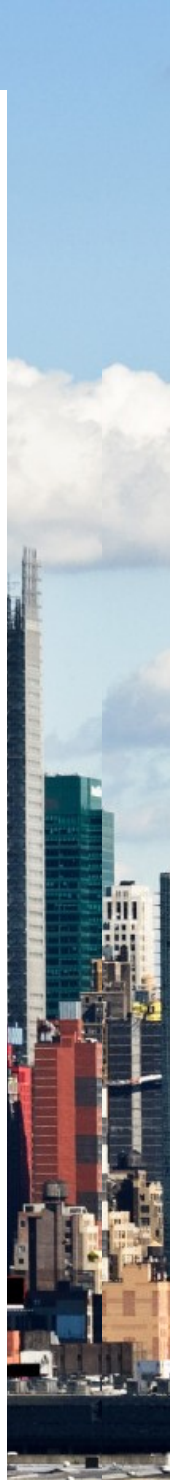


The best stretch of 5th Avenue is between 59th Street and 42nd Street where there is a dazzling selection of some of the world's most famous stores, including Bergdorf Goodman, Tiffanys and FAO Schwarz. Naturally you'll also

find the big national chains represented as well as some of the best known department stores on earth. If you do try elsewhere other than Fifth Ave, hip and trendy Soho is home to a variety of galleries and boutiques while nearby Greenwich Village offers a range of shoe stores, Indian import shops and bookstores. Head to the Upper East Side between 57th and 96th streets for exclusive designer clothes and antiques.

Markets

Green Markets are a beloved NYC institution that offer everything from fresh goat's cheese to organic bread, all courtesy of upstate farmers who bring their produce to the city to sell in the open-air markets. Sites include Union Square and Grand Army Plaza, Brooklyn.



MONEY

You can exchange your currency or traveller's checks in the numerous exchange offices or at many of the larger banks. As always, it's better to exchange money in large quantities so you get better rates. Most places will offer a convenient buy-back rate if you return your dollars before your departure.

Alternatively, just use the ATMs which are abundant in NYC. Even though there may be a fee for taking out money other than in your home country, the exchange fee will be much more favourable than at the exchange offices or the banks. In general, you will need cash for street vendors, some of the regular shops and for some taxis.



Tax Refunds

New York City sales tax is 8.875% for both goods and services and there are no official tax refunds for it. Tax is not applied to clothing or shoes under \$110. Some shops, such as Macy's or Bloomingdale's, might offer to give tax back if you sign up with them (and show your ID) before your shopping spree.



Prices you'd expect to pay

- Meal, inexpensive restaurant – \$10-20
- Meal for 2, mid-range restaurant, 3 courses – \$50-100
- Big Mac – \$3.95
- Bottle of water at supermarket – \$1 (0.33 liters)
- Domestic beer (0.5 liter, draught) – \$5
- Gasoline (1 liter) – \$1
- Hostels (average price/night) – \$50 – 80
- 4* hotel (average price/night) – \$100 – 300
- Car-hire (medium-sized car/day) – \$80 – 100



Tippling

Tippling is widely expected in New York, as tips count towards wages for people working in the service industry. Generally, you should tip waiters, cab drivers and hairdressers around 15–20%.

Other services, such as porters or bartenders, usually get one or two dollars for their services. However, if the service you received was awful, leave just a few small coins.

Tips are left on the table when paying with cash or they can be added to the total when paying with card. Some restaurants also have tip jars near the counter.

SHOPPING

Shopping in New York can often be a case of not being able to see the wood for the trees. In the centre stores are breathtakingly huge and intimidate the timid shopper. People also get sick of the crowds and think they are better served by heading off the main drags. Being honest it is a mistake to do so unless you know the city's secrets - stores on Fifth Ave are generally bigger and more crowded because they're the best. Take a deep breath and a firm grip on your Goldcard and battle the crowds - it's worth it.



Anything and everything is available in New York, this is the biggest city in the land of plenty and the source of all manner of goods. New York is the highstreet fashion capital of the world and certainly European visitors will find that everything here is slightly cheaper than back home.

International clothing labels such as Nike and Hilfiger are widely available at low prices. The biggest savings are often made on trainers and sports footwear, look out for names such as Converse, Nike (again), Vans, Airwalk and any other of the major sports brands - prices are up to fifty per cent lower than those across "The Pond".

Americans also love their consumer goods and everything has that distinctive American over-sized look and feel. Check out the discount stores on 7th Avenue around Times Square for cheap electrical goods, toasters, kettles, waffle irons and the like. They make excellent souvenirs. Meanwhile for off-the-wall household goods and furniture try the East Village, where the trendies do their shopping.

Y Brooklyn Bridge



When completed in 1883, the Brooklyn Bridge was hailed the 8th Wonder of the World. Although that might be a slight exaggeration, it was certainly an engineering wonder of its time. Today it is

the oldest passenger bridge in the city, and still carries more than 100,000 vehicles a day.

With its distinctive brick pillars that support the thick suspension cables, over the years the bridge has become almost as recognisable a symbol of the city as the Statue of Liberty, and has appeared in countless movies.

More practically the bridge offers the tourist great views of the city from its mile-long wooden promenade stretching over the East River. To get to the bridge take subway 4, 5 or 6 to Brooklyn Bridge or City Hall stops.

Z East River Park



A beautiful long promenade lined with beautiful nature and offering fabulous views of the Brooklyn Bridge. Also a popular place for sports.

Tourist Information

New York City Official Visitor Information Centre
810 7th Avenue (btw 52nd & 53rd St)

Tel: +1 212 484 1200

Opening Hours: Mon-Fri 8:30am-6:00pm
Sat-Sun 9:00am-5:00pm

COMMUNICATION

Languages

As expected, the major language in New York City is American English. However, the city's diversity makes it so that you can encounter more than 70 languages here, some of the most frequent common being Spanish, Chinese, Russian, Arabic or French. You could even encounter whole neighbourhoods where only one of these languages is spoken. However, it will be very hard to get by without a basic grasp of the English language.



Mobile Phones

There are many providers in the United States; only two of the most popular, AT&T and T-Mobile, use the GSM standard which is compatible with most of the phones from Europe (but to be on the safe side, check with your provider). The others, such as Verizon or Virgin Mobile, use the CDMA standard which might not work with your mobile phone if you are coming from outside of the USA. If you'd like to stay in touch while visiting New York, you might consider renting a phone at the airport or getting yourself a local SIM card for much better rates, since roaming is expensive here.

The international access code for the USA is +1, the area codes for New York City are 212, 347, 646, 718, 917 and 929.



Internet

New York City is well connected and chances are you will be able to use the internet almost anywhere. Most hotels and hostels offer their own Wi-Fi connection (although you should always double-check on their website), either free or paid.

There are dozens of internet

cafés scattered around the city and regular cafés and restaurants often offer their own Wi-Fi connection, too.

Alternatively, you can use the options provided by the city council. The New York Public Library provides free internet connection; you can either use their computers or bring your own laptop. Moreover, parts of the city are covered by public Wi-Fi – namely certain parts of Bronx, East Harlem, Lower Manhattan and the Brooklyn Bridge Park.

- More information on the public Wi-Fi hotspots (www.nycgo.com)
- A list of the hotspots (nycwireless.net)

Internet Resources

- New York City's official tourist website (www.nycgo.com)
- Events in New York City (eventful.com)

V Central Park



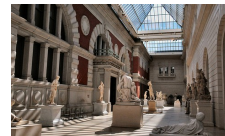
For a bit of peace and quiet head to Central Park, this spans two and a half miles in the heart of Manhattan.

The first urban landscaped park in America, Central Park was established in the 1850s and even then cost the

city over USD10 million. Entertainment on offer in the park's expanse ranges from numerous **restaurants** and playgrounds to the **Metropolitan Museum of Art** and the **Central Park Zoo**. One of the best ways to explore the park is by renting a bicycle or, a more romantic option, hiring a horse and carriage from one of the operators along Central Park South between 5th and 6th Ave.

The park had a reputation for being dangerous during the 1980s but a vigorous clean-up campaign means it is once again a safe and peaceful haven in the centre of the city.

W Metropolitan Museum of Art



One of the largest art museums in the world. Features countless collections of different artworks. A must-see for art lovers.

X Guggenheim Museum



Significant as much for its **ground breaking architecture** as it is for its **art collection**, the Guggenheim was designed by Frank Lloyd Wright in 1959. Visitors take the elevator to the top and then walk down spiralling gallery corridors past Impressionist, post-Impressionist, and Modern paintings as well as sculptures by the likes of Kandinsky, Picasso and Gauguin.

R Rockefeller Center



One of New York's iconic skyscrapers. Take the tour and definitely check out the observation deck. A must-visit.

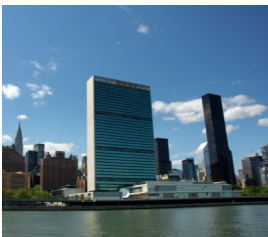
45 Rockefeller Plaza, Manhattan, NY 10020, USA

S Chrysler Building



The Art Deco skyscraper is one of New York's landmarks and an architectural jewel. Unfortunately closed to visitors, but still worth a stop-by.

T United Nations Headquarters



An intriguing experience – the complex can be toured with a guide. The tour dates are subject to change and not always available. You need to purchase the tour ticket online in advance and arrive 30-45 minutes early to undergo security check.

U Strawberry Fields



A touching memorial to John Lennon and his work and a gathering place for the fans. Peaceful and perfect for thinking.

TRANSPORTATION

Public Transportation

New York City is well-connected to the outside world. There are three airports near it in total; all connected by bus and subway lines. Train lines that go all over the USA, even to the west coast, leave from New York Penn Station. The city is also well-connected by buses and even the ferry.

If you want to travel by the subway, you will need tickets. You can pay bus rides with cash. They are sold at subway stations (both vending machines and MTA employees), online or at many grocery stores. A single ticket costs \$2.50 no matter the distance you travel or number of transfers but must be used within two hours of purchase. The pre-paid alternative to tickets is called the **Metro-Card**. You can either charge it with money to use for separate rides, or you can buy a pre-paid one. A 7-day card costs \$29.

Subway

The easiest way of getting around NYC. It operates 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The stations are generally around eight blocks apart. Remember that the express trains skip some stations. On weekends and at night some trains may not operate and there might be construction work going on.

Bus

Worth using where there is not a subway station nearby or as a good way of making cross-city journeys. Bus drivers accept cash, but only the exact change. The bus lines are marked by the starting letter of the borough where they mostly stop (M for Manhattan). Some of the limited-stop buses do not stop at all stops. Many of the buses also run through the night – these can stop for you anywhere you ask, as long as it's safe.

Ferry

A good way of getting from A to B, but also great for sightseeing. The one that will interest you most is probably the Staten Island Ferry, since it is the only way of getting to the Statue of Liberty. It is completely free and runs every 15 minutes during rush hours. Aside from that, there are also connections to New Jersey and Brooklyn run by several different companies (New York Water Taxi, NY Waterway and the East River Ferry).

- Official website of the subway and bus lines (www.mta.info)
- Schedules of the lines (www.mta.info)
- Official website of the Staten Island ferry (www.siferry.com)

Taxis

There are two types of cabs serving NYC. The well-known yellow cabs can be hailed down on the street when they are on duty (indicated by the rooftop light being on). There is a small extra charge for night and rush hour trips and you have to pay the toll on some bridges and highways. Remember that you should tip the taxi driver 10-20% of the price. All taxis accept cash and most of them also accept cards. The second type is the livery cabs; they operate mostly in the suburbs. These are flat rate cabs and can only be officially called by phone; however this rule is not enforced so strictly in some areas of Manhattan. As always, watch out for taxi scams and unlicensed vehicles.

- YellowCabNYC (www.yellowcabnyc.com)
- NYC taxi service (www.nyc.gov)



On the main drag you'll find big name **musicals** and high quality revivals of the **classics**. For the most popular shows prices can be astronomical but bargains can often be found for shows that have been around a while. There is also always a host of experimental, eclectic productions often termed "off-Broadway" or even "off-off-Broadway"

P Carnegie Hall



This world-wide known venue is a must-see for fans of music. Book a ticket for one of the performances or visit the inside tour.

Q Times Square



"**The Crossroads of the World**" lies at the heart of Manhattan and is a magnet for both business and tourism. The original square is located just off Broadway at 43rd Street, but "Times Square" generally refers to several blocks on either side of here.

The square itself is most famed for its huge neon advertising boards that cast lurid reflections on the windows of the surrounding buildings. In truth there isn't a great deal else to do here other than tick it off on your sightseeing list, the square isn't home to a great deal of interest. Recent years have seen an attempt by the authorities to improve the area's image and, although a certain scruffiness still remains, the regenerated Times Square is a lot better than it used to be, and serves as a convenient starting point for an exploration of Broadway and the theatre district. Of course, that said, once a year the square is truly at the heart of things as it is the centre for the entire nation's **New Year celebrations**. 42nd St, at 7th Ave and Broadway.

L Empire State Building



Built in 1931, this Art Deco landmark reaches 1,454 feet into the sky and affords fantastic views right across Manhattan from the observatory on the 86th floor. Weather allowing, there is even an open-air platform. A further attraction in the building is the New York Skyride, a helicopter flight simulator that makes you feel as if you are flying over the city. 5th Ave between 33rd and 34th St.

M Flatiron Building



This famous landmark gave name to the whole neighbourhood. You can best admire it from the Madison Square park nearby.

175 Fifth Avenue, New York City, NY, USA

N Metropolitan Opera House



New York's main opera house – a world class venue. The shows are simply fantastic and so is the opera house itself.

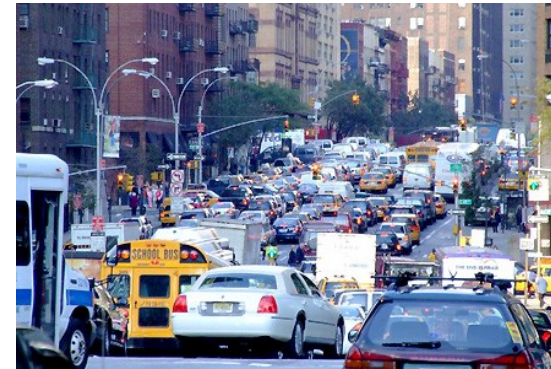
O Broadway



New York's **theatre scene** is one of the most lively and diverse in the world, and Broadway is where it all happens. Most of the big theatres lie east and west of Broadway between 41st and 53rd Streets although the surrounding area has an artistic buzz with many smaller venues being squirreled away on side streets.

Driving

- Speed limits in cities – 48 km/h (30 mph)
- Outside the cities – 88 km/h (55 mph)
- Interstates – 105 km/h (65 mph)
- Blood alcohol limit – 0.08 BAC
- Always wear a seatbelt in the front seat. Passengers
- under 16 yrs. must wear a seatbelt
- even in the backseat. Children under the age
- of 8 must use a booster seat.
- Talking or texting on the cell phone while driving
- is illegal – use a hands-free kit.
- Drive on the right.
- Be aware of the fact that you can't turn right at
- a red light.
- Do not park next to a hydrant or on the crosswalks.
- Try to avoid honking the horn.



Driving is generally not recommended in NYC, especially if you're planning to hang around Manhattan. Public transport covers the city quite well, so unless you plan on venturing further afield, you won't need to drive your own car. If you do drive, make sure to have a good map with you. Remember that you have to pay tolls for bridges; also try to search around for the best parking deals in your location.

Walkability

New York City is very walkable; in fact, using your own two feet is a preferred mode of transport for scaling shorter distances. This way, you can also soak up the atmosphere of the city and perhaps discover some sights on your own.



You do need to be careful when crossing the road – many New Yorkers jaywalk but this does not mean you should do so. Make sure you really do have the time to make it to the other side and always look both directions before stepping into the road. Your best choice would be to wait for a green pedestrian light at a crosswalk.



Biking could prove a bit difficult, as NYC can be a true concrete jungle, but as long as you have enough urban riding experience, it can be an efficient way of getting around. There are also many cycling routes for you to use if you decide to rent a bike. One day of bike rental costs about \$45.

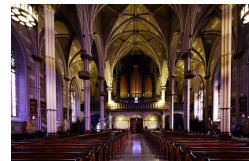
H Chinatown



Labyrinthine and **fascinating**, and home to over 100,000 residents who make up New York's most thriving ethnic neighbourhood, Chinatown is a fascinating collection of shops, dim sum joints and clothing factories. It is a real **city within a city**, to such an

extent that seven Chinese newspapers are published here every day. Venture in and you're transported round the globe to Asia more effectively than in any Disney Theme Park. Situated in Lower Manhattan, major streets where to best experience this vibrant culture include Pell, Canal and Mott.

I St Patrick's Old Cathedral



A majestic Catholic cathedral – just like the ones in Europe. The interior is simply stunning, but often crowded because of the tourists.

J Madison Square Garden



One of the world's most famous venues. Come here for all kinds of thrilling events that you can enjoy in the unique atmosphere.

K Macy's



New York's iconic department store, which once was the largest in the world. Notice the architecture of the building, too.

151 West 34th Street, New York, NY 10001, USA

E Wall Street



Wall Street, in lower Manhattan, is famed the world over as one of the most important financial centres on the planet. Billions of dollars of trade pass through the New York Stock Exchange here every day.

Wall Street was actually where the original settlers founded a fortified stockade, which perhaps explains why it became then, as in a rather more sophisticated way now, the depository for the city's monetary wealth. Perhaps the greatest deal ever struck here dates back to those times, when in 1621 the local tribes sold Manhattan to the settlers for USD24.

Now the **world's largest** securities marketplace, the Wall Street Stock Exchange is open to the public, featuring a small exhibition called the 'Wall Street Story' and a spectators gallery that over looks the crowded trading floors.

F Battery Park



One of New York's public parks. A great chance to relax, enjoy the atmosphere and meet the resident turkey.

G Chelsea Market



A heaven for foodies. This huge complex holds both restaurants and great food shops – ideal for your NY food needs.

75 9th Avenue, New York, NY

SAFETY

New York City has kind of a bad reputation, but is actually the safest large city in the States. The police are present at most places tourists usually venture to and can give you directions, so don't be afraid to ask. In general, you should always be aware of your location. Some of the districts in Bronx, Brooklyn and Queens might be shady, but you can always inform yourself about the safety of particular neighbourhoods on the number 311.

When walking around after dark, stick to the main streets. When riding the subway in the late night hours, you might want to keep close to the conductor's car.

As in other cities, you will want to avoid scams. Only use licensed taxis (especially when leaving the airport) and businesses. Look out for the street vendors selling knockoffs. If anyone is bothering you, you can either completely ignore them or just say a firm "no", which deters even the most persistent. New York, as any other large city, unfortunately has its share of pickpockets. Keep an eye on your personal belongings and don't let lose sight of your bag or purse. Use the hotel safe to store valuables in.

When visiting some famous buildings, you could come across airport-style security. They will check your bags and you will have to walk through a metal detector, but these checks are generally quick.

The tap water in New York City is safe to drink.



Dos and do nots

- DO use the subway as your main means of transport.
- DO search for your hotel elsewhere than on Manhattan.
- DO remember how to hail the taxi.
- DO try to explore on your own at least for a bit.
- DO NOT buy any of the knockoffs offered by street vendors.
- DO NOT give away that you are a tourist easily.
- DO NOT spend all your time on the most famous sights (or more accurately, in the queues for them).
- DO NOT expect that the taxi drivers know every street by heart – navigate them by intersection names.

B Ellis Island



Ellis Island in New York harbour makes a great day trip. The gateway for more than 12 million people who migrated to the USA between 1892 and 1954, Ellis Island is now managed by the

National Park Service and hosts a **museum, wall of honour** and interactive learning centre. It gives a fascinating and poignant insight into the plight of the **immigrants** who fled poverty in their homelands in order to pursue the American Dream.

C World Financial Center



Interesting and beautiful buildings with many lovely things to do inside.

Shops, restaurants, winter garden and water esplanade.

D 9/11 Memorial



A moving memorial of the tragic 9/11 incident. The beautiful park with ponds is definitely worth a visit. Book in advance.

One Liberty Plaza, 20th Floor, New York, NY 10006, USA

A Statue of Liberty



A landmark not just of New York but of the entire USA, the massive statue of "Liberty Enlightening the World" can be viewed for free from Battery Park or up close on a trip to **Liberty Island**. The pedestal

contains a museum containing various artefacts and information on the history of the statue.

The statue was re-opened to visitors in August 2004 after having been closed for almost three years in the wake of the September 11 attack. At the time of writing it is only possible to climb up as far as the observation deck at the base of the statue's feet, though when fully open it is possible to climb to the crown, equivalent to 22 storeys up.

Originally a gift from France in 1886, the statue symbolised the **freedom and opportunity** offered by the USA to new arrivals, who used to arrive in the shadow of the statue at nearby Ellis Island. It is still an awe-inspiring experience to stand at its foot and imagine what the prospective Americans used to feel when the statue hove into view after weeks at sea crossing the Atlantic.

As a quick and cheap alternative to doing a full tour of the statue, the Staten Island ferry sails past Liberty Island affording excellent close-up views without the need to queue for hours.

Circle Line Ferries for Liberty Island leave regularly from the pier in Battery Park or Liberty Park in New Jersey.

HOLIDAYS

- January 1 – New Year's Day
- Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day – third Monday in January
- February 12 – Lincoln's Birthday
- Washington's Birthday – third Monday in February
- Memorial Day – last Monday in May
- July 4 – Independence Day
- Labor Day – first Monday in September
- October 8 – Columbus Day
- Election Day
- November 11 – Veterans' Day
- Thanksgiving Day – fourth Thursday in November
- December 25 – Christmas Day

If a public holiday falls on a Sunday, it is observed on the following Monday.



EVENTS DURING THE YEAR

January

- Jewish Film Festival (www.thejewishmuseum.org)
- Three Kings' Day Parade and Celebration – a huge celebration loved especially by children
- Winter Antiques Show (www.winterantiquesshow.com)
- Lunar New Year Parade & Festival and the celebrations of Chinese New Year

February

- New York International Children's Film Festival (www.gkids.com)

March

- St. Patrick's Day Parade (nycstpatricksparade.org) – one of the most famous events of the year in NYC
- Armory Show (www.thearmoryshow.com) – devoted to contemporary art
- Macy's Flower Show – welcomes the spring with flowers and gardens environments on Herald Square
- Sing Into Spring Festival (www.jalc.org) – a jazz festival

April

- Tribeca Film Festival (www.tribecafilm.com)
- New York International Auto Show (www.autoshowny.com) – the newest cars are showcased here
- Easter Parade and Easter Bonnet Festival

May

- Cherry Blossom Festival at the Brooklyn Botanic Garden
- Ninth Avenue Food Festival – exotic cuisine from all around the world
- Fleet Week – celebrations related to the US Marine Corps



Must See Things in Manhattan A-Z

A	Statue of Liberty	N	Metropolitan Opera House
B	Ellis Island	O	Broadway
C	World Financial Center	P	Carnegie Hall
D	9/11 Memorial	Q	Times Square
E	Wall Street	R	Rockefeller Center
F	Battery Park	S	Chrysler Building
G	Chelsea Market	T	United Nations Headquarters
H	Chinatown	U	Strawberry Fields
I	St Patrick's Old Cathedral	V	Central Park
J	Madison Square Garden	W	Metropolitan Museum of Art
K	Macy's	X	Guggenheim Museum
L	Empire State Building	Y	Brooklyn Bridge
M	Flatiron Building	Z	East River Park

MUST SEE THINGS IN MANHATTAN A - Z

SIGHTSEEING

The most populous city in the USA, New York offers a huge variety of sights and attractions. The frenetic pace of life may not be to everyone's taste but with countless restaurants, shops and museums the city rates as one of the most exciting destinations in the world. Check out our selection of New York's attractions drawn from literally hundreds in the "city that never sleeps".



If you're planning on seeing a lot of New York's cultural attractions during your stay it might be worth considering purchasing a **'City Pass'** or a **'New York Pass'**. Its advisable to take a look before you travel to ensure you get the right pass for your needs. The passes gain reduced entrance to many of the city's top attractions, including: the Guggenheim Museum, the American Museum of Natural History,

Circle Line sightseeing harbour cruise, Empire State Building and Sky Ride, Intrepid Sea Air Space Museum and the Museum of Modern Art.

June

- Museum Mile Festival (museummilefestival.org) – free admission to the finest museums
- Pride Week (www.nycpride.org) – devoted to NYC's LGBTQ community
- Puerto Rican Day Parade (www.nationalpuertoricandayparade.org)

July

- Macy's Fourth of July Fireworks
- MoMA PS1 Warm Up (momaps1.org) – a multimedia experience held by the famous museum
- Harlem Week (harlemweek.com)

August

- New York International Fringe Festival (www.fringenyc.org) – stage performers from all around the world perform in NYC
- Summer Streets – Manhattan closes to traffic from 7 AM to 1 PM each day, making the streets completely walkable

September

- New York Film Festival (filmlinc.com)
- Feast of San Gennaro (sangennaro.org) – celebrations of patron saint of Naples in Little Italy
- Richmond County Fair (historicrichmondtown.org)
- Atlantic Antic (www.atlanticave.org) – street fair famous for its food, crafts and shows
- Commemorating September 11th (www.911memorial.org)
- Fashion's Night Out – shops hold specialevents and sales for one night only

October

- Village Halloween Parade (halloween-nyc.com)
- Openhousenewyork Weekend (ohny.org) –free tours of famous NYC buildings

- CMJ Music Marathon and Film Festival (www.cmj.com)
- Columbus Day Parade (www.columbuscitizensfd.org)

November

- Rockefeller Center Tree Lighting
- Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade
- Radio City Christmas Spectacular (www.radiocitychristmas.com)
- New York Chocolate Show (www.chocolateshow.com)
- New York Comedy Festival (www.nycomedyfestival.com) – the big named of stand-up comedy perform here

December

- Times Square New Year's Eve
- Holiday shopping
- Lighting of the World's Largest Hanukkah Menorah



OPENING HOURS

Shops are generally open from 10 AM to 6 PM Monday to Saturday, while department stores might stay open until 10 PM. However, many businesses stay open later than that or don't close at all. On Sundays, shops open around noon and close around 6 PM. Banks are open from 9 AM to 3 PM, post offices stay open until 5 PM. The general post office is open 24 hours a day. Businesses generally close on the major holidays.

Museums and other sights are generally open from 10 AM to around 6 PM, remaining open longer on some days, while on Mondays, most of them are closed altogether. The museums are also closed on some holidays – Thanksgiving, Christmas Day and New Year's Day. However, they may have differing conditions, so always check the museum website before you plan your trip.

Free Things To Do

- Look out for the days when museums have free admissions.
- Visit some of the architectural wonders of the city – Chrysler Building, Rockefeller Center, Grand Central Terminal or Empire State Building.
- Walk around 5th Avenue and do some window shopping.
- Stroll round at the Brooklyn Botanic Garden and the iconic Central Park.
- Visit the Ellis Island National Monument and the immigration centre there.
- Walk across the Brooklyn Bridge.
- Explore Battery Park and its stunning views of the bay.
- Discover New York's unique neighbourhoods.
- Ride the Staten Island Ferry for a free scenic tour around the bay.