NEW YORK CITY GUIDE



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Emergency: 911

Essential Information

The fifth largest city in the world is also one of the most-loved by tourists. The Big Apple is definitely an American icon and a center of culture, fashion and trade. The stunning skyline – one of the most recognizable – also helps its popularity. There are literally thousands of sights in New York, but seeing at least one of the most famous, like the Statue of Liberty or the Empire State Building is a must for any visitor, even if they don't like meeting fellow tourists.

New York City features a full portfolio of attractions. If you're looking for culture, head to the Metropolitan Museum of Art or visit the world-famous Madison Square Garden. Those who like to spend the day outside can visit Central Park and its many hidden sights. History lovers can visit the 17th century Trinity Church and those interested in finances, the New York Stock Exchange.

The best advice is – dive in and don't look back. New York is a thrilling city that will give you the experience of a lifetime.

Time Zone

EST (-4), observes DST.

Contacts

Tourist Contacts

- Non-emergency information: 311 or 212-NEW-YORK (639-9675) - Multilingual visitor information counselors: 212-484-1222

You can exchange your currency or traveler'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 favorable 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 Blooming-dale's, might offer to give tax back if you sign up with them (and show your ID) before your shopping spree.

Prices

- Meal, inexpensive restaurant \$10-20
- Meal for 2, mid-range restaurant, three-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

Tipping

Tipping 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.

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Electricity

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 neighborhoods 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.

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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)

- 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.

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.

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). The minimum fare is \$2.50 and you pay \$0.40 for every of a mile you travel. 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) , +1 800-619-4419
- More information on the NYC taxi service (www.nyc.gov)

Driving

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- 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.

 One of the sites where you can search for free parking spots (nyc.bestparking.com)

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.

FOOD

- NYC bagels made from sweet, boiled dough
- NYC pizza the local variety of the Italian meal
- NYC cheesecakes
- NYC cupcakes
- Make sure you visit the street delis where you can find authentic local specialties.
- Since New York is a melting pot, you can also try most of the world's cuisines here.

The same applies to drinks. Chances are you can get almost any drink you desire here if you can find a bar or other establishment with the theme you seek. All sorts of cocktails seem to be popular with the locals and most of the cocktail bars have probably invented their own mixes. You can also get great deals on all sorts of beers around the city.

Legal Age

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

- 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

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.nationalpuertoricar 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.911memo
- Fashion's Night Out shops hold special events 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.
- 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

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 center there.
- Walk across the Brooklyn Bridge.
- Explore Battery Park and its stunning views of the bay.
- Discover New York's unique neighborhoods.
- Ride the Staten Island Ferry for a free scenic tour around the bay.

Shopping

New York City is one of the meccas for shopaholics. With shops such as Macy's and the iconic 5th Avenue just around the corner, there are really plenty of things to see and buy here. As for souvenirs, there is also plenty of choices. NYC is famous for its art and galleries and buying a unique piece for your home might be a good way of remembering the city. A new dress from one of the boutiques might be the perfect gift. Or, if you run out of ideas, you can always buy something with the iconic I <3 NY logo from one of the souvenir shops or get a Starbucks mug with the city skyline at one of the franchise establishments.

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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.

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 neighborhoods 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.



Trip planning you'll love



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www.tripomatic.com/iphone





Times Square

One of the best known squares in the world. Constantly bustling with life and a great spot for photos. A must-see.

GPS: N40.75773, W73.98571



Rockefeller Center

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

Rockeffeler Plaza, Manhattan, NY 10020, USA GPS: N40.75888, W73.97934

Phone:

+1 212 632 3975

Opening hours:

Daily 8 a.m. - 12 a.m.

Admission:

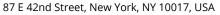
Tour for \$15.00

Observation deck from \$25.00



Grand Central Terminal

A stunning architectural sight of the Beaux-Arts era. Many things to see and there is a free tour available.



GPS: N40.75254, W73.97730

Opening hours:

Mon - Sun: 5:30 a.m. - 2 a.m.

Admission:

Free.



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.

GPS: N40.75170, W73.97530



New York Public Library

USA's largest public library. You can take the tour or enjoy the changing temporary exhibits – most of them on very intriguing topics.

Fifth Avenue at 42nd Street, New York, NY 10018-2788, USA GPS: N40.75316, W73.98227

Phone:

+1 917 275 6975

Opening hours:

Mon – Sun: 10 a.m. – 6 p.m. Tue, Wed closing time: 8 p.m.



Radio City Music Hall

Millions of people have come to this venue to enjoy stage shows, movies, concerts and special events. This really is the Showplace of the Nation!

1260 Avenue of the Americas, New York, New York 10020, USA GPS: N40.76022. W73.97987

Opening hours:

Mon - Sun: 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Admission: Adults: \$19.95

Seniors & Children: \$15



E







Bryant Park

A wonderful natural haven in the heart of Manhattan. The perfect outing spot for a sunny afternoon, with plenty of things to do here.



42nd Street at 6th Avenue, New York, NY 10018, USA GPS: N40.75377, W73.98360

Phone:

+1 212 768 4242

Opening hours:

Sun – Thu: 7 a.m. – 11 p.m. Fri – Sat: 7 a.m. – Midnight





Empire State Building

One of New York's trademark sights. Climb to the top and see the stunning skyline – be it day or night. Book in advance.



350 Fifth Ave, Suite 300, New York, NY 10118, USA GPS: N40.74836, W73.98564

Phone:

+1 212 736 3100

Opening hours:

For the whole year, from 8 a.m. - 2 a.m.

Admission:

Tickets start at \$23 (top deck \$40).

If you buy online, you can go straight to the observation deck.

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Macy's

New York's iconic department store. Get anything you ever wanted here. Great selection and service.



151 West 34th Street, New York, NY 10001, USA GPS: N40.75048, W73.98854

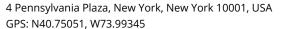
Phone:

+1 212 695 4400



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.



Phone:

+1 212 465 6741

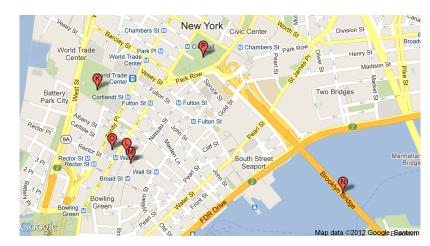
Opening hours:

Box office hours:

Mon - Fri: 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Sat: 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Sun: Closed



ACTIVITIES



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 GPS: N40.71100. W74.01310

Phone:

+1 212 266 5211

Opening hours:

Every day: 10:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Admission:

Visitor passes are free, but must be reserved in advance.

Special security measures apply (e.g. no baggage larger than 8"x17"x19" is permitted).



New York Stock Exchange

One of the symbols of New York, and possibly the world economy. Worth a visit for the architecture and its iconic status.



GPS: N40.70769, W74.01111

Phone:

+1 866 873 7422

Opening hours:

Closed to the public.



Wall Street

Despite its importance in global world, it is just another street. Lots of little shops and great places to eat around. Do not miss the famous bull!



GPS: N40.70724, W74.01085



Brooklyn Bridge

The iconic suspension bridge is an absolute must-see. Walk its length and take in the New York skyline.



GPS: N40.70569, W73.99639

Opening hours:

Sun – Fri: 11 p.m. – 6 a.m. Sat: 12:01 a.m. – 7 a.m.

Sun: 12:01 - 9 a.m.



Trinity Church

A majestic 17th century church and a beautiful piece of history in New York's streets. Many famous people were buried here.



74 Trinity Place, New York, NY 10006, USA GPS: N40.70794. W74.01210

Phone:

+1 212 602 0800

Opening hours:

Weekdays: 7 a.m. - 6 p.m.

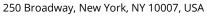
Sat: 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Sun: 7 a.m. - 4 p.m.



New York City Hall

The seat of New York's government and a fine piece of architecture. Definitely worth a visit and the subway station is right underneath.



GPS: N40.71270, W74.00590





T



Statue of Liberty

This is New York in one sight. The iconic, majestic statue is an absolute must-see while visiting the city.



R

GPS: N40.68917, W74.04444

Phone:

+1 212 363 3200

Opening hours:

Ferries from mainland operate from 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. During summer the last ferry depart at 5:00 p.m.

Admission:

Ferry for adults from \$13.00



Ellis Island

Used to be one of the busiest immigration islands and the so-called "gateway to America". Nowadays, it holds a museum.



Opening hours:

Mon - Sun: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.



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5th Avenue

Perhaps the most iconic avenue in the world. Browse the super-expensive shops and breathe in the atmosphere of the Big Apple.

GPS: N40.77247, W73.96702



Central Park

One of New York's famous sights and a tranquil haven in the heart of Manhattan. Plenty of things to do and see here.

GPS: N40.77822, W73.96983

Phone:

+1 212 310 6600

Opening hours:

Open for the whole year, closed only five hours each day: in the early morning from 1 a.m. - 6 a.m.



Strawberry Fields

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

GPS: N40.77528, W73.97472



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.

1000 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10028, USA

GPS: N40.77915, W73.96273

Phone:

+1 212 535 7710

Opening hours:

Sun, Tue, Wed, Thu: 9:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Fri - Sat: 9:30 a.m. - 9 p.m.

Admission:

Adults: \$25 Seniors: \$17 Students: \$12







American Museum of Natural History



This huge museum has everything from dinosaurs to its own planetarium. Holds interactive exhibits and an IMAX cinema.

200 Central Park West (at 79th Street), New York, NY 10024, USA GPS: N40.78126, W73.97408

Phone:

+1 212 769 5100

Opening hours:

Mon – Sun: 10 a.m. – 5:45 p.m.

Admission: Adults: \$19 Children: \$10.50

Seniors & Students: \$14.50





Chinatown



One of New York's famous neighbourhoods. The atmosphere here is really something – same as the deals you can get in the marketplaces.

GPS: N40.71833, W74.00250



Little Italy



One of New York's famous neighbourhoods, unfortunately almost gone from the map. Enjoy the atmosphere while it lasts!

GPS: N40.71914, W73.99733





Battery Park



Z

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

GPS: N40.70372, W74.01609

