



Destination Guide: New York



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AAA Destination Guide: Official AAA maps, travel information and top picks

AAA Destination Guide: New York includes trip-planning information covering AAA recommended attractions and restaurants, exclusive member discounts, maps and more.

When visiting New York City, it's just not enough to see what's right in front of you. Look up at the magnificent skyscrapers, serving as cavernous monoliths holding all that pulsating energy within. Wander over to Times Square and be mesmerized by the blinking, flashing, glittering billboards as they command your eyes upward to take notice.

Look down from the heights of the Empire State Building to gain a true sense of how the Big Apple's slices meld together—gaze toward Lower Manhattan, home of colorful Little Italy, bustling Chinatown and funky SoHo; turn around and glance toward Upper Manhattan, where Harlem's 1920s musical renaissance electrified the country; and in the center of it all, glimpse the rectangular forest of Central Park, playground for all cultures.

Look at the city from the outside in by taking a sightseeing boat tour. Observe New Yorkers at labor and leisure milling about Chelsea Pier and South Street Seaport, and experience from afar the quiet majesty of Wall Street's stone-and-steel towers. Surround yourself with a panorama like no other as you cruise slowly past Ellis Island, with the glimmering Manhattan skyline as a backdrop, to receive the ultimate reward: an awesome, up-close encounter with Liberty Island's graceful statue of the Lady herself.



Essentials

Ride the elevator to the 102nd floor of the Empire State Building for a birds-eye view of the city. From the observation tower, you can see about 50 miles on a clear day.

Poke around in the eclectic shops and galleries of SoHo (south of Houston Street). While you're there, have lunch alfresco to people-watch or have a cup of java in a quaint coffeehouse.

Take in a show at the Broadway Theater District. If you're flexible, visit the Times Square TKS booth to save up to 50% on same-day performances.

Do the museum hop. With all the world-class choices—American Museum of Natural History, Metropolitan Museum of Art and The Museum of Modern Art (MoMA) to name a few—the city is bound to have a collection that suits your fancy.

Treat yourself to Dim Sum in Chinatown. Walk off your feast afterward by strolling through the narrow streets chock full of colorful shops displaying everything from Chinese lanterns and jade carvings to herbal remedies and tasty baked goods.

Stroll along Fifth Avenue between 49th and 58th streets to experience a true shopping mecca with the likes of Saks Fifth Avenue, Cartier, Tiffany's, FAO Schwarz and Rockefeller Center. Even if you're not a shopper, the window displays are delightful.


Explore the trendy boutiques and elegant Greek Revival townhouses tucked along tree-lined streets in Greenwich Village. Wander over to Washington Square, where performers frequently entertain in the area near Washington Arch.

Essentials Map



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Essentials Details - Get additional information on [AAA.com](#)

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1. Empire State Building

350 Fifth Ave
New York, NY 10118
Phone: (212) 736-3100



2. SoHo

New York, NY 10012
SoHo, an acronym for “south of Houston Street,” is 3 blocks south of Washington Square Park.

3. Broadway Theater District

Broadway & Seventh Ave
New York, NY 10019



4. Times Square

Broadway & Seventh Ave
New York, NY 10036
Phone: (212) 869-1890



5. American Museum of Natural History

Central Park West at 79th S.
New York, NY 10024
Phone: (212) 769-5100



6. Metropolitan Museum of Art

1000 Fifth Ave
New York, NY 10028
Phone: (212) 535-7710



7. The Museum of Modern Art (MoMA)

11 W. 53rd St
New York, NY 10019
Phone: (212) 708-9400



8. Rockefeller Center

30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, NY 10020
Phone: (212) 632-3975



9. Greenwich Village

38 Commerce St
New York, NY 10014

10. Washington Square

Fifth Ave & Washington Sq N
New York, NY 10003

11. Central Park

830 Fifth Ave
New York, NY 10021
Phone: (212) 310-6600



Do as New Yorkers do, and spend some quality daylight time in Central Park. Circle the lake on winding paths, explore Shakespeare Garden’s craggy hillside or climb the stairs to the top of Belvedere Castle for a scenic overlook.

Indulge in an Italian feast or sip a cappuccino at an outdoor café in Little Italy. Marvel at the assortment of cheeses, olives and fresh breads

offered in neighborhood groceries. For designer fashion finds, head to Nolita (“north of little Italy”).


Travel via ferry from Battery Park to the Statue of Liberty National Monument and Ellis Island. Lady Liberty graciously welcomes visitors to Liberty Island, while the same ferry ticket covers a stop at Ellis Island, site of the Immigration Museum.

Essentials Map



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Essentials Details - *Get additional information on [AAA.com](#)*

 - GEM Attraction offers a *Great Experience for Members*

12. Chinatown
New York, NY 10003



13. Little Italy
Grand St & Mulberry St
New York, NY 10013

14. Battery Park
26 Wall St
New York, NY 10005

15. Statue of Liberty National Monument and Ellis Island
New York, NY 10005
Phone: (877) 523-9849



New York in 3 Days

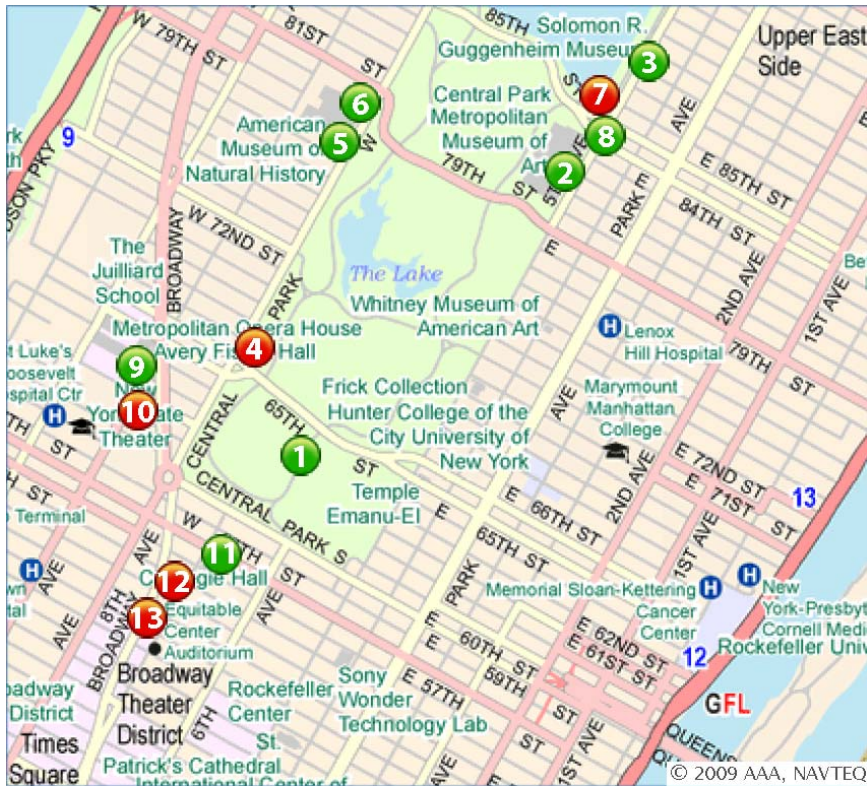
Three days is barely enough time to get to know any major destination. But AAA travel editors suggest these activities to make the most of your time in New York City.

Day 1: Morning

No visit to the Big Apple is complete without seeing Central Park, so Day 1 takes in this urban oasis along with the world-renowned museums bordering it. Get a jump-start on the crowds and arrive early at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, on the park’s east side at Fifth Avenue. (Pressed for time? You may not be able to explore the entire park, but at the very least, indulge yourself by visiting this stellar art museum.) Trying to navigate the Met’s collection of more than 2 million works can be a little overwhelming, so take a guided or audio tour to make sure you hit the highlights. At any rate, be sure to experience the American Wing’s enticing Charles Engelhard Court, the mystique of the Egyptian galleries and the European masterpieces created by Monet, Rembrandt, Renoir, van Gogh, Vermeer and others.

It may be a little aggressive to do two museums in one morning, but keep in mind that with so much to do in close proximity you can mix and match as you like, either choosing to spend hours in one museum or hopping from one location to the next. The Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, its striking circular design a stark contrast to the other stately museum facades, also is on the park’s east side opposite the Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis Reservoir. Ride the elevator upstairs, then meander down the spiral ramp past creations from such masters as Cezanne, Klee and Picasso. When you’re at the base, look up to see the museum’s stunning dome.

New York in 3 Days – Day 1 Map



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**Essentials Details - Get additional information on AAA.com
AAA Diamond Rating information available on AAA.com/Diamonds**

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- Exclusive AAA member discounts available

1. Central Park

830 Fifth Ave
New York, NY 10021
Phone: (212) 310-6600



2. Metropolitan Museum of Art

1000 Fifth Ave
New York, NY 10028
Phone: (212) 535-7710



3. Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum

1071 Fifth Ave
New York, NY 10029
Phone: (212) 423-3500



4. Tavern on the Green

CLOSED

5. American Museum of Natural History

Central Park West at 79th St
New York, NY 10024
Phone: (212) 769-5100



6. The American Museum of Natural History's Rose Center for Earth and Space

W 81st Street and Central Park West
New York, NY 10024
Phone: (212) 769-5100



7. Cafe Sabarsky

1048 5th Ave
New York, NY 10028
Phone: (212) 288-0665

8. Neue Galerie Museum for German and Austrian Art

1048 Fifth Ave
New York, NY 10028
Phone: (212) 628-6200

9. Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts

70 Lincoln Center Plaza
New York, NY 10023
Phone: (212) 875-5350



10. Rosa Mexicano

61 Columbus Ave
New York, NY 10023
Phone: (212) 977-7700

11. Carnegie Hall

881 Seventh Ave
New York, NY 10019
Phone: (212) 247-7800

12. Carnegie Delicatessen & Restaurant

854 7th Ave
New York, NY 10019
Phone: (212) 757-2245

13. Stage Deli

834 7th Ave
New York, NY 10019
Phone: (212) 245-7850

Afternoon

Cross to the west side of Central Park. It's lovely to stroll through this peaceful green space, where you'll encounter such points of interest as Shakespeare Garden, Belvedere Castle and the John Lennon-inspired Strawberry Fields. You can cover a lot of ground in the 843-acre park, so if you get tired, hail a cab—or better yet—a horse-drawn carriage to usher you about the premises.

Walk about a half-mile north along Central Park West to arrive at the [American Museum of Natural History](#). A fearsome dinosaur holds court in the rotunda, inspiring you to learn more about him and his relatives. If cosmic evolution captivates you, opt to spend the afternoon next door at [The American Museum of Natural History's Rose Center for Earth and Space](#), where you can take a virtual trip through the Milky Way.

Evening

At [Café Sabarsky](#), in the [Neue Galerie Museum for German and Austrian Art](#) bordering the park's east side, you can feast on such Viennese delights as goulash, spaetzle and to-die-for apple strudel; on Friday the museum is open until 9 p.m. so you can catch dinner and see the collection. Dozens of restaurants border the park's south end, so choices are plentiful and varied. If you're heading to an event at the [Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts](#), try [Rosa Mexicano](#), known for legendary guacamole and innovative margaritas. While New Yorkers celebrate [Carnegie Hall](#) for the perfect acoustics, they worship [Carnegie Delicatessen & Restaurant](#) for its stellar corned beef on rye—but bring a friend, because it usually takes two to conquer this mammoth sandwich. [Stage Deli](#) has similarly decadent fare along with a cheesecake too sinful to pass up.

Day 2: Morning

Whether or not you arrive in the Midtown area via [Grand Central Terminal](#), it's worth a trip just to see this architectural gem. In addition to serving thousands of commuters, the station boasts such design elements as gleaming marble floors, arched windows, the chandeliered Vanderbilt Hall and an astrological mural in addition to shops and restaurants (the counter at the [Oyster Bar](#) is a great casual lunch spot).

From this point on, you can walk, hop on the subway or take a cab between the various points of interest described here.

For an unsurpassed birds-eye view of New York, head to the Art Deco [Empire State Building](#) at the intersection of 5th Avenue and E. 34th Street. Do your best to arrive when the doors open at 8 a.m., as lines are long. (Hint: Save time by buying tickets in advance online at [www.esbny.com](#).) After riding the elevators to the 102nd floor, you'll discover that the wait was worth it—on a clear day you can see nearly 50 miles in all directions. Have fun gaining a perspective of how Manhattan is laid out and plotting your route from above.

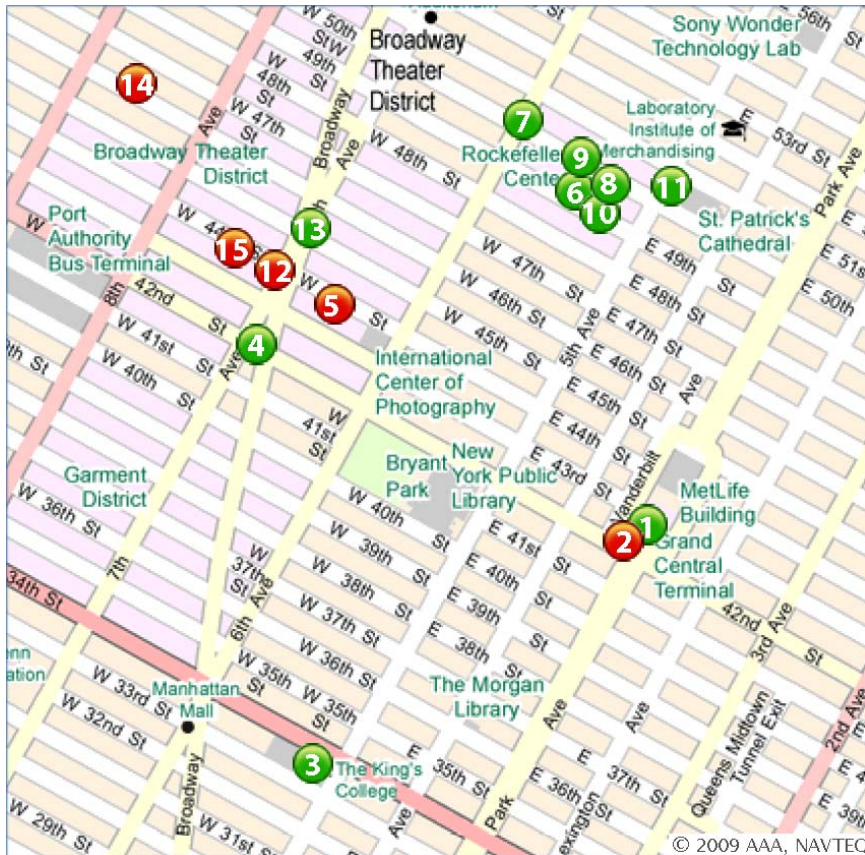
Afterward, travel about eight blocks northwest to the triangle of 7th Avenue, Broadway and 42nd Street. This is [Times Square](#), a real slice of New York life and home to Broadway theaters, MTV Studios, comedy clubs, street performers and souvenir shops galore. You'll be mesmerized by the energy and dazzled by blinking lights and flashing billboards—it's easy to see why this is the site of the annual [Times Square New Year's Eve Celebration and Ball Drop](#). Prime people-watching opportunities abound.

Afternoon

For lunch, stop at one of the pizza or sub shops bordering the square. [Virgil's Real Barbecue](#), just off the square, has down-home favorites like cheese grits, pulled pork, tender brisket and sweet potato pie. Now that you've refueled, venture east and take a left onto Fifth Avenue, where you can fuss over the window displays of tony retailers. The power shopping truly begins on the leg of Fifth near your next stop, [Rockefeller Center](#), with the likes of Bergdorf Goodman, Henri Bendel, Saks and Tiffany's. You'll recognize the center (between 48th and 51st streets) by the giant golden statue of Prometheus—you can take the [Radio City Music Hall Stage Door Tour](#), the [NBC Studio Tours](#) or the [Rockefeller Center Tour](#), which ushers you past the spot where "Today" show fans congregate during broadcasts. If you feel like gazing rather than touring, the [Top of the Rock](#) offers awesome city views. At 5th Avenue and 50th Street, the Gothic-Revival style [St. Patrick's Cathedral](#), with its graceful spires, stands in harmony with Midtown's concrete-and-steel skyscrapers.

Wander inside the stoically beautiful structure to get a better look at the stained-glass rose window and to view the pipe organ and marble sculptures.

New York in 3 Days – Day 2 Map



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Evening

For a laid back experience that delivers good food and fun, you can't go wrong at [Carmine's](#). Waiters serve Southern Italian favorites family-style on heaping platters, yet the restaurant does not sacrifice quality for quantity.

Day 2 Details - [Get additional information on AAA.com](#)

AAA Diamond Rating information available on [AAA.com/Diamonds](#)



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- Exclusive AAA member discounts available

FYI – Provided as an information only service; has not yet been evaluated

1. Grand Central Terminal

42nd St. & Park Ave
New York, NY 10017
Phone: (212) 883-2420

2. Oyster Bar (FYI)

42nd St
New York, NY 10017
Phone: (212) 490-6650

3. Empire State Building

350 Fifth Ave
New York, NY 10118
Phone: (212) 736-3100



4. Times Square

Broadway & Seventh Ave
New York, NY 10036
Phone: (212) 869-1890



5. Virgil's Real Barbecue

152 W 44th St
New York, NY 10036
Phone: (212) 921-9494

6. Rockefeller Center

30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, NY 10020
Phone: (212) 632-3975



7. Radio City Music Hall Stage Door Tour

1260 Avenue of the Americas
New York, NY 10020
Phone: (212) 247-4777



8. NBC Studio Tours

30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, NY 10020
Phone: (212) 664-7174

9. Rockefeller Center Tour

30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, NY 10012
Phone: (212) 664-3700

10. Top of the Rock

30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, NY 10112
Phone: (212) 698-2000



11. St. Patrick's Cathedral

14 E 51st St
New York, NY 10022
Phone: (212) 753-2261



12. Carmine's

200 W 44th St
New York, NY 10036
Phone: (212) 221-3800

13. Broadway Theater District

Broadway & Seventh Ave
New York, NY 10019



14. Becco

355 W 46th St
New York, NY 10036
Phone: (212) 397-7597

15. Sardi's

234 W 44th St
New York, NY 10036
Phone: (212) 221-8440

For the ultimate New York experience, try to catch a show in the Broadway Theater District. (You can visit the TKTS booth in Times Square to get discounts on same-day performances.) If you're attending a play, you will probably want to dine beforehand. Restaurants lining the streets of the district offer prix-fixe pre-theater dinners and are equipped to get you out in time to make the 8 p.m. curtain. Good choices are Becco for regional Italian in cozy quarters and Sardi's for a taste of nostalgia and potential celebrity sightings (both in-person and in the form of caricatures lining the walls).

Day 3: Morning

Start your day by catching an early ferry from Battery Park to Statue of Liberty National Monument and Ellis Island. Ferries run from Battery Park on a frequent basis (about every 25 minutes), starting at 8:30 or 9:30 a.m. depending on the season. There also are frequent departures between Liberty and Ellis islands and back to Battery Park, giving you the freedom to spend as much time as you like in either spot. Expect long lines and plenty of waiting during debarkation and boarding processes.

Your first stop will be Liberty Island, where you can take either a 45-minute ranger-guided tour or a self-guiding audio tour. If you opt to go solo, head to the 2nd floor inside the statue's pedestal to view museum exhibits and the original torch, then ride the elevator to the 10th floor observatory for an up-close encounter with Lady Liberty and a panorama of New York harbor.

Next, board the ferry to Ellis Island and visit the Immigration Museum; pick up a self-guiding tour brochure that allows you to navigate the exhibits at your leisure. See the documentary "Island of Hope, Island of Tears" and trace your ancestry or search ship manifests at the American Family Immigration History Center.

Afternoon

Ride the ferry back to Battery Park, and take a cab or public transportation to explore the Chinatown section of Lower Manhattan—Canal Street will put you in the thick of things. You'll have a grand time just wandering about and taking in all the sights and sounds this slice of

the Orient has to offer. You'll get caught up in the hustle and bustle, as you shop for souvenirs and gape at store windows with exotic offerings running the gamut from colorful silks and medicinal herbs to this evening's dinner.

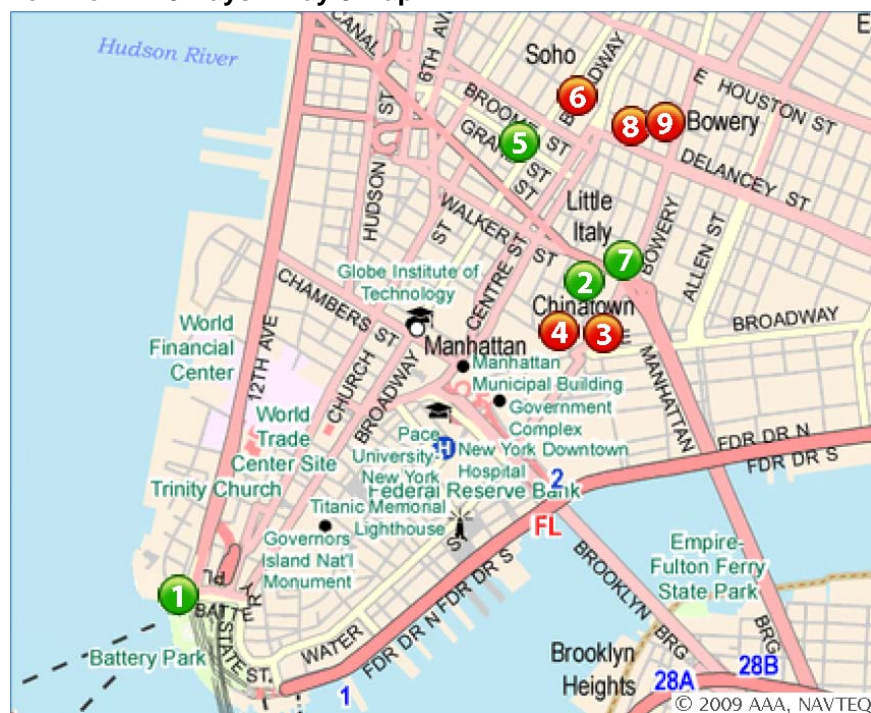
You won't have a problem grabbing a late lunch in Chinatown; NY Noodle Town and Peking Duck House are open all day, as are many eateries. For dessert, try one of the little bakeries lining the streets—the Chinese almond cookies are a joy.

Depending on your energy level, you can either take public transportation or walk to SoHo. Spring and Prince streets are good launching points from which to branch out into the area's twisting lanes. After a busy day of sightseeing, this is the place to wind down and soak up the ambience. Linger over a glass of wine or an espresso in one of the outdoor cafés as you engage in first-rate people watching. Wander about and pop into hip art galleries or boutiques touting chic fashions and every imaginable accessory.

Evening

Stay put, as SoHo's bistros and cafes present a full range of dinner options, from casual to elegant. If you're in the mood for French, try Balthazar, reminiscent of a Parisian brasserie (you also can grab lunch or a post-dinner pastry at their delightful bakery). If it's Italian fare you crave, walking east on Spring Street will place you in NoLita (north of Little Italy.) For a casual pizza and beer sort of night, Lombardi's Coal Oven Pizzeria on Spring Street fits the bill. For a high-end experience that promises to impress, mosey over to rustic Peasant on Elizabeth Street for specialties cooked over an open fire—you can practice your Italian, as the menu isn't in English.

New York in 3 Days – Day 3 Map



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Restaurants

Our favorites include some of this destination's best restaurants—from fine dining to simple fare.

Known for wealthy neighborhoods and world-class museums, you also can expect great dining options in Upper Manhattan. Folks say that the food at Barney Greengrass, an Upper West Side delicatessen, is one of the greatest gifts Jewish culture has brought to humanity since the Ten Commandments. There have never been truer words spoken. Since 1908, Barney Greengrass, a.k.a. the sturgeon king, has been supplying New Yorkers with the finest smoked fish, the best bagels and quintessential deli fare, all of which is available to purchase at the retail store. Gothamites line up around the block to get a table in the adjacent

**Day 3 Details - Get additional information on AAA.com
AAA Diamond Rating information available on AAA.com/Diamonds**

- GEM Attraction offers a *Great Experience for Members*

1. Statue of Liberty National Monument and Ellis Island

New York, NY 10005
Phone: (877) 523-9849



2. Chinatown

New York, NY 10003



3. NY Noodle Town

28 1/2 Bowery
New York, NY 10013
Phone: (212) 349-2690

4. Peking Duck House

28 Mott St
New York, NY 10013
Phone: (212) 227-1810

5. SoHo

New York, NY 10012

6. Balthazar

80 Spring St
New York, NY 10012
Phone: (212) 965-1414

7. Little Italy

Grand St. & Mulberry St.
New York, NY 10013

8. Lombardi's Coal Oven Pizzeria

32 Spring St
New York, NY 10012
Phone: (212) 941-7994

9. Peasant

194 Elizabeth St
New York, NY 10012
Phone: (212) 965-9511

dining room, where patrons kvell over scrambled eggs and lox, bountiful blintzes, a stellar matzoh ball soup and hearty sandwiches piled high with corned beef, pastrami or some of the city's best chopped liver. The décor (untouched since the Wilson administration) won't win any awards, but the laurels rest on the sturgeon king.

Some come to the Neue Galerie for the German and Austrian art, from Klimt and Klee to Loos and the Bauhaus, but foodies in the know give the masterpieces a cursory glance, then slip into the Upper East Side's Cafe Sabarsky, the museum's homage to turn-of-the-20th-century Viennese cafes. Apple strudel, opera cake and brioche are works of art in their own right and the hot chocolate, served unsweetened on a silver tray, is a very grown-up indulgence, as is the elderflower soda. In addition to the sweets, there is a savory menu: highlights include a top-notch plate of

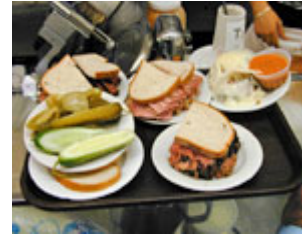
Viennese sausage paired with an anything-but-pedestrian potato salad; smoked trout crepes with horseradish crème fraîche; and spicy eggs with cornichons and paprika.

If you're in the mood for an informal snack, [Tom's Restaurant](#) on the Upper West Side fits the bill. Their delicious burgers and fries tantalize the taste buds, but it's really the television series "Seinfeld" that made this inexpensive coffee shop famous.

Chef, owner and founder of New American cuisine Charlie Palmer continues to orchestrate a once-in-a-lifetime experience at [Aureole](#). The food is delectable, and the presentations are unmatched for their distinctive style. Executed with impeccable precision, service does not take a back seat.

[Carmine's](#) is all about wonderful Southern Italian food served in abundant, family-style portions; it's about celebrating family and friends; it's about what makes New York great: the crowds, the hustle, the bustle and the lights of the Great White Way. Everyone needs to experience Carmine's at least once, but some just can't get enough—enough of the lush pasta ragù, a tomato-based sauce loaded with pork braciola, beef chuck roast, meatballs and sausage; of the linguine with clam sauce; or the chicken Marsala, often listed as a top favorite. The portions overwhelm even gavones: salads and appetizer plates heaped with meats, veggies and cheeses; platters of mushrooms stuffed with sausage (to die for); and the gooey, positively dreamy eggplant Parmesan. Although the breadbasket, with an assortment of varieties, may tempt, don't give in (too much), or you'll regret it when the tiramisu comes.

On the fringes of Midtown's theater district, the legendary [Carnegie Delicatessen & Restaurant](#) has been a Manhattan landmark since 1937 and is a must-see for anyone visiting or living in the city. Patrons can expect tight, bustling quarters and lots of New York attitude. They cure, pickle and smoke their own meats and many say the pastrami and corned beef are the world's best. Just the sight of the piled-high sandwiches will make your taste buds come alive—consider sharing one, because you shouldn't miss their cheesecake.



Two words sum up the dining experience at Midtown's [Rosa Mexicano](#): great guac! To the uninitiated, that's guacamole, and it's prepared tableside, and it is f-a-b-u-l-o-u-s. The restaurant's Lincoln Center locale makes it a favorite among concert-goers, in no small part because of its smooth and competent

service—even pre-theater diners will not feel rushed. Bright colors, a beautiful wall fountain and lots of light emanating from the floor to ceiling windows lend a cozy air to the bustling dining room. In addition to the much-lauded guacamole, you'll want to try the corn empanadas stuffed with lump crab and served with peach pico de gallo; tender chunks of pork slow-cooked in banana leaves; and grilled beef short ribs with tomatillo chipotle sauce. The pomegranate margarita, the house signature cocktail, is a revelation.

Patrons of the traditional American tavern room never had it so good as at [Gramercy Tavern](#), a rustic, yet first-class dining event sandwiched between Union Square and Gramercy Park. Wooden floors, copper enhancements, fresh flowers and trellised vines, coupled with the finest ingredients, linens and tableware, evoke the atmosphere of old New England with the best of New World refinement. This New York City favorite bestows true hospitality as an accent to its flawless pioneering approach to food.

Those who are easily intimidated should think twice about paying a visit to Chelsea's [Grand Sichuan International](#). First, there's the menu. While the usual suspects are available, those with more adventurous palates would be wise to try the doughy and delicious soup dumplings, the five-spice beef or any of the dishes included under the heading "General Mao's Homecooking," especially the positively beguiling vinegared potatoes, the spicy and sour sea cucumber, the preserved Sichuan-style turnip, and the chicken and loofah soup. The second hurdle to cross is the service, or lack of it. Servers are notorious for clearing the dishes of patrons while they're still eating. So, be forewarned: put on your thickest

skin and prepare to deal with a gruff staff that won't offer to help decipher the menu and then will rush you out the door.

Since 1888, Katz's Deli has been serving up classic Jewish-style fare in its gritty Lower East Side digs. During World War II, the deli gained fame with their catchy slogan, "Send a salami to your boy in the army." OK, poets they're not, but they do know a thing or two about matzoh balls, so light and airy that if the soup wasn't anchoring them in the bowl, they'd up and float away. Katz's was the site of the "When Harry Met Sally" film scene where Meg Ryan, uh, causes a scene. Let's just say that she must have *reeeaallyy* liked the kugel, but if you'd rather not noodle, try the belly-busting three-meat platter, loaded with mounds of hand-sliced salami, brisket and corned beef.

The Odeon, the legendary TriBeCa landmark of 1980s downtown glamour and greed immortalized by Jay McInerney in his smash novel "Bright Lights, Big City," not only survives among all the Johnny-come-lately's, but still shines bright. Famous, infamous and regular folk stop in all hours of the night and day for classic French-American bistro fare, including a knockout frisee salad with lardons, Roquefort and truffled poached egg; steak au poivre; homemade cavatelli with roasted vegetables; and pan-roasted salmon with lemon risotto cake, fava beans and sorrel. If it's available, don't pass up the passion fruit crème brûlée. Not only is it an indulgent treat, but it also will give you reason to linger in the Art Deco-inspired dining room and watch the world go by.

Folks line up outside Pearl Oyster Bar waiting for the doors to open at noon and then file into the simple storefront, brimming with anticipation, for the sea-shack fare that New Yorkers in the know have come to love. Lobster rolls, overstuffed and oozing with great meaty chunks, are the entrée of choice at this Greenwich Village institution, but frankly, you can't go wrong with anything on the menu. Try the divine steamed mussels, out-of-this-world fried oysters or the smoky, New England-style clam chowder. Check out the blackboard specials, too. Now that the restaurant has expanded (at one time it just offered counter seating and a single table), waiting patrons no longer need to give diners the evil eye to

hurry things along, making for a much more pleasant experience. Service is super casual, but quite hospitable.

If you plan to dine in NoLita, everyone, it seems, has something to say about Peasant, particularly that the Italian language menu is a little annoying, even pretentious, forcing patrons who aren't fluent to wait for a server to translate. Some also have quipped that you'll feel like a peasant after you've paid the bill, but on the upside, you will have dined like a king. Echoing the peasantry of former times, the focus at this cozy trattoria is on the hearth and open-fire Tuscan cooking. Pastas, such as the zuppa di pesce and the bucatini with langoustines, are amazing, as is the rabbit with fava beans and the bistecca alla Fio. A young, chic crowd gives this Peasant a hip sophistication and keeps it among the city's favorite Italian restaurants.

Union Square Cafe, Danny Meyer's first venture, is still as fresh and vibrant as it was the day its doors opened back in the mid-1980s, when the Union Square area was a desolate place known only for its drug dens and street crime. Now the neighborhood is one of the most enviable addresses in the city, due, in no small part, to the success of the ever-popular and much-beloved restaurant. USC is highly regarded for its award-winning wine list, its cordial and accommodating staff and its sophisticated yet accessible menu. Featured dishes include crispy lemon-pepper duck with pear-apple chutney, faro and Swiss chard; the classic roasted organic chicken with mustard-cognac sauce and roasted root vegetables; and the tremendously gratifying lobster shepherd pie. One can only hope that the celebrated banana tart with honey vanilla ice cream and macadamia nut brittle is always on the menu. The best pizza in town is actually outside of town in Brooklyn. At Grimaldi's Pizzeria, nestled under the Brooklyn Bridge, you'll have to wait on a long line for a long time before being ushered into the hallowed, albeit cramped space. Like childbirth, you'll soon forget the pain inflicted by the wait as you spy the spectacular pies making their way out of the kitchen. Of course, the mozzarella is fresh, the peppers roast daily in coal-fired ovens and the jukebox plays plenty of Sinatra.

Restaurants Map



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Restaurants Details - *Get additional information on [AAA.com](#);
AAA Diamond Rating information available on [AAA.com/Diamonds](#)*

- 1. Barney Greengrass**

541 Amsterdam Ave
New York, NY 10024
Phone: (212) 724-4707
- 2. Cafe Sabarsky**

1048 5th Ave
New York, NY 10028
Phone: (212) 288-0665
- 3. Tom's Restaurant**

2880 Broadway
New York, NY 10025
Phone: (212) 864-6137
- 4. Aureole**

135 W 42nd St
New York, NY 10036
Phone: (212) 319-1660
- 5. Carmine's**

200 W 44th St
New York, NY 10036
Phone: (212) 221-3800
- 6. Carnegie Delicatessen & Restaurant**

854 7th Ave
New York, NY 10019
Phone: (212) 757-2245
- 7. Rosa Mexicano**

61 Columbus Ave
New York, NY 10023
Phone: (212) 977-7700
- 8. Gramercy Tavern**

42 E 20th St
New York, NY 10003
Phone: (212) 477-0777

- 9. Grand Sichuan International**

229 9th Ave
New York, NY 10001
Phone: (212) 620-5200
- 10. Katz's Deli**

205 E Houston St
New York, NY 10002
Phone: (212) 254-2246
- 11. The Odeon**

145 W Broadway
New York, NY 10013
Phone: (212) 233-0507
- 12. Pearl Oyster Bar**

18 Cornelia St
New York, NY 10014
Phone: (212) 691-8211
- 13. Peasant**

194 Elizabeth St
New York, NY 10012
Phone: (212) 965-9511
- 14. Union Square Café**

21 E 16th St
New York, NY 10003
Phone: (212) 243-4020
- 15. Grimaldi's Pizzeria**

19 Old Fulton St
Brooklyn, NY 11201
Phone: (718) 858-4300
- 16. Peter Luger's**

178 Broadway
Brooklyn, NY 11211
Phone: (718) 387-7400

It's easy to sum up [Peter Luger's](#), another Brooklyn standout, with just a few short phrases: dingy digs, gruff service, and, most importantly, steaks to die for. If you're looking for quintessential New York, it's right here. Highlights of a meal include the aforementioned unflappable staff, most of who have been there forever. They move from kitchen to table with uber-efficiency, delivering Luger's famous tomato and onion salad, sinfully rich creamed spinach and the best home fries money can buy. And the steaks? You'll be hard-pressed to find more desirable: magnificently aged marbled hunks broiled to perfection and served sizzling on the platter. It doesn't get better than this.

Attractions

In a city with dozens of attractions, you may have trouble deciding where to spend your time. Here are the highlights for this destination, as chosen by AAA editors. GEMs are "Great Experiences for Members."



To orient yourself to New York City, a metropolis of dueling skyscrapers, it's best to go vertical—take an uplifting trip to the 102nd floor of the [Empire State Building](#). Kids love the thrill of riding the elevators to the Art Deco building's observation tower, where the 360-

degree panorama of Manhattan and beyond never fails to impress. Frolicking penguins capture a child's imagination at the zoo in [Central Park](#), an urban oasis that delights all ages. Wollman Skating Rink, the Egyptian obelisk, Belvedere Castle, Shakespeare Garden and the carousel are other landmarks that frequently show up on "to-do" lists. If you're too tired to trudge across the expansive parklands on foot, you can see it all by buggy ride or horse-drawn cab. The ferry ride to [Statue of Liberty National Monument](#) and [Ellis Island](#) also entices children, as does the awe-inspiring sight of Lady Liberty, the tallest statue of modern times. Poke around the grounds and pedestal, then hop back on the boat and travel to Ellis Island, where millions of hopeful immigrants entered the country to begin a new life.

Part of the fun in visiting the Big Apple is to experience all the slices of ethnic and cultural diversity. Immerse yourself in the hustle and bustle of exotic [Chinatown](#), with its dazzling assortment of shops stocked with everything Oriental—brocade fabrics, beadwork, carved ivory, herbs and teas, colorful paper parasols and all sorts of wonderful bric-a-brac. Stop in at one of the many restaurants for mouth-watering Asian delicacies. While you're in Lower Manhattan, set time aside for a leisurely stroll through [Greenwich Village](#), New York's Bohemia. Streets twist past stylish boutiques, funky art galleries and handsome brownstones. Indulge in some ice cream or join a chess game in Washington Square and be amused by jovial street performers and the antics of NYU students. Bleecker Street, the West Village's main drag, is a great place to shop or grab some lunch.

[SoHo](#) (south of Houston Street) is another alluring neighborhood, home to all that is trendy and fashionable. Intriguing shops beckon passersby on the hunt for eclectic conversation pieces, while a tempting selection of coffeehouses and outdoor cafes serves as culinary havens for people-watchers. Where the Upper West Side and Harlem meet, the Gothic tower of [Riverside Church](#) serves as a welcoming beacon to all races and religions. You can join a guided tour on Sunday, or meander about the impressive house of worship on your own—assassinated Civil Rights leader Martin Luther King Jr. made his impassioned anti-Vietnam War sermon from Riverside's pulpit.

New York City also sets the stage as a world-class performing arts venue. The 1891 Italian Renaissance-style [Carnegie Hall](#), celebrated for its perfect acoustics and elegant architecture and décor, plays host to prominent orchestras and leading musicians; visit the onsite Rose Museum for a historical overview. While productions at the [Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts](#) are unrivaled and classic, they also are innovative—imagine upside-down musicians and massive quantities of water dumped on opera singers. In these hallowed halls, Leonard Bernstein conducted, Mikhail Baryshnikov danced and Luciano Pavarotti sang. If you're unable to attend a ballet, opera or symphony, catch a guided tour from the center concourse. Media hounds and the star struck

head to [Rockefeller Center](#), a city within a city and broadcasting base of the “Today” show and other programs. For an insider’s perspective, take a tour of NBC Studios and Radio City Music Hall, home to the Rockettes and site of theatrical events and live concerts.

Museum aficionados grow giddy at the seemingly endless choices the city offers. If you visit only one museum, make it the [Metropolitan Museum of Art](#). Consider embarking on a guided or audio tour to navigate the collection of more than 2 million works with everything from Chinese porcelains to 20th-century haute couture. If time is a factor, do see the Egyptian galleries, where you can venture through an authentic tomb or discover how women of the time created their exquisite make-up. Art lovers in need of solitude head to [The Cloisters](#), a branch of the Met known for medieval art and its peaceful setting on a hill overlooking the Hudson. Five French cloisters—vaulted arcades serving as passageways—are set amid tranquil gardens, illuminated manuscripts and stained glass. There’s a nice café in the covered walkway surrounding Trie, a quaint cloister whose plant arrangement is themed around the museum’s Unicorn Tapestries.

Contemporary art fans flock to [The Museum of Modern Art \(MoMA\)](#) to view its sweeping exhibition of 20th-century works. You’ll have more than 100,000 pieces to peruse at MoMa, but try not to miss the Andy Warhol collection, including his classic “Gold Maryland Monroe.” Frank Lloyd Wright’s daring circular design for the [Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum](#) is a perfect complement for the modern art residing within, albeit a striking contrast to the more conservative structures nearby. It’s kinder on the legs to ride the elevator upstairs and mosey along the spiraled walkway from the top down—the sloping walls accommodate creations from such artists as Paul Cézanne and Pablo Picasso.

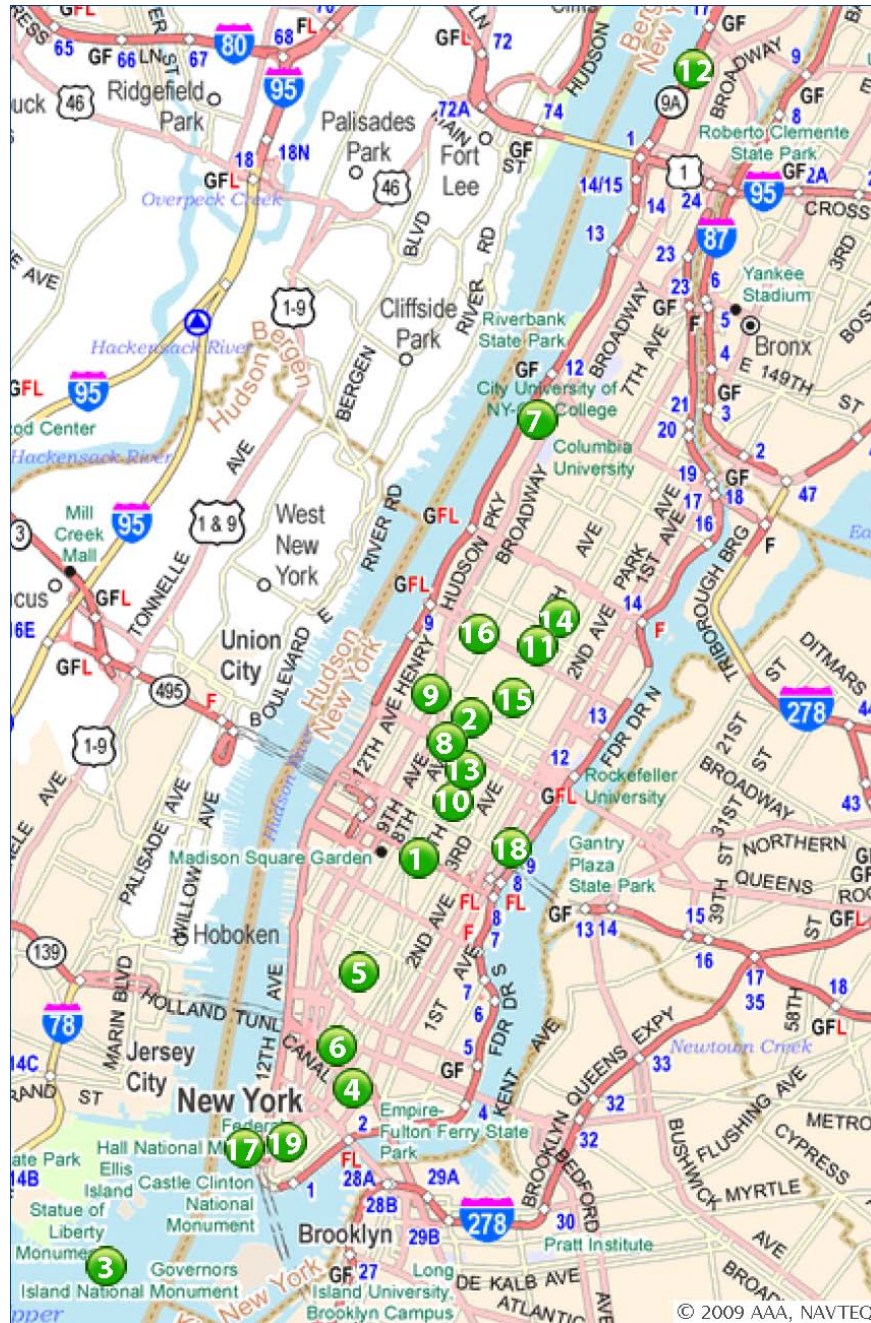
Housed in the 1913 Henry Clay Frick mansion, the [Frick Collection](#) highlights the gilded treasure trove owned by the industrialist and philanthropist. The house alone is worth a visit. There are some extraordinary works by Dutch Masters, along with such tasteful tidbits as Limoges enamels, portraits by Goya and Whistler, Oriental rugs and

French porcelains. Find an alternative activity for kids under 10, who can’t gain entry since articles are unshielded by glass or other protective barriers.

If your idea of museum hopping includes experiencing the sounds and smells of a rainforest or learning about the marvels of the human body, plan a stop at the [American Museum of Natural History](#). A freestanding dinosaur menacingly greets visitors in the rotunda; his relatives and various fossil displays are the subject matter here. [Museum of Jewish Heritage—A Living Memorial to the Holocaust](#) resides in a six-sided building symbolizing the Star of David’s points and the 6 million Jews who died in the Holocaust. Artifacts, photographs and videotaped personal narratives chronicle the 20th-century Jewish experience.

Those who seek international intrigue can take the hour-long tour at the [United Nations Headquarters](#), where the world’s countries meet to discuss global problems. Colorful flags of member nations mark this complex tucked aside the East River, stunning in its simplistic modern design. Our fledgling nation protested “taxation without representation” at [Federal Hall National Memorial](#), which marks the site of the first U.S. Capitol and where George Washington took the oath of office in 1789. Exhibits focus on the inauguration, the Bill of Rights and old Federal Hall.

If you have extra time for sightseeing, consider visiting AAA attractions in The Bronx, Brooklyn, Queens and Staten Island.



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Attractions Map and Details - Get additional information on AAA.com



- GEM Attraction offers a *Great Experience for Members*



- Exclusive AAA member discounts available

1. Empire State Bldg
350 Fifth Ave
New York, NY 10118
Phone: (212) 736-3100



2. Central Park
830 Fifth Ave
New York, NY 10021
Phone: (212) 310-6600



**3. Statue of Liberty
National Monument and
Ellis Island**
New York, NY 10005
Phone: (877) 523-9849



4. Chinatown
New York, NY 10003



5. Greenwich Village
38 Commerce St
New York, NY 10014

6. SoHo
New York, NY 10012

7. Riverside Church
490 Riverside Dr
New York, NY 10128
Phone: (212) 870-6700



8. Carnegie Hall
881 Seventh Ave
New York, NY 10019
Phone: (212) 247-7800

**9. Lincoln Center for the
Performing Arts**
70 Lincoln Center Plaza
New York, NY 10023
Phone: (212) 875-5350



10. Rockefeller Center
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, NY 10020
Phone: (212) 632-3975



**11. Metropolitan
Museum of Art**
1000 Fifth Ave
New York, NY 10028
Phone: (212) 535-7710



12. The Cloisters
99 Margaret Corbin Dr
New York, NY 10040
Phone: (212) 923-3700



**13. The Museum of
Modern Art (MoMA)**
11 W 53rd St
New York, NY 10019
Phone: (212) 708-9400



**14. Solomon R.
Guggenheim Museum**
1071 Fifth Ave
New York, NY 10029
Phone: (212) 423-3500



15. Frick Collection
1 E. 70th St
New York, NY 10021
Phone: (212) 288-0700



**16. American Museum of
Natural History**
Central Park West at 79th St
New York, NY 10024
Phone: (212) 769-5100



**17. Museum of Jewish
Heritage—A Living Memorial
to the Holocaust**
36 Battery Pl
New York, NY 10280
Phone: (646) 437-4200



**18. United Nations
Headquarters**
1 United Nations Plaza
New York, NY 10017
Phone: (212) 963-6867



**19. Federal Hall National
Memorial**
26 Wall St
New York, NY 10005
Phone: (212) 825-6888



Events

In addition to its many cultural and historic landmarks, this destination hosts a number of outstanding festivals and events that may coincide with your visit. GEMs are “Great Experiences for Members.”

With a festival of colossal color, [Chinese New Year](#) shakes New Yorkers out of their winter doldrums. Due to the lunar calendar, the event doesn’t fall on the same dates every year, though it always occurs throughout the month of January or February. Asian-Americans sing traditional melodies, firecracker ceremonies ward off evil spirits, and dragon, unicorn and lion dance troupes sashay through Chinatown. A parade features elaborate floats, acrobats, bands and magicians along with the thousands of people who choose to promenade.

Everyone loves a parade, and the city has one for just about every occasion. One not to miss is the [New York City St. Patrick’s Day Parade](#). Everything turns green along Fifth Avenue—even the bagels and beer. Spectators adorned with green face paint, hair, hats and flashy costumes line up to watch soldiers, politicians, bagpipers and high school bands march to a rousing beat during this glorious display of Irish pageantry. The Empire State Building’s green lighting scheme pays further tribute to Ireland’s patron saint. Folks get the opportunity to participate in a march of enlightenment during the [Museum Mile Festival](#) in early June, when Fifth Avenue turns into a pedestrian block party from 82nd to 104th streets. Participants can walk the mile-long route to visit nine of the city’s finest cultural institutions and enjoy entertainment offerings along the way. “Art-in-the-street” activities like chalk drawing and sawdust murals entice passersby, while the museums present musical performances. Take advantage of free museum admission from 6-9 p.m.

Fall ushers in the [Feast of San Gennaro Festival](#), an 11-day celebration in mid-September honoring the patron saint of Naples. More than 3 million people venture to Little Italy at Mulberry and Canal streets to sample mouth-watering Italian specialties. The joyous gathering also offers a parade featuring a statue of San Gennaro and an amusing assortment of street entertainment—not the least of which is a cannoli-

eating contest. Brisk autumn air and the first weekend of November signify that it’s time for the [New York City Marathon](#). At least 2 million spectators cheer their moral support as some 35,000 runners strive to make their way through five boroughs and over five bridges to cross the finish line in Central Park.



[Balloon Inflation Eve](#) kicks off the holiday season the day before Thanksgiving at the American Museum of Natural History grounds, as attendants fill gargantuan flying critters with helium and prep them for their downtown stroll. Examine these amazing creations up close before their much-anticipated debut at the [Macy’s Thanksgiving Day Parade](#) the following morning. Bands, clowns, celebrity-laden floats, the Rockettes and Santa himself keep pace with the huge balloons—representing everyone’s favorite comic book and cartoon characters—as they

float along a route starting at Central Park West and 78th Street and finishing at 7th Avenue.

Holiday fun continues with the [Rockefeller Center Tree Lighting](#) in early December, a custom dating back to 1931. Thousands are on hand to witness the illumination of the enormous Christmas tree, decorated with enough bulbs to span 5 miles. Giant tin soldiers flank the plaza’s ice skating rink, where skaters happily glide during the festivities. Popular performers entertain the crowd at this gleeful affair—arrive early to grab a good spot. As the year draws to a close in the Big Apple, the most renowned event of all occurs: the [Times Square New Year’s Eve Celebration and Ball Drop](#). The New Year is welcomed (officially and enthusiastically) with the time-honored tradition of the midnight ball-drop. Hordes of merrymakers descend upon the square to yell, blow horns, throw confetti, wave banners—you name it—at one of the world’s largest outdoor parties. If you plan to attend, arrive early, dress warmly and bring your own food.

Things to Do

Shopping

Given space considerations, the typical suburban shopping mall doesn't exist in Manhattan. Massive vertical monoliths jutting skyward are the norm and often include restaurants, offices and residences. The Shops at Columbus Circle, in Time Warner Center, presents an intriguing blend of luxury and specialty retailers enhanced with upscale dining options. At The Market at Citigroup Center, you can peruse international selections, have a leisurely snack at the indoor garden café or enjoy daily entertainment. Situated in the midst of the Fifth Avenue shopping mecca, Rockefeller Center sports a sophisticated collection of shops dotting its plazas and concourses, while high-end boutiques surround an atrium adorned by pink marble and waterfalls at Trump Tower, 725 Fifth Ave.

The Fifth Avenue sashay, especially between 49th and 58th streets, offers shoppers understated elegance with such retail delights as Saks Fifth Avenue and Bergdorf Goodman. Looking for what's red-hot and vogue? Head to Henri Bendel. Searching for top-dollar trinkets? Don't miss Cartier and Tiffany's. Traveling with children? The toys and games at FAO Schwarz captivate kids and amaze adults. Madison Avenue, from 57th to 79th streets, is another shopping haven that oozes opulence. Even if you don't want to break the bank with a purchase at Polo Ralph Lauren, 867 Madison Ave., do stop by to appreciate the handsomely elegant flagship store. Barneys, 660 Madison Ave., sets the standard with the hippest of fashions—the stylish window displays alone are worth a trip.

A Big Apple shopping spree wouldn't be complete without a visit to Macy's at Herald Square, known as the world's largest department store. The cellar is a culinary haven, with treasures for the taste buds as well as every kitchen gadget imaginable. Bloomingdale's, at Lexington Avenue and E. 59th Street, reliably keeps up with the latest and greatest trends—"Bloomie's" T-shirts and tote bags make popular souvenirs. Lord & Taylor, at Fifth Avenue between 38th and 39th streets, is a showcase for classic American designs—holiday sales can be lucrative.

Several New York neighborhoods are happy hunting grounds for savvy shoppers. Stop by Chelsea's mega food mall, Chelsea Market (75 Ninth Ave.), for all that is divine and delicious—this former Nabisco factory yielded the very first Oreo cookie. In Lower Manhattan, trend-setting Greenwich Village (sandwiched between Broadway, W. 14th and W. Houston) tantalizes with jewelry, handicrafts and current fads in boutiques tucked amid cafes, record stores, jazz clubs and regal brownstones. Avant-garde galleries, loft-type shops and eateries line the twisting lanes of SoHo (south of Houston), between West Broadway, Houston, Lafayette and Canal. Outside, vendors set up tables brimming with colorful baubles (bargaining is expected).

NoLita, an acronym for the area "North of Little Italy" downtown on Mulberry, Mott and Elizabeth streets, serves as a showplace for up-and-coming fashionistas to introduce original clothing and accessories. You can find some deals here, since rents are less pricey than those in neighboring SoHo. On weekends, aspiring designers sell their latest creations and hope to be discovered at the Young Designers Market, 268 Mulberry St. Rows of small stores lure passersby with enticing sidewalk displays of shoes, suits, linens and all forms of bric-a-brac on Orchard Street, on the Lower East Side between Delancey and E. Houston—some shopkeepers will gladly negotiate.

Antique hounds can indulge their whims at shops along Madison Avenue; on Second and Third avenues from the upper 40s to the 80s; on E. 55th Street; and on 57th Street. Manhattan Art and Antiques Center, 1050 Second Ave. in Midtown, has nearly 100 shops with furniture, glassware, jewelry, pottery and other period pieces sold by a number of independent vendors. Bargain hunters like to case the goods in the Chelsea Antiques Building, 110 W. 25th St. If only the best will do, head to the tony shops of NoHo (north of Houston), an upscale enclave in the southwest portion of the East Village. For those seeking something a bit more down to earth, flea markets set up shop almost every weekend. You may very well find buried treasure at the Hell's Kitchen Flea Market, 39th Street between Ninth and Tenth avenues, or the SoHo Antiques Fair, Collectibles and Crafts, Broadway and Grand streets.

In Midtown, millions of wholesale dollars change hands daily at the Diamond District, on W. 47th Street between Fifth and Sixth avenues. The glittering (and closely guarded) showrooms are open to the public for browsing. On Madison Avenue between 58th and 63rd streets, the Crystal District features the luxury boutiques of Baccarat, Daum, Lalique, Steuben and Swarovski and their sparkling collections of jewelry, figurines, vases and other artistic works.

Some Manhattan stores are just as much works of art as the coveted goods they house. Situated in a 1920s post office, the Apple Store SoHo is a study in contrasts, with a sleek, new-age interior accented by a stunning glass staircase, bridge and skylight. At Prada, 575 Broadway, a curving zebrawood half-pipe connects the flagship store's two levels and serves as a display piece for trend-setting fashions. Admire the ornate Beaux Arts architecture while browsing the shops at Grand Central Terminal, 42nd Street at Park Avenue.

For bargains on big-ticket logos, make a beeline for Century 21 at 22 Cortlandt St. to save up to 70 percent. While this excursion may be financially rewarding, it's not the most relaxing, so be prepared to roll up your sleeves and dig in along with the locals. Those on the prowl for cute yet kitschy knickknacks make the trek to Chinatown and haggle with vendors along West Broadway near Canal Street. If you're feeling a bit overwhelmed and have a penchant for off-the-beaten-path discoveries, consider signing up for a shopping tour. Shop Gotham conducts excursions including exclusive store discounts tailored to the Garment District's showrooms or the trendy boutiques of SoHo and NoLita.

No matter what you fancy, you can find it in New York City—whether it's gourmet food at Zabar and Dean & DeLuca, fine wines at Sherry-Lehmann or Big Apple mementos in Times Square souvenir shops.

Nightlife

Diverse nightlife options in the Big Apple satisfy just about any whim. The below offerings are just a sampling of the refreshingly endless possibilities, so you'll want to refer to such publications as *The New York*

Times, *Time Out New York* and the *Village Voice* for more exhaustive coverage.

Clubs providing entertainment include cover charges, and usually require drink or food minimums. To avoid surprises, phone ahead and confirm prices, opening hours, scheduled acts and dress codes.

If the thought of Liza Minnelli belting out "Life is a Cabaret" sends shivers down your spine, rest assured that New York delivers top-notch talent in this genre. Café Carlyle (Upper East Side/(212) 744-1600), the Oak Room in the Algonquin Hotel (Midtown West/(212) 840-6800) and Feinstein's at Loews Regency (Upper East Side/(212) 339-4095) offer sophisticated song and dance performances in stylish settings that appeal to a well-heeled clientele. Be warned that costs are steep for these venues—tickets are generally pricey, with dinner required for most shows. Less expensive alternatives are the Oak Room's Sunday show and brunch as well as standing room only admission at the Carlyle, which is first-come, first-served.

A singing wait staff adds to the fun at Don't Tell Mama (Midtown West/(212) 757-0788), an informal cabaret where enthusiastic audience participation results in a jolly good time for all—open mike nights are a hoot. Serving up Italian fare along with bookings ranging from jazz to solos from Broadway elite, Joe's Pub (E. Village/(212) 539-8777) soothes with its classy yet cozy vibe. Gothamites are talking about The Metropolitan Room (Flatiron/(212) 206-0440), the newest cabaret on the scene that presents insightful talent in a chic, intimate lounge.

If you're into hanging out, nursing a drink and people watching, New York's lounges accommodate all tastes. Campbell Apartment (Midtown East/(212) 953-0409) in Grand Central Terminal exudes the luxury and wealth of a bygone era as moneyed patrons sip cocktails and unwind amid elaborate Italian decor. At Employee's Only (W. Village/(212) 242-3021), a lively spot reminiscent of a speakeasy, old-school bartenders painstakingly prepare lip-smacking libations for the carefree crowd (the daiquiris are legendary). Artful mixologists design enticing concoctions—

with fresh-squeezed juices, of course—at the sleek Pegu Club (SoHo/(212) 473-7348).

For those with a short attention span, check out The View Restaurant and Lounge atop the Marriott Marquis in the heart of Times Square. On the 48th floor, the city's only revolving restaurant turns 360 degrees every hour; phone (212) 704-8900. Try to make it to the Ritz Carlton Battery Park's Rise Bar (Financial District/(212) 344-0800) during summer when the waterfront terrace is a glorious vantage point from which to cherish an inspiring view of the Statue of Liberty.

Those who prefer bubbles in their brew delight in choosing from some 300 champagnes and sparkling wines in refined surroundings at Bubble Lounge (TriBeCa/(212) 431-3433). A departure from the typically chic watering holes in its neighborhood, Ear Inn (SoHo/(212) 226-9060) is a tried and true 1870s pub where you can relax and appreciate a nice cool Guinness. Professionals eager for a draft to top off a hectic workday gather around the handsome bar at the Ginger Man (Murray Hill/(212) 532-3740) to indulge in the unsurpassed brewski selection.

Both novice comedians and masters of the profession frequent Big Apple comedy clubs—contact the establishment to see who's on next. If you're seeking an evening of laughter and outrageous antics, excellent choices include Carolines (Times Square/(212) 757-4100), Comedy Cellar (Greenwich Village/(212) 254-3480), Gotham Comedy Club (Chelsea/(212) 367-9000) and Upright Citizens Brigade Theatre (Chelsea/(212) 366-9176).

Gotham's dance clubs don't start hopping until after 11 p.m. Dylan, Hendrix, Springsteen and other rock sensations began their rise to fame at Café Wha? (Greenwich Village/(212) 254-3706). Locals say it can get a tad touristy, but word has it that the rocking house bands more than compensate. On the sunken dance floor at Cielo (Meatpacking/(212) 645-5700), 20-somethings grind to the beat of innovative tunes cherry picked by cutting-edge DJs—beware the velvet rope. A diverse, youngish crowd keeps the party going at Club Shelter (SoHo/(646) 862-6117), where

anything goes on the free-for-all that is the dance floor—clubbers put their energy into dance as opposed to dress.

Hipsters on the hunt for the exotic frequent mega club Pacha (Midtown West/(212) 209-7500), a chic pleasure palace with such diversions as scantily clad go-go girls gyrating in showers, coveted DJs and a thriving singles scene. The crowd changes nightly at S.O.B.'s, or Sounds of Brazil (SoHo/(212) 243-4940). With a wide range of soulful sounds—African, Latin Alternative, Urban, Reggae and Salsa to name a few—just about anyone can get a groove on at this high-energy funfest.

On the jazzier side of things, Blue Note (Greenwich Village/(212) 475-8592) is a popular club known for softer jazz sounds and up-close views of big-name performers—however, you'll pay for the proximity with sky-high prices. At Iridium (Midtown West/(212) 582-2121) some of the greatest jazz artists in the world command the stage for weeklong engagements. Jazz Standard (Gramercy/(212) 576-2232) never disappoints, as performers deliver mainstream tunes with superb acoustics just a stone's throw away from a sophisticated audience—succulent ribs and other menu items provided by adjacent Blue Smoke Barbecue only enhance the delicious experience.

Although Smoke (Upper West Side/(212) 864-6662) is actually a thing of the past here due to non-smoking laws, you can still enjoy good-value jazz in casual, cozy digs complete with comfy couches—talent ranges from newly emerging to top name. The mecca of serious jazz connoisseurs, Village Vanguard (W. Village/(212) 255-4037) has been a fixture in the New York jazz scene since 1935. Industry legends like John Coltrane and Miles Davis made their mark here, so excuse the cramped seating and savor sublime improvisations from accomplished acts or solid local talent. Arrive early to nab a table with good visibility. The legendary Vanguard Jazz Orchestra plays most Mondays.

New York rock clubs are magnets for record company scouts seeking new blood. Don't be put off by the dive bar ambience at Arlene's Grocery (Lower East Side/(212) 995-1652), a haven for indie bands. A civilized, laid-back crowd hangs out at Mercury Lounge (Lower East Side/(212)

260-4700), highly regarded for first-rate entertainment delivered by a remarkable sound system. Pianos (Lower East Side/(212) 505-3733) lures a mixed bag of clientele—punks, hipsters and suburbanites bounce between the upstairs, where a DJ holds court, and the back room commanded by garage rock bands.

Spectator Sports

No one takes sports quite as seriously as New Yorkers. Seven professional sports teams dominate the sports scene, including two football, baseball and ice hockey teams. Being a fan here involves unfeigned loyalty: Just ask Yankees and Mets fans what happens when they share a baseball stadium, or how Dodgers fans felt when their team moved to Los Angeles.

Baseball

New Yorkers are especially passionate about the national pastime. The New York Yankees, who produced such legendary “Bronx Bombers” as Joe DiMaggio, Lou Gehrig, Mickey Mantle and Babe Ruth, play at Yankee Stadium in the Bronx. This American League club won the World Series in 1996, 1998, 1999 and 2000. The season runs from April to October; phone (718) 293-4300.

The Mets, New York City’s National League team, stole the World Series from the Boston Red Sox in 1986. They play at Citi Field in Queens. The season runs from April to October; phone (718) 507-6387 or (718) 507-8499.

The majors have several Minor League baseball counterparts. The Staten Island Yankees kick off the season in June at Richmond County Bank Ballpark at St. George. For ticket information phone (718) 720-9265. The Mets-affiliated Brooklyn Cyclones play at Keyspan Stadium on Surf Avenue in Coney Island; phone (718) 449-8497. Citibank Park in Central Islip is where the Atlantic League’s Long Island Ducks swing into action; phone (888) 332-5600.

Basketball

When the New York Knicks hit the court at Madison Square Garden fans

are assured of an exciting game. The season runs from November to June; phone (212) 465-5867 for Knicks information, or (212) 465-6741 for the Garden.

New York loves its college hoopsters, too. The beloved St. John’s University Red Storm occasionally play at Madison Square Garden; phone (718) 990-6211 for ticket information. The Long Island University Blackbirds and St. Francis College Terriers both hoop it up in Brooklyn; phone (718) 488-1030 for the Blackbirds and (718) 489-5490 for the Terriers. The Fordham University Rams, (718) 817-4300, play in the Bronx, while the Wagner College Seahawks take to the court at Spiro Sports Center in Staten Island; phone (718) 420-4039.

Football

From September to December, Super Bowl III winners the New York Jets play in the new Jets Stadium, opening in the N.J. Meadowlands complex in 2010; phone (800) 469-5387. Three-time Super Bowl champions the New York Giants scramble on the gridiron in Giants Stadium in East Rutherford, N.J., at the Meadowlands complex; phone (201) 935-8222. Tickets are scarce, so unless you know someone with a season pass, your plans may be sidelined.

Hockey

After a 54-year dry spell the New York Rangers brought home the coveted Stanley Cup in 1994 to the cheers of die-hard fans at Madison Square Garden; phone (212) 465-6741. The New York Islanders, Stanley Cup winners 1980-83, play out of Nassau Coliseum on Long Island. The season runs from November to April; phone (800) 882-4753.

Horse Racing

If you enjoy the ponies, try Aqueduct Race Track in Queens, (718) 641-4700; Belmont Park Race Track on Long Island, (718) 641-4700 or (516) 488-6000; and the Meadowlands in East Rutherford, N.J., (201) 935-3900. Harness racing can be seen at Yonkers Raceway in Yonkers; phone (914) 968-4200. **Note:** Policies on admitting children to pari-mutuel facilities vary. Phone for specific information.

Recreation

When the hustle and bustle of the city streets is too much to handle, shift into a slower gear. New York's parks and beaches offer peaceful respite. The lush lawns, trees, shrubs and meadows as well as lakes, fountains, sculptures and bridges make Central Park a favorite spot with visitors and New Yorkers alike.

Bicycling

Roadways in Central Park are closed to motorized traffic Fri. 7 p.m.-Mon. 7 a.m.; Mon.-Fri. 10 a.m.-3 p.m.; and 7 p.m.-7 a.m. year-round. However, the transverse roads are always open to traffic. Access to three bicycle routes—6.1 miles, 5.2 miles or 1.7 miles in length—is possible by following the park drives, which encircle the park. Another option is to enter at 72nd Street and Central Park West Drive and pedal south to 59th Street, east to East Drive, then north on East Drive to 72nd Street. Exit at Fifth Avenue, or continue north along East Drive until your legs are tired.

For a scenic ride along the Hudson River, pedal around Riverside Park, off Riverside Drive on the Upper West Side.

Golf

Obviously you will not find a golf course in Manhattan, but the Department of Parks does operate 12 18-hole public courses in the other boroughs. On weekends golfers might have to wait as long as 8 hours before they are able to tee off; to learn of the waiting times, try the weekend news broadcasts over WNYC (93.9 FM or 820 AM).

Most fees are Mon.-Fri. \$34.50, \$29.75 after noon, \$18 for twilight golf; Sat.-Sun. and holidays \$42.75, \$19.25 for twilight golf. There is an additional \$8 fee for nonresidents. Cart fees are \$35, and those under 18 must have a golf permit.

Courses listed under each borough are open all year. Phone the individual courses or (718) 225-4653 for citywide reservations. The following courses accept reservations, but not for same-day playing: Clearview, Douglaston, Dyker Beach, Flushing Meadows, Forest Park,

Kissena, La Tourette, Marine Park, Silver Lake, South Shore, Split Rock and Van Cortlandt Park.

The Bronx: Pelham and Split Rock courses, 870 Shore Rd., Pelham Bay Park, (718) 885-1258; and Van Cortlandt, Van Cortlandt Park South and Bailey Avenue, (718) 543-4595.

Brooklyn: Dyker Beach, Seventh Avenue and 86th Street, (718) 836-9722; and Marine Park, Flatbush Avenue between Avenue U and the Belt Parkway, (718) 252-4625.

Queens: Clearview, 23rd Avenue and Willets Point Boulevard, (718) 229-2570; Douglaston Park, Commonwealth Boulevard and Marathon Parkway, (718) 224-6566; Forest Park, Forest Park Drive and Jackie Robinson, (718) 296-0999; and Kissena, 164-15 Booth Memorial Rd., (718) 939-4594.

Staten Island: La Tourette, 1001 Richmond Hill Rd., (718) 351-1889; Silver Lake, 915 Victory Blvd., (718) 447-5686; and South Shore, Huguenot Avenue and Arthur Kill Road, (718) 984-0101.

Jogging and Walking

These are the sports of necessity in New York City, particularly if you want to get from here to there in reasonable time. For those with only the sport in mind, the hottest spot is in Central Park on the 2-mile path surrounding the Reservoir. There also are designated jogger's lanes throughout the park.

Picturesque Riverside Park, between the Hudson River and Riverside Drive, also is a popular spot. Upper Manhattan's Riverbank State Park attracts joggers. Other patches of greenery include Battery Park, at the tip of Lower Manhattan; Gramercy Park, between E. 20th and 21st streets at Lexington Avenue; and Washington Square Park, in Greenwich Village.

Tennis

Eight Manhattan locations have courts: Central Park, 93rd Street and West Drive; East River Park, at Broome Street; Fort Washington Park, at

172nd Street; Fred Johnson Park, at W. 151st Street east of Seventh Avenue; Inwood Hill Park, 207th Street and Seaman Avenue; and Riverside Park (two sections), at 96th and at 119th streets. Both indoor and outdoor courts are available at Randalls Island Park. The Department of Parks issues permits; phone (212) 360-8131.

Several courts are open to the public at the site of the U.S. Open, the U.S.T.A. National Tennis Center in Flushing Meadows, Queens. Your best bet is to phone (718) 760-6200 2 days in advance to make a reservation; the center is busy on weekends.

Water Sports

Since New York City is surrounded by water, a great way to escape the summertime heat is to visit one of its many beaches. Jones Beach State Park is your best bet: With 6 miles of beaches, a boardwalk and a theater playing host to outdoor concerts, you'll forget all about hot blacktop. Beaches listed below can be reached by either bus or subway.

Head to Coney Island Beach and Boardwalk in Brooklyn to ride the wooden roller coaster or Ferris wheel; don't pass up a famous Nathan's hotdog for lunch. Manhattan Beach, Oriental Boulevard from Ocean Avenue to Mackenzie Street, also is in Brooklyn.

Pelham Bay Park and Orchard Beach are in the Bronx. Jacob Riis Park and Jamaica Bay, Beach 149th to Beach 169th streets, and Rockaway Beach and Boardwalk, Beach 9th to Beach 149th streets, are in Queens.

The following beaches are in Richmond (Staten Island): Great Kills Park, Hylan Boulevard, Great Kills; South Beach and Boardwalk, Fort Wadsworth to Miller Field, Midland Beach; and Wolfe's Pond Park, Holten and Cornelia avenues, Prince's Bay.

Few people would believe you if you claimed to have gone boating in the middle of Manhattan, but it is possible. Rowboats are for rent in Central Park at Loeb Boathouse, 72nd Street and Fifth Avenue, for \$12 an hour and a \$20 deposit; phone (212) 517-2233, ext. 3. As for swimming, only a few municipal pools are still open: Lasker Pool on the north end of

Central Park is one. Phone the New York City Parks and Recreation Swimming Information hotline at (718) 760-6969 for the latest on pool locations and openings.

Looking for one-stop recreation? Visit Chelsea Piers, a 30-acre sports village along the Hudson River between 17th and 23rd streets. Highlights of the four renovated shipping piers include heated hitting stalls for golfers, a 25-yard swimming pool, an indoor running track, a hockey rink open to ice skaters and an outdoor roller rink. Sailing, kayaking and speedboat tours of the harbor also are offered. Various shops and eateries call the historic piers home; phone (212) 336-6666.

Winter Sports

When there is a chill in the air, New Yorkers head to the nearest ice skating rink to participate in a living portrait by Currier and Ives. The rink at Rockefeller Center has more glitz, especially when the giant Christmas tree is lit in December. Every year nearly 100,000 skaters are enticed to take a turn on the ice beneath a fabulous golden sculpture of Prometheus.

Fast becoming another winter tradition for New Yorkers is The Pond at Bryant Park (S: 42nd Street/Times Square), the city's only free ice-skating rink. Located between 40th and 42nd streets and Fifth and Sixth avenues, it's within walking distance of both Times Square and Grand Central Terminal. Skate rentals are available. The pond is open Sun.-Thurs. 8 a.m.-10 p.m., Sat.-Sun. 8 a.m.-midnight, early November through mid-January; hours are extended during the holiday season. For more information phone (866) 221-5157.

In 1986 real-estate tycoon Donald Trump paid to have Wollman Memorial Rink in Central Park refurbished, to the delight of fellow New Yorkers. Skating is from October to March. Lasker Rink is a smaller venue on the north end of Central Park. The World Ice Arena in Flushing Meadows Corona Park is open all year and has rentals. Brooklynites enjoy two skating rinks: Coney Island's Abe Stark Rink and Prospect Park's Kate Wollman Ice Skating Rink. In Staten Island, Clove Lakes Park is home to the Staten Island War Memorial Ice Skating Rink.

Performing Arts

The soul of New York City—its unique vibrance and urban beat—bears witness to a love of the arts and a willingness to share this fascination with everyone. The choices are endless—theater, music, opera, dance, film; traditional or experimental; indoors or outdoors; free or ticketed. There is no escaping the delightful barrage of offerings.

Most types of performances take place at Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts at Broadway and 65th Street. Its plaza includes Alice Tully Hall, (212) 875-5050, the only public concert hall of orchestral size to be constructed in the city since 1891; Avery Fisher Hall, (212) 875-5030; the David H. Koch Theater, (212) 870-5570; Juilliard School of Music, (212) 769-7406; Metropolitan Opera House, (212) 362-6000; Vivian Beaumont and Mitzi E. Newhouse theaters, (212) 239-6200; and the Walter Reade Theater, (212) 875-5600.

Dance

As the nation's cultural mecca, New York City invests a great deal of time and money into its expressive nature, including dance. The greats have all danced here, and Mikhail Baryshnikov, Gregory Hines and Rudolf Nureyev even embraced the city as their home turf.

In a class by itself, the New York City Ballet garners rave reviews for its performances of contemporary works under the guidance of well-respected, inventive choreographers. The troupe performs November through February at the David H. Koch Theater at Lincoln Center. The American Ballet Theatre presents the classics and some newer ballets to a global audience at the nearby Metropolitan Opera House from April through June.

Modern dance enthusiasts flock to several distinguished venues, such as the Joyce Theater in Lower Manhattan. This dance emporium caters to all forms, from its ballet company in residence, the Ballet Tech to more contemporary, avant-garde works.

In seasons past, Midtown Manhattan's City Center, the city's largest concert hall, has played host to such great modern troupes as the Alvin Ailey Dance Company, the Dance Theater of Harlem, the Joffrey Ballet and the Paul Taylor Dance Company. The venue is on 55th Street between Sixth and Seventh avenues; phone (212) 581-1212.

Film

Moviegoing is an event in New York City. You can see the latest blockbusters, an oldie but goodie and everything in between. Foreign and domestic art films are abundant, with both small and large houses catering to those in the mood for an offbeat documentary or underground film.

The Walter Reade Theater at the Lincoln Center schedules repertory showings, sometimes by genre or director. It's an ideal setting for studying film. The Florence Gould Hall, 55 E. 59th St., Midtown Manhattan, also shows films; phone (212) 355-6160.

Several museums and art societies hold their own film revivals. In Queens, head to the Museum of the Moving Image for an American film series. In Midtown Manhattan Asia Society Museum, The Museum of Modern Art (rare classics) and Paley Center for Media have showings.

Foreign and independent films are shown throughout the city. Try the Angelika Film Center, 18 W. Houston St., (212) 995-2000; Film Forum, 209 W. Houston St., (212) 627-2035; or Millennium, 66 E. Fourth St., (212) 673-0090.

Music

Musical director Alan Gilbert conducts the illustrious New York Philharmonic Orchestra, the oldest symphony in the United States, in Avery Fisher Hall at the Lincoln Center for Performing Arts September through June. In July and August the Philharmonic performs free concerts under the stars in various city parks. The innovative American Symphony Orchestra also performs in Avery Fisher Hall.

The Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center performs in Alice Tully Hall at the Lincoln Center from September through May, often in conjunction with visiting ensembles and famous soloists. Don't forget to check out the Brooklyn Academy of Music (BAM), 30 Lafayette Ave., which boasts an active opera performance schedule as well as its orchestra in residence, the Brooklyn Philharmonic. Phone (718) 636-4100.

The famed Carnegie Hall, 57th Street and Seventh Avenue, plays host to celebrated orchestras, noted conductors and a variety of performers. Town Hall, noted for its fine acoustics and excellent seating layout, is between Sixth and Seventh avenues on 43rd Street; phone (212) 840-2824.

There are dozens of classical music locales throughout the city and plenty of performances to choose from, even concerts for children put on by the Little Orchestra Society; phone (212) 971-9500 for current offerings. The group normally appears at the Gerald Lynch Theater at John Jay College, 899 10th St.; the Sylvia and Danny Kaye Playhouse, 695 Park Ave.; and Lincoln Center.

Opera

The late, great tenor Luciano Pavarotti brought the house down every time he performed with the Metropolitan Opera Company in the elegant surroundings of the Metropolitan Opera House at Lincoln Center. The Met's season runs from September to April and normally includes crowd pleasers like "La Boheme," "Rigoletto" and "Figaro." Founded in the late 1880s, the Met continues to captivate audiences. The New York City Opera, which performs September to April, assembles at the Lincoln Center's David H. Koch Theater. This younger company also is known for fine performances, including "Carmen" and "Madame Butterfly."

Theater

New York is the theater capital of the world. Whether on Broadway, off-Broadway or off-off-Broadway, the glitzy bright lights of New York's theater district beckon showgoers from around the world. Simply put, theater *flourishes* in New York City.

Centered on the Times Square area between 41st and 53rd streets from Eighth to Sixth avenues are the theaters that have perpetuated the magic of Broadway—only two of these theaters are actually on Broadway. Glittering marquees announce the latest productions.

The categories of Broadway and off-Broadway indicate the size of the theater—all off-Broadway houses have fewer than 465 seats. This size



distinction allows apparent contradictions in that some of the theaters in the Times Square area are classified as off-Broadway; other houses almost next door are described as Broadway theaters.

While the Broadway shows stick to the formula of name stars, writers and directors, the off-Broadway productions are noted for their experimental presentations and revivals. These sometimes equal or surpass the artistry of Broadway and are usually the offerings of young hopefuls, although it is not uncommon for a Broadway "name" to appear in them.

Some Broadway theaters have become as well-known as the mainstream blockbuster plays they have supported, like "*Les Miserables*" at the Imperial and "The Phantom of the Opera" at the Majestic. The Minskoff Theater, Broadway and 45th Street, has been running "The Lion King" since 1997; phone (212) 869-0550.

Off-Broadway has its share of fine productions and performers, many along W. 42nd Street in places like the Playwright's Horizons.

Cherry Lane Theatre, 38 Commerce in Greenwich Village, is where many young actors got their start.

Queens Theatre in the Park, in the New York State Pavilion at Flushing Meadows Corona Park, presents a year-round schedule of plays, children's theater and dance; phone (718) 760-0064.

Off-off-Broadway is a free-for-all of experimental performances, usually by unknowns with something to say. Performances are staged at smaller venues and in out-of-the-way cafes.

Current theater listings appear in *New York* and *The New Yorker* magazines, in the newspapers and in *Variety*, a weekly newspaper devoted to the entertainment world, including off-Broadway theaters in Greenwich Village.

Tickets to Broadway shows are hard to come by but not impossible. Advance planning is the key to obtaining the best tickets for the best prices. Seats to Broadway shows are on sale anywhere from 3 months to 1 year in advance. Otherwise, TKTS booths at Times Square in Midtown Manhattan, near the South Street Seaport in Lower Manhattan and in the MetroTech Center in downtown Brooklyn sell discounted tickets on the day of the performance (see *Theater Ticket Bargains*). Seating varies and there is a service charge, but the effort may be well worth your while. In addition, tickets generally are available at theater box offices a few hours before show time (usually 8 p.m.).

Hit Show Club offers discounts of up to 50 percent off Broadway theater tickets. For a complete listing of services phone (800) 222-7469.

Or contact a ticket agency. Agencies charge a fee in addition to the price printed on the ticket; they also may charge a service fee for delivery of tickets to the hotel or box office.

AAA Walking Tours - Greenwich Village

The tour takes 3-5 hours, depending on your pace and the number of listed sites you visit along the way.

Although just a short subway ride from the scurrying throngs and imposing skyscrapers of Midtown, Greenwich Village seems a world apart. Characterized by quiet side streets, secluded courtyards, tree-shaded parks and brick townhouses, the Village is about as pedestrian-friendly a place as you are likely to find in a huge city like New York. A

stroll along its relatively peaceful sidewalks offers a break from the frenetic bustle that characterizes much of Manhattan. Walking also happens to be the best way to experience the funky ambience of this famously unconventional neighborhood.

Not only do Village residents have a long history of defying convention, the streets themselves defy the ordered grid that makes navigation so easy in other areas of Manhattan. Fortunately there are plenty of street signs, and contrary to popular stereotype, New Yorkers are often very willing to assist with directions.

The walking tour begins and ends in Greenwich Village's leafy heart: Washington Square, at the southern end of Fifth Avenue. To get there, take the A, C, E, F, S or V train to the West 4th Street Subway Station; the park is a block east. You might be disappointed to learn that New York City's subway tokens have gone the way of the pterodactyl, but the fare cards (called MetroCards) that have replaced those distinctive little coins are easy to use, easy to obtain and much lighter in your pocket. A 1-Day Fun Pass good for unlimited rides for 1 day on city subway trains and buses is available for \$8.25 at MetroCard vending machines.

Originally a marsh, the area that is now Washington Square Park was used as a cemetery in the late 1700s. Excavations a century later uncovered numerous skeletons and headstones, much to the dismay of the well-heeled residents who lived along the park's borders at the time. Today you would have a hard time envisioning Washington Square's funereal past, particularly on summer weekends when the park fills with children, chess players, joggers, skaters, couples with baby strollers, people walking their dogs, food vendors, street entertainers, musicians rehearsing and tourists sitting on benches and resting their weary feet. Adding a youthful air to this already vibrant environment are the students of New York University. One of America's largest private universities, N.Y.U. owns many of the buildings surrounding the park, making Washington Square a *de facto* part of the school campus.

Presiding over this crazy quilt of humanity is the square's majestic Washington Memorial Arch. Dedicated in 1895, the 77-foot-high, white-marble monument at the end of Fifth Avenue was designed by Stamford White to commemorate the centennial of George Washington's inauguration. It replaced an earlier wooden arch temporarily constructed less than a block north on Fifth Avenue. "Washington in War," a statue of the first president wearing military attire, was added to one side of the arch in 1916 and a second, called appropriately enough "Washington in Peace," was installed in 1918. Other park monuments include a statue of Giuseppe Garibaldi, known as the Father of Modern Italy, and a bust of Alexander Lyman Holley, who perfected the Bessemer process of manufacturing steel, giving rise to the U.S. steel industry.

Walk over to the park's central fountain and proceed from there to Washington Square South. The bell tower to your right is part of Italian Renaissance-style Judson Memorial Church, built in 1896. The church is noted for its stained-glass windows, which were designed at the turn of the 20th century by eminent artist John La Farge.

Turn left and head over to Washington Square East. The massive red stone building to your right with fluted walls is N.Y.U.'s Elmer Bobst Library. Set on a pedestal adjacent to the library is a piece of ornate stonework from the university's original Gothic building, which was demolished in the late 1800s. Founded in 1831, N.Y.U. occupies buildings throughout the Village. You'll recognize them by the large violet banners emblazoned with the school's symbol: a flaming torch.

Turn left again and follow Washington Square East to Washington Square North. The building at the corner of Washington Square East and Waverly Place is the university's Main Building, which stands on the site of the original Gothic structure mentioned earlier. Famous occupants of that first building include painter Winslow Homer, poet Walt Whitman, author Henry James and electric telegraph developer Samuel Morse, who, interestingly enough, taught painting and sculpture and is credited with establishing America's first academic fine arts department. Within the

current Main Building is the Grey Art Gallery, where you can see an array of visual arts on display.

Now walk west along Washington Square North. The Greek Revival townhouses here were built in 1833 for wealthy New Yorkers, but most now belong to the university. Henry James grew up around the corner, and his grandmother lived in a townhouse on this very block. James drew heavily on his aristocratic upbringing in Greenwich Village when he wrote his novel, "Washington Square."

Proceed north on Fifth Avenue to Washington Mews, a peaceful pedestrian-only alley on your right. You'll notice a towering Art Deco building, built in 1926, on the other side of the mews. Stables once lined this narrow brick-paved street, but they were replaced by desirable apartments long ago. As you exit onto University Place, the buildings on your right and left are the French and German departments of N.Y.U.

Walk 4 blocks north on University Place to East 11th Street and turn left. Half way down the block on the north side is a small 19th-century building tucked in between two larger buildings and hidden behind trees. This is the Conservative Synagogue of Fifth Avenue, which, like the residences along Washington Mews, was originally used as a stable. Across the street, a plaque to the left of the door at 20 East 11th St. indicates that Eleanor Roosevelt, one of the Village's many famous residents, kept an apartment here in the 1930s and '40s.

Continue west and turn right at Fifth Avenue to the broad stairway of the Salmagundi Club, an artist's organization founded in 1871 as the New York Sketch Club. Members have included Childe Hassam, Louis Comfort Tiffany and N.C. Wyeth. The club took its current name from "The Salmagundi Papers," Washington Irving's satirical take on social life in early 19th-century New York. Incidentally, it is within "The Salmagundi Papers" that Irving first referred to New York as Gotham, which has been a nickname for the city ever since. The club has occupied the 1853 Italianate mansion—the last of its kind remaining on this stretch of Fifth Avenue—since 1917.

Across Fifth Avenue from the club is the Gothic Revival-style First Presbyterian Church. Completed in 1846, the church was modeled after the Church of St. Saviour in Bath, England. Just a bit farther south on Fifth Avenue, at the corner of 10th Street, looms another example of Gothic Revival architecture: the 1841 Church of the Ascension.

North of the First Presbyterian Church, between 12th and 13th, you'll find The Forbes Magazine Galleries. Inside, countless toy soldiers of every description are displayed marching or engaged in battle. Toy boats, historical documents, collectible trophies and Monopoly board games round out this eclectic hodgepodge amassed by the late Malcolm Forbes.

Return to 11th Street and head west. A wall and wrought iron fence on the south side of 11th near Sixth Avenue protects a small corner of a once-larger cemetery. The Second Cemetery of the Spanish and Portuguese Synagogue dates back to 1805. Take a peek through the bars into the dim, well-tended space beyond, which is filled with tombstones of various shapes and sizes beneath sheltering evergreen trees.

Continue to Sixth Avenue, turn left and turn left again on West 10th Street. On the south side of 10th is a row of Anglo-Italianate townhouses connected by a single shallow terrace with an ornate iron railing. These residences were built in the 1850s and designed by James Renwick, Jr., who also designed historic Grace Church at 802 Broadway; St. Patrick's Cathedral on Fifth Avenue between 50th and 51st streets; and the Smithsonian Castle in Washington, D.C.

Retrace your steps back to Sixth Avenue and cross the street. The building with the pyramid-topped clock tower to your left is Jefferson Market Courthouse, completed in 1887. In the hearts of Villagers this Victorian Gothic landmark ranks second only to the Washington Memorial Arch, although in the early 1960s "Old Jeff" came perilously close to demolition. Angered Villagers came to the rescue, and after a 1967 restoration, it reopened as a branch of the New York Public Library. Behind the courthouse, where a women's prison once stood, is a volunteer-maintained viewing garden.

Across West 10th Street from the courthouse you'll find Patchin Place, a quiet, dead-end street lined with three-story residences. These were built in 1848 as boardinghouses for waiters at a nearby hotel, but in the 20th century Patchin Place counted several renowned writers among its residents, including poets e.e. cummings and John Masefield, authors Theodore Dreiser and John Reed and playwright Eugene O'Neill. Just around the corner on Sixth Avenue is Milligan Place, another picturesque courtyard lined with former boardinghouses, these built in 1852.

Proceed west on 10th Street to Seventh Avenue and turn left. The intersection ahead where seven streets come together is Sheridan Square, roughly the geographical center of Greenwich Village. With so many streets meeting in one spot, the square has earned a reputation for disorienting visitors. Just try to remember your position relative to Seventh Avenue, the main thoroughfare.

A statue of Civil War general Philip Henry Sheridan, for whom the square was named, stands in Christopher Park, which is the triangular park to your left created by the intersection of Seventh Avenue and Christopher and Grove streets. For such a small area, Christopher Park seems crowded with statues. Opposite the general is a grouping of four whitewashed bronze figures known as the Gay Liberation Monument, evidence of the Village's tolerant live-and-let-live ethos. Nearby, a second triangular park created by the intersection of Washington Place, 4th Street and Barrow Street features a viewing garden.

Go back to Seventh Avenue and continue south to where Seventh intersects with Bleecker and Barrow streets. Turn right on Barrow and follow it for one block to Bedford. Another right will bring you to 86 Bedford St., better known as Chumley's, a restaurant opened in 1922 that served as a speakeasy during Prohibition. A veritable Who's Who list of literary greats have frequented Chumley's over the years, including James Agee, e.e. cummings, Theodore Dreiser, F. Scott Fitzgerald, Lillian Hellman, Edna St. Vincent Millay, John Dos Passos, Upton Sinclair and John Steinbeck.

Return to Bedford and Barrow, turn right and then make a left on Commerce Street. Where the street curves to the left stands the Cherry Lane Theater, founded by Edna St. Vincent Millay in 1924. One of the city's first off-Broadway venues, the theater has showcased challenging, experimental plays by the likes of Eugene Ionesco, David Mamet, Harold Pinter and Sam Shepard for more than 75 years.

Follow the bend in Commerce Street until you're back on Bedford, then make a right, after which you will immediately be confronted by two Greenwich Village superlatives. On the corner at 77 Bedford St. is the Isaacs-Hendricks House, which was built in 1799 and is recognized as the oldest in the Village. By comparison, the house next door at 75 1/2 Bedford, built in 1873, is a relative newcomer. With just one glance, however, you can guess what its claim to fame is. At under 10 feet wide, 75 1/2 Bedford has earned the reputation as the narrowest house in the Village. Edna St. Vincent Millay lived there briefly during the 1920s.

Walk south on Bedford to Seventh Avenue and turn right. Turn right again on Leroy Street, which for a short stretch is known as St. Luke's Place. The impressive row of Italianate townhouses along the street's north side was constructed in the 1850s for New York's mercantile elite. Ornate facades, grand entryways, tall windows, shade trees and a park across the street make these some of the most sought after addresses in the Village. Number 6 was the home of Jimmy Walker, mayor of the city 1926-32. Two lamps, which traditionally identify the mayor's house in New York, still frame the entrance.

Retrace your steps back to Seventh Avenue and cross it, following Leroy Street east to Bleecker. Make a right onto Bleecker in front of Our Lady of Pompeii, a large Roman Catholic Church built in 1928 for the Italian immigrant community. Continue on Bleecker, but when you reach Sixth Avenue be careful: Four streets intersect here making it somewhat tricky to find where Bleecker resumes. Follow Bleecker to MacDougal Street and stop. If your energy levels are beginning to dip, you're in luck. With a café at every turn, this intersection is known as café corner, a perfect spot to sit, relax and enjoy a cup of coffee.

After you've revived, proceed east on Bleecker to La Guardia Place. This area of the Village is thick with second-hand clothing and record stores, cafés and intimate nightspots offering live jazz and rock music. The Bitter End at the corner of Bleecker and La Guardia features live entertainment and even sports a plaque honoring the establishment for its "contribution to the artistic life of New York."

Turn left on La Guardia. Halfway up the block on the east side of the street you'll spy a bronze statue of Fiorello La Guardia, New York City mayor 1934-45. The statue shows the diminutive 5'2" La Guardia, known as "the little flower," stepping forward, mouth open and hands poised as if clapping. While far from the dignified posture one might expect of an honored statesman, the statue captures the enthusiasm and energy of one of the city's most popular mayors, who served three consecutive terms during a difficult period in the city's history and is remembered for his sweeping reforms and efforts to curb corruption.

Continue north on La Guardia to West 3rd Street and turn left. On your left will be a bright red Victorian building housing the Number 2 Fire Engine Co. Notice the painted carving of a woman's face over the arched main door. From 3rd Street turn right onto MacDougal, which is one block after Sullivan. The historic Provincetown Playhouse, which opened in 1916, is on the left side of the street. The theater has played a pivotal role in fostering the early careers of many playwrights including Edna St. Vincent Millay and Eugene O'Neill as well as numerous actors, directors and set designers, and it continues to produce innovative plays to this day.

Just a few steps north and you're back at Washington Square Park. Before you finish your tour, however, walk farther north, crossing West 4th Street and Washington Place. The building at the corner of Waverly Place with the elaborate marquee was the home of Eleanor Roosevelt 1942-49. A plaque to the left of the entrance pays tribute to the first lady. To return to the West 4th Street Subway Station, backtrack to West 4th Street and turn right. The station is one block ahead of you.

Insider Info

Television Show Tickets

If available, tickets to attend the major television shows can be obtained from the networks. Contact the networks' respective Guest Relations Offices: American Broadcasting Co., 320 W. 66th St., New York, NY 10023, (212) 580-5176; Columbia Broadcasting System, 1697 Broadway, New York, NY 10019, (212) 247-6497; and National Broadcasting Co., 30 Rockefeller Plaza, New York, NY 10012, (212) 664-3056.

Attraction Passes

CityPass offers savings to those who plan visits to six New York City attractions. The pass covers admission with no waiting in ticket lines to the American Museum of Natural History and Rose Center for Earth and Space, the Empire State Building Observatory (includes an audio tour), the Metropolitan Museum of Art and The Cloisters, the Museum of Modern Art (MoMA), a Circle Line Sightseeing Cruise and a choice of one of the following: Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island, the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum or Top of the Rock Observation Deck. Additional savings are available at shopping venues, including Bloomingdale's, a variety of restaurants and CitySights New York hop-on, hop-off double-decker buses.

CityPass and New York City Explorer Pass

CityPass tickets are valid for 9 days from the first date of use and cost \$84; \$64 (ages 12-17). CityPass can be purchased at the box offices of the included attractions. For further information, phone (888) 330-5008 (in the U.S. and Canada) or (208) 787-4300.

The New York City Explorer Pass is an all-access attraction pass to 40 New York City attractions, sightseeing tours and museums. Choose from venues including the Empire State Building Observation Deck, Metropolitan Museum of Art, Museum of Modern Art, Statue of Liberty cruise, and Hop-On/Hop-Off sightseeing tour. The pass is available in increments of 3, 5 or 7 attractions and is valid for 30 days from the first date of use. The Explorer Pass is available at the NBC Studios retail store in Times Square or at Ripley's Believe It or Not!, 234 W. 42nd St. (between 7th and 8th avenues), and comes with a full-color guidebook,

additional shopping and dining savings and express entry at several attractions. Prices start at \$69.99 (3-attraction pass); phone (800) 887-9103 for further information.

New York Pass

New York Pass is valid for full admission at more than 40 New York City attractions, including the Empire State Building, Madame Tussaud's New York, Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum and Circle Line Harbor Cruises. The purchase price includes a 140-page guidebook, admission to selected attractions without waiting in line and discounts or special offers at 25 restaurants, shops, theaters and helicopter rides. Passes for 1, 2, 3 or 7 days range from \$65-\$165; \$45-\$120 (children). New York Pass is available at NY SKYRIDE, Planet Hollywood and the Port Authority of New York, Eighth Avenue and 42nd St.; phone (877) 714-1999.

Theater Ticket Bargains

Theater tickets for Broadway and off-Broadway shows are sold at a discount on performance day at three TKTS booths. The Times Square booth, in Midtown Manhattan, is at Broadway and 47th Street. Ticket purchase hours are 3-8 for Mon.-Sat. evening tickets; Sun. 3 p.m. until 30 minutes before the latest curtain time being sold; and 10-2 for Wed. and Sat. matinee tickets. For Sun. matinee and evening tickets purchase hours are 11-3.

In Lower Manhattan tickets can be purchased at the South Street Seaport booth, on Front Street, Mon.-Sat. 11-6 for evening performances and 11-4 for Sun. evening shows. Matinee tickets must be purchased a day in advance.

In downtown Brooklyn tickets are sold at 1 MetroTech Center on the corner of Jay Street and Myrtle Avenue Promenade. For same-day evening and next day matinee performances, tickets can be purchased Tues.-Sat. 11-6.

A \$4 surcharge is added to the ticket price. Cash, travelers checks and major credit cards are accepted. Caution: Lines form early. For more information phone (212) 912-9770.

Free coupons for a 30 to 50 percent discount off the box-office purchase price of tickets for some shows are available at many newsstands, coffee shops and drugstores, and from the New York Convention and Visitors Bureau. The coupons are seldom valid on weekends.

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