



New York

New York used to be such an easy city to crack for the visitor. Not only was there that simple-to-master grid of streets but, really, who wanted to stray from Manhattan? Today, while that stretch from Wall Street to the Upper East Side and beyond still enchants, you really need to cross some bridges and head upstate. The city's focus has fractured and shifted and you ignore the appeal of, say, Brooklyn at your peril.

Need to know

Get to grips with the basics

- Top tips:** It's never good to make the faux pas of failing to tip adequately in a city where the service industry revolves around client goodwill.
- Decisions, decisions:** A word of advice: don't go into a chop-salad bar (or the equivalent) without a reasonably firm notion of what you want. Staff and fellow customers won't take kindly to delays.
- Be firm:** There's no use being a stuttering, socially awkward individual here: New Yorkers have far too little time for that.
- Where to be seen:** There is a silent war going on in New York over the acceptable places to live in among its five boroughs. Fashionistas can't live anywhere above 14th Street; those on the more traditional Upper East and West Sides might disagree.
- Express delivery:** Different trains running on the same platforms on the New York subway can get a little confusing for new arrivals. Make sure you double check before hopping aboard.

Hotels

At home in the Big Apple

①

The Park Hyatt New York, Midtown
Lap of luxury

For one of the hospitality industry's most reliable brands this is a suitably indulgent flagship; French architect Christian de Portzamparc has done a fine job. Plus there's the bonus of being right next to Carnegie Hall.
153 West 57th Street, NY 10019
+1 646 774 1234
newyork.park.hyatt.com

②

The Ludlow, Lower East Side
Diamond in the rough

The hotel's stylishly dark entrance and lobby bar are an upscale tip of the hat to the once gritty rock'n'roll neighbourhood. The 187 rooms offer a calming oasis without losing their cool Lower East Side vibe.
180 Ludlow Street, NY 10002
+1 212 432 1818
ludlowhotel.com

③

Wythe Hotel, Williamsburg
Local influence

This is an establishment that not only remains the same but also continues to set the standard. Worth a visit for the rooftop bar alone.
80 Wythe Avenue, NY 11249
+1 718 460 8000
wythehotel.com

Food and drink

Diners' club

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Russ & Daughters, Lower East Side
Homely Jewish fare

This Jewish "appetising store" was opened by Joel Russ on East Houston in 1914 and hasn't changed much since, serving fish-based takeaway fare and now run by the fourth-generation Russ family. There's also a café around the corner.
179 East Houston Street, NY 10002,
+1 212 475 4880;
russanddaughters.com

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Tacombi, Nolita
Camping out

This kitsch Mexican taco joint does a roaring lunchtime trade. The refreshing menu features classics such as pork-belly tacos alongside lesser-known offerings such as Veracruzana fish.
267 Elizabeth Street, NY 10012
+1 917 727 0179
tacombi.com

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Café Colette, Williamsburg
Creative corner

Head to this New American bistro for rustic, creative food. Brunch options include poached eggs with roasted squash and hearty mains feature butter-bean-and-kale stew with grilled sourdough.
79 Berry Street, NY 11249
+1 379 599 1381
cafe-colette.com

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Jack's Wife Freda, West Village
Low-key dining

The café's menu features an all-day selection of simple yet delicious dishes, including a fresh take on Israeli shakshuka and the Madame Freda sandwich with duck prosciutto and cheddar béchamel. Rustic hospitality is everything here.
50 Carmine Street, NY 10014
+1 646 669 9888
jackswifeFreda.com

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The Nomad Bar, Nomad
Accessible grandeur

With mahogany-lined walls, green-leather booths and a mirrored bar that rises up into a dramatic two-storey space, the Nomad Bar evokes opulence akin to that of the Nomad restaurant.
10 West 28th Street, NY 10001
+1 212 796 1500
thenomadhotel.com

Retail

Store crazy

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The Monocle Shop, West Village
Our embassy in New York

Every item in our NY shop – from acrylic canvas carry-on bags to brass-plated paperweights – aspires to bring harmony to your hectic life and keep you looking good too.
535 Hudson Street, NY 10014
+1 212 229 1120
monocle.com

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Dover Street Market, Kips Bay
One-stop concept shop

A beaux arts seven-floor mansion houses Rei Kawakubo's multibrand shop that focuses on the avant garde. It goes through a biannual transformation of its space in January and July.
160 Lexington Avenue, NY 10016
+1 646 837 7750
newyork.doverstreetmarket.com

③

Barneys, Midtown
Head of department

First established in 1923 as a menswear shop on Manhattan's west side, Barneys' original slogan was "For the man who knows". Today the department store maintains its reputation as an arbiter of haute-fashion.
660 Madison Avenue, NY 10065
+1 212 826 8900
barneys.com

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McNally Jackson, Nolita
Book and stationery master

McNally Jackson Books captures a golden age of bookshops: a refined selection that includes art, photography and graphic design. Look out for the "espresso" book machine: a gizmo that can print a self-published book in six minutes (at a cost).
52 Prince Street, NY 10012
+1 212 274 1160
mcnallyjackson.com

Vocabulary

Local lingo

- Bodega:** Cornershop
- Buck:** Dollar
- Check:** Bill
- Dime:** 10¢ coin
- Entrée:** Main course
- Nickel:** 5¢ coin
- Schmear:** Bagel spread
- The Village:** West Village
- Walk-up:** Building without lift



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