



NEW YORK CITY

TOP SIGHTS, AUTHENTIC EXPERIENCES



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Welcome to New York City

Epicenter of the arts. Dining and shopping capital. Trendsetter in fashion and design. Home to an astonishingly diverse mix of peoples and cultures. Add it all up and you have one of the most dynamic destinations on earth.

With its compact size and streets packed with eye-candy of all sorts – architectural treasures, Old World cafes, atmospheric booksellers and curio shops – New York City is an urban wanderer’s delight. Crossing continents is as easy as walking over a few avenues in this jumbled city of 200-plus nationalities. Every neighborhood offers a dramatically different version of NYC: from the 100-year-old Jewish delis of the Upper West Side to the meandering cobblestone lanes of Greenwich Village.

When the sun sinks slowly beyond the Hudson River and luminous skyscrapers light up the night, New York transforms into one grand stage. Well-known actors take to the legendary theaters of Broadway; world-class soloists, dancers and musicians perform at venues large and small across town. Whether high culture or low, New York embraces it all: in-your-face rock shows at Williamsburg dives, lavish opera productions at the Lincoln Center, and everything in between. This is a city of experimental theater, improv comedy, indie cinema, ballet, poetry readings, burlesque, world music, jazz and so much more. If you can dream it up, it’s probably happening in NYC.

“If you can dream it up, it’s probably happening in NYC”



Upper West Side & Central Park
Home to the premier performing arts center and the park that helps define the city. (Map p252)



Midtown
Times Square, Broadway theaters, canyons of skyscrapers, and bustling crowds that rarely thin. (Map p250)



Greenwich Village, Chelsea & Meatpacking District
Quaint, intimate streets plus trendy nightlife, shopping and art galleries galore. (Map p246)



SoHo & Chinatown
Soup dumpling parlors and hawkers selling bric-a-brac next door to cobblestone streets and stores with the biggest name brands in the world. (Map p246)



Upper East Side
High-end boutiques, sophisticated mansions and Museum Mile – one of the most cultured strips in the world. (Map p252)



Union Square, Flatiron District & Gramercy
A bustling, vibrant park binds surrounding areas filled with good eats. (Map p250)



East Village & Lower East Side
Two of the city's hottest 'hoods that lure students, bankers and scruffier types alike. (Map p246)



Lower Manhattan & the Financial District
Iconic monuments, riverfront access and Wall St mingle at the island's southern end. (Map p244)

Lonely Planet's New York City

Plan Your Trip

This Year in New York City	4
Need to Know	18
Top Days in New York City	20
Hotspots For	28
What's New	30
For Free	31
Family Travel	32

Top Experiences..... 35

Central Park	36
Statue of Liberty & Ellis Island	40
Brooklyn Bridge	46
Museum of Modern Art	48
The High Line	52
Broadway	56
Times Square	62
Empire State Building	66
Metropolitan Museum of Art	70
Walking Tour:	
Iconic Architecture	74
Lincoln Center	76
Guggenheim Museum	80
Rockefeller Center	84
Chinatown	86
National September 11 Memorial & Museum	90
One World Trade Center	94
Lower East Side Tenement Museum	98
Prospect Park	102
Brooklyn Bridge Park	106
Walking Tour:	
West Village Wandering	110
Chelsea Galleries	112
Washington Square Park	114
MoMA PS1	116

Dining Out.....119

The Best	122
Financial District & Lower Manhattan	124
SoHo & Chinatown	124
East Village & Lower East Side.....	126
West Village, Chelsea & Meatpacking District	128
Union Square, Flatiron District & Gramercy	131
Midtown	134
New York City on a Plate.....	136
Upper East Side	137
Upper West Side & Central Park	137
Harlem & Upper Manhattan.....	138
Brooklyn	138
Queens.....	139

Treasure Hunt141

The Best	144
Financial District & Lower Manhattan	146
SoHo & Chinatown	147
East Village & Lower East Side.....	150
West Village, Chelsea & Meatpacking District	153
Top Five NYC Souvenirs.....	154
Union Square, Flatiron District & Gramercy	155
Midtown	156
Upper East Side	157
Upper West Side & Central Park	158
Harlem & Upper Manhattan.....	158
Brooklyn	159



Bar Open161

The Best...164

Financial District & Lower Manhattan.....	166
SoHo & Chinatown	166
East Village & Lower East Side.....	167
West Village, Chelsea & Meatpacking District	170
Union Square, Flatiron District & Gramercy	173
Midtown.....	173
New York City in a Glass	174
Upper East Side	175
Upper West Side & Central Park	176
Harlem & Upper Manhattan.....	176
Brooklyn	176
Queens.....	179

Showtime.....181

The Best...183

Financial District & Lower Manhattan.....	184
SoHo & Chinatown	184
East Village & Lower East Side.....	184
West Village, Chelsea & Meatpacking District	185
Midtown.....	188
Upper West Side & Central Park	189
Harlem & Upper Manhattan.....	190
Brooklyn	190

Active New York.....195

The Best...197

Sporting Arenas.....	198
Health & Fitness.....	199
Spas & Steam Rooms.....	200
Ice Skating.....	200
Family Activities	201
Water Sports	202
Tours	203

Rest Your Head205

Booking Accommodations.....	208
Room Rates.....	208
Types of Accommodations.....	208
Where to Stay.....	209

In Focus

New York City Today	212
History	214
Art & Architecture.....	220
LGBTIQ New York City	224
NYC on Screen	226

Survival Guide

Directory A–Z	230
Transportation	234
Index	239
New York City Maps	243
Symbols & Map Key.....	256

Plan Your Trip This Year in New York City

2018

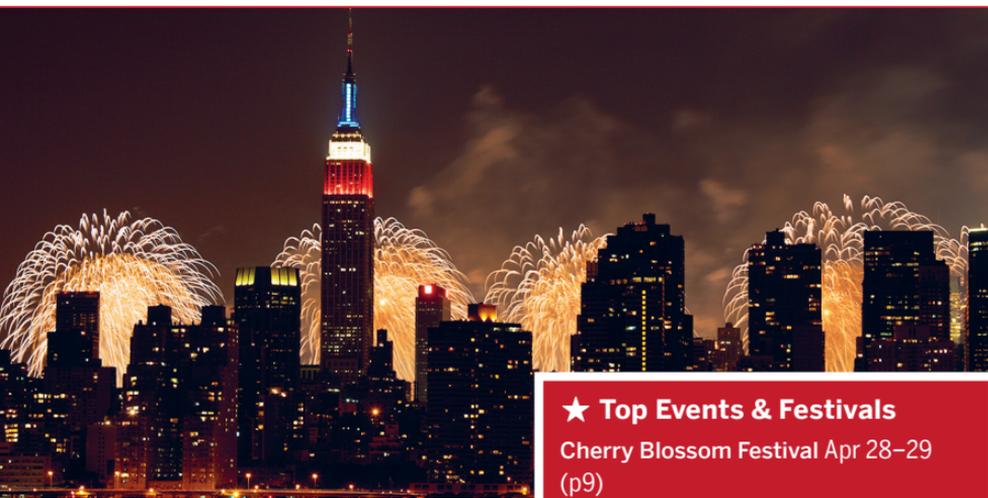


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New York City

No matter when you visit, there's always something happening in New York City, with music festivals, holiday markets and costume parades packing the year's calendar. Be sure to plan ahead for the bigger events.

Above: Village Halloween Parade (p15); Top Right: Independence Day fireworks (p12); Bottom Right: Cherry Blossom Festival, Brooklyn Botanic Garden (p9)



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★ **Top Events & Festivals**

Cherry Blossom Festival Apr 28–29
(p9)

Shakespeare in the Park Late May–
Aug (p10)

SummerStage Jun–Aug (p11)

Independence Day Jul 4 (p12)

Village Halloween Parade Oct 31 (p15)



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Plan Your Trip

This Year in New York City



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March

After months of freezing temperatures and thick winter coats, the odd warm spring day appears and everyone rejoices – though it's usually followed by a week of sub-zero drear as winter lingers on.

👁️ **Armory Show**

Mar 8–11

New York's biggest art show (www.thearmoryshow.com) brings together some of the world's top galleries, with art collectors and curators in a dazzling showcase of what's new on the art scene. It happens on Piers 92 and 94, off Twelfth Ave (near 53rd St).

🌟 **St Patrick's Day Parade**

Mar 17

A massive audience, rowdy and wobbly from cups of green beer, lines Fifth Ave on March 17 for this popular parade (www.nycstpatricksparade.org) of bagpipe blowers, sparkly floats and clusters of Irish-lovin' politicians. The parade, which was first held here in 1762, is the city's oldest and largest.

☆ **New Directors/ New Films**

Late Mar

Hosted by the Film Society of Lincoln Center, this 12-day film fest (www.newdirectors.org) is a great place to discover emerging directors from around the globe. It's now in its 47th year, so you can count on an impressive lineup.

👁️ **Macy's Flower Show**

Late Mar–Early Apr

For two weeks in the early spring, Macy's becomes a sweet-smelling floral extravaganza. The flagship store on Herald Square hosts elaborate displays of blooms, lush mini-landscapes and clever blends of the natural and human-made environment.

Plan Your Trip

This Year in New York City



July

As the city swelters, locals flee to beachside escapes on Long Island. It's a busy month for tourism, however, as holidaying North Americans and Europeans fill the city.

🇺🇸 Independence Day Jul 4

America's Independence Day (www.macys.com) is celebrated on the 4th of July with dramatic fireworks over the East River, starting at 9pm. Good viewing spots include the waterfronts of the Lower East Side and Williamsburg, Brooklyn, or any high rooftop or east-facing Manhattan apartment.

🌭 Nathan's Famous Hot Dog Eating Contest Jul 4

For rare skills not often celebrated on the sports pages, head to Surf Ave and Stillwell in Coney Island to see competitive eaters down ungodly numbers of hot dogs in just 10 minutes (www.nathansfamous.com/contest). The current record for men is 70 by long-time champ Joey Chestnut. For women, it's 45 – held by the 98lb Sonya Thomas.

☆ Lincoln Center Festival Mid-Jul–Late Jul

This summer, skip the beach and take advantage of the stellar lineup of drama, ballet, opera and new music hitting Lincoln Stages over three weeks in July (www.lincolncenterfestival.org). Expect high-quality and highly original fare.

☆ Lincoln Center Out of Doors Late Jul–Early Aug

New York City's performing arts powerhouse stages a festive lineup of concerts and dance parties at outdoor stages in the Lincoln Center complex (www.lcoutofdoors.org). Afrobeat, Latin jazz and country are all part of the lineup, and there are special events for families.

Plan Your Trip

Need to Know

Daily Costs

Budget

Less than \$100

- Dorm bed: \$40–70
- Slice of pizza: \$4
- Food-truck taco: from \$3
- Bus or subway ride: \$2.75

Midrange

\$100–300

- Double room in a mid-range hotel: around \$200
- Brunch for two at a mid-range restaurant: \$70
- Dinner for two at a mid-range eatery: \$130
- Craft cocktail at a lounge bar: \$14–18
- Discount TKTS ticket to a Broadway show: \$80
- Brooklyn Academy of Music orchestra seats: from \$84

Top End

More than \$300

- Luxury stay at the NoMad Hotel: \$350–850
- Tasting menu at a top-end restaurant: \$90–330
- A 1½-hour massage at the atmospheric Great Jones Spa: \$205
- Metropolitan Opera orchestra seats: \$100–390

Advance Planning

Two months before Secure hotel reservations as soon as possible – prices increase the closer you get to your arrival date. Snag tickets to your favorite Broadway blockbuster.

Three weeks before If you haven't done so already, score a table at your top-choice high-end restaurant.

One week before Surf the web and scan blogs and Twitter for the latest restaurant and bar openings, plus upcoming art exhibitions.

Useful Websites

- **Lonely Planet** (www.lonelyplanet.com/usa/new-york-city) Destination information, hotel bookings, traveler forum and more.
- **NYC: The Official Guide** (www.nycgo.com) New York City's official tourism portal.
- **Explore Brooklyn** (www.explorebk.com) Brooklyn-specific events and listings.
- **New York Magazine** (www.nymag.com) Comprehensive, current listings for bars, restaurants, entertainment and shopping.
- **New York Times** (www.nytimes.com) Excellent local news coverage and theater listings.

Currency

US dollar (US\$)

Language

English

Visas

The US Visa Waiver Program allows nationals of 38 countries to enter the US without a visa.

Money

ATMs widely available; credit cards accepted at most hotels, stores and restaurants.

Cell Phones

Most US cell (mobile) phones, besides the iPhone, operate on CDMA, not the European standard GSM – make sure you check compatibility with your phone service provider. There are many stores (mostly run by T-Mobile, Verizon or AT&T) where you can purchase a cheap phone and load it with prepaid minutes, to avoid a long-term contract.

Time

Eastern Standard Time (GMT/UTC minus five hours)

Tourist Information

There are official NYC Visitor Information Centers throughout the city. The main office is in Midtown (p233).

For more, see the **Survival Guide** (p229)