



NEW YORK CITY

TOP SIGHTS, AUTHENTIC EXPERIENCES

Welcome to New York City

New York City is the great metropolis writ large. It's a place of electrifying energy, where art-deco skyscrapers tower above sidewalks packed with people from every corner of the globe, and there are a million different stories (8.4 million actually) happening all around you.

In the realms of art, fashion, music, film, theater and dance, New York remains one of the world's giants. And its dining scene – more than 10,000 restaurants! – staggers the imagination. Days are spent exploring venerable art collections (the Met, the MoMA, the Guggenheim), taking in iconic sights (the Statue of Liberty, the Brooklyn Bridge, Central Park), and delving into fascinatingly diverse neighborhoods, from Chinatown to Harlem, each one a world of its own.

Nighttime brings limitless possibilities: the glittering lights of Broadway, world-renowned concert halls uptown or intimate jazz clubs downtown. Add in vintage-filled cocktail bars in Brooklyn and glittering rooftop lounges, where all the city spreads out before you, for a memorable cap to the day.

The New York experience is about so many things: window-shopping along glamorous Fifth Ave, catching an indie film at an art-house cinema, gallery-hopping in Chelsea, and hearing the roar of the crowd at a game in Madison Square Garden. This is just the beginning...and in NYC, there really is no end.

“there are a million different stories happening all around you”

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Midtown

Times Square, Broadway theaters, canyons of skyscrapers, and bustling crowds that rarely thin. (Map p252)



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 West Side & Central Park

Home to the premier performing arts center and the park that helps define the city. (Map p250)



Upper East Side

High-end boutiques, sophisticated mansions and Museum Mile – one of the most cultured strips in the world. (Map p250)



Union Square, Flatiron District & Gramercy

A bustling, vibrant park binds surrounding areas filled with good eats. (Map p252)



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 p246)

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Lonely Planet's New York City

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Plan Your Trip

This Year in New York City

2017



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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: Cherry Blossom Festival, Brooklyn Botanic Garden (p9); Bottom Right: Fireworks for Independence Day (p12).

Plan Your Trip

This Year in New York City

05

May

April showers bring May flowers in the form of blossoms adorning the trees all around the city. The weather is warm and mild without the unpleasant humidity of summer.

May 7

🚲 TD Bank Five Boro Bike Tour

May is Bike Month, featuring two-wheelin' tours, parties and other events for pedal-pushing New Yorkers. TD Bank Five Boro Bike Tour (www.bike.nyc), the main event, sees thousands of cyclists hit the pavement for a 42-mile ride through each of the city's five boroughs.

May 29

🇺🇸 Memorial Day

Held on the last Monday of May, this holiday commemorates Americans who've died in combat. The boroughs host parades featuring marching bands, vintage cars and flag-waving seniors, the biggest of which is Queens' Little Neck-Douglaston Memorial Day Parade (www.Indmemorialday.org).

Late May–August

☆ Shakespeare in the Park

The much-loved Shakespeare in the Park (www.publictheater.org) pays tribute to the Bard, with free performances in Central Park. The catch? You'll have to wait hours in line to score tickets, or win them in the online lottery. Tickets are given out at noon on show days; arrive no later than 10am for a seat.



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Late May

👁️ Fleet Week

For one week at the end of May, Manhattan resembles a 1940s movie set as clusters of fresh-faced, uniformed sailors go 'on the town' to look for adventures (www.fleetweeknewyork.com). For non-swabby visitors, this is a chance to take free tours of ships that have arrived from various corners of the globe. See them docked off Manhattan (around Midtown) and Brooklyn (just south of Brooklyn Bridge Park's pier 6).



08

August

Waves of summer heat slide between skyscrapers as everyone heads to the seashore or gulps cool blasts of air-conditioning when stuck in the city. Outdoor events add life to the languid urban heat.

Mid-August

☆ FringeNYC

The annual mid-August theater festival, FringeNYC (www.fringenyc.org), presents two weeks of performances by companies from all over the world. It's the best way to catch the edgiest, wackiest and most creative up-and-comers around.

Mid-August

☆ Jazz Age Lawn Party

Don your best 1920s attire and head out to Governors Island for a day of big-band jazz, Charleston dancing and pre-Prohibition-era cocktails (www.jazzagelawnparty.com). Buy tickets as early as possible; this event always sells out. Also happens in June.

Late August

☆ Charlie Parker Jazz Festival

This open-air two-day fest (www.cityparksfoundation.org) is a great day out for music fans. Incredible jazz talents take to the stage in Marcus Garvey Park in Harlem and in Tompkins Square Park in the East Village.

August 28–September 10

☆ US Open

In late August, Flushing Meadows Park in Queens takes center stage in sports as the world's top tennis players compete in the final Grand Slam tournament of the year (www.usopen.org). If you can't make it to the stadium, major sports bars will be showing it around town.



Michael Arenella and the Dreamland Orchestra perform at the Jazz Age Lawn Party



Statue of Liberty & Ellis Island

Stellar skyline views, a scenic ferry ride, a lookout from Lady Liberty's crown, and a moving tribute to America's immigrants at Ellis Island – unmissable is an understatement.

Great For...



☒ Don't Miss

The breathtaking views from Lady Liberty's crown (remember to reserve tickets well in advance).

Statue of Liberty

A Powerful Symbol

Lady Liberty has been gazing sternly toward 'unenlightened Europe' since 1886. Dubbed the 'Mother of Exiles,' the statue symbolically admonishes the rigid social structures of the old world. 'Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free, the wretched refuse of your teeming shore,' she declares in Emma Lazarus' 1883 poem 'The New Colossus.'

History of the Statue

Conceived as early as 1865 by French intellectual Edouard Laboulaye as a monument to the republican principals shared by France and the USA, the Statue of Liberty is still generally recognized by many as a symbol for at least the ideals of opportunity

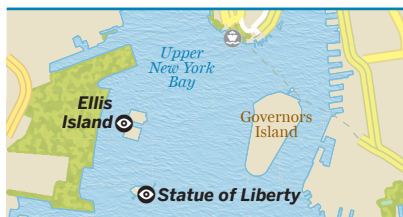


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and freedom. French sculptor Frédéric-Auguste Bartholdi traveled to New York in 1871 to select the site, then spent more than 10 years in Paris designing and making the 151ft-tall figure Liberty Enlightening the World. It was then shipped to New York, erected on a small island in the harbor and unveiled in 1886. Structurally, it consists of an iron skeleton (designed by Gustave Eiffel) with a copper skin attached to it by stiff but flexible metal bars.

Visiting the Statue of Liberty

Access to the crown is limited, so reservations are required. Book as far in advance as possible (additional \$3). Pedestal access is also limited, so reserve in advance (no additional fee). Keep in mind, there's no elevator and the climb from the base is equal to a 22-story building. Otherwise, a visit means you can wander the grounds



Need to Know

☎ 212-363-3200, tickets 877-523-9849; www.nps.gov/stli; Liberty Island; adult/child incl Ellis Island \$18/9, incl crown \$21/12; 🕒 8:30am-5:30pm, check website for seasonal changes; 🚢 1 to South Ferry, 4/5 to Bowling Green, then 🚶 to Liberty Island

Take a Break

Pack a picnic or chow beforehand at the Hudson Eats (p122) food hall.

★ Top Tip

Pick up a free audioguide when you reach Liberty island; there's even a version for kids.

and enjoy the view of Lady Liberty from all sides (plus the great views of Manhattan). A free audioguide provides historical details and little-known facts about the statue.

The trip to Liberty island, via ferry, is usually made in conjunction with nearby Ellis Island. Ferries leave from Battery Park and tickets include admission to both sights. Reserve in advance to cut down on long wait times.

Ellis Island

Ellis Island (☎ 212-363-3200, tickets 877-523-9849; www.nps.gov/ellis; Ellis Island; ferry incl Statue of Liberty adult/child \$18/9; 🕒 8:30am-5:30pm, check website for seasonal changes; 🚢 1 to South Ferry, 4/5 to Bowling Green, then 🚶 to Ellis Island) **FREE** is America's most famous and historically important gateway – the very spot where Old World despair met New World promise. Between 1892 and 1924, over 12 million immigrants passed through this processing station, their dreams in