



Hi... we're **Marco and Amelia** and we've created **19 awesome themed trails** for you to follow.

The pins on the map on the right mark the trail starting points. Each one is sure to let you in to the city's secrets, and blow your mind with loads of cool facts!



To help you find your way around New York's five boroughs, take a look at the map below. Now, whether you're following a trail from Manhattan to Brooklyn, or from Queens to the Bronx, you'll never get lost.



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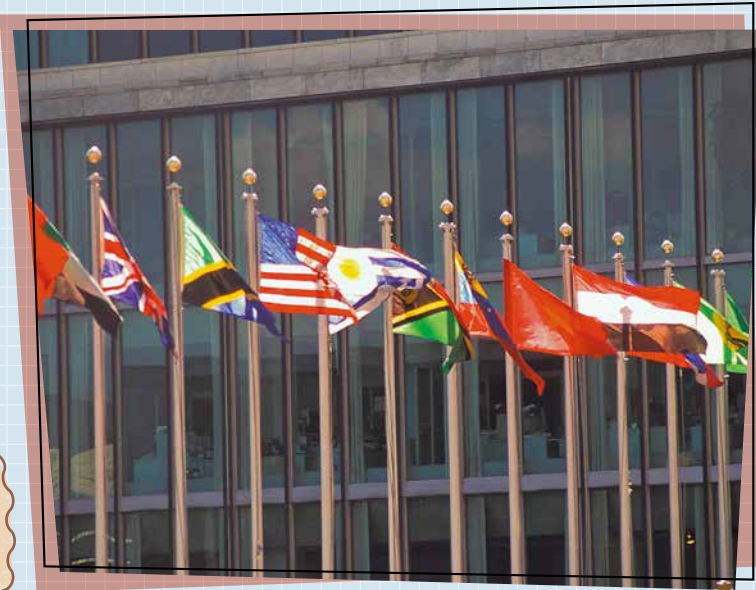
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# PEACE PLACE

## UNITED NATIONS HQ

405 East 42nd Street is not even technically part of the USA, let alone part of New York. It's the address of the UN (United Nations) headquarters and it's designated as international territory. The flags of all the UN member states are flown outside, in alphabetical order. Inside, the UN has its own fire department, police force and post office, with its own stamps!

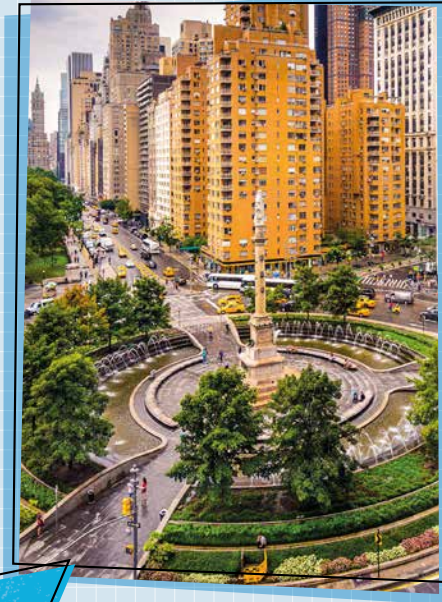


THE UN BUILDING HAS A MAGICAL HIDDEN ROSE GARDEN, WITH ITS OWN PAGODA SYMBOLIZING WORLD PEACE.

# STONE HOME

## COLUMBUS CIRCLE

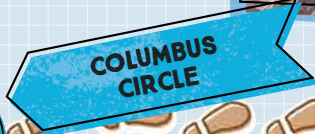
Columbus Circle marks the official centre of New York. It's surrounded by a circle of fountains and has a statue of explorer Christopher Columbus in the middle. In 2012, artist Tatzu Nishi built a living room around Columbus, giving him all his own furniture and even a flat-screen TV. For a while anyone could climb up the stairs to visit the statue's arty apartment.



search: CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS

## A NEW WORLD?

Columbus was an explorer. In 1492, he set sail from Spain and crossed the Atlantic in search of new trade routes. When Columbus set out he was expecting to eventually reach the Far East. Instead, he landed on the shores of America – a continent that was unknown to Europeans at the time.



# WHEEL-FREE WALK

## 6 1/2 AVENUE

There's a street in New York with no traffic jams or noisy car alarms. In fact, there aren't any vehicles. Foot-friendly 6 1/2 Avenue is a pedestrian walkway in Manhattan that runs between, and sometimes through, a string of tower blocks, parks and squares from West 57th to West 81st Street. It's around 0.4km (0.25 mile) of welcome wheel-free walking.



# STICKY STREET

## STICKBALL BOULEVARD, BRONX

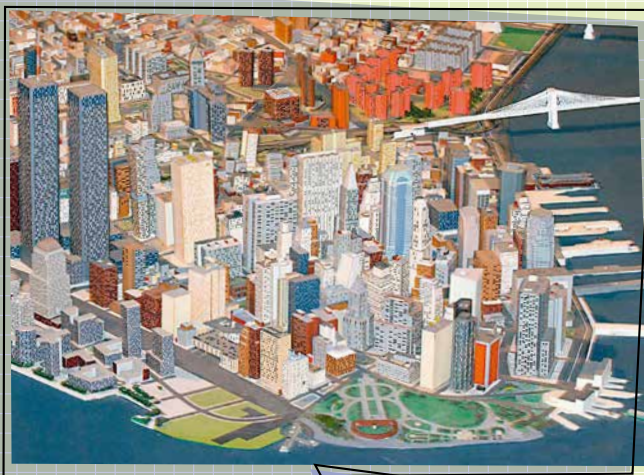
Stickball is a game long played by kids without access to baseball gear or a field. Instead, they improvise with a broom handle, a rubber ball and anything they can find to use as bases, including manhole covers, fire hydrants, cars or even someone's little brother! Stickball Boulevard in the Bronx is named after the game, and now there's an official New York Stickball League and an annual tournament. On weekends a couple of blocks are kept car-free so that stickball teams can play there.





# SKYSCRAPER FLY-BY

This fabulous flight past some of the city's skyscrapers is a salute to Elisha Otis, who has to be one of NY's big heroes. Why? Because he invented the first lift with brakes in 1852. Without him New Yorkers would have to take a LOT of stairs.



QUEENS MUSEUM OF ART

## TINYTOWN

### QUEENS MUSEUM OF ART

Those without a head for heights can still get a bird's-eye view of NYC at the Queens Museum of Art, where the Empire State Building is only 38 centimetres (15 inches) tall and the Statue of Liberty is about the size of a thumb. The panorama of the city features mini models of 895,000 New York buildings, along with 100 bridges and even tiny wire-mounted planes flying in and out of the city's LaGuardia Airport.



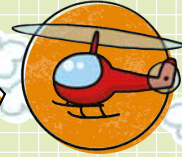
432 PARK AVE.



601 LEXINGTON



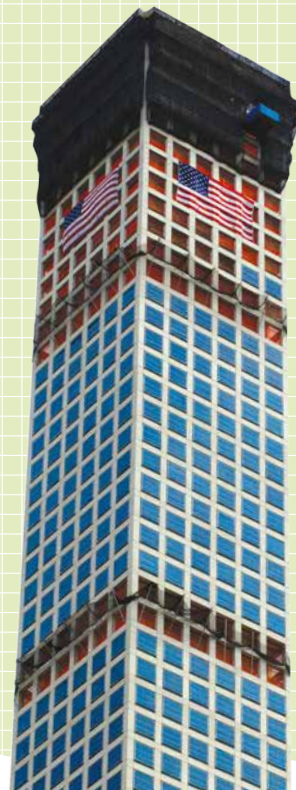
ROCKEFELLER CENTER



## SKY-HIGH SLEEPING

### 432 PARK AVE.

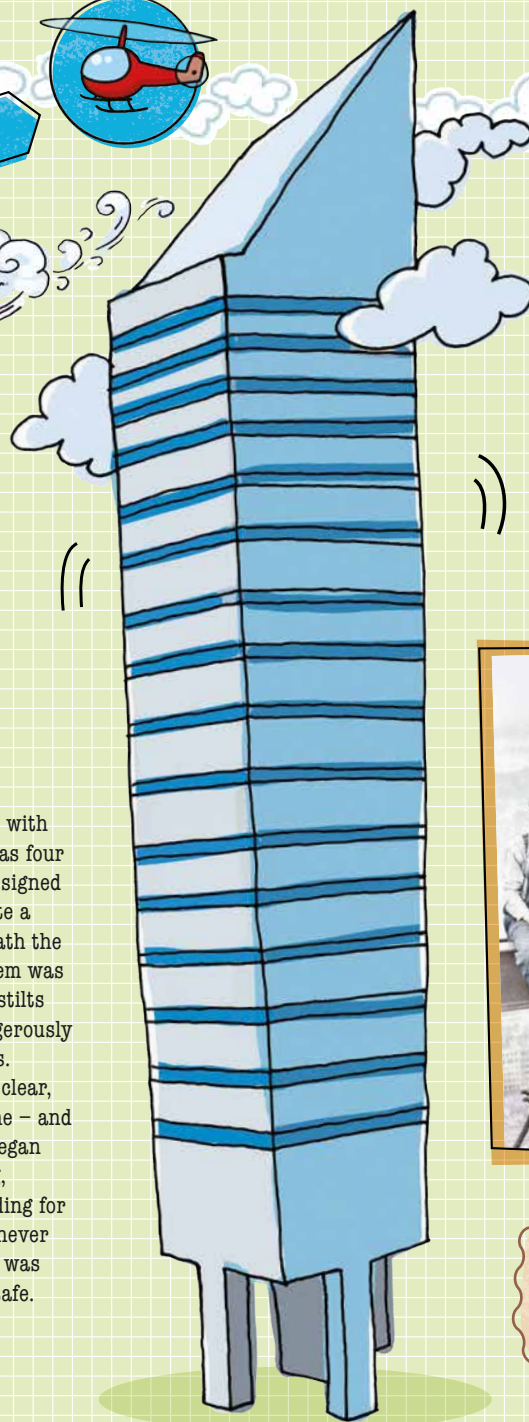
Welcome to the highest rooftop in New York, at a height of 425.5m (1,396ft). One of the tallest residential buildings in the world, the design of this 96-storey tower was inspired by the shape of a trash can. Its luxury apartments are far from trashy, though. The six-bedroom, seven-bathroom penthouse on top was on sale for the super-high price of US\$95 million (£62 million) in 2014.



## SERIOUS STILTS

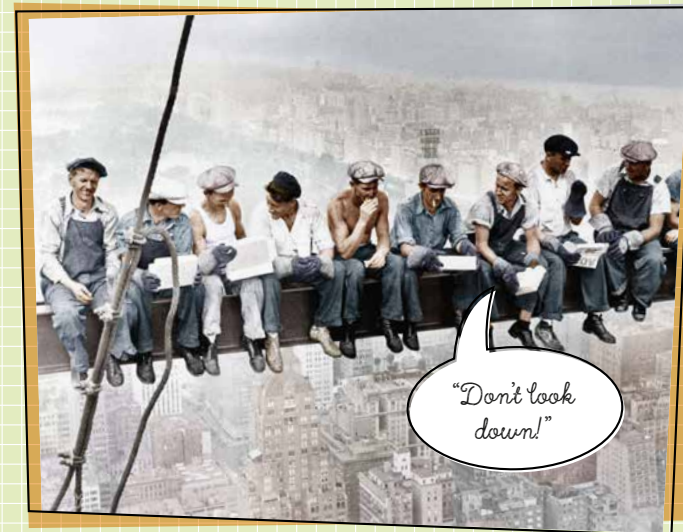
### 601 LEXINGTON

601 Lexington was built with its bottom nine storeys as four massive stilts. It was designed that way to accommodate a church on the site beneath the building. The only problem was that the position of the stilts left the skyscraper dangerously vulnerable to high winds. Once the threat became clear, something had to be done – and fast! As work secretly began to reinforce the building, Hurricane Ella was heading for New York! Luckily, Ella never made land, so the tower was saved and is now ultra-safe.



## NOW THAT'S HIGH TOP OF THE ROCK, ROCKEFELLER CENTER

This famous *Lunch Atop a Skyscraper* photo, showing workers eating lunch on a super-high steel beam, was taken in 1932 during the construction of the Rockefeller Center. The building still has one of the best views around, though you can now go inside and up to the 70th floor to get the full New York experience – 260m (850ft) above the street!



"Don't look down!"

THE FIRST SKYSCRAPERS HAD 10-20 STOREYS. TODAY SKYSCRAPERS NEED 40+ STOREYS TO GET THE NAME.





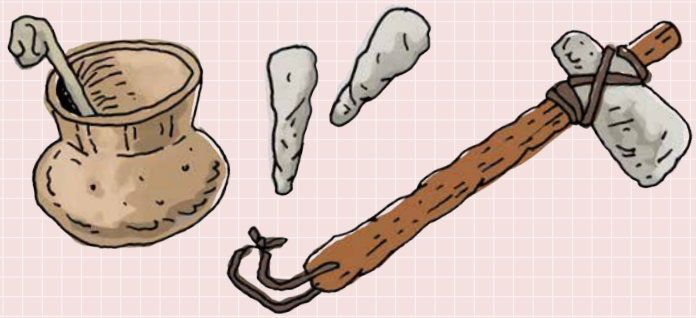


# SECRET CITY

Tiptoe along this trail of mysteries to discover New York's secret world of ghostly tunnels, rooftop forests and bank vaults filled with gold. Here smugglers once stashed their booty, gangsters made their getaways and ancient bones lay hidden!



INDIAN CAVES



## ANCIENT NY CAMPSITE

### INDIAN CAVES

For centuries the ancient caves in Inwood Hill Park were used as a campsite by the Lenape tribe, probably because they could go fishing in the river nearby. In the 1640s, the tribe was driven away, but they left behind pottery, tools and weapons, including polished flint axe heads. These are now safely looked after at the New York branch of the National Museum of the American Indian.

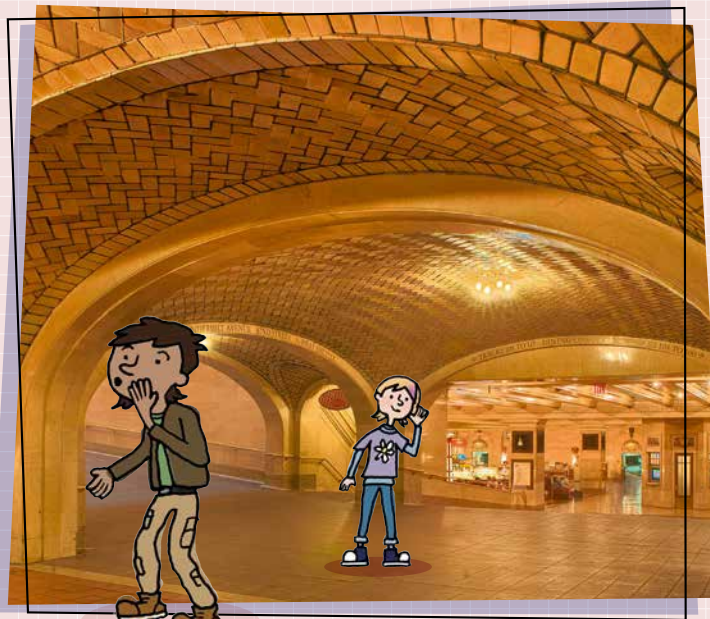
GRAND CENTRAL TERMINAL



## CARELESS WHISPERS

### WHISPERING GALLERY, GRAND CENTRAL TERMINAL

Whispering secrets is a popular habit at the Grand Central Terminal. There's an area of archways on the way down to the lower concourse where messages can be whispered to the wall and heard by someone listening at the wall diagonally opposite, 10m (33ft) away! New Yorkers call it the Whispering Gallery, and it's caused by the stone walls and ceiling reflecting sound across the underpass.



## OFFICE IN A FOREST

### FORD FOUNDATION GREENHOUSE

It's an unlikely place to find a tropical rainforest but the Ford Foundation, an office building on East 43rd Street, is bursting with giant trees, shrubs and steamy pools. Made from glass and steel, the building works like a giant greenhouse. Rain is collected on the roof to water the plants and add to the humid atmosphere.

FORD FOUNDATION GREENHOUSE



THE FORD FOUNDATION GREENHOUSE IS 49M (160FT) HIGH!

BLOODY ANGLE

## GANGSTER GETAWAY

### 'BLOODY ANGLE'

Back in the early 1900s, Doyers Street in Chinatown was known as the 'Bloody Angle' because its curved shape meant rival gangs could creep up on each other unseen. There were street battles and murders, and a network of tunnels under the road helped the gangsters to escape. Today the last remaining tunnel is lined with shops, offices and bars.







# THE BIG ONE

## CENTRAL PARK

Central Park covers around 3.4sq. km (1.3sq. miles) of Manhattan, and is one of the most famous parks on the planet. It's been a nature haven for New Yorkers for over 150 years. Here are some particularly peculiar park facts that may surprise you!

### CENTRAL PARK

#### GOOD FOR GREENERY

Wealthy New Yorkers lobbied to have the park built as a place to ride their carriages, and because they thought it would encourage people out of the town's saloon bars. The location was chosen because the land there was covered in swamps and rocks and was difficult to build on. A competition was run for the best design.

**25,000**  
TREES

**93KM**  
(58 MILES)  
OF PATHWAYS

**36** BRIDGES  
& ARCHES

**7** BODIES  
OF WATER

AROUND 37.5 MILLION PEOPLE VISIT THE PARK EVERY YEAR...

...MAKING IT THE BUSIEST CITY PARK IN THE USA.



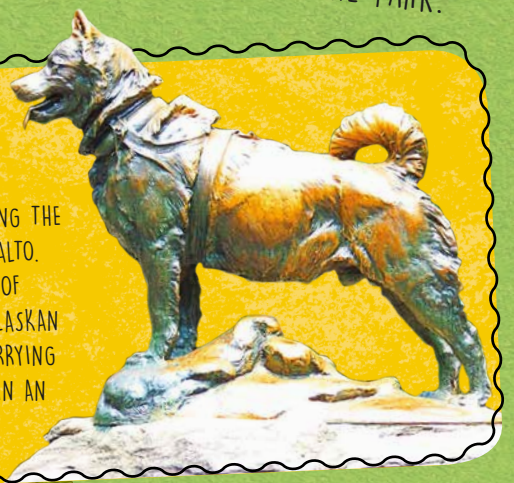
## STINKY PIG PLACE

The stinky job of boiling animal bones used to take place on the west side of the park and pig farmers lived in the south-eastern corner, in a village known as Pigtown. Sheep grazed in the area called Sheep Meadow until 1934, but were taken away in case hungry people decided to eat them during the Depression (a time when many ordinary people lost their jobs and often went without food).

AROUND 1,600 LOCAL PEOPLE HAD TO BE MOVED OFF THE LAND TO BUILD THE PARK.

## DARING DOG

THERE ARE 29 SCULPTURES IN THE PARK, INCLUDING THE LIKENESS OF A FAMOUS ALASKAN DOGGIE HERO, BALTO. IN 1925, FOR A SNOWY SIX DAYS, HE LED A TEAM OF HUSKIES OVER 1,600KM (990 MILES) FROM THE ALASKAN CITY OF ANCHORAGE TO THE TOWN OF NOME, CARRYING A VITAL SERUM THAT PREVENTED PEOPLE DYING IN AN OUTBREAK OF THE DEADLY DISEASE DIPHTHERIA.



## LOTTA LEGS

As you'd expect, all sorts of wild creatures live in Central Park, including beetles, spiders, bats and owls – but the big surprise was a brand-new species of centipede discovered here in 2002. Ten of the mini 82-legged critters were found and, at around 10.3mm (0.4in) long, they turned out to be the smallest centipedes in the world. They were given the name Hoffman's dwarf centipede. It's thought they may have arrived from Asia in a batch of imported plants.







# TRASH TOWN

They say one person's trash is another person's treasure. New York certainly produces a lot of trash, and it's true that some of it is recycled in interesting ways. Ride on the garbage truck to discover some of the precious facts we've plucked from the trash cans around town.



TRASH MUSEUM

## TREASURE IN TRASH

### TRASH MUSEUM, EAST HARLEM

A garage in East Harlem is home to a secret invitation-only museum. It houses a stash of interesting trash found by Nelson Molina during his 28 years of working as a waste collector. He calls it the 'Treasures in the Trash Museum', and it's a fantastic snapshot of daily stuff used around the city, from toys and furniture to art and household gadgets. Even the walls are decorated with paint found by Molina on his rounds.

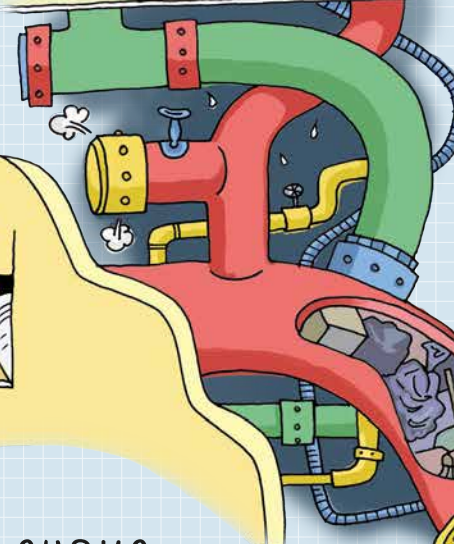


## SUCCESS SUCKS

### ROOSEVELT ISLAND PNEUMATIC TRASH TUBES

You won't find many garbage trucks in the Roosevelt Island part of town. That's because it has its own hidden garbage-sucking secret called the AVAC - a system of pipes running under all the high-rise buildings. When residents throw their garbage down the chutes, air valves suck it through underground tubes and it shoots at up to 96.5kph (60 mph) to the northern corner of the island where it gets packed into containers. Problems only happen if thoughtless people block the pipes by throwing away extra-large trash.

ROOSEVELT ISLAND



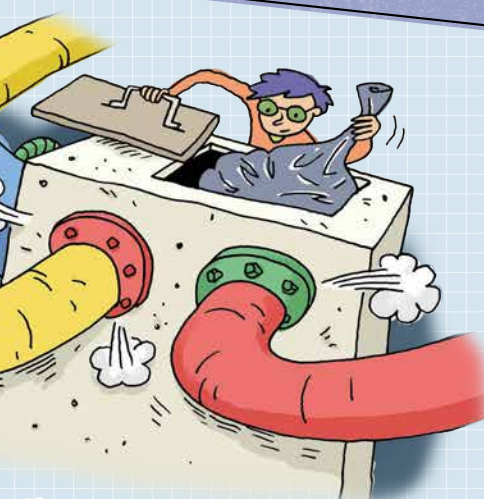
## RECLAMATION ROOM

### GRAND CENTRAL STATION

The Lost and Found department at Grand Central Station is the destination for things that are left behind by train travellers. Tens of thousands of objects arrive here every year and roughly half are reunited with their owners. Mobile phones are the most common lost items, but there have been all kinds of strange things left behind, including false limbs, a violin worth US\$100,000 (£65,500), baseball tickets and a singing President Bush doll.



GRAND CENTRAL STATION



NEW YORK UNIVERSITY

## PROFESSOR OF TRASH

### NYU (NEW YORK UNIVERSITY)

NYU is home to Professor Robin Nagle - official anthropologist in residence to the NY Department of Sanitation - whose role is to follow the workers around and learn their habits and language.



Here are a few of the garbage guys' special work words, as recorded by their personal professor:

**FRUIT WAGON, SALAD WAGON** or **WHITE ELEPHANT** - a garbage truck.

**HOPPER JUICE** - the smelly liquid that builds up in a truck. Somebody eventually has to clean it out.