

# Harlem & Upper Manhattan

MORNINGSIDE HEIGHTS | HARLEM | EAST HARLEM | HAMILTON HEIGHTS | SUGAR HILL | WASHINGTON HEIGHTS | INWOOD | WEST HARLEM



## Neighborhood Top Five

- 1 Conceding that size *does* matter at the gloriously epic, yet still-unfinished **Cathedral Church of St John the Divine** (p249), the largest place of worship in the US.
- 2 Seeing the world through African American eyes at the small but savvy **Studio Museum in Harlem** (p251).
- 3 Escaping the rat race and modernity at the **Cloisters Museum & Gardens** (p255), an architectural mishmash of monasteries housing medieval art.
- 4 Free Sunday jazz jams at the home of New York City's 'host with the most,' **Marjorie Eliot** (p261).
- 5 Quiet time with Goya, El Greco, Velázquez and friends at the underrated **Hispanic Society of America Museum & Library** (p255).

For more detail of this area, see Map p436 →

## Lonely Planet's Top Tip

Manhattan's uptown communities tend to be locally minded, with bars, restaurants and shops catering to a neighborhood scene. These tend to be sleepest on weekday mornings and liveliest in the evenings and on weekends.

To make the most of your visit, hit one of the museums or other historic sights in the afternoon, then stick around for dinner when these areas come to life.

### Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Charles' Pan-Fried Chicken (p260)
- ➔ Red Rooster (p260)
- ➔ Dinosaur Bar-B-Que (p256)

For reviews, see p256 ➔

### Best Places to Drink

- ➔ Ginny's Supper Club (p261)
- ➔ Harlem Public (p260)
- ➔ Bier International (p261)

For reviews, see p261 ➔

### Best Unexpected Surprises

- ➔ Marjorie Eliot Jazz Performance (p261)
- ➔ Sylvan Terrace (p256)
- ➔ Hispanic Society of America Museum & Library (p255)

For reviews, see p252 ➔

## Explore Harlem & Upper Manhattan

The top half of Manhattan is a lot of territory to cover, with numerous points of interest a distance away from each other. So pick a neighborhood (or better yet, a couple of contiguous neighborhoods) and stick to them. If you like your cities to feel a little bit country, then start with Inwood – which has invigorating parks and an extravagant museum – and then work your way down the west side to the gargantuan Cathedral Church of St John the Divine. Prefer an urban vibe? Then it's all about Harlem and Hamilton Heights, a bastion of African American culture jammed with soul food, swinging bars and some architectural treats.

## Local Life

- ➔ **Get your chic on** When Harlem peeps go out on the town, they usually dress to impress. For killer kicks, hit Atmos (p262) on retail-heavy 125th St. For high-end threads at preloved prices, head to in-the-know Trunk Show Designer Consignment (p262) on 113th St.
- ➔ **Tune in** For off-the-beaten-path musical events, nothing beats Morningside Heights. Riverside Church (p253), the Cathedral Church of St John the Divine (p249) and Columbia University (p252) all host regular concerts.
- ➔ **Take a hike** New Yorkers jogging, hiking and biking is what you'll find at Inwood Hill Park (p255) on any given sunny day. Tie those laces and get moving.

## Getting There & Away

- ➔ **Subway** Harlem's main drag – 125th St – is just one subway stop from the 59th St–Columbus Circle Station in Midtown on the A and D trains. Other areas of Harlem and northern Manhattan can be reached on the A/C, B/D, 1/2/3 and 4/5/6 trains.
- ➔ **Bus** Dozens of buses ply the north–south route between upper and lower Manhattan along all the major avenues. The M10 bus provides a scenic trip along the west side of Central Park into Harlem. The M100 and the M101 run east to west along 125th St.
- ➔ **Taxi** If yellow cabs are in short supply, look for livery cabs (big town cars bearing a company name and number); negotiate a price before you get in.