

Midtown

MIDTOWN EAST | FIFTH AVENUE | MIDTOWN WEST | TIMES SQUARE

Neighborhood Top Five

- 1 Playing spot the landmark at **Top of the Rock** (p189), the Rockefeller Center's jaw-dropping observation deck. Sure, the Empire State Building might be more famous, but it's from here that you'll be able to see it.
- 2 Hanging out with Picasso, Warhol and Rothko at the blockbuster **Museum of Modern Art** (MoMA; p181).
- 3 Indulging in a little **retail rampage** (p206) on and around Fifth and Madison Aves.
- 4 Dirty martinis, skyline views and hot evening sax at **Jazz at Lincoln Center** (p202).
- 5 Adding a little sparkle to life with a toe-tapping, soul-lifting **Broadway show** (p202)



For more detail of this area see maps on p426 and p430 →

Explore Midtown

Midtown is big, brazen and best seen on foot, so slice it up and enjoy it bit by bit. The top end of Fifth Ave (around the 50s) makes for a fabled introduction. It's here that you'll find Tiffany & Co, the Plaza Hotel, the Museum of Modern Art (MoMA), and the Rockefeller Center's Top of the Rock observation deck. A day in Midtown East could easily incorporate rare manuscripts at the Morgan Library & Museum, beaux arts architecture at Grand Central Terminal, the art deco lobby of the Chrysler Building and a tour of the United Nations. If it's a rainy day, explore the gilded New York Public Library.

In Midtown West, design and fashion buffs head to the Museum of Arts & Design and the Museum at FIT. Between the two is blinding Times Square, most spectacular at night. It's here that you'll find a TKTS Booth selling cut-price Broadway tickets. The queues are usually shortest after 5.30pm, though clever cookies buy their tickets at the less crowded South Street Seaport branch. Further west is Hell's Kitchen, famed for its restaurants and gay scene.

Local Life

- ♦ **Dive bars** Stiff drinks, loosened ties and the whiff of nostalgia await at no-bull bars like Jimmy's Corner (p201) and Subway Inn (p201).
- ♦ **Theater** Look beyond the glitz and kitsch of Broadway for innovative drama at Playwrights Horizons (p204).
- ♦ **Food** Join all walks of life at time-warped Cuban diner El Margon (p198).

Getting There & Away


- ♦ **Subway** Times Sq-42nd St, Grand Central-42nd St and 34th St-Herald Sq are Midtown's main interchange stations. A/C/E and 1/2/3 lines run north-south through Midtown West. The 4/5/6 lines run north-south through Midtown East. The central B/D/F/M lines run up Sixth Ave, while N/Q/R lines follow Broadway. The 7, E and M lines offer some crosstown service.
- ♦ **Bus** Useful for the western and eastern extremes of Midtown. Routes include the M11 (running northbound on Tenth Ave and southbound on Ninth Ave); the M101, M102 and M103 (running northbound along Third Ave and southbound along Lexington Ave); and the M15 (running northbound on First Ave and southbound on Second Ave). Useful buses run along 34th and 42nd Sts.
- ♦ **Train** Long-distance Amtrak and Long Island Rail Road (LIRR) trains terminate at Penn Station. Jersey's PATH trains stop at 33rd St, while Metro-North commuter trains terminate at Grand Central Terminal.

Lonely Planet's Top Tip

Savoring Midtown's A-list restaurants without mortgaging the house is possible if you go for the prix fixe lunch menu where available. Participants include Michelin starred Le Bernardin (p199) and A Voce (p200), which offer dishes featured in their evening menus. How far ahead you should book depends on the restaurant. While you can usually secure a lunch table at A Voce with a few days notice, it can sometimes be a one-month wait at Le Bernardin. Both offer online reservations.


Best Places to Eat

- ♦ Le Bernardin (p199)
- ♦ Danji (p199)
- ♦ Betony (p199)
- ♦ A Voce (p200)

For reviews, see p197 

Best Places to Drink

- ♦ Campbell Apartment (p187)
- ♦ Rum House (p201)
- ♦ Middle Branch (p201)
- ♦ Jimmy's Corner (p201)

For reviews, see p200 

Best Places for a Skyline View

- ♦ Top of the Rock (p189)
- ♦ Empire State Building (p179)
- ♦ Top of the Strand (p200)
- ♦ Robert (p201)

For reviews, see p189 