

Welcome to New York City

Epicenter of the arts. Dining and shopping capital. Trendsetter. New York City wears many crowns, and spreads an irresistible feast for all.

Urban Wanderers

With its compact size and streets packed with eye candy of all sorts – architectural treasures, old-world cafes, atmospheric booksellers and curiosity shops – NYC is an urban wanderer's delight. You can lose yourself in the crowds of Chinatown amid brightly painted Buddhist temples, steaming noodle shops and fragrant fishmongers, then stroll up to Nolita for enticing boutiques and coffee-tasting among the craft-minded scenesters. Every neighborhood offers a dramatically different version of New York City – from the 100-year-old Jewish delis of the Upper West Side to the cobblestone lanes of Greenwich Village. And the best way to experience this city is to walk its streets.

Nexus of the Arts

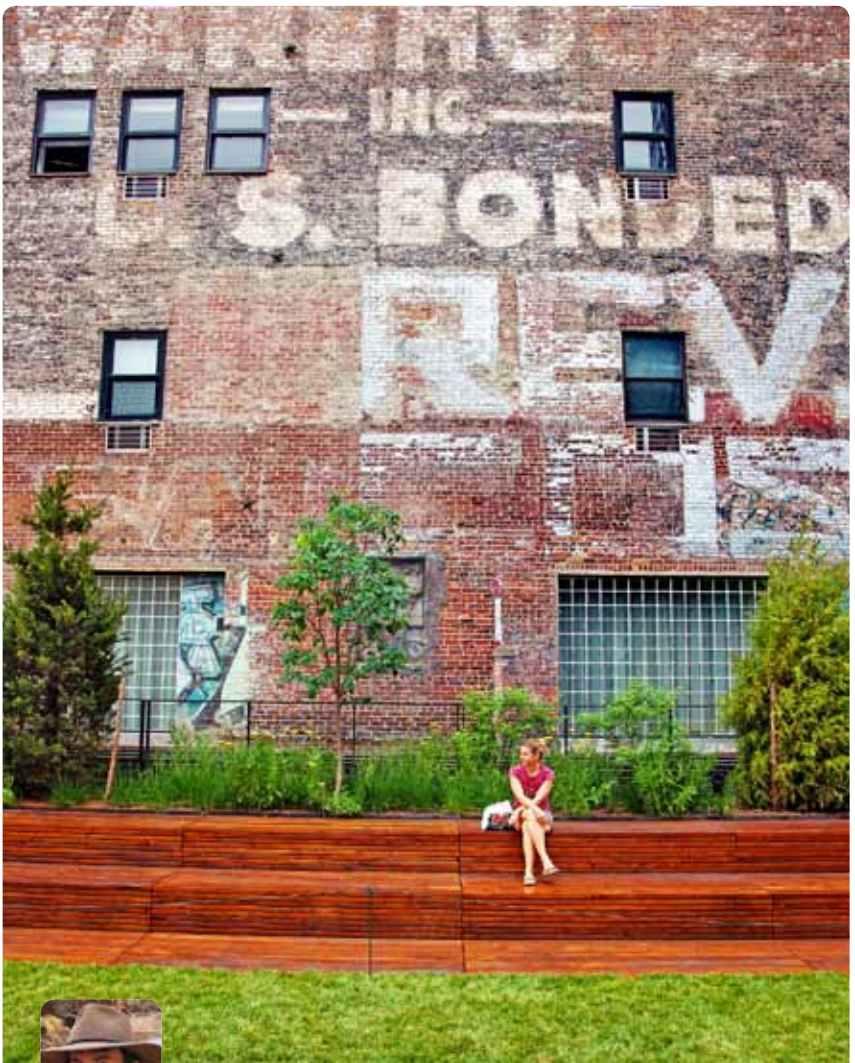
The Met, the MoMA and the Guggenheim are just the beginning of a dizzying list of art-world icons. You'll find museums devoted to everything from fin de siècle Vienna to immigrant life in the Lower East Side, and sprawling galleries filled with Japanese sculpture, postmodern American painting, Himalayan textiles and New York City lore. Delve into the cutting-edge galleries of Chelsea and the Lower East Side, with their myriad exhibition spaces, and festive opening-night parties (usually on Thursday nights).

The Night Is Young

When the sun sinks slowly beyond the Hudson and luminous skyscrapers light up the night, New York transforms into one grand stage. Well-known actors take to the legendary theaters of Broadway as 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.

Culinary Capital

There's never been a better time to dine in New York. The city has become a hotbed of seasonal and locally sourced cuisine, with restaurants raising vegetables on roof gardens or their own upstate farms, and sourcing meats and seafood from sustainable outfits nearby. Bars have also taken creativity to new heights, with pre-Prohibition-era cocktails, served alongside delectable small plates. Though of course, you can also hit the gourmet food-truck scene, or dine more traditionally at one of NYC's 20,000-plus sit-down restaurants.



Why I Love New York City

By Regis St Louis, Author

I've lived in NYC since 2001, and I'm excited about how green the city has become in recent years. The Brooklyn Bridge Park in my neighborhood, the High Line, the Hudson River Park, the growing number of farmers markets around town, the new Citi Bike program, Bloomberg's plant-a-million-trees campaign: New York is no longer 'the concrete jungle' of yesteryear. Culturally speaking, it's an exciting time to be in New York, with the arrival of new theaters, cultural centers and sporting arenas (Theatre for a New Audience, BRIC, Barclays Center). I also feel fortunate to be here during the Brooklyn renaissance, when there's so much creativity in the air. **For more about our authors, see p448.**