

Upper East Side



Neighborhood Top Five

- ❶ Spending a few hours (or weeks) wandering amid the priceless treasures of the **Metropolitan Museum of Art** (p212), from mesmerizing Egyptian artifacts to Renaissance masterpieces.
- ❷ Walking the spiral ramps of Frank Lloyd Wright's architectural masterpiece, the **Guggenheim Museum** (p216).
- ❸ Gazing at the gilded masterpieces of Gustav Klimt at the **Neue Galerie** (p219).
- ❹ Listening to Sunday classical music in a beaux arts mansion at **Frick Collection** (p226).
- ❺ Sipping an early evening cocktail at the elegant, mural-lined **Bemelmans Bar** (p226).

For more detail of this area, see Map p432 →

Explore Upper East Side

There are infinite ways to tackle this large, well-moneyed neighborhood. Begin with a walk south down Fifth Ave, starting at about 96th St. This will take you down storied Museum Mile, which is studded with vintage mansions and prestigious museums. At 72nd St, scoot east to Madison Ave and head south, where you can then enjoy the sight of some of the country's most extravagant flagship boutiques (Vera Wang, Prada and Lanvin, to name a few). The path is strewn with old-world cafes and opulent restaurants. Welcome to the rarefied air of uptown.

Local Life

- ➔ **Lunch with the upper crust** The Upper East Side is all about lunch – specifically ladies who lunch, a well-coiffed breed known for dispensing air kisses while armed with designer handbags the size of steam trunks. The best places to see 'em include Sant Ambroeus (p224) and Café Boulud (p225), on weekdays.
- ➔ **(Window) shop 'til you drop** Skip the ritzy Madison Ave boutiques, and hit the neighborhood's high-end consignment shops. Places like Encore (p226) and Michael's (p226) offer good deals on mildly worn frocks tossed aside by New York society types.
- ➔ **Get jittery with it** The neighborhood seems to have the highest per capita ratio of coffee emporiums anywhere in the city. And when the locals aren't shopping or doing Pilates, they're sipping steamy skim-milk macchiatos at cafes like Via Quadronno (p222), Sant Ambroeus (p224) and Oslo Coffee Roasters (p225).

Getting There & Away

- ➔ **Subway** The sole subway lines here are the 4/5/6 which travel north and south on Lexington Ave. A new stretch of subway track underneath Second Ave is expected to be completed by late 2016.
- ➔ **Bus** The M1, M2, M3 and M4 buses all make the scenic drive down Fifth Ave beside Central Park. The M15 is handy for getting around the far east side, traveling up First Ave and down Second. Cross-town buses at 66th, 72nd, 79th, 86th and 96th Sts take you across the park and into the Upper West Side.

Lonely Planet's Top Tip

The Upper East Side is ground zero for all things luxurious, especially the area that covers the blocks from 60th to 86th Sts between Park and Fifth Aves. If you're looking for eating and drinking spots that are easier on the wallet, head east of Lexington Ave. First, Second and Third Ave are lined with less pricey neighborhood spots.

Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Tanoshi (p224)
- ➔ James Wood Foundry (p224)
- ➔ ABV (p224)
- ➔ Earl's Beer & Cheese (p222)
- ➔ Café Boulud (p225)

For reviews, see p222 ➔

Best Places to Drink

- ➔ Metropolitan Museum Roof Garden Café & Martini Bar (p225)
- ➔ JBird (p225)
- ➔ Penrose (p225)
- ➔ Vinus and Marc (p225)

For reviews, see p225 ➔

Best Places to Shop

- ➔ Encore (p226)
- ➔ Crawford Doyle Booksellers (p227)
- ➔ Zitomer (p227)
- ➔ Housing Works Thrift Shop (p226)

For reviews, see p226 ➔