

Harlem & Upper Manhattan

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



Top Five

- ① Conceding that size *does* matter at the gloriously epic yet still-unfinished **Cathedral Church of St John the Divine** (p248), 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** (p250).
- ③ Escaping the rat race and modernity at the **Cloisters Museum & Gardens** (p253), an architectural mishmash of monasteries housing medieval art.
- ④ Joining free Sunday jazz jams at the home of New York City's 'host with the most', **Marjorie Eliot** (p262).
- ⑤ Spending quiet time with Goya, El Greco, Velázquez and friends at the underrated **Hispanic Society of America Museum & Library** (p256).

Explore

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 western 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 swinging bars, soul-stirring churches and a few architectural treats.

It's worth noting that many of Harlem's major avenues have been renamed in honor of prominent African Americans; however, many locals still call the streets by their original names. Hence, Malcolm X Blvd is still frequently referred to as Lenox Ave.

Local Life

➔ **Get your chic on** When Harlem peeps go out on the town, they usually dress to impress. Hit Atmos (p262) for killer kicks, Flamekeepers Hat Club (p262) for classic men's caps and hats, and in-the-know Trunk Show Designer Consignment (p262) for high-end threads at pre-loved prices.

➔ **Tune in** For off-the-beaten-path musical events, nothing beats Morningside Heights. Riverside Church (p251), the Cathedral Church of St John the Divine (p248) and Columbia University (p251) all host regular concerts.

➔ **Take a hike** New Yorkers jogging, hiking and biking is what you'll find at Inwood Hill Park (p256) 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 western side of Central Park into Harlem. The M100 and the M101 run east to west along 125th St.

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

- ➔ Red Rooster (p259)
- ➔ Dinosaur Bar-B-Que (p259)
- ➔ BLVD Bistro (p259)
- ➔ Charles' Pan-Fried Chicken (p260)

For reviews, see p258 ➔

Best Places to Drink

- ➔ Ginny's Supper Club (p260)
- ➔ Bier International (p261)
- ➔ Harlem Public (p260)
- ➔ Maison Harlem (p259)

For reviews, see p260 ➔

Best Places for Live Jazz

- ➔ Marjorie Eliot's Parlor Jazz (p262)
- ➔ Apollo Theater (p253)
- ➔ Mintons' (p262)

For reviews, see p262 ➔