

Midtown

MIDTOWN EAST | FIFTH AVENUE | MIDTOWN WEST | TIMES SQUARE |

Neighborhood Top Five

- 1 Playing spot the landmark at the jaw-dropping Top of the Rock, the **Rockefeller Center's** (p186) observation deck, or sipping cocktails at grown-ups-only SixtyFive five floors down.
- 2 Hanging out with Picasso, Warhol and Rothko at the blockbuster **Museum of Modern Art** (p182).
- 3 Conducting **shopping** (p208) sorties on and around Fifth and Madison Aves.
- 4 Slurping martinis, gazing at the skyline and dabbling in a little hot evening sax at **Jazz at Lincoln Center** (p205).
- 5 Adding a little sparkle to life with a toe-tapping, soul-lifting **Broadway show** (p179).



For more detail of this area see Map p428 and p432 ➔

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** (p200) and **Betony** (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 Betony 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 (p200)
- Betony (p200)
- Modern (p183)
- Totto Ramen (p199)

For reviews, see p195 ➡

Best Places to Drink

- SixtyFive (p202)
- Campbell Apartment (p201)
- Rum House (p202)
- Jimmy's Corner (p202)
- Flaming Saddles (p203)

For reviews, see p201 ➡

Best Places for a Skyline View

- Top of the Rock (p191)
- SixtyFive (p202)
- Empire State Building (p180)
- Robert (p193)

For reviews, see p190 ➡

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, home to Tiffany & Co, the Plaza Hotel, the Museum of Modern Art (MoMA), and the Rockefeller Center's Top of the Rock observation decks. 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. Its residents include 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, packed with great eateries and gay venues.

Local Life

- **Dive bars** Stiff drinks, loosened ties and the whiff of nostalgia await at no-bull bars such as Jimmy's Corner (p202) and Rudy's Bar & Grill (p203).
- **Theater** Look beyond the glitz and kitsch of Broadway for innovative drama at Playwrights Horizons (p207) and Second Stage Theatre (p207).
- **Food** Join all walks of life at time-warped Cuban diner El Margon (p199).

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 (north on Tenth Ave and south on Ninth Ave), the M101, M102 and M103 (north on Third Ave and south on Lexington Ave) and the M15 (north on First Ave and south on Second Ave). Crosstown buses run along 34th and 42nd Sts.
- **Train** Long-distance Amtrak and Long Island Rail Road (LIRR) trains terminate at Penn Station (p386). Jersey's PATH trains stop at 33rd St, while Metro-North commuter trains terminate at Grand Central Terminal (p184).