

# SoHo & Chinatown

SOHO, NOHO & NOLITA | CHINATOWN & LITTLE ITALY

## Neighborhood Top Five

**1** Maxing out the credit cards on SoHo's big-name fashion streets, followed by cool-hunting and lesser-known labels on the cognoscenti sidewalks of nearby Nolita and NoHo. (p99)

**2** Slurping soup dumplings and haggling for designer wares of ambiguous authenticity amid the siz-

zling lights of **Chinatown**. (p85)

**3** Snooping around the time-jarred **Merchant's House Museum** (p91), imagining NYC life in the wild and dusty 1800s.

**4** Re-imagining **Little Italy's** action-packed past, with prized *porchetta* (roast

pork) sandwich from **Di Palo** (p97) in hand.

**5** Nighttime conversation, drinks and the chance of comedy, cabaret or live tunes at modern classic **Joe's Pub** (p99).



For more detail of this area see Map p412 and p415 ➔

## Lonely Planet's Top Tip

Serious shopaholics should consult the city's in-the-know retail blogs (p18) before hitting SoHo and surrounds – there's always some sort of 'sample sale' or offer going on, not to mention the opening of yet another boutique stocking fresh, emerging design talent.



### Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Uncle Boons (p92)
- ➔ Dutch (p93)
- ➔ Public (p93)
- ➔ Estela (p92)
- ➔ Prince Street Pizza (p90)

For reviews, see p90 ➔



### Best Places to Drink

- ➔ Pegu Club (p98)
- ➔ Spring Lounge (p97)
- ➔ Genuine Liqueurette (p97)
- ➔ Joe's Pub (p99)
- ➔ Apothéke (p99)

For reviews, see p97 ➔



### Best Places to Shop

- ➔ MoMA Design Store (p102)
- ➔ Rag & Bone (p102)
- ➔ MiN New York (p100)
- ➔ Will Leather Goods (p100)
- ➔ United Nude (p102)

For reviews, see p99 ➔

## Explore

Like a colorful quilt of subneighborhoods sewn together in mismatched patches, the areas orbiting SoHo (SOuth of HOuston) feel like a string of mini republics. Style-mavens boutique hop in booming Nolita (NORTH of Little ITALy), Italo-Americans channel Napoli in ever-shrinking Little Italy, and Chinese extended families gossip over *xiao long bao* (soup dumplings) in hyperactive Chinatown.

Lower-rise buildings inject these streets with a cozy, village-like vibe (main drags Broadway and Canal St excepted). Celebrities, cast-iron lofts and A-list boutiques stud SoHo's cobbled side streets, while humbler 19th-century tenements and quirkier one-off boutiques flavor neighboring Nolita.

In Chinatown, an 'anything goes' spirit wafts up like stall smoke, with frenzied crowds and hawkers mingling and haggling under faded billboards. The best way to weave your way around here is on foot. And don't bother planning your route of attack. It's all about letting your senses guide you. Whether you're following your nose down an alleyway for freshly baked pork buns, or your ears to a prayer gong in a heady Buddhist temple, unexpected surprises are always at the ready.

## Local Life

➔ **Family style** Hit Chinatown's bustling dining dens with a handful of friends and eat 'family style' (order a ton of dishes and sample spoonfuls of each). You'll think the waiter left a zero off the bill.

➔ **Side streets** The stretch of Broadway cutting through SoHo is reserved for the legions of tourists – you'll find New Yorkers scouring the one-of-a-kind boutiques on the side streets for idiosyncratic buys and slashed prices.

➔ **Cultural breaks** It's not all retail therapy in SoHo. Take time to explore the area's artistic legacy at spaces such as Drawing Center (p87), Artists Space (p87) and the Leslie-Lohman Museum of Gay & Lesbian Art (p87).

## Getting There & Away

➔ **Subway** The subway lines dump off along various points of Canal St (J/Z, N/Q/R and 6). Once you arrive it's best to explore on foot. The neighborhood's downtown location makes it easy to access from Midtown and Brooklyn.

➔ **Bus & Taxi** Avoid taking cabs or buses – especially in Chinatown, as the traffic is full-on. For SoHo, have your taxi let you off along Broadway if you aren't fussed about your final destination. Don't take cabs south of Canal St if you're simply planning to wander around Chinatown.