

Understand New York City

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Big changes are underway with soaring architecture and ambitious sustainability initiatives, even while the mayor's approval ratings reach new lows.

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The setting of more movies than anywhere else on earth, NYC is a seasoned star of the silver screen.

New York City Today

With almost 60 million smitten visitors pouring into the city each year, New York remains a mighty force to be reckoned with. Statement architecture is reinvigorating the skyline, while ambitious greenhouse targets attest to a city determined to build a cleaner, greener future. Yet, like any metropolis, the world's 'can-do' capital is not without its challenges, from rising crime rates to social harmony in the Age of Terror.

Best on Film

Annie Hall (1977) Oscar-winning romantic comedy by the king of New York neuroses, Woody Allen.

Manhattan (1979) Allen's at it again with tales of twisted love set among NYC's concrete landscape.

Taxi Driver (1976) Martin Scorsese's tale of a troubled Vietnam vet turned taxi driver.

Requiem for a Dream (2000) An unusual tale of a Brooklyn junkie and his doting Jewish mother.

The Wolf of Wall St (2013) Leonardo DiCaprio depicts the breathtaking rise and fall of a notorious NYC stockbroker.

Best in Print

The Amazing Adventures of Kavalier & Clay (Michael Chabon; 2000) Beloved Pulitzer Prize-winning novel that touches upon Brooklyn, escapism and the nuclear family.

10:04 (Ben Lerner; 2014) Rising star Lerner tells the story of a New York City novelist juggling work, life, art and a heart condition that could prove deadly.

A Tree Grows in Brooklyn (Betty Smith; 1943) An Irish American family living in the Williamsburg tenements at the beginning of the 20th century.

Down These Mean Streets (Piri Thomas; 1967) Memoirs of tough times growing up in Spanish Harlem.

Seasoned Tolerance

Following the 2015 terrorist attacks in Paris and California, city authorities took swift action to engage NYC's 800,000-strong Muslim community, many of whom feared becoming victims of Islamophobic hate crimes. A meeting between the New York Police Department (NYPD) and 40 (mostly Muslim) community leaders was organized six days after the November 13 Paris atrocity to foster greater trust between Muslim New Yorkers and law enforcement officers. Two days after the December 2 attack in San Bernardino, California, mayor Bill de Blasio addressed a crowd at the Jamaica Muslim Center (Masjid Al-Mamoor) in Queens, re-enforcing his promise to robustly investigate any hate-related crimes committed against Muslims in NYC. Despite concerns about an anti-Muslim backlash, the number of incidents reported to the Hate Crime Task Force actually fell by 43% between 2014 and 2015 according to the NYPD, indicating the city's seasoned tolerance is far from dead.

De Blasio Blues

According to a *Wall Street Journal*-NBC4 New York-Marist poll taken in late 2015, mayor Bill de Blasio's approval rating slid from 44% in the spring to just 38% in the fall, suggesting the love affair between de Blasio and NYC could be on the rocks. The swing was especially significant among black voters, among whom his approval rating tumbled from 59% to 50% in the same period. White voters are even less impressed according to a poll by the *New York Times* and Siena College, which declared their support for the mayor to be just 28% in late 2015. Some detractors argue that the city's two-year rise in gun crime (the first increase in almost two decades) reflects de Blasio's 'soft' stance on law enforcement. The Democrat is a prolific critic of the 'stop and frisk' policy supported by former mayor Michael Bloomberg, which