

Union Square, Flatiron District & Gramercy

Neighborhood Top Five

1 Mentally configuring your fantasy loft while perusing floor after floor of wildly priced but uber-gorgeous home goods at **ABC Carpet & Home** (p174).

2 Prodding fresh produce and sampling artisanal treats at **Union Square Greenmarket** (p174), which

transforms into a delightful Christmas market.

3 Slurping on seamless, happy-hour cocktails at the dark and deco-licious **Flatiron Lounge** (p168).

4 Walking square around elegant **Gramercy Park** (p167), enjoying one of the city's most intimate urban moments.

5 Snacking on coveted burgers from **Shake Shack** (p166) while taking in art installations and the iconic Flatiron Building at Madison Square Park.



For more detail of this area see Map p426 →

Lonely Planet's Top Tip

Human traffic can be overwhelming in Union Square, especially along 14th St. If you're in a rush, or trying to hoof it on foot, then switch over to 13th St and you'll cover a lot more ground in much less time.

Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Eleven Madison Park (p168)
- ➔ Gramercy Tavern (p167)
- ➔ Maialino (p167)
- ➔ The Clocktower (p168)
- ➔ Cosme (p168)

For reviews, see p166 ➔

Best Places to Drink

- ➔ Flatiron Lounge (p168)
- ➔ Raines Law Room (p169)
- ➔ Birreria (p169)
- ➔ Old Town Bar & Restaurant (p169)
- ➔ Beauty Bar (p173)

For reviews, see p168 ➔

Best Places to Instagram

- ➔ The northern side of Gramercy Park (p165), looking up Lexington Ave toward the Chrysler Building.
- ➔ Birreria (p169), from the roof deck.
- ➔ The southern side of Madison Square Park (p165), for a full-frontal of the Flatiron Building.

For reviews, see p165 ➔

Explore Union Square, Flatiron District & Gramercy

Union Square unifies many disparate parts of the city, acting as a veritable urban pragmatist linking unlikely cousins. Some may criticize the area for not having a distinct personality of its own, but upon closer inspection, Union Square and the Flatiron District borrow rather cautiously and selectively from their neighbors.

There's not a lot of ground to cover, so the best plan of attack is to use the two major public spaces – Union Square and Madison Square Park – as your anchors. From Union Square you'll feel the Village vibe spilling over with quirky cafes, funky store fronts and buskers in the square itself. Up towards 23rd St you'll find the namesake Flatiron Building looming over the commercial quarter, replete with crowded lunch spots and after-work watering holes. East of both public spaces is Gramercy, its distinctly residential vibe tempered with noted, buzzing restaurants.

Local Life

➔ **Mad Sq Eats** Each spring and fall, foodies flock to tiny General Worth Square – wedged between Fifth Ave and Broadway, opposite Madison Square Park – for Mad Sq Eats (Map p426; www.madisonsquarepark.org/tag/mad-sq-eats; General Worth Sq; ☀spring & fall; 🕒N/R, F/M, 6 to 23rd St), a monthlong culinary pop-up market. Its 30 or so vendors include some of the city's hottest eateries, cooking up anything from proper pizza to brisket tacos using top local produce.

➔ **Gourmet groceries** Eataly (p166) had made a name for itself as the place to go for Italian food buffs, but locals do much more of their everyday shopping at health-conscious supermarket Whole Foods (p174).

Getting There & Away

➔ **Subway** A slew of subway lines converge below Union Square, shuttling passengers up Manhattan's East Side on the 4/5/6 lines, straight across to Williamsburg on the L, or up and over to Queens on the N/Q/R lines. The L also travels across to the West Side, although when there's no traffic it costs about the same to take a cab (if you're two or more people). Take the Q for an express link up to Herald Square and Times Square.

➔ **Bus** The M14A and M14D provide cross-town services along 14th St, while the M23 runs cross-town along 23rd St. Go for the bus over the subway if you're traveling between two eastern points in Manhattan – it's not worth traveling over to Union Square to walk back to First Ave.