

Upper West Side & Central Park



Neighborhood Top Five

- ❶ Escaping the city's frantic urban madness with a day spent picnicking on Sheep's Meadow, row-boatting on the lake and strolling the grand Literary Walk in **Central Park** (p230).
- ❷ Wallowing in the operatic trials of Rigoletto, Carmen and Figaro at the **Metropolitan Opera House** (p241).
- ❸ Walking among the world's largest dinosaurs at the **American Museum of Natural History** (p235).
- ❹ Taking a pilgrimage to Tibet without leaving New York City at the **Nicholas Roerich Museum** (p236).
- ❺ Strolling, jogging or cycling along the Hudson waterfront in **Riverside Park** (p235).

For more detail of this area see Map p436 ➔

Explore Upper West Side & Central Park

Manhattan's midsection has a lot of ground to cover – and the best plan of attack will depend on your flavor. Traveling with tykes? Then dazzle their budding brains with a visit to the American Museum of Natural History, followed by a journey through the sprawling wonderland that is Central Park. If the high arts are your pleasure, then make for the Lincoln Center – where the Metropolitan Opera, the New York Philharmonic and the New York City Ballet all inject the city with vibrant doses of culture. And, if your idea of a good time is just ambling around, then take in the sights in and off Broadway in the 70s, an area cluttered with bustling shops and fine architecture.

Local Life

- **Go fishing** Wood-smoked lox. Briny pickled herring. Meaty sturgeon. It doesn't get more Upper West Side than examining the seafood treats at Zabar's (p236) and Barney Greengrass (p240).
- **Central chill** You can pick out the tourists in Central Park (p230) because they're rushing to see sights. Make like a local by picking out a patch of green with good views and letting the world come to you.
- **Catch a flick** Manhattan's die-hard film buffs can be found taking in quality cinema courtesy of the Film Society of Lincoln Center (p242).
- **Late-night munchies** Nothing is more New York than soaking up the evening's liquor damage with a 2am hot dog from Gray's Papaya (p237).

Getting There & Away

- **Subway** On the Upper West Side, the 1, 2 and 3 subway lines are good for destinations along Broadway and points west, while the B and C trains are best for points of interest and access to Central Park. The park can be accessed from all sides, making every subway that travels north-south through Manhattan convenient. The A, C, B, D and 1 all stop at Columbus Circle at Central Park's southwestern edge, while the N, R or Q will leave you at the southeast corner. The 2 or 3 will deposit you at the northern gate in Harlem.
- **Bus** The M104 bus runs north-south along Broadway, and the M10 plies the scenic ride along the western edge of the park. Cross-town buses at 66th, 72nd, 79th, 86th and 96th Sts take you through the park to the Upper East Side. Note that these pick up and drop off passengers at the edge of the park – not inside.

Lonely Planet's Top Tip

The best way to cover all 840 acres of Central Park is to rent a bicycle. **Bike & Roll** (p244) and the **Loeb Boathouse** (p244) both offer rentals. If starting at the Loeb Boathouse, pedal north along East Dr to see the Great Lawn, the reservoir, the Conservatory Garden and Harlem Meer. From the Great Hill you can coast down West Dr, past the Delacorte Theater and end up at Strawberry Fields (weather permitting).

Best Places to Eat

- Jacob's Pickles (p237)
- Burke & Wills (p237)
- Peacefood Cafe (p236)
- Kefi (p237)
- Dovetail (p240)

For reviews, see p236 ➡

Best Places to Drink

- West End Hall (p241)
- Dead Poet (p241)
- Barcibo Enoteca (p241)
- Manhattan Cricket Club (p241)
- West 79th St Boat Basin Café (p235)

For reviews, see p240 ➡

Best Places for Music

- Metropolitan Opera House (p241)
- SummerStage (p234)
- Smoke (p243)
- Cleopatra's Needle (p243)
- Beacon Theatre (p243)

For reviews, see p241 ➡