

West Village, Chelsea & the Meatpacking District

WEST VILLAGE & THE MEATPACKING DISTRICT | CHELSEA

Neighborhood Top Five

- 1 Packing a picnic lunch from Chelsea Market and having a uniquely pastoral moment on the thin strand of green along the **High Line** (p132) as it soars above the gridiron.
- 2 Checking out the bright art stars at the top galleries in **Chelsea** (p142).
- 3 Walking through **Washington Square Park** (p135), pausing under the signature arch, then loitering at the fountain to eavesdrop on gossiping NYU kids.
- 4 Exploring fascinating exhibitions from the Himalayas and beyond at the **Rubin Museum of Art** (p137).
- 5 Sipping lattes alfresco on cobblestone corners and browsing the latest boutiques in the **West Village**.



For more detail of this area see Map p420 and p424 ➔

Explore West Village, Chelsea & the Meatpacking District

There's a very good reason why this area is known as the Village: it actually looks like one! Quaint, quiet lanes carve their way between brown-brick townhouses offering endless strolling for locals appreciating good weather, or tourists coming to see what all the fuss is about. The Village is indeed picturesque, and the best way to uncover its treasures is to simply have a wander. When your feet grow tired of negotiating the cobbled streets, plunk yourself down at a cafe with a frothy cappuccino or a glass of wine.

Stroll through the Meatpacking District – once filled with slaughterhouses and now brimming with sleek boutiques and roaring nightclubs – to reach Chelsea just to the north. Chelsea bridges the gap between the West Village and Midtown, importing bits and bobs from both. It's the de facto neighborhood for the city's sociable gay community, and its broad avenues are lined with breezy cafes, themed bars and sweaty clubs. The neighborhood's massive gallery scene can be found in the West 20s.

Local Life

➔ **Eighth Ave brunch** If you're a dude looking to meet (or at least look at) other dudes, but the cruise-y bar scene isn't your style, then opt for the weekend brunch scene along Eighth Ave. You'll spot piles of friendly Chelsea boys drinking their hangovers off in tight jeans and even tighter T-shirts.

➔ **West Village cafes** The quizzes and surveys can't be wrong – the West Village is the most desirable residential neighborhood in Manhattan, so do as the locals do and make the most of this quaint district stacked to the brim with cute cafes. Grab a book and a latte and hunker down for a blissful afternoon of people-watching.

➔ **Gallery hopping** Join the fashionable, art-minded crowds at the latest gallery shows in Chelsea. Thursday night, when some galleries have openings (and free wine), is a good time to roam.

Getting There & Away

➔ **Subway** Sixth Ave, Seventh Ave and Eighth Ave are graced with convenient subway stations, but public transportation slims further west. Take the A/C/E or 1/2/3 lines to reach this colorful clump of neighborhoods – disembark at 14th St (along either service) if you're looking for a good place to make tracks.

➔ **Bus** Try M14 or the M8 if you're traveling across town and want to access the westernmost areas of Chelsea and the West Village by public transportation. It's a shame, however, to use the bus or a taxi to get around the West Village – the charming cobblestone streets are perfect for a stroll.

Lonely Planet's Top Tip

It's perfectly acceptable to arm yourself with a map (or rely on your smartphone) to get around the West Village's charming-but-challenging side streets. Even some locals have a tricky time finding their way! Just remember that 4th St makes a diagonal turn north – breaking away from usual east-west street grid – and you'll quickly become a Village pro.

Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Jeffrey's Grocery (p145)
- ➔ Gansevoort Market (p148)
- ➔ RedFarm (p147)
- ➔ Chelsea Market (p148)
- ➔ Blue Hill (p147)

For reviews, see p139 ➔

Best Places to Drink

- ➔ Employees Only (p149)
- ➔ Buvette (p150)
- ➔ Frying Pan (p153)
- ➔ Smalls (p154)
- ➔ Duplex (p156)

For reviews, see p149 ➔

Best Bookshops

- ➔ Printed Matter (p160)
- ➔ Strand Book Store (p157)
- ➔ Three Lives & Company (p158)
- ➔ Posman Books (p160)

For reviews, see p157 ➔