

East Village & Lower East Side

Neighborhood Top Five

1 Admiring the facade then wandering in to appreciate mind-bending iterations of art at the **New Museum of Contemporary Art** (p103).

2 Witnessing the shockingly cramped conditions of early immigrants at the brilliantly curated **Lower**

East Side Tenement Museum (p102).

3 Passing knickknack shops and sake bars on **St Marks Place** (p105), then heading to the neighboring streets for a quieter round of nibbling and boutique-ing.

4 Pub-crawling through the East Village, stopping at

Terroir (p115) and **McSorley's Old Ale House** (p115) along the way.

5 Sampling some of the finest flavors from around the world at restaurants scattered across the neighborhoods, starting with **Cafe Orlin** (p111).



For more detail of this area, see Maps p422 and p424 ➔

Explore the East Village & Lower East Side

If you've been dreaming of those quintessential New York City moments – graffiti on crimson brick, skyscrapers rising overhead, punks and grannies walking side by side, and cute cafes with rickety tables spilling out onto the sidewalks – then the East Village is your Holy Grail. Stick to the area around Tompkins Square Park, and the lettered avenues (known as Alphabet City) to its east, for interesting little nooks in which to imbibe and ingest – as well as a collection of great little community gardens (p107) that provide leafy respites and sometimes even live performances. The streets below 14th St and east of First Ave are packed with cool boutiques and excellent snack-food spots, offering styles and flavors from around the world. It's a mixed bag, indeed, and perhaps one of the most emblematic of today's city.

South of Houston on the Lower East Side, it's worth swinging by the Lower East Side Visitors Center (54 Orchard St) to orient yourself before willfully getting lost in the tangle of eclectic streets.

Local Life

➔ **One block over** Everyone knows that St Marks Place is the big cheese – chockablock with history and boutiques that overflow into the streets. And, as such, you'll find swarms of people shopping and carousing, so hop a block over in either direction for some great retail and restaurant finds with half the crowds.

➔ **Taste the rainbow** The East Village and the Lower East Side (LES) are like no other place in the city when it comes to sampling the finest spread of ethnic cuisine. Many of the area's restaurants don't take reservations, so have a wander and grab an open table to eat-pray-love your way through Italy, India, Indonesia or anywhere in between.

Getting There & Away

➔ **Subway** Trains don't go far enough east to carry you to most East Village locations, but it's a quick walk (and even quicker cab or bus ride) from the 6 at Astor Pl, the F, V at Lower East Side-2nd Ave or the L at First or Third Aves. The subway's F line (Lower East Side-2nd Ave or Delancey St stops) will let you off in the thick of the Lower East Side.

➔ **Bus** If you're traveling from the west side, it's better to take the M14 rather than the subway (L), as the bus will take you further into the East Village, making a southern turn along Aves A, B or C (depending on how the bus is marked).

Lonely Planet's Top Tip

A lot of the restaurants in this neck of the woods don't take reservations, so stop by the restaurant of your choosing in the early afternoon (2pm should do the trick) and place your name on the roster for the evening meal – chances are high that they'll take your name and you'll get seated right away when you return for dinner later on.



Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Cafe Orlin (p111)
- ➔ Cocoron (p114)
- ➔ Westville East (p111)
- ➔ Katz's Delicatessen (p114)

For reviews, see p111 ➔



Best Places to Drink

- ➔ Terroir (p115)
- ➔ Death + Co (p115)
- ➔ Angel's Share (p118)
- ➔ McSorley's Old Ale House (p115)
- ➔ Eastern Bloc (p118)

For reviews, see p115 ➔



Best Places to Shop

- ➔ Trash & Vaudeville (p122)
- ➔ Edith Machinist (p125)
- ➔ Amé Amé (p122)

For reviews, see p122 ➔