

Greenwich Village, Chelsea & the Meatpacking District

Neighborhood Top Five

❶ Picking a picnic lunch from Chelsea Market and having a uniquely pastoral moment on the **High Line's** (p130) thin strand of green as it soars above the grid iron.

❷ Checking out the city's brightest art stars at the

gaggles of galleries in **Chelsea** (p134).

❸ Walking through **Washington Square Park** (p133), pausing under the signature arch then loitering at the fountain to eavesdrop on gossiping NYU kids.

❹ Putting on the ritz in the **Meatpacking District** (p135) then breezing by guest lists for cocktails in exclusive lounges.

❺ Sipping lattes alfresco on cobblestone corners and searching for out-of-print paperbacks in the **West Village** (p146).



Explore Greenwich Village, Chelsea & the Meatpacking District

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

Stroll through the Meatpacking District – once filled with slaughterhouses and now brimming with sleek boutiques and roaring nightclubs – to reach Chelsea just a smidge 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, with starkly contrasting mega-mart retailers orbiting Sixth Ave.

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 off their hangovers in tight jeans and even tighter T-shirts.

➔ **West Village cafes** The West Village is one of the most desirable residential neighborhoods in the city, 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.

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 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

- ➔ RedFarm (p139)
- ➔ Chelsea Market (p132)
- ➔ Cookshop (p146)
- ➔ Tartine (p139)

For reviews, see p139 ➔

Best Places to Drink

- ➔ Little Branch (p147)
- ➔ Marie's Crisis (p147)
- ➔ Boom Boom Room (p147)
- ➔ Vin Sur Vingt (p147)
- ➔ Art Bar (p147)

For reviews, see p146 ➔

Best Bookshops

- ➔ Printed Matter (p157)
- ➔ Strand Book Store (p154)
- ➔ Three Lives & Company (p154)
- ➔ Posman Books (p157)
- ➔ Bonnie Slotnick Cookbooks (p154)

For reviews, see p154 ➔