

# Harlem & Upper Manhattan

MORNINGSIDE HEIGHTS | HARLEM | EAST HARLEM | HAMILTON HEIGHTS | SUGAR HILL | WASHINGTON HEIGHTS | INWOOD



## Neighborhood Top Five

- 1 Taking in the overwhelming scale of **Cathedral Church of St John the Divine** (p248), the largest place of worship in the US. This glorious Gothic-style treasure is a work in progress; the north tower has yet to be built.
- 2 Admiring the myriad contributions of African American artists at **Studio Museum in Harlem** (p250).
- 3 Spending quiet time with priceless works by Goya at the underrated **Hispanic Society of America Museum & Library** (p256).
- 4 Strolling through **Cloisters Museum & Gardens** (p256), among the remains of medieval monasteries.
- 5 Savoring Harlem's global soul at Marcus Samuelsson's fashionable bistro, **Red Rooster** (p258).

For more detail of this area, see Map p444 ➔

## Explore Harlem & Upper Manhattan

The top half of Manhattan is a lot of territory to cover, with a number of historical sights – many on opposing sides of the island. So pick a neighborhood (or better yet, a couple of contiguous neighborhoods) and stick to them. If you like your cities to feel a little bit country, then start with Inwood – which has lovely parks, an extravagant museum and a super chilled-out vibe – and then work your way down the west side to the soaring Cathedral Church of St John the Divine. Prefer an urban vibe? Then it's all about Harlem and Hamilton Heights, a bastion of African American culture that offers good eating and shopping, and jazzy places to sip a drink.

### Local Life

➔ **Get your chic on** When Harlem ladies and gents go out on the town, they are usually dressed to the nines. The commercial strip on 125th provides plenty of shopping opportunities. For glam frocks, hit Swing (p260); for killer kicks, head to Atmos (p260).

➔ **Tune in** For off-the-beaten-path musical events, nothing beats Morningside Heights. Riverside Church (p251), the Cathedral Church of St John the Divine (p248) and Columbia University (p251) all host regular concerts.

➔ **Take a hike** New Yorkers jogging, hiking and biking is what you'll find at Inwood Hill Park (p257) on any given sunny day. Join in!

### Getting There & Away

➔ **Subway** Harlem's main drag – 125th St – is just one subway stop from the 59th St–Columbus Circle Station in Midtown on the A and D trains. Other areas of Harlem and northern Manhattan can be reached on the A/C, B/D, 1/2/3 and 4/5/6 trains.

➔ **Bus** Dozens of buses ply the north–south route between upper and lower Manhattan along all the major avenues. The M10 bus provides a scenic trip along the west side of Central Park into Harlem. The M100 and the M101 run east to west along 125th St.

➔ **Taxi** If yellow cabs are in short supply, look for livery cabs (big town cars bearing a company name and number); negotiate a price before you get in.

## Lonely Planet's Top Tip

Manhattan's uptown communities tend to be locally minded, with bars, restaurants and shops catering to a neighborhood scene. These tend to be sleepest on weekday mornings but come to life on evenings and weekends when locals are out and about.

To make the most of your visit, hit one of the museums or other historic sights in the afternoon, then stick around for dinner when these areas are at their liveliest.

### Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Charles' Pan-Fried Chicken (p259)
- ➔ Red Rooster (p258)
- ➔ Mamajuana (p259)
- ➔ Community Food & Juice (p258)

For reviews, see p258 ➔

### Best Places to Drink

- ➔ Bier International (p259)
- ➔ Yankee Stadium (p257)
- ➔ Lenox Lounge (p259)

For reviews, see p259 ➔

### Best Places to Browse

- ➔ Atmos (p260)
- ➔ Nostalgia (p260)
- ➔ Jumel Terrace Books (p260)
- ➔ Malcolm Shabazz Harlem Market (p252)

For reviews, see p260 ➔