

Midtown

MIDTOWN EAST | FIFTH AVENUE | MIDTOWN WEST | TIMES SQUARE

Neighborhood Top Five

- 1 Playing spot the landmark at **Top of the Rock** (p179), the Rockefeller Center's jaw-dropping observation deck. Sure, the Empire State Building might be more famous, but it's from here that you'll be able to see it. Charge your camera.
- 2 Hanging out with Picasso, Warhol and Rothko at the **Museum of Modern Art** (p180).
- 3 Indulging in a little retail rampage on and around Fifth and Madison Aves (p206).
- 4 Dirty martinis, skyline views and hot, hot sax at **Jazz at Lincoln Center** (p200).
- 5 Adding a little sparkle to life with a **Broadway** (p200) show.



For more detail of this area, see Maps p434 and p438 ➔

Explore Midtown

Midtown is big, bold and best seen on foot, so slice it up and enjoy it bit by bit. The top end of Fifth Ave (around the 50s) makes for a fabled introduction. It's here that you'll find glam icons, not to mention the incredible Museum of Modern Art (MoMA). You could easily spend an entire day at MoMA, ogling masterpieces, eating, drinking and catching a film. Unlike most major museums, it's open on Monday. From here, it's only a few blocks south to the Rockefeller Center and its sky-high Top of the Rock observation decks. A day in Midtown East could easily incorporate rare manuscripts at the Pierpont Morgan Library, beaux arts architecture at Grand Central Terminal, the art deco lobby of the Chrysler Building and a tour of the United Nations.

Across in Midtown West, design and fashion buffs shouldn't miss the Museum of Arts & Design and the Museum at FIT. Between the two is bright, blinding Times Square, most spectacular at night. It's here you'll find a TKTS Booth selling cut-price Broadway tickets. The real gems of Times Square, however, are on its periphery, such as sheet-music specialist Colony, cocktail den the Rum House and dive bar Jimmy's Corner.

Local Life

- ➔ **Dive bars** Stiff drinks, loosened ties and the whiff of nostalgia await at no-bull bars like Subway Inn, Jimmy's Corner (p200) and PJ Clarke's (p198).
- ➔ **Theater** Look beyond the glitz of Broadway for fresh, innovative drama at Playwrights Horizons (p204).
- ➔ **Food** For a slice of old New York, join the locals at time-warped Sarge's Deli (p195) or El Margon (p197).

Getting There & Away

- ➔ **Subway** Times Sq–42nd St, Grand Central–42nd St and 34th St–Herald Sq are Midtown's main interchange stations. A/C/E and 1/2/3 lines run north to south through Midtown West. The 4/5/6 lines run north to south through Midtown East. The central B/D/F/M lines run up Sixth Ave, while N/Q/R lines follow Broadway.
- ➔ **Bus** Useful for the western and eastern extremes of Midtown. Routes include the 11 (northbound on Tenth Ave and southbound on Ninth Ave), the M101, M102 and M103 (northbound along Third Ave and southbound along Lexington Ave) and the M15 (northbound on First Ave and southbound on Second Ave).
- ➔ **Train** Long-distance Amtrak and Long Island Rail Road trains terminate at Penn Station. Jersey's PATH trains stop at 33rd St, while Metro-North commuter trains terminate at Grand Central Terminal.

Lonely Planet's Top Tip

Savoring Midtown's A-list restaurants without mortgaging the house is possible if you go for the prix fixe lunch menu where available. Participants include triple-Michelin starred Le Bernardin (p196) and the one-starred A Voce (p197). The former offers dishes usually featured in its evening menu. How far in advance you should book depends on the restaurant. While you can usually secure a lunch table at A Voce with a few days notice, it can sometimes be a one-month wait at Le Bernardin. Both offer online reservations.

Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Le Bernardin (p196)
- ➔ Danji (p196)
- ➔ A Voce (p197)
- ➔ Burger Joint (p196)

For reviews, see p194 ➔

Best Places to Drink

- ➔ Campbell Apartment (p188)
- ➔ Rum House (p199)
- ➔ Bill's Gay Nineties (p198)
- ➔ Terroir (p198)

For reviews, see p197 ➔

Best Places for a Skyline View

- ➔ Top of the Rock (p179)
- ➔ Empire State Building (p185)
- ➔ Top of the Strand (p198)
- ➔ Robert (p199)