

Upper East Side



Neighborhood Top Five

- 1 Getting lost inside the priceless collections at the sprawling **Metropolitan Museum of Art** (p212), admiring Egyptian artifacts and contemporary rooftop installations. The new Art of the Arab Lands galleries and the revamped American Wing are both worth seeing.
- 2 Walking the spiraling ramps of Frank Lloyd Wright's architectural masterpiece, the **Guggenheim Museum** (p215).
- 3 Visiting **Temple Emanu-El** (p218), a dazzling Romanesque synagogue lined with splendid mosaics and stained glass.
- 4 Listening to Sunday classical music in a beaux arts mansion at **Frick Collection** (p224).
- 5 Sinking a tooth into one of the city's best black-and-white cookies at **William Greenberg Desserts** (p221).

Explore Upper East Side

There are infinite ways to tackle the neighborhood that contains some of the richest zip codes in the US. Begin with a walk south down Fifth Ave, starting at about 96th St. This will take you down storied Museum Mile (studied with vintage mansions and prestigious museums). At 72nd St, scoot east to Madison Ave and head south, where you can then enjoy the sight of some of the country's most extravagant flagship boutiques (Vera Wang, Prada and Lanvin, to name a few). The path is strewn with old-world cafes and opulent bars. Welcome to the rarefied air of uptown.

Local Life

➔ **Lunch with the upper crust** The Upper East Side is all about lunch – specifically ladies who lunch, a well-coiffed breed known for dispensing air kisses while armed with designer handbags the size of steam trunks. The best places to see 'em include Sant Ambroeus (p220) and Café Boulud (p220), on weekdays.

➔ **(Window) shop 'til you drop** Sure, the ritzy Madison Ave boutiques are jaw-dropping to look at, but aren't within reach of everyone's budgets. Local fashionistas hit the neighborhood for its high-end consignment shops and thrift stores – like Encore (p225), Michael's (p225) and Arthritis Foundation Thrift Shop (p225) – to hunt down good deals on mildly worn frocks tossed aside by New York society types.

➔ **Get jittery with it** The neighborhood seems to have the highest per capita ratio of coffee emporiums anywhere in the city. And when the locals aren't shopping or doing Pilates, they're sipping steamy skim-milk macchiatos at cafes like Via Quadronno (p221), Sant Ambroeus (p220) and Cafe 3 (p216) at the Guggenheim Museum.

Getting There & Away

➔ **Subway** The sole subway lines here are the 4, 5 and 6, which travel north and south on Lexington Ave. Note that these trains get packed to sardine levels at rush hour, which means that if you're just traveling one or two stops, you'll be better off walking. A new stretch of subway track underneath Second Ave is expected to be completed by late 2016.

➔ **Bus** The M1, M2, M3 and M4 buses make the scenic drive down Fifth Ave along the eastern edge of Central Park. The M15 can be handy for getting around the far east side, traveling up First Ave and down Second. Cross-town buses at 66th, 72nd, 79th, 86th and 96th Sts take you across the park and into the Upper West Side.

Lonely Planet's Top Tip

The Upper East Side is ground zero for all things luxurious, especially the area that covers the blocks from 60th to 86th Sts between Park and Fifth Aves. As a general rule, if you're looking for eating and drinking spots that are easier on the wallet, head east of Lexington Ave. First, Second and Third Aves are lined with less pricey neighborhood spots.

Best Places to Eat

➔ Earl's Beer & Cheese (p220)

➔ Café Boulud (p220)

➔ Sandro's (p221)

➔ Café Sabarsky (p221)

For reviews, see p220 ➔

Best Places to Drink

➔ Metropolitan Museum Roof Garden Café & Martini Bar (p224)

➔ Heidelberg (p224)

➔ Bemelmans Bar (p224)

For reviews, see p224 ➔

Best Places to Shop

➔ Encore (p225)

➔ Crawford Doyle Booksellers (p225)

➔ Zitomer (p225)

➔ Arthritis Foundation Thrift Shop (p225)

For reviews, see p225 ➔