

TRANSPORTATION

There's always room for one more in the great American metropolis. With its three bustling airports, two train stations and a monolithic bus terminal, New York rolls out the mat for the 47-odd million visitors who come here each year. Wherever you're coming from, you're sure to find a clear-cut route – though you won't be alone in your path – to NYC.

Once you've arrived, getting around is fairly easy. The 660-mile subway system is cheap and (mostly) efficient and can whisk you to nearly every hidden corner of the city. There are also buses, ferries, trains, pedicabs and those ubiquitous yellow taxis (though don't expect to see many available when it's raining) for zipping around and out of town when the subway simply doesn't cut it.

The sidewalks of New York, however, are the real stars in the transportation scheme – this city is made for walking. Increasingly, it's also made for bicycles, with the addition of hundreds of miles of new bike lanes and greenways over the last few years.

Flights, tours and rail tickets can be booked online at lonelyplanet.com/travel_services.

AIR

When booking tickets, note that high season in New York City runs from mid-June to mid-

THINGS CHANGE...

The information in this chapter is particularly vulnerable to change. Check directly with the airline or a travel agent to make sure you understand how a fare (and ticket you may buy) works and be aware of the security requirements for international travel. Shop carefully. The details given in this chapter should be regarded as pointers and are not a substitute for your own careful, up-to-date research.

September (summer), and one week before and after Christmas. February and March, and from October to Thanksgiving (the fourth Thursday in November) serve as shoulder seasons, when prices drop slightly.

Some of the best websites:

Cheap Tickets (www.cheaptickets.com)

Expedia (www.expedia.com)

Kayak (www.kayak.com)

Priceline (www.priceline.com)

Travelocity (www.travelocity.com)

STA Travel (☎ 800-781-4040; reservations 212-865-2700; www.statravel.com) offers student fares and has three Manhattan offices. In New York, the

CLIMATE CHANGE & TRAVEL

Climate change is a serious threat to the ecosystems that humans rely upon, and air travel is the fastest-growing contributor to the problem. Lonely Planet regards travel, overall, as a global benefit, but believes we all have a responsibility to limit our personal impact on global warming.

Flying & Climate Change

Pretty much every form of motor transport generates CO₂ (the main cause of human-induced climate change) but planes are far and away the worst offenders, not just because of the sheer distances they allow us to travel, but because they release greenhouse gases high into the atmosphere. The statistics are frightening: two people taking a return flight between Europe and the US will contribute as much to climate change as an average household's gas and electricity consumption over a whole year.

Carbon Offset Schemes

Climatecare.org and other websites use 'carbon calculators' that allow jetsetters to offset the greenhouse gases they are responsible for with contributions to energy-saving projects and other climate-friendly initiatives in the developing world – including projects in India, Honduras, Kazakhstan and Uganda.

Lonely Planet, together with Rough Guides and other concerned partners in the travel industry, supports the carbon offset scheme run by climatecare.org. Lonely Planet offsets all of its staff and author travel.

For more information check out our website: www.lonelyplanet.com.

GETTING INTO TOWN

There are several ways of getting to and from New York's three main airports; the easiest is queuing up for a taxi at the official stands (avoid the independent drivers who approach new arrivals). Public transportation tends to take longer.

For a little extra ease, dozens of car services can offer drop-off or pick-up service to the airports, including **Tel Aviv** (☎ 212-777-7777, 800-222-9888; www.telavivlimo.com) and **Prime Time** (☎ 718-482-7900, 800-660-8463). Tel Aviv is about \$5 cheaper. Note you pay toll fees (when applicable) and taxi or car-service drivers will expect a tip of about \$5.

If you're going to JFK or LaGuardia, the **New York Airport Service Express Bus** (☎ 212-875-8200; www.nyairport.service.com; every 20 or 30 minutes) has routes to and from both, stopping at the Port Authority Bus Terminal, Penn Station and just outside Grand Central Terminal – no reservations needed.

Super Shuttle (☎ 800-258-3826, 212-258-3826; www.supershuttle.com; one way to LaGuardia/JFK \$15/23) is kind of like a shared-taxi ride that offers pick-up/drop-off service from your hotel in Manhattan to JFK or LaGuardia. It's not worth using if you're staying in Queens or Brooklyn.

To/from JFK

- A yellow **taxi** from Manhattan to the airport will use the meter; prices depend on traffic (often about \$55) – it can take 45 to 60 minutes. From JFK, taxis charge a flat rate of \$45 to any destination in Manhattan (not including tolls or tip); it can take 45 to 60 minutes for most destinations in Manhattan. To/from a destination in Brooklyn, the metered fare should be about \$35 to \$45.
- **Car services** (see above) have set fares from \$48/53 (off hours/rush hour). Note that the Williamsburg, Manhattan, Brooklyn and Queensboro–59th St Bridges have no toll either way, while the Queens-Midtown Tunnel and the Brooklyn-Battery Tunnel cost \$5.50 going into Manhattan.
- If you're **driving** from the airport, either go around Brooklyn's south tip via the Belt Parkway to US 278 (the Brooklyn-Queens Expressway, or BQE), or via US 678 (Van Wyck Expressway) to US 495 (Long Island Expressway, or LIE), which heads into Manhattan via the Queens-Midtown Tunnel.
- The **New York Airport Service Express Bus** (see above) costs \$15.
- By **subway**, take either the A line (bound for Rockaway Beach) to Howard Beach–JFK Airport station, or the E, J or Z line or the Long Island Rail Road to Sutphin Blvd–Archer Ave (Jamaica Station), where you can catch the AirTrain to JFK. (The E express from Midtown has the fewest stops.) The overpriced AirTrain finishes the tail end of a long trip for \$5 one way; you can use a MetroCard to swipe yourself in. Expect it to take at least 90 minutes from Midtown.

To/from LaGuardia

- A **taxi** to/from Manhattan runs about \$40 for the approximately half-hour ride.
- A **car service** (see above) to LaGuardia costs \$33/38 (off hours/rush hour).

ubiquitous **Liberty Travel** (☎ 888-271-1584; www.libertytravel.com) has over 20 locations.

Airlines

As a major international hub, New York is served by most airlines. Visiting airline offices is old-fashioned business these days (and most have closed Manhattan locations in recent years); to get toll-free numbers for airlines in the US, call ☎ 800-555-1212.

Airports

Three major airports serve New York City: John F Kennedy (JFK) and LaGuardia (LGA) in Queens, and Newark Liberty International Airport (EWR) in Newark, New Jersey. Only

JFK has **baggage storage** (per day \$4-16; ☎ 7am-11pm), in Terminals 1 (☎ 7am-11pm) and 4 (☎ 24hr).

JFK INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This busy **airport** (JFK; **Map pp206–7**; ☎ 718-244-4444; www.panynj.gov, www.kennedyairport.com; Jamaica, Queens), 15 miles from Midtown in southeastern Queens, has eight terminals, serves 45 million passengers annually and hosts flights coming and going from all corners of the globe. Major renovations have been in progress for several years, including the AirTrain link with the subway (and free service between terminals). If you go with Jet Blue, you fly from the gorgeous ex-TWA terminal (now Terminal 5), designed by Finnish architect Eero Saarinen in 1962.