

East Village & Lower East Side

EAST VILLAGE | LOWER EAST SIDE

Neighborhood Top Five

1 Admiring the off-white webbing of the boxy facade of the **New Museum of Contemporary Art** (p108), then wandering in to appreciate mind-bending iterations of art across myriad media.

2 Witnessing the shockingly cramped conditions

of early immigrants at the brilliantly curated **Lower East Side Tenement Museum** (p107).

3 Passing knickknack shops and sake bars on **St Marks Place** (p110), then heading to the neighboring streets for a quieter round of nibbling and boutique-ing.

4 Pub-crawling through **Alphabet City**, stopping en route at **Rue B** (p119) for jazz and **Wayland** (p122) for moonshine cocktails.

5 Snacking on a tantalizing array of global dishes such as upscale Indian street food at **Babu Ji** (p115).



For more detail of this area see Map p416 and p418 ➔

Lonely Planet's Top Tip

A lot of the restaurants in this neck of the woods don't take reservations, so stop by the restaurant of your choosing in the early afternoon (2pm should do the trick) and place your name on the roster for the evening meal – chances are high that they'll take your name and you'll get seated right away when you return for dinner later on.



Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Upstate (p115)
- ➔ Degustation (p116)
- ➔ El Rey (p116)
- ➔ Fung Tu (p119)
- ➔ Momofuku Noodle Bar (p114)

For reviews, see p113 ➔



Best Places to Drink

- ➔ Rue B (p119)
- ➔ Jimmy's No 43 (p122)
- ➔ Angel's Share (p122)
- ➔ Berlin (p119)
- ➔ Ten Bells (p124)

For reviews, see p119 ➔



Best Places to Shop

- ➔ Obscura Antiques (p127)
- ➔ A-1 Records (p127)
- ➔ By Robert James (p129)
- ➔ Verameat (p127)
- ➔ Still House (p127)

For reviews, see p127 ➔

Explore the East Village & Lower East Side

If you've been dreaming of those quintessential New York City moments – graffiti on crimson brick, skyscrapers rising overhead, punks and grannies walking side by side, and cute cafes with rickety tables spilling out onto the sidewalks – then the East Village is your Holy Grail. Stick to the area around Tompkins Square Park, and the lettered avenues (known as Alphabet City) to its east, for interesting little nooks in which to eat and drink – as well as a collection of great little community gardens that provide leafy respite and the occasional live performance. The streets below 14th St and east of First Ave are packed with cool boutiques and excellent snack-food spots, offering styles and flavors from around the world. It's a mixed bag, indeed, and perhaps one of the most emblematic of today's city.

Local Life

➔ **One block over** Famed St Marks Place draws swarms of people shopping and carousing – though it's a bit of a circus most days. Hop a block over in either direction for some great retail and restaurant finds with half the crowds.

➔ **Taste the rainbow** The East Village and the Lower East Side are like no other place in the city when it comes to sampling the finest spread of ethnic cuisine. Many of the area's restaurants don't take reservations, so have a wander and grab an open table to eat-pray-love your way through Italy, India, Indonesia or anywhere in between.

Getting There & Away

➔ **Subway** Trains don't go far enough east to carry you to most East Village locations, but it's a quick walk (and even quicker cab or bus ride) from the 6 at Astor Pl, the F, V at Lower East Side-Second Ave or the L at First or Third Aves. The subway's F line (Lower East Side-Second Ave or Delancey St stops) will let you off in the thick of the Lower East Side.

➔ **Bus** If you're traveling from the west side, it's convenient to take the M14 (across 14th St) or the M21 (down Houston).